

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald

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Thursday, September 30, 2021

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Horseback visit highlights Special Care Home Week



Janice Provencher and Shauna Tait were among the six horseback visitors at Parkland Integrated Health Centre last Wednesday.

In a normal year, the end of September would bring about the celebration of Special Care Home Week, giving Saskatchewan a chance to recognize and celebrate the residents, staff, and volunteers who live and work at long-term care facilities across the province.

At Shellbrook's Parkland Integrated Health Centre, Special Care Home Week has long been a true week-long celebration, filled with arts, culture, and recreation activities, visits with family and friends, and much laughter and merriment.

"Special Care Home Week is a time to celebrate the people who live, work, and visit here," said Trina Chamberlain PIHC's recreation coordinator. "Prior to the pandemic, celebrations included gatherings with residents, family members, volunteers, community and Health Care Workers. Although this

year was different, there is still reason to celebrate."

With COVID-19 public health measures in place over the past two celebrations, Special Care Home Week, and everyday life, have been anything but normal for the elders. Despite the restrictions put in place throughout the pandemic, staff and volunteers have worked tirelessly to deliver enrichment to the lives of the elders through special events like last Wednesday's Western Day celebration.

Billed as the main event for PIHC's 2021 Special Care Home Week celebration, the day saw elders and staff dressed up in plaid, denim, or anything "western" they were able to find in their closets.

With beautiful weather for the day, the residents of all three homes in the facility were able to gather together

outside for the first time in a long time and enjoy a western-themed photo booth and a barbecue. The highlight, however, came in the form of six community members and their equine friends, who dropped by to pay a visit and chat.

The visit was set up by Janice Provencher, who was joined by Glenn and Christine Strube, Walter Johnson, Coralie Cyr, and Shauna Tait, and followed a similar visit a group of horseback riders paid the elders around Christmas last year.

"It brought back many memories, some including 'riding bare back,' and life in the country," Chamberlain said.

While COVID-19 rules prevented the elders from getting close and petting the horses, they were still able to chat with their guests and admire the horses from afar while the riders made

the rounds.

For Christine Strube, the hope is that the brief visit helped add a little excitement to the elders' day.

"It makes it all worthwhile for us to come in and share the gifts that we have," she said.

"Most of these seniors have been locked up for quite awhile, and they can't have visitors. It was a change from the norm for them. A lot of them grew up riding horses, and that was their main mode of transportation, so they got a flashback to the past and got to focus on something different."

After their stop at PIHC, the six horseback riders decided to make a day of it by paying visits to the residents of Homestead and Heritage Places in Shellbrook, and the elders of Whispering Pines Place in Canwood.

More photos on page 2

An advertisement for Spiritwood Pharmacy Grocery. The background is green with a white central box containing the logo and text. The logo consists of a stylized 'S' and 'D' in green and black. Below the logo, the text reads "SPIRITWOOD PHARMACY GROCERY" in bold black letters, followed by "306-883-2391 | 120 MAIN STREET". On the left side, there is a blurred image of a pill bottle and pills. On the right side, there is a blurred image of a shopping cart in a grocery store.

Horseback visit highlights Special Care Home Week



Christine Strube leads the procession as the riders make the rounds of the health centre.



Coralie Cyr (right) leans forward to wave to a family member as the riders pull up to the fence.

Aardvarks win big under Friday Night Lights

Continuing a tradition started in the 2014 football season, the W.P. Sandin Aardvarks hosted the Big River Braves under the Friday night lights on Friday, Sept. 24.

The match-up marked the third regular season game for the Shellbrook team, after last year's season was cancelled due to the COVID-19 public health restrictions placed on extracurricular activities in schools. Sitting at 1-1 after a season-opening loss to Hafford and a nail-biting win over Rosthern, the Aardvarks went into the match looking to keep their winning ways rolling.

The Aardvarks put on a show in front of their supportive hometown crowd from the opening kickoff, with Brandon Dingwall taking a handoff from quarterback Jesse Nyberg all the way to the endzone on just the second play from scrimmage.

After the Aardvarks' Kamden Shewchuk pinned the Braves deep with a powerful kick, the Shellbrook defence came up big by stopping the Braves in their own endzone for a safety.

With an early 10-0 lead under their belt, the Aardvarks kept their foot on the pedal and continued to dominate with their running game. Austin Helm pushed the score to 18-0 with a touchdown run, while

another big stop by the Aardvarks defence opened the door for Dawson Stieb to take a handoff all the way to the house.

Following a big interception by Dingwall, who nearly returned the ball for a touchdown, the Aardvarks offence forced their way into the endzone from the goal line to take a 32-0 lead into the second quarter.

Here, the Aardvarks' domination continued in the early gong, with Dingwall taking a short pass from Nyberg to the bank to push Shellbrook's lead to 40-0.

Despite continued strong play from the Shellbrook defence, including an interception by Brett Stene, the Aardvarks wouldn't get on the board for the remainder of the first half. The Braves, however, would finally find the endzone thanks to a forced fumble caused by their defence, narrowing the Aardvarks' first half lead to 40-6.

After this first stumble, the Aardvarks kicked off to start the second half and gave up a second straight touchdown to the Braves, narrowing their lead to 40-13. The Aardvarks would strike back on the next drive, thanks to a long, zig zagging touchdown scamper by Dingwall, to push the score to 48-13.

From this point on, the game became a defensive showdown, with neither team's offence finding a way

to get on the board.

For the Aardvarks, the sole highlight was a late fumble recovery by Lance Paton. However, the offence was unable to translate the opportunity into points, cementing the Aardvarks' victory by a score of 48-13.

Aardvarks (44) VS Longhorns (26)

On Monday afternoon, the W.P. Sandin Aardvarks returned to action on home turf, this time against the high-flying Rosthern Longhorns.

As in their Friday night lights game, the Aardvarks came out of the gate strong. Buoyed by their running game, the home team cobbled together an impressive first drive, which ended with Brandon Dingwall brute forcing his way into the Rosthern endzone.

When the Aardvarks defence bent but didn't break on the ensuing Longhorns drive, the Aardvarks offence seized the opportunity to extend their lead, with Dawson Stieb rushing his way to another Shellbrook touchdown.

Continued on page 3



Aardvarks' defender Robert Holmes make a clutch tackle.

Spiritwood Area Recreation, Culture & Sport Inc.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WED., OCT. 27th, 2021 – 6:30 PM

Location: Spiritwood Rec Center Arena Mezzanine
Everyone Welcome to Attend

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SALE BY TENDER

The Rural Municipality of Big River No. 555 offers for sale the following property "as is":

Parcel A, Plan 1015521138, Ext 321 in the NE 24-55-07 W3 – (1.75 acres)
The following 2 properties are sold together as one tender.
Block A, Plan 101448457, Ext 33, in the SE 06-55-06 W3 – (1.26 acres)
SE 06-55-06 W3, Ext 134 – (7.57 acres)

Tenders must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "Property Tender" addressed to:

Pricewaterhouse Coopers LLP
Attention: Landon Grubb
128 4th Ave S, Suite 600
Saskatoon, SK S7K 1M8

Tenders must be received by Pricewaterhouse Coopers LLP at the above address by 3:00 pm on November 4th, 2021.

A certified cheque to the Rural Municipality of Big River No. 555 for 10% of the amount of the tender must accompany each tender.
Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.
The successful bidder will have 30 days to provide the balance of the cash to complete the purchase.
Dated September 22nd, 2021.
Michael Yuzik
Administrator

R.M. OF CANWOOD NO. 494 PUBLIC NOTICE

In the matter of Section 13 of *The Municipalities Act*, being a statute of the Province of Saskatchewan and pursuant to the Public Notice Bylaw No. 2005-10 of the R.M. of Canwood No. 494, notice is hereby given that the Council will consider at their Council Meeting on October 19, 2021, the matter of permanently closing and selling the roadway, described as all those portions of the original road lying adjacent to and north of Surface Parcel 131195561, Lot 21, Block 4, Plan 77B09994 Ext 0 of the SW 24-52-08 W3 as shown in bold on the map below.

Council will hold a public hearing on October 19, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. The RM will be implementing an alternative format for this public hearing in response to COVID-19. Any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed bylaw is encouraged to submit written comments prior to the meeting. Written submissions may be sent by email to rm494@sasktel.net, by Canada Post a minimum of 4 business days in advance of the hearing, or dropped off at the RM office during regular office hours. For anyone wanting to submit verbal comments, please contact the RM office by October 15, 2021, to make arrangements. Verbal submissions will be accommodated through pre-scheduled teleconference times.

Dated in the Village of Canwood, in the Province of Saskatchewan, this 30th day of September, 2021.

Lorna Benson
Rural Municipal Administrator

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Aardvarks win big under Friday Night Lights

Continued from 2

The Aardvarks defence continued to be stingy throughout the first quarter, allowing quarterback Jesse Nyberg to lead the Aardvarks on another touchdown drive to put the home team up 24-0. This touchdown came on a short screen pass to Dingwall.

The Aardvarks and the Longhorns traded fumbles to start the second quarter, with Rosthern getting the better of the exchange. Despite a heroic tackling effort by Brett Stene, Rosthern managed to find the endzone to close the gap to 24-8.

This touchdown lit a spark

in Rosthern, and they would score again only a few minutes later on a very fortunate forward fumble into the endzone.

The Aardvarks, meanwhile, tried to put together a last-minute drive to rebuild their lead before heading into the second half. They came up just short, when Nyberg threw an interception on the Longhorns' doorstep.

The Aardvarks and the Longhorns came out for the third quarter and exchanged turnovers on downs. Once again the Longhorns got the better of the exchange, scoring on a short QB keeper to close the gap to 24-20.

The Longhorns recovered the ball on a short kickoff, then stamped down the field once again, taking advantage of a wide-open receiver to take a 26-24 lead over the Aardvarks.

After two quarters of sputtering, the Aardvarks offence finally kicked it into gear, with Stieb scoring on a short TD run to put his team back on

top.

Thanks to a huge interception by Stene, who nearly went all the way for a touchdown, Dingwall scored almost unchallenged to put the Aardvarks up 38-26.

With time slowly winding down on the fourth quarter, Stieb broke through tackles to find the endzone one last time and put the Aardvarks up 44-26.

The Aardvarks defence then

closed the game out strong, thanks to an interception in the endzone by Dingwall, to allow Shellbrook to claim victory.

The back-to-back wins pushed the Aardvarks to 3-1 on the season, placing them at the top of their six-man league's standings.

Their next action on home turf will see them close out their regular season against Dalmeny on Thursday, Oct. 14.



Aardvarks defender Dawson Stieb wraps up Rosthern's Lucas Epp for a big loss.



The Aardvarks' defence waits for the snap to rush the quarterback.

Great golf day at Big River

By Maisie Krienke

Although the wind didn't make for the best golfing day, it did blow in a nice group of Seniors to participate in the 50+ tourney at Big river golf Course.

While teams were being created everyone enjoyed a coffee & muffin before they headed off in a keen competition for selective challenges. Meanwhile, Arlene was back at the clubhouse prepping a delicious roast pork luncheon.

With the wind settling down golfers were anxious to get back to the challenge. Upon completion, awards were presented.

Team with lowest score went to Heather Bradley, Gerald Bear, Larry Joseph and Al Dion, who played hard to come in one stroke better than their second-place opponent.

Al was also awarded Closest to Pin on #9, while Heather successfully made a champion drive to claim the Longest Drive for the ladies' award, and Gar Holbrook made the Men's Longest Drive. Debbie Buckingham landed her drive on #2 closest to the line earning her that award.

Everyone enjoyed the opportunity, not only to golf but also, to have a great day visiting.



Zach Epp stiff-arms Julian Peake on a long Rosthern run.



Novus Law Group

To our valued clients in Shellbrook, Big River, Spiritwood, Debden and surrounding areas:

As COVID-19 re-opening considerations continue, our dedicated lawyers at Novus Law Group continue to provide legal services to the communities of Shellbrook, Big River, Spiritwood and Debden and surrounding regions.

While our branch offices in these communities are currently unavailable for in-person client meetings, we have in place a work management plan that enables the Novus Law Group team to continue to deliver legal services with minimal disruption.

For assistance during this time, please make arrangements by contacting by phone or email Bill Cannon (for Shellbrook/Debden/Big River), Shelley Cannon (for Spiritwood), or any of our firm's partners or other associate lawyers.

Contact us:
By Phone: 306-922-4700 (Monday to Friday 9am-5pm)
By Email: Bill Cannon at bcannon@novuslaw.ca
 Shelley Cannon at scannon@novuslaw.ca
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Spiritwood Herald

is looking for the right individual to work part-time with reporting of news happenings in Spiritwood and area.

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SEPT 30

NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

EVERY CHILD MATTERS

The Town of Shellbrook acknowledges that it is on Treaty 6 Territory and pays respect to the First Nation and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.

Lessons learned from an unnecessary election

What would you do if, by some miraculous stroke of luck, you found yourself in possession of \$610 million?

If you were Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, you would evidently use the wealth in a desperate power grab and call the whole scheme a federal election.

And apparently the electorate (or the 59 per cent of eligible Canadians who voted, rather), would allow you to get away with it.

The dust is beginning to settle after last Monday's election, and the cold, hard reality of the next two years (at least) is setting in.

Though the election went almost exactly as predicted, pundits across the nation have devoted thousands of words to explaining what went wrong for the losing parties and what they need to do next.

But what are the things that the federal parties shouldn't read into last Monday's outcome?

Contrary to what Mr. Trudeau said in his victory speech, Canadians haven't given his government a clear mandate, and he would be unwise to go forward governing like they have.

The 2015 election was a clear mandate for Mr. Trudeau and his colleagues. Conversely, the 2019 election was a repudiation of many of Mr. Trudeau's policies, and his heavy-handed style of governance.

Last Monday's election, which returned an almost identical result to 2019, shouldn't be seen as anything more than the result of profound voter indifference and fears about the fourth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Earning the support of just 32.5 per cent of the 59 per cent of eligible Canadians who cast their ballots is anything but a clear mandate. Mr. Trudeau shouldn't act as if it is, and should devote himself to governing for all Canadians, including the ones who didn't vote for him.

As for Erin O'Toole's Conservatives, which earned the right amount of votes just not in the right places, there's much to discuss.

Some say Mr. O'Toole underperformed, while others are already calling for him to be ousted from his role as leader.

This knee-jerk response reads far too much into the election's outcome, and also ignores the polls leading into the election.

It also forgets that the Conservative Party



JORDAN TWISS
~
News Editor

was always going to have the hardest path to victory. A majority was undoubtedly off the table from day one, and, given that there's no other major right-of-centre federal party for Mr. O'Toole to form a coalition with, securing a viable minority mandate would have been a real challenge.

So, if Mr. O'Toole performed as expected, what, then, are we to make of the response to his progressive policy shift?

Mr. O'Toole campaigned for the Conservative Party leadership like a "true blue" Tory. Upon winning, he shifted to the left and backtracked on his promises to scrap the Liberal carbon tax and repeal the ban on "assault-style" guns.

The election campaign saw him roll out even more progressive policies, from a tax credit for childcare, to a rebate on dining out, to a month-long GST holiday at retail stores.

Some believe Mr. O'Toole's policy shift is to blame for his defeat, and are calling for the party to return to its fiscal conservative roots: small government, less regulatory red-tape, and lower corporate and personal tax rates.

However, this ignores the reality that 52.5 per cent of voters cast their ballots for the progressive policies of the Liberals, the NDP, and the Green Party.

Sure, O'Toole's progressive shift on fiscal policy may have cost him some support amongst his own base, but his true problem was one of credibility on social policy.

Unlike his predecessor, Mr. O'Toole made it clear he was pro-choice and an ally of the LGBTQ community. What he couldn't do, however, was dispel voters' concerns about the social values of the rest of his party.

Indeed, last Monday's outcome wasn't any more of a condemnation of the party's openness to progressive ideas, than it was a statement that Canadians don't fully believe or trust the Conservative Party just yet.

Over the next 24 months, the Conservative Party should focus less on who's leading it and more on building belief and trust through policies that allow all Canadians to see themselves reflected in the party.

Canada has undeniably shifted to the left over the past couple decades, but there's still plenty of room left at the table for pragmatic conservatism.



Op-ed: Deficit spending, inflation tax drive up cost of living

By Franco Terrazano
CTF Federal Director

The more dollars the government prints, the less your dollars buy. That's the inflation tax and it's a key reason why life is getting more expensive.

Through its Bank of Canada, the federal government prints new dollars every time the central bank buys a financial asset such as a government bond.

The government's printing press has been on overdrive during the pandemic. The Bank of Canada has created about \$370 billion since February 2020. That's a 300 per cent increase during the pandemic, which is significantly higher than what occurred during the recessions of the 1980s, 1990s

and 2008-09. The 300 per cent growth over the last year and a half rivals the growth in assets held by the central bank during the entire six years of World War II.

With this amount of printing, it's no surprise that prices are rising.

Statistics Canada reported that consumer prices increased by more than four per cent in a year. In two decades, consumer prices have increased by more than 40 per cent.

From tax hikes and red-tape to supply-chain disruptions, there's a myriad of factors that raise prices at any moment. But the constant march of higher prices also stems from the government's ability to create new money with the

stroke of a keypad and inability to create new homes or farmland out of thin air.

Politicians' deficit spending directly influences the government's inflation tax.

A large chunk of what politicians spend is funded by taxes. But their deficit spending is borrowed from investors, insurance companies, pension funds and new dollars printed by the Bank of Canada.

Government of Canada bonds make up 85 per cent of the central bank's assets. During the 2020 budget year, federal politicians ran up a \$335 billion deficit. During that time, the central bank created new dollars to buy up \$275 billion worth of government of Canada bonds.

Continued on page 5

Shellbrook Chronicle

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Spiritwood Herald

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

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P.O. Box 10, Shellbrook, Sask. S0J 2E0
Phone 306-747-2442 or Fax 306-747-3000

Editorial: chnews@sbchron.com
Advertising chads@sbchron.com

C. J. Pepper, Publisher

Jordan Twiss, Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter
jordan@sbchron.com

Alison Sullivan, Spiritwood Herald Reporter
(306) 841-8317 or ali.sully81@gmail.com

Meghan Penney, Composition/Pagination
& Advertising Sales chads@sbchron.com

Karen Stene, Bookkeeping/Reception
accounting@sbchron.com

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.;
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websites: www.shellbrookchronicle.com
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Member of



Report from the Legislature

Across Saskatchewan we have seen the rates of positive COVID-19 cases increase, in particular in the unvaccinated population. This is causing a ripple effect throughout our healthcare system, resulting in the postponement of elective surgeries and the redeployment of healthcare providers to areas of greatest demand. The commitment of our healthcare providers deserves our gratitude; please get vaccinated.

A province-wide mandatory mask order was announced for all indoor public spaces to help slow the spread of this virus. This health order



**HON. SCOTT MOE,
PREMIER**
~
MLA for Rosthern -
Shellbrook
Toll Free:
1-855-793-3422
scottmoe.mla@sasktel.net

is targeted to be lifted in late October after the proof of vaccination or negative test protocol has been implemented for several weeks.

Effective October 1, a

proof of vaccination or negative test requirement will be implemented for all provincial and crown employees. Also, effective October 1, a proof of vaccination or negative test requirement will be applied to public access establishments, businesses and event venues that bring groups of people together. Residents are no longer required to obtain a PIN from eHealth Sask when setting up their MySaskHealthRecord account. To set up your account, visit www.ehealthsask.ca/MySaskHealthRecord/MySaskHealthRecord/.

Saskatchewan



**NADINE WILSON
MLA**
~
Saskatchewan
Rivers
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1-888-763-0615
saskrivers@sasktel.net

Residents with a MySaskHealthRecord account can also view their COVID-19 vaccination record in a new format that includes a QR (Quick Response) code. It can be downloaded/saved, printed, and viewed on mobile devices. The new format also notes the individual's name, type of vac-

cine administered, date, country of issuance and lot number.

The new certificate with a digital QR code supports proof of vaccination at border entry if travelling internationally. It is aligned with work the federal government is undertaking on a national solution.

Our government is also working on expanding access to rapid-antigen tests for home-based self-administered screening. Residents will be able to obtain rapid-antigen tests for use as a self-administered screening tool from several Saskatchewan Health Authority locations and partner agencies. These locations will be published in the coming days were rapid-antigen tests are delivered.



**HON. JEREMY HARRISON
MLA**
~
Meadow
Lake
Toll Free:
1-877-234-6669
jharrisonmla@sasktel.net

While the more robust health measures are in place to help curb the transmission of COVID-19 and protect our health system, I encourage anyone eligible for vaccination in Saskatchewan to get their vaccines and get their COVID-19 vaccine certificate from MySaskHealthRecord.

Op-ed: Deficit spending, inflation tax drive up cost of living

Continued from 4

The 2021 federal budget projects a deficit of \$155 billion, or \$3 billion per week. By a remarkable coincidence, a few days after the budget was released, the Bank of Canada announced it would purchase \$3 billion of government of Canada bonds every week. That sure seems like using the printing press to fund Ottawa's deficits spending.

The government's inflation tax is more pernicious than simply making it harder for Canadians to put food on the table.

For starters, inflation is an undemocratic form of taxation.

Politicians must vote before they raise taxes, and Canadians immediately know when a tax has been hiked. But politicians don't vote to raise money through the Bank of Canada. And how many Canadians know the printing press created \$370 billion during the pandemic?

The inflation tax also hands wealth to those who are closest the printer. That's because those who receive the new money first spend those dollars before prices rise. Canadians who receive the new

money later watch their real incomes decline.

Frivolous government spending and years of easy money have landed the feds between a rock and a hard place. Will politicians rein in their deficit spending? All major parties want to spend billions more. Will Ottawa allow interest rates to rise to fight its inflation? That would cause a lot of pain.

University of Calgary economist Jack Mintz notes that "just a one-point increase in interest rates would then increase the annual deficit by close to \$5 billion." In 2020, the debt held by Canadian families hit \$2 trillion for the first time. An increase of just 1.5 percentage points in interest rates could double the monthly mortgage payment for some homeowners, according to CIBC.

Higher prices are showing Canadians that there's no free lunch when it comes to government spending. Any politician that wants to help Canadians stretch their paycheques and savings must tackle the government's deficit spending, printing press and inflation tax.

YOUR TWO CENTS

The lack of accountability is starting to stink

Things tend to repeat themselves.

When I was a young man, I had a niece, perhaps two years old – and not yet potty-trained. On one family visit, my nose told me that she had filled her diaper. I asked her, "Did you poop your

pants?" She shook her head from side to side, - no she didn't poop her pants.

I pointed to one of her aunts and asked, "Did your auntie poop your pants?" She nodded up and down – yes, Auntie had pooped her pants.

Now, you may ask, where is the part about things repeating themselves? Insert Premier Moe into the role of my toddler niece. Premier Moe, you have to take responsibility for your actions.

Jack Jensen,
Prince Albert, Sask.



Northern Saskatchewan



Cleanfarms 2021 Unwanted Pesticides & Old Livestock/Equine Medications Collection

Northern Saskatchewan – October 4 to 8

Farmers! Got unwanted pesticides or livestock/equine medications?

Safely dispose of unwanted or obsolete agricultural pesticides and livestock/equine medications – **no charge!** Take them to the following locations on the dates noted between **9 a.m. and 4 p.m.**

Check for Event Locations & Dates here:

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CRAIK Friday, Oct. 8 Nutrien Ag Solutions 306-847-2040	MEADOW LAKE Thursday, Oct. 7 Meadow Lake Co-op Service Center 306-236-3644	PRAIRIE RIVER Wednesday, Oct. 6 Nutrien Ag Solutions Prairie River 306-889-2172	SPIRITWOOD Wednesday, Oct. 6 G-Mac's Ag Team Inc. 306-883-2476
HUMBOLDT Thursday, Oct. 7 Humboldt Co-op 306-231-5915	MELFORT Monday, Oct. 4 Paragon Ag Services Ltd. 306-752-3343	ROSETOWN Thursday, Oct. 7 G-Mac's Ag Team Inc. 306-882-2600	UNITY Monday, Oct. 4 Unity Cargill 306-228-4144
LEADER Friday, Oct. 8 G-Mac's Ag Team Inc. 306-628-3886	NOKOMIS Thursday, Oct. 7 Richardson Pioneer Nokomis 306-528-4484	ROSTHERN Monday, Oct. 4 Blair's Fertilizer 306-232-4223	WYNYARD Monday, Oct. 4 Cargill Ltd. 306-554-2244
LLOYDMINSTER Tuesday, Oct. 5 Veikle Agro (Lloyd) Inc. 306-398-7516	NORQUAY Tuesday, Oct. 5 Norquay Co-operative 306-594-2215	SASKATOON Friday, Oct. 8 Saskatoon Co-op Agro Centre 306-933-3836	YORKTON Wednesday, Oct. 6 Richardson Pioneer Yorkton 306-786-5647

* Next Cleanfarms collection in this area in fall 2024.
* COVID social distancing measures may be in place.
* For collection dates elsewhere, click on the QR code or go to: cleanfarms.ca/materials/unwanted-pesticides-animal-meds/

Partner



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Lodge Auxiliary hosts grand opening for gazebo

"Words cannot express how truly thankful we are for this beautiful gift we have received," said Amy Simonar, Recreation Coordinator at the Spiritwood and District Health Complex.

Simonar was referring to the gazebo that now stands behind Spiritwood's long-term care facility. The gazebo project was led by the Idylwyld Lodge Auxiliary whose mandate is to improve the quality of life for residents of the Lodge.

The Auxiliary held a grand opening on Aug. 25 to allow members of the public to come and see where their donations and contributions to fundraising projects ended up. Approximately 35 people attended and were treated to cake, coffee, tea, and punch.

Fern Chaykowski cut the ribbon, which was held by Gordon Ferster and John Siemens.

Messages of thanks were given by Shirley Dauvin, Reeve of the RM of Spiritwood, Bevra Fee, Head of Northern Lakes Economic Development Corporation, Gary von Holwede, Mayor of

the Town of Spiritwood, and Tammy Gatzke-Bartusek, Nursing Manager for Spiritwood Long-Term Care.

According to Simonar, the gazebo has had a positive impact on the lives of the residents who were without any shaded area in the outdoor space prior to its construction. Now, they have a safe, functional, and enjoyable space to reminisce about past experiences, take in nature, and spend time with loved ones.

Since its construction, the facility has made use of the gazebo for recreational programs such as bingo, family visits, and group socializing. It provides a space for Horticultural Therapy as the gazebo is accompanied by a variety of raised garden beds and large flowerpots.

The space has been a real blessing for families of the Lodge residents who would not have been able to make in person visits throughout the pandemic due to restrictions. It has provided a calm, safe place for families to come and visit.



Front left: Gordon Ferster, Fern Chaykowski, and John Siemens cut the ribbon at the Gazebo's grand opening.

COVID updates paint dire fourth wave picture

In a week filled with COVID-19-related updates, it was a case of one step forward, two steps back for Saskatchewan last week.

Starting with the good news, the province released the first indications that its incoming proof of vaccination or negative COVID test requirement, which takes effect on Oct. 1, is inspiring people to roll up their sleeves.

As of Friday, the province reached 80 per cent of all eligible residents receiving their first dose, and 71 per cent being fully vaccinated. Additionally, the province adminis-



Sask. NDP Leader Ryan Meili (right) recently visited PA to talk to healthcare workers about the challenges the system is facing.

tered 25,958 vaccinations, compared to just 15,358 for the week from Sept. 10 to 16, with 14,801 of those being first doses. This marks a 69 per cent increase in vaccinations, week-over-week.

Despite the uptick in vaccinations, Health Canada data shows the province still ranks last in the nation in vaccination rates. What's more, the increase in vaccinations came during a week in which the province set records for active cases (4,864 on Sunday), hospitalizations (282, with 61 in ICU as of Saturday), and new daily case numbers (528 on Friday, followed by 552 on Sunday).

To deal with the surging fourth wave, and mitigate its impact on the province's hospitals, the province announced last Thursday that it will be suspending its organ donation program and redirecting the program's coordinators to help ICU patients in Saskatoon and Regina.

"Unfortunately, that has been one of the side effects of the surge capacity management that we've had to do to support ICU care in the province," said Lori Garchinski, tertiary care director for the Saskatchewan Health Authority, adding that this means that the organs of donors who die won't go to anyone.

In another blow to the province's pandemic efforts, and in particular the proof of vaccination requirement, the province was forced to temporarily remove QR codes

from its vaccination documents on Friday, just four days after the document rolled out.

The province made the move "out of an abundance of caution," after the immunization records of at least 19 patients were found to contain information belonging to other people.

"We are working closely with our vendor to investigate and resolve any issues and prevent other problems," eHealth Saskatchewan Vice President of Programs and Technology Davin Church said. "We understand the high demand in Saskatchewan for records to meet proof of vaccination requirements."

The province said it wouldn't be issuing vaccination documents with QR codes until early this week. In the meantime, standard print-out vaccine records are still available and acceptable as proof of vaccination, and so are wallet cards.

Finally, as of Monday morning, the province moved to expand its mandatory masking protocols at long-term care homes across Saskatchewan. Under the updated protocol, visitors and family members will be required to wear masks at all times, not just when they're outside of residents' rooms.

With increasing COVID-19 cases in Saskatchewan, and in an effort to further minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission and its variants, effective immediately, the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) is

expanding its mandatory medical masking protocol.

Long-term care residents are not required to mask in their own rooms, as this is their home, but are encouraged to mask when outside their room and in common indoor areas.

The requirement for families and visitors to mask within SHA acute facilities continues.

While all this was going on, Sask. NDP leader Ryan Meili was in Prince Albert last week to meet with local healthcare workers and listen to their concerns. He's now calling on the province to do everything in its power to curb the pandemic before Prince Albert's healthcare system is pushed to its breaking point.

"There has been a lot of attention paid to the extreme pressures on our hospitals in Regina and Saskatoon, but as the gateway to the North, Prince Albert's hospital and health workers are also buckling under the mounting pressure," said Meili.

"In recent weeks we have heard tragic stories of infants being hospitalized with COVID-19 and resources for premature babies being diverted for COVID care. It didn't have to come to this."

Prince Albert's Medical Health Officer, Dr. Khami Chokani, joined Meili in voicing concerns, saying the system is "under imminent threat" and "may not make it through."

COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate with QR Code Now Available

Saskatchewan residents with a MySaskHealthRecord account can view their COVID-19 vaccination record in a new format that includes a QR (Quick Response) code. It can be downloaded/saved, printed and viewed on mobile devices.

To get your COVID-19 vaccination certificate with QR code visit:
ehealthsask.ca/MySaskHealthRecord/MySaskHealthRecord



Nadine Wilson
MLA for Saskatchewan Rivers
saskrivers@sasktel.net

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

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

Ethanol fuel's future depends on science

The idea of ethanol from grains has long been an intriguing one.

Initially, the production of ethanol was looked at as a way to solve a range of issues in one relatively simple move.

To begin with, production of ethanol from grains -- corn generally on a world basis, but from wheat, rice and other crops -- was seen as creating a potentially massive new market that would help boost commodity prices away from basically feeding humans and livestock.

Ethanol is also an energy source that is renewable, and generally seen as greener than oil production, and both were seen as good goals to pursue.

But when grain prices edged up, and subsidies to kick-start ethanol production began to decline or disappear, the ethanol sector stagnated at best.

China, for example, had set a mandate to have 10 per cent ethanol in fuel by 2020, but it is barely past two per cent.

The ethanol sector has stagnated.

The situation is one



CALVIN DANIELS

that might have been expected.

We are still in a world where population is expanding, and it stands to reason food demand comes first. And while not the only reason, add-

ed demand helps keep prices high.

Ethanol production from grain makes sense but only at a certain cost for the grain stocks.

But the idea of less reliance on fossil fuels and 'greener' fuel in terms of environmental impact remains worthy goals to pursue, and ethanol is still an option for that.

But the production of ethanol won't be from grain, especially long-term.

What is needed is more research to create ethanol from non-grain materials.

Researchers are developing methods to convert crop residue, wood pulp, animal waste, and garbage into ethanol.

That is the future of ethanol/biofuel production, if it can be made economically viable.

Therein, lies the key for all alternative energy sources. They must be able to compete cost wise with existing sources.

While there may be good reasons to spend more for more environmentally conscious sources of energy, it is a huge ask for many consumers to pay more.

The price tag is still an important determining factor for many consumers working on increasingly cash strapped budgets.

Recycled paper makes great sense, but it has to be cost competitive.

Long lasting light bulbs make sense, but they need to be cost-competitive too.

It's the same scenario for biofuels.

That means the future of ethanol, if there is to be a future, is in the hands of science, as the sector evolves away from grain as a base source.

Sask. NDP, SARM call for help for producers

After a fire- and-drought-ravaged growing season that produced what one Saskatchewan farmer is calling the worst crop since 1988, the Saskatchewan NDP and the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities are calling for more to be done to help producers who won't be able to meet their forward grain contracts.

Looking to Premier Scott Moe's Saskatchewan Party government to be part of the solution, Sask. NDP Agriculture Critic Trent Wotherspoon penned a letter to Agriculture Minister David Marit, calling on the provincial government to take immediate action to protect producers.

"This year's drought has decimated crop yields in Saskatchewan, and many producers are simply unable deliver the volume of grain to meet the terms of the contracts they signed long before this year's crop was seeded," said Wotherspoon. "The provincial government has a role to play in ensuring protections are in place that will allow producers to carry their obligations forward to next year, and they also need to take steps to ensure that disputes between producers and grain companies can be resolved fairly and quickly."

Specifically, Wotherspoon urged the provincial government to recall the legislature to

pass emergency legislation that would ensure every producer who is unable to fulfil their contract this year would be able to carry over their obligation to future years without incurring unreasonable penalties.

Wotherspoon also advised the government to work with producer groups to establish an independent grain contract arbitration board, with producers representing at least 75 per cent of the board's members, to quickly resolve disputes between producers and grain companies related to grain contracts.

While the Sask. NDP is calling on the provincial government to step up, SARM is looking to-

wards industry for solutions. In particular, it wants to see grain companies work with producers to reduce penalties and eliminate administration fees on the contracted but undelivered grain for this year.

"We need the grain companies to work with farmers on this issue," said SARM President Ray Orb. "A lot of farmers simply don't have the grain this year due to the drought and with no 'Act of God' clause in some of the contracts, prices have continued to climb and the cost to buyout those contracts is now substantially higher."

The administrative fee is meant to deter growers from trying to get out of a contract

when they actually have the physical grain in order to capture a slightly higher price. The costs depend on the commodity and the type of contract a farmer has and is variable across the board. Now that growers aren't going to have the grain this year, it's a different story.

"It is imperative that we stand united in supporting our farmers and SARM remains committed to ensuring a resolve to this issue," commented Orb. "We are urging the Western Grain Elevator Association and its members to work with farmers struggling to pay penalties and administration fees on contracted but undelivered grain."

PRINCE ALBERT LIVESTOCK SALES
A division of Northern Livestock Sales



To consign cattle or for on-farm appraisals please contact Brent, Glen, Boyd or Frederick

Mon., Oct. 4, 2021
Presort Sale 9:30 a.m., Regular Sale to follow

Fri., Oct. 8, 2021
Bred Cow/Heifer & Pair Sale 1:00 p.m.



Producers wishing to market cattle prior to sale day please contact the office 306-763-8463 for delivery.



Your independently owned & operated livestock marketing facility - working with the producers' best interest in mind

FEEDER FINANCE PROGRAM AVAILABLE - Please contact Glen

Brent 306-240-5340 • Glen 306-960-4732 • Boyd 306-841-7998 • Frederick 306-227-9505

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

For market info visit: www.northernlivestocksales.ca

MEADOW LAKE LIVESTOCK SALES LTD.



To consign cattle or for on-farm appraisals please contact Brent, Blair or Brody

Wed., Oct. 6, 2021

Regular Sale 9:00 a.m.
Presorted Internet Calf Sale 11:00 a.m.

Producers wishing to market cattle prior to sale day please contact the office 306-236-3411 for delivery.



Your independently owned & operated livestock marketing facility - working with the producers' best interest in mind

FEEDER FINANCE PROGRAM AVAILABLE - Please contact Brent

Brent 306-240-5340 • Blair 306-240-9883 • Brody 306-240-6504

Office 306-236-3411 ~ Fax 306-236-3412

Email: mlstockyards@sasktel.net ~ market info visit: www.mlstockyards.com

Canwood Library celebrates new location

By Gerda Bruner

On Thursday, Sept. 23, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Wapiti's Canwood Public Library Branch welcomed community members and Lindsay Baker, Wapiti's Community Services Librarian for Prince Albert and districts, to our grand reopening in our present larger space.

Featured for attendees was a silent auction, coffee, separately packaged dainties, reading materials, bidding, and social distance visiting.

Door prize winners were Lila Olson and Eleanor Bahnuick.

Thanks to Canwood's

Order of the Royal Purple Ladies, who donated a dehumidifier, our lower-level space is nice and comfortable for patrons and books.

We appreciate the very generous donations of silent auction items from our Canwood Co-op, Woodland Pharmacy, and supportive community members.

The funds raised will help pay moving expenses, including the cost of installation of computer and telephone lines into our downstairs location and increased rent.

This is the Canwood Public Library's fourth

move. In 1958 our first library space was a small, wooden, granary type structure with bookshelf lined walls situated on the present site of our RM and Village Offices building.

The library's second home was shared with Canwood's Village Office space in our new Municipal Building. Then in the fall of 2003, our library moved across the street into its very own larger space located in the Canwood Business Centre, the previous Home Care Building.

With events planning, busy Friday after school

programming, plus the need for more social distancing, it was decided to move to the Business Building's available, expansive lower level.

After renovations and COVID's temporary shut down of library services, we began our move downstairs. Although an elevator had been installed, it was not yet certified for use so with the help of high school students Hunter Papin Bather and Ethan Bodnarchuk, and library board and community members, library materials were moved into our fourth location.

With the appreciated help of three retired industrial arts teachers, Dave Harack, Deon Nordstrom, and Grant Person, metal and wooden shelving was disassembled. Long, tall wooden shelves were cut in half lengthwise to make the move downstairs possible. There, they were safely reassembled for orderly replacement of books.

Teamwork through the years has helped library moves go smoothly.



Social distancing and snack time.



Librarian Judy Stempien observes as Lindsay Baker, Wapiti's Community Services Librarian, signs in.



Silent auction items ranged from an assortment of baking (lefsa, jelly rolls, buns, muffins etc.) to newly picked pumpkins and grapes, plus a wine set, hand crafted items, and beyond.



Lorean Nichol enjoys coffee and snack time after putting in her silent auction bids.

PRAISE & WORSHIP

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

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Zion - Canwood
Sunday School,
Worship Sunday, 11 a.m.
St. John's - Shellbrook
Sunday School,
Live-stream worship
service on Facebook,
Worship Sunday, 9 a.m.
Rev. Emmanuel Aristide

PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Parkside
10:30 a.m. Worship
Pastor Daniel Mooseely
306-747-3572
Shellbrook
Adult Study
9:30 a.m.
Sun., 10:30 a.m. - Worship
Pastor David Bodvarson
306-747-7235
Canwood
11:00 a.m. - Worship
Pastor Glenn Blazosek
306-468-2138
Leask Gospel Tabernacle
Sunday 11 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.
Pastor Lorne Valuck

SOVEREIGN GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

PRESBYTERIAN

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

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN

Parkside
11 a.m. - Worship

ANGLICAN CHURCH

Leask - All Saint's
Sunday Service - 9 a.m.
Rev. Wendell Brock
306-460-7696
St. Andrew's - Shellbrook
Sunday, 11 a.m. Service
Re-opening for services
Sun. Mar. 14, 2021, 11 a.m.
Canwood - Christ Church
Sunday, 11 a.m. - Service

UNITED CHURCH

Big River
Sundays
10 a.m. - Worship
at Anglican Church
Rev. Dave Whalley
306-747-2804

MENNONITE

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

EVANGELICAL FREE

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

CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

407-2nd Ave E, Shellbrook
Sat., 9:45 a.m. - Sabbath School
Sat., 11:00 am -Worship
Broadcast on
VOAR 92.1 FM
Pastor Liviu Tilihoi
306-747-3398

Canwood Pines hosts successful ladies' night

**Submitted by
Canwood Golf Course**

Tough as nails or crazy comes to mind as 17 brave souls weathered the elements for a round of golf at the Canwood Pines Golf Course on Thursday, Sept. 16.

Skarpinsky Automotive Ltd. hosted a Ladies Night with an animal print theme. Although many people participated in the theme, much of it was covered up by layers of warm clothes.

The round began with a shot gun start at 5:15 p.m. Darkness was setting in as the best ball round was complet-

ed. The longest drive was won by Marliese Kasner, and longest putt was won by Lisa Wallin.

A meal of pizza and Caesar salad was enjoyed by the ladies. Everyone went home with a gift, which was presented by Jamie Skarpinsky. All the items were purchased from local merchants in the area.

I'm sure everyone went home and had a long hot shower to warm up. We appreciate Skarpinsky Automotive for hosting the evening, and everyone who participated in the cold, and rainy weather.



Seventeen ladies braved the elements to participate in a Ladies night at the Canwood Pines Golf Course.

Sask. Proclaims Sept. 30 Truth and Reconciliation Day

The Government of Saskatchewan is recognizing Sept. 30, 2021, as the Day for Truth and Reconciliation in our province.

“With this proclamation, the provincial government reiterates its commitment to recall our past, working in partnership with the Indigenous peoples of Saskatchewan, and working together toward cultural and economic reconciliation,” Minister of First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs Don McMorris said. “I encourage all Saskatchewan residents no matter their heritage or creed, to take a moment for solemn reflection and discussion on the importance of meaningful and lasting reconciliation in our province.”

On Sept. 30, all provincial government buildings in Saskatchewan, including the Provincial Legislature and Government House, will lower their flags to half-mast. In recognition of the proclamation, the Provincial Capital Commission will be turning certain park lights orange in key locations of Wascana Centre, notably at the Bandstand on the north shore, the Legislative Landing in front of the QEII Gardens and at the steps of the Provincial Legislature.

All residents, including public employees and students are encouraged to wear orange on Sept. 30 to further generate discussion and raise awareness on the history of the residential school system in Canada.

On Sept. 29, The Royal Saskatchewan Museum hosted a discussion

after a screening of “We Were Children”, about two children taken from their homes and placed in church-run boarding schools.

Residential schools operated in Canada, including Saskatchewan, for more than a century. The federal government reports that 150,000 Indigenous children were removed and separated from their families and communities to attend these schools.

Sept. 30 marks the first Day for Truth and Reconciliation in Saskatchewan. It is a day to honour the lost children, survivors and those affected by Canada’s residential school system.

The Day for Truth and Reconciliation was created in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Call to Action #80, which called on the Federal Government to create a statutory holiday. While this call was not directed at the province, Saskatchewan is proceeding with this proclamation in the spirit of truth and reconciliation.

Saskatchewan has fulfilled 28 of the 34 TRC Calls to Action that can be fulfilled provincially and is also fulfilling 15 Calls to Action that are not considered provincial jurisdiction.

For more information on Truth and Reconciliation in Saskatchewan, visit <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/first-nations-citizens/moving-forward-with-the-truth-and-reconciliation-commission>.

Feeling a little lighter these days

By David Bodvarson

I guess I always struggled with my weight. Likely more since I got older.

After living in Shellbrook R.M for a number of years, I began hearing about a group called TOPS (TOPS is Taking Off Pounds Sensibly) and I finally came to a point where I wanted to do something about weight loss.

The first day I met the group, in October 2020, I weighed in at 230 lbs. It wasn't a good weight to be at, considering my height. I had been active. As a church group we had done several shingling jobs. Yet even with all that exercise, I was heavier than I wished to be.

Exercise was helpful, but I started to watch my portions as well. I gave up some things. I finally settled on a goal of 197 lbs. With the Good Lord's help, I was able to reach my goal.

On Tuesday Sept. 21, 2021, I weighed in at 195.2 lbs. Now that I've reached my goal, my aim is to keep

it off. So, I am now a member of KOPS: Keeping Off Pounds Sensibly.

I feel a little lighter on my feet. I felt a little more agile on the roof shingling this summer. It is always nice to receive compliments, and I have received some of those. I get that some don't want to talk about weight, some have tried to lose weight and it has been tough to lose. Well, there

is a group of like-minded people out there to support you.

I love the accountability aspect of TOPS. We are all in it together. If you're interested in losing weight, I encourage you to consider joining a support group.

Feeling a little lighter in Saskatchewan.

Blessings,
Pastor David Bodvarson,
SPA



Before: Myself at about 250 lbs.

After: Myself at about 197 lbs.

PRAISE & WORSHIP

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

PARTNERS IN FAITH

Lutheran/United/
Christchurch Anglican,
137-2nd St. W.
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 - 9:00 a.m.
Leoville - 11:00 a.m.
Chitek Lake - Closed for
the Season
Everyone Welcome
SATURDAY
Shell Lake - 8:00 p.m.
Medstead - 6 p.m.
Father Ramel Macapala

**PARTNERS IN
WORSHIP**

Shell Lake
Worship Services
Sunday 9:00 a.m.
Pastor Sarah Urano
306-841-7333

**SEVENTH DAY
ADVENTIST**

407 - 2nd Ave .E.,
Shellbrook
Sat., 9:45 am -
Sabbath School
Sat., 11:00 am - Worship

Broadcast on
VOAR 92.1 FM
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
Phone Art Martyns
(306) 389-4633

EVANGELICAL FREE

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

**LAKELAND
COMMUNITY CHURCH**

(Corner of 1st Ave. and 4th
St., Spiritwood)
Sun., 11 am - Worship
Service & Sunday School
Pastor Michael Kluthe
306-883-2380

**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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

LEOVILLE: Wapiti Regional Library - Wednesday 10 am - 4 pm; Thursday 10 am - 3 pm

SHELL LAKE: Wapiti Regional Library - Tuesday 12:30 pm - 4 pm; Wednesday 12:30 pm - 4 pm

BLAINE LAKE: Wapiti Library - Wednesday 11 am - 6 pm; Friday 11 am - 5 pm; Saturday 10 am - 4 pm. Contact us for more info 306-497-3130, www.wapitilibrary.ca.

BIG RIVER: Wapiti Library - Wednesday 11:30 am - 4:30 pm; Thursday 11:30 am - 4:30 pm. Phone # 306-469-2152

CANWOOD: Canwood Branch of Wapiti Regional Library. Tuesday 10 am - 4 pm; Thursday 10 am - 4 pm; Friday 1 pm - 5 pm. Kids Club is Fridays 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm, Crafter's Choice is the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month.

DEBDEN: Wapiti Library hours: Tuesday 10 am - 3 pm; Wednesday 3 pm - 7 pm. Librarian: Aline Hannon

LEASK: Wapiti Library & Legacy Gallery Hours - Tuesday 10:30 am - 5 pm; Friday 10:30 am - 5 pm; Saturday 1 pm - 4 pm

MARCELIN: Wapiti Library - 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: Monday 2 pm - 6 pm; Tuesday 12 pm - 8 pm; Wednesday 2 pm - 8 pm; Thursday 12 pm - 6 pm; Friday 9 am - 4 pm.

CANWOOD: Canwood & District Health Services Co-operative – ANNUAL MEETING. Wednesday, October 13th, 2021, Canwood Business Center – 7:00 p.m. Due to COVID, we regret that we are unable to provide supper before the meeting. Seating will be limited so please contact Sandi Grumbo at 306-961-5217 or canwooddhsc@gmail.com if you wish to attend. Please come out and show your support for your community clinic. If you have any questions please call Sandi at 1-306-961-5217

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Shellbrook Minor Sports hosts Try Hockey Day

Submitted by Melissa Moe

Shellbrook Minor Sports hosted its first ever Try Hockey Day on Sunday, Sept. 19, and it was a huge success.

We had 13 kids registered, with 12 hitting the ice. Each child got a stick given to them to use on the ice and to take home at the end of the day. Sticks were sponsored by KDM Farms.

Kelly Herndier led the session with somewhat of a skills/learning "practice." She was joined by Kyler Roy and



Kelly Herndier, along with Parkland U18 AA Elks Anson Favel and Kyler Roy, led the participants in exercises.

Anson Favel of the Parkland U18 AA Elks hockey team. The kids ranged in skill level from never having skated before, to having skated but never played hockey before.

We got the idea to have a try hockey day because so many parents aren't sure if they want to commit to the expense and the time commitment that hockey sometimes can be if they aren't sure if their kids are going to enjoy it.

By having the kids come out and try hockey out before they commit, we feel like we may have found a bit of a solution there.

Try hockey day wrapped up the week-long hockey equipment swap that we had at the rink, that also ran in tandem with the Parkland U18 AA Elks Hockey School.

People dropped their equipment off with an itemized sheet of the equipment they were wanting to sell, along with the item and a price. A lot of the kids were outfitted with equipment that local community members either donated, or items that were in the swap



Shellbrook Minor Sports hosted its first-ever Try Hockey Day, allowing a small group of local kids to see if they'd enjoy the sport.

and the kids could then buy at a discounted price.

Minor sports played a big role in the success of the first Try Hockey Day by paying for the ice for us.

We would not be able to have put on this day without them, as participants did not have to pay for the day and all it

cost us was our time.

The participants were as follows: Huxlee Ahenakew, Heston Thorpe-Konkin, Austin Hrechka, Jase Helm, Everett Hodgson, Corbin Tweede, Talon Burechailo, Ryker Strube, Abby Burechailo, Leanna Thiel, Shaelyn McAleese, Joseph, and Tayler Cameron.

Spiritwood Library receives Canada Post Community Foundation grant

The Spiritwood Public Library has been awarded a \$3,000 grant from the Canada Post Community Foundation to support a new initiative entitled Growing Up With Books. Over the next 12 months, the funds will be used to expand the library collection of books for children and youth.

The library is an important community resource to the young people of Spiritwood and the surrounding area. It provides free access to books that bring children delight, spark their imaginations, and help them learn. When the new books have been purchased and are ready for circulation, there will be several special displays for people to browse through the new

book arrivals. Children and youth will be invited to create pictures to portray their favourite characters or illustrate a scene from their favourite book. The pictures will be put on display in the library.

According to Kay Willson, chair of the Spiritwood Library Board, "We are thrilled to receive this grant. With these funds we will be able to purchase board books for toddlers, picture books for young children, and popular titles for young readers. We will be able to update our children's non-fiction and acquire graphic novels and award-winning fiction for teens. We will be able to purchase books that reflect the diversity of people living in our community

and across the country."

According to Joyce Carriere, the local librarian, "This grant will enable more children in our community to discover the joy of books and keep reading as they grow and change."

"The Canada Post Community Foundation is proud to help organizations that are working hard to make a difference in the lives of Canadian children and youth," said Doug Ettinger, Canada Post President and CEO.

"Through the generosity of our customers during our annual campaign, we're able to fund incredible organizations that are focused on the complex and growing needs of young people in communities across the country."

Man charged with false reporting

A 21-year-old man from the Mistawasis First Nations is facing a pair of charges after allegedly making a false report to the Ahtahkakoop-Shellbrook RCMP Detachment about a fatal motor vehicle collision.

On Sept. 25, 2021, at 1 a.m., Ahtahkakoop-Shellbrook RCMP received a report of a serious two vehicle collision. The caller reported the collision occurred on the Mistawasis First Nation and that there were multiple casualties and two deceased individuals.

Emergency responders, including Ahtahkakoop-Shellbrook and Blaine Lake

RCMP Detachments, EMS, STARS and local residents conducted extensive patrols to locate the collision scene and provide assistance to the victims.

When emergency responders were unable to locate the scene, RCMP officers determined they could be dealing with a false report and began an investigation into the reporting of the collision.

As a result of this investigation, Tyler Sanderson from the Mistawasis First Nation, has been charged with: public mischief and obstruction of a police officer.

Sanderson made his first court appearance in Prince Albert on Monday.

Highlights of a Spiritwood Library board meeting

There were eight present at the Library meeting held on Sept. 22.

Old business that was discussed was the Summer Reading program sponsored by the TD Bank. 35 children signed up, 5 joined up with the TD Bank promotion, and it is unknown if any went online with the PA Wapiti promotion. 15 coupons were handed out for books read. This was for an ice cream treat at the Spiritwood Confectionery, which was kindly donated by the Confectionery.

The Story Walk was located in the park. Hopefully everyone had a chance to read the story.

The Notice Nature program continues till October.

The Library made \$680 on the Dessert of the Month. This is our main fundrais-

er. There are still 3 draws left.

We are working on purchasing some new children and young adult books. That section of the library needs refreshing.

The RM and Town of Spiritwood provided us with the new Library sign for the front of the building. The old one was smashed in a wind storm some time ago.

Oct. 17 to the 23 is Saskatchewan Library week. Please come in and check out the display.

Our librarian, Joyce is retiring on Sept. 29. Please stop into the library and thank her for her years of service. We so appreciate all that she has done for our library. The board presented her with a bouquet of flowers.

The next meeting will be held on Oct. 13 at 6 p.m.

Leoville Healthcare Auxiliary news

Fall is upon us. The weather is beautiful and the colours are stunning.

This brought up the topic of our Fall Pie Sale fundraiser. With the fourth wave of the pandemic upon us, we thought it best to postpone once again.

We're looking forward to this fundraiser next year.

In lieu of our Spring Bake Sale fundraiser, which we also had to postpone last spring, you people from the Leoville community and sur-

rounding area were very generous with monetary donations again. Your much appreciated donations totalled over \$850.

With this and previous donations and support, you have bought two beautiful, much needed lift chairs for the Evergreen Center in the amount of \$3,327.78.

This is so very much appreciated by the residents and staff.

It also gave us great pleasure to be able to give two bursaries to students who graduated

from Leoville Central School.

It is our policy to give as many as three bursaries per year, with applications accompanied by proof of acceptance into a secondary education college in a medical field.

Once again, we want you to know how much we appreciate you, as does the Evergreen Centre and the students receiving bursaries.

Have a great fall. May you remain healthy and happy.

Stay safe everyone.

Blue Jays red hot at the right time

What in the name of Joe Carter is going on these days in Toronto?

The Blue Jays, sputtering along like an also-ran for most of the Major League Baseball season, caught fire in late August/early September and got themselves smack dab into the midst of the wildcard race in the American League.

Now, delirious Blue Jays fans across the country are hoping that manager Charlie Montoyo's team can run its recent hot play all the way to the World Series.

And why shouldn't they be able to? In the last 60 days of the season, Toronto has been the best team in the American League, running off 15 wins in 18 games at one point, and finding themselves neck and neck with the Yankees and Red Sox for the two wildcard berths. Proof of the Jays' contending legitimacy came in a mid-September series against East Division-leading Tampa Bay Rays, where Toronto won two of three.

How did all this hap-

pen? How did the Jays go from semi-contender to virtual powerhouse? Let us count the ways:

1. The pitching staff, shaky to start the season, has more than stabilized. Robbie Ray is a Cy Young contender, Jose Berrios was picked up in a trade deadline deal with Minnesota, and rookie Alex Manoh was called up to the big club in June and became the fastest pitcher in Blue Jays' history to reach 100 strikeouts as he won six of his first eight decisions. The fourth starter is Hyun-Jin Ryu, who has struggled down the stretch.

2. Vladimir Guerrero, Jr. is on fire. Only 22, he leads the majors in home runs, and is tops in the American League in every important offensive category. He has emerged into what the Blue Jays always said he could be. Dominant. And if it wasn't for the once-in-a-lifetime season put together by Shohei Ohtani, Vladdy, Jr., would be the runaway MVP.

3. The Guerrero offensive support is



BRUCE
PENTON

ubiquitous. Free agent George Springer is finally healthy after a dreadful start to the year. Teoscar Hernandez, free agent Marcus Semien and Lourdes Gurriel, Jr., Bo Bichette and Randal Grichuk are having banner seasons, giving the Jays a lineup that brings fear to opposing pitchers.

The Jays' braintrust may come to regret trading highly regarded shortstop Austin Martin in the Berrios trade, but with Springer, Semien, Hernandez, Ryu, Ray and Gurriel in or approaching their 30s, the 2021 season could be the team's best chance for another World Series' title be-

fore age starts taking a toll.

It's been 28 years since Carter's iconic homer won the '93 series over Philadelphia. It wouldn't be a shock if they ended that drought this year.

• Curler Darren Moulding, on the proposed rule change calling for a draw to the button instead of an extra end at the world championships: "I think the lack of extra ends is horrible. How do you do that? That's like the NHL, in the Stanley Cup final, saying we're gonna go to a shootout, without an overtime. Wow."

• Columnist Norman Chad, on Twitter, picking the Steelers over Buffalo in the opening week of the NFL season: "With everyone jumping on the Bills' bandwagon, I feel comfortable (if lonely) riding in the Steelers' Mini Cooper wagon."

• Phil Mushnick of the

New York Post: "Florida has offered a full scholarship to an eighth grade QB, Julian Lewis. Seriously. Guess he already meets the academic requirements."

• NY Post reader Bill Hoyt: "One day I'd like to attend the funeral of one of those obnoxious, starved-for-TV attention PGA gallery clowns so he can hear the mourners holler, 'Get in the hole!'"

• Comedy writer Brad Dickson of Omaha: "There is now a shortage of cheap whiskey in America. So does that mean University of Missouri home football games are cancelled?"

• From @NFL_Memes, via Twitter: "Mitch Trubisky got married ... Doubt there was a reception"

• Dwight Perry of the Seattle Times (and it's good to have him back after a major health incident): "Prince Philip's will will be sealed for at least 90 years to protect

the 'dignity' of Queen Elizabeth II and the royal family, a London judge has ruled. 'Can we do that with our 2021 season?' asked the Baltimore Orioles."

• Jack Finarelli, aka sports curmudgeon.com, on high-scoring college football games where teams "use what I call the Brothel Defence — where all the opponents score at will."

• RJ Currie of sports-deke.com: "According to a VirtualTourist.com item, Jacksonville has been one of the most dangerous U.S. cities to visit. Unless you are an NFL team."

• Steve Simmons of SunMedia.com: "What a horrible time for sports in Detroit: The Red Wings are lousy. The Lions are worse. The Pistons were last in the NBA and the Tigers are 11th in the American League."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

GOOD NEWS

DID YOU EVER ASK WHY LATELY?

Some 33 years or so ago, Marlene and I pastored in a village called Semans. We were there for about 5 and half years. Semans is pretty close to the Town of Raymore, situated by the CNR Alphabet Railway about 125 KM north of Regina. While we were there, I was asked if I would start a men's recreational hockey team.

It would involve no body contact. As time went on an RCMP officer joined the church and was great at recruiting other officers to play with us. I recruited some First Nation players from the area. Things went pretty well.

We would have pick up games. One particular night we were playing a neighbouring town. As the game got started, one of the opposing players took his stick and cross checked across my face. I hit the ice. As I laid there one of my players said you better go check out your nose. I went to the dressing room and discovered it was as flat as a pancake.

I didn't have any ambulance coverage, so I jumped into a car with one my deacons and headed to the General Hospital in Regina. Wondering all the time why did this happen to me? What would possess someone in a no-hit league do that?

There was no doctor available right away and I was asked if I would return in the morning. When I explained I

was living in the country, they found a bed for me to wait on the doctor.

I did see a doctor after about two or three hours waiting. His immediate question was what did I do for a living. I said I pastored a church. His response was he didn't want to work on me. He was going to leave it to Dr. Chang.

He got to see me maybe an hour or so later. He never asked a question but was able to reset my nose and pack it, and I was on my way. I may have some questions, but it could have been far worse. I walked away without a serious injury.

Things happen. I am thinking of Job. He certainly went through a lot. He had some questions. His faith was sure stretched. He had some friends that weren't very encouraging. God didn't mind Job's questions but really didn't answer them either.

God didn't give Job an explanation but rather a revelation of who He is. I read recently "stop asking questions God won't answer." Likely great advice.

Some things this side of Heaven we won't know the why. The important thing to ask is have we made our peace with our Creator, our Savior and Lord?

Jesus made a way to Heaven, but we need to accept Him personally in our lives.

Blessings, Pastor David Bodvarson, Shellbrook Pentecostal Assembly

Parkland U18 AA Elks unveil 2021-2022 roster

After a gruelling September pre-season that included training camp and a pair of exhibition games against the Prince Albert Lakeland Towing Vulcans, Parkland U18 AA Elks head coach Doug Hobson, and assistant coach Sheldon Moe, have announced the team's 2021-2022 roster.

It wasn't easy for the coaches, who had to evaluate 42 young hopefuls and make a series of cuts over the past couple weeks. But as of Friday the Elks' final roster of 17 players had finally been selected, and it features a number of home-grown faces.

All told, there are six Shellbrook-based players on this year's squad, including forwards Ashton Tanchuk and Torr Gosselin, defenders Tavis Gallo-way, Jake Boettcher, and Brendon Aug, and goaltender Carson Ledding.

The roster also includes Parkside-born defenceman Jase Martin, Debden forward Kaiden Couture, and Spiritwood defender Bronson Parker. Meanwhile, Shell Lake's Corvan Stewart and Shae Stewart have been tapped to play forward and goaltender, respectively.

Elsewhere, brothers Anson and Carson Favel hail from Ile-a-la-crosse, with Anson on the D-line and Carson playing forward. Kyler Roy comes to the team from the northern hamlet of Jans Bay, and Tylee Sylvestre joins the team from Turnor Lake. Both Roy and Sylvestre are forwards.

Rounding out the roster, forward Kendon Skalicky comes to the Parkland U18 AA Elks from La Ronge, while forward Peter Bird hails from Stanley Mission.

The team opens its regular season this coming weekend, with three games over three days in Saskatoon against the Icehawks, the River Kings, and the Screaming Eagles.

Their home opener, against the Prince Albert Lakeland Towing Vulcans, is set for Friday, Oct. 8, with puck drop at 7:30 p.m.

This will be the first full season for the Parkland U18 AA Elks, as the team's inaugural 2020-2021 campaign was cut short by COVID-19 public health measures after only a handful of games.

OBITUARY

~
Lorraine Lavoie

Lorraine Lavoie
February 25, 1945 –
September 13, 2021

With sadness in our hearts, and memories to give us strength, we announce the passing of our pillar of strength after a courageous battle with cancer. Lorraine, was born to Alfred and Lydia Hetu, the young-

est of eight children, Roland, Lilian (Clement) Arcand, Lionel (June), Robert (Lorraine), Isabel (Ed) Ukrainetz, Norman Hetu, Ruby Hetu. Lorraine grew up on the family farm in the Laventure District, attending North Creek School and Spiritwood Separate School. Lorraine loved horses and rode her horse to school many times, even picking up fellow classmates who had to walk. Lorraine was a very caring and giving person who always helped out. She helped her father on the farm, there was nothing she would not tackle, this was exemplified throughout her life.

Lorraine lost both of her parents at a very early age, life was not easy, these experiences gave her the

brave, courageous, passionate, feisty, get over it and get on with your life characteristics we saw in her to her last breath.

Lorraine met Aime in Leoville as she was the pin setter at the local bowling alley. In Lorraine's own words "I married the love of my life on July 6, 1961", they were married for 54 years.

Lorraine was a leader, involved with the church, school, 4-H, museum and most recently a passionate quilter. She worked on their mixed farm, and then later their dairy farm, while raising their family of four boys. In 1981 they moved to Spiritwood, they owned and operated the Pine Lounge. Later they purchased Spiritwood Hi-Way ser-

vice, which was destroyed by fire. They rebuilt and everyone knew the log building on the highway; Gateway North Cafe and Catering. Lorraine and Aime welcomed everyone who patronized them, a good piece of pie, coffee and a visit with Lorraine was to be had on each visit. Lorraine trained many staff members as she taught them life skills for their futures.

Lorraine loved her flowers, watching the birds in her garden, her family & friends, was always very welcoming, was the life of the party, very witty, and she was good company to be around. She loved curling and a good game of cards, cribbage or Rummikub, winning brought a twinkle to her eye. She

loved her quilting retreats, traveling and was quick to pack her bags to go! She was a fire cracker to the point you never had to wonder what she was thinking!

Survived by her sons and their families: Norman and Suzanne, (Alain and Hilary), (Michelle and Travis and their children Beau and Cade); Ron and Geraldine; Rick and Cindy, (Amanda and Jack and their son Kaysen), (Jacob); Greg and Shelley, (Brittany and Brady), (Makayla and Connor); Her brother Lionel (June) Hetu, Her beloved cat Miss Callie (Minou), Aime's siblings: Marie Fontaine, Marie-Paul Lavoie, Cecile Chalifour, Irene (Myron) Halko, Agnes Blough, Leon

Lavoie, Anna (Marcel) Doucette, numerous nieces and nephews and countless friends.

Funeral service was held Friday September 24, 2021 at the Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, Spiritwood, SK, live streamed on: Spiritwood Sacred Heart Parish, Facebook Page (note: you do not need a Facebook account to view the service), Memorial tributes can be made to Laventure Cemetery. Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit www.beaulacfuneralhome.com. Arrangements have been entrusted to Beau "Lac" Funeral Home & Crematorium, Lori Saam Funeral Director, Spiritwood, SK 306-883-3500

Protecting your cedars from browning

By Patricia Hanbidge

As we are enjoying a nice autumn, it is a good idea to think ahead about what chores will need to be done prior to the big freeze up. As our trees and shrubs are an important aspect of the landscape it is a good idea to think about how to ensure they not only go into winter in good shape but also remain green and lush right into the growing season next year. This article is mostly focused on evergreens but can also be applied to sunscald on the trunks of deciduous trees.

Evergreens in the landscape provide shelter for our feathered friends and also help to control snow and wind. They are aesthetically important as their evergreen foliage is so appreciated while the rest of the landscape exhibits so many shades of grey. Of the many evergreens we can grow, cedars seem to be the evergreen that is most susceptible to winter damage. Read on to help ensure your evergreen cedar does not turn into shades of brown.

The most common cedar of our landscapes is the eastern white cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*). It is found naturally throughout North Eastern North America. Traditionally, the eastern white cedar was

used by aboriginals to prevent scurvy as it contains Vitamin C. This practice was passed onto French settlers which gave rise to the name arborvitae or "tree of life". The wood is valuable as it is resistant to rot and insects. Traditionally it was used for the framework of canoes but today it has many uses including posts, poles, shingles and even shelter for alternative livestock operations.

Although the eastern white cedar is not found naturally in Saskatchewan, they can tolerate our extremely dry and cold winters with a little extra care. Over winter, these cedars need to have adequate shelter from the desiccating effects of our winter sun and wind to maintain their evergreen colour. The browning that can occur is a result of the desiccation or drying of the leaf tissues. As these leaves are still living, when the warm early spring sunshine heats them up and actually causes respiration within the plants to increase. The by-product of this process is that water is given off by the plant which in turn causes drying and browning of the leaf tissue as the ground is still frozen and the plant cannot bring up water to offset this water loss as it would during the summer



months.

Choosing the right cultivar will help to ensure you are successful in incorporating cedars you're your landscape. 'Brandon' (4 m tall by 1.5 m wide) is likely the most common cedar grown and has good hardiness. 'Holmstrup' (2 m tall and 1 m wide) has a nice green colour only topped by 'Smaragd' (4m tall by 1.5 m wide) which exhibits the most intense green. For good sized globe cedars try 'Woodwardii', 'Globosa' or 'Little Giant' (all about 2 m tall and wide). If you are looking for smaller selections try 'Hetz Midget' (1 m tall by 1 m wide) or 'Little Gem' which will be of similar height but slightly wider than 'Hetz Midget'.

Proper care is essential to keep your cedar green. Throughout the growing season, it is important to ensure that these evergreens receive enough moisture. This past summer was very dry and all trees and shrubs should have received supplemental irrigation in order to thrive. It is also important to water all trees and shrubs deeply and thoroughly in a dry year just prior to freeze up. Throughout the winter, they need to receive shelter from the wind and shade from the sun. Planting them on an east or north exposure is a good choice. If you have the misfortune of your cedars living in a location that is not sheltered, it is best to provide some protection. You

need to minimize their exposure to the late-afternoon sun. Even in winter, the sun has a lot of power and will result in a daily freeze/thaw cycle that is extremely damaging to the tissues of the cedar.

It used to be recommended to wrap your cedars in burlap for the winter – but this is really not the best choice. The absolute best way to protect your cedars from winter browning is to tap some poles into the ground close to the cedars. (It is recommended that you do this prior to the ground freezing solid!) Create a screen using burlap (or other suitable material) that will serve as a shield for wind and sun. As a bonus – you can still enjoy the great green that your cedars provide to the landscape.

It is not recommended that you use anti-desiccant sprays. They work by coating the leaves with a very thin layer of wax. These "miracle" products never quite deliver as promised and are definitely not a substitute for proper care.

Hanbidge is the Lead Horticulturist with Orchid Horticulture. Find us at www.orchidhort.com; by email at info@orchidhort.com; on facebook @orchidhort and on instagram at #orchidhort.



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TENDERS

Medstead and District Recreation Association (MADRA) is now accepting tenders for the following position:
Cleaning/Kitchen Caretaker - The position consists of the following duties: making sure that the kitchen is in order and cleaning the deep fryer; cleaning of the lobby, bleachers, upstairs lounge, hallways, bathrooms and all dressing rooms; as well as ordering food and supplies as needed. The above position description may change with additions and/or deletions at the discretion of the MADRA executive. Sealed tenders must be received by 5pm October 15th, 2021. Please send tenders to: MADRA, PO Box 86, Medstead, SK, S0M 1W0 or email to cheyenneorange@cheyenneorange@hotmail.com 3-41

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Proof of vaccine mandate starts October 1

Effective Friday, Oct. 1, 2021, proof of COVID-19 vaccination or a negative test result will be required in Saskatchewan for public access to a range of businesses, event venues, as well as for all Government of Saskatchewan ministry, Crown, and agency employees.

OH&S Regulations

Regulations under The Public Employers' Covid-19 Emergency Regulations come into force on October 1 where public employers will require their employees to make a choice to show proof of being fully vaccinated for COVID-19 or provide evidence of a negative COVID-19 test result at least every seven days. A negative test result is also required for partially vaccinated individuals.

Employers outside the public service can voluntarily opt in should they wish to implement a proof of vaccination or negative test policy for employees. The cost for all proof of negative test results for asymptomatic testing will be the responsibility of the individual.

Proof of vaccination for all Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) employees will also begin implementation on Oct. 1, with a phased approach. The need for this policy is a result of the significant risks mounting from the highly transmissible COVID-19 variant and a necessary step to protect health care team, patients and residents and to preserve health care services. More details will be provided later this week by the SHA to all health care staff, contractors and others affected by this policy. Health care workers who do not provide proof of vaccination will be required to participate in a monitored testing program at their cost, unless they have received an approved accommodation based on the Saskatchewan Human Rights Code.

A note of caution that some

individuals are obtaining affidavits indicating they are exempt from vaccination. Vaccinations are not mandatory in Saskatchewan and individuals may refuse to be vaccinated, therefore legal affidavits are not required and will not provide an exemption. If a proof of vaccination is not provided, proof of a negative COVID 19 test must be presented to access a designated business. The only acceptable forms of proof of vaccination are:

- Wallet cards received at time of immunization
- A printed copy of your MySaskHealthRecord (MSHR) vaccine certificate (with or without a QR code)
- A screenshot of your MSHR vaccine certificate (with or without a QR code) saved to your device
- An earlier version of your MSHR COVID-19 vaccine certificate
- A COVID-19 vaccine print-out from Saskatchewan Health Authority Public Health
- To come - A QR code/MySaskHealthRecord vaccine certificate uploaded to SK Vax Wallet

The QR Codes in vaccine records from MSHR were temporarily removed on Friday September 24 because of potential privacy concerns. The issue has been resolved and QR codes are again available in MSHR. Any QR codes that were saved/printed or captured prior to today should be deleted or destroyed as they have been made invalid and new QR codes must be retrieved from your MSHR account.

Businesses requiring proof of vaccination will also require ID from anyone 18 and older. Youth aged 12-17 will also need to show ID unless accompanied by an adult with proof of vaccination and ID. Youth aged 12 to 17, visiting a business without

an adult, who do not have photo identification will be allowed to present other forms of government issued identification such as birth certificate or health services card.

Proof of Negative Test

Individuals who do not proof have of vaccination have the option of providing proof of a negative COVID-19 test result from within the previous 72 hours.

Effective immediately the SHA will not be providing testing for asymptomatic individuals giving priority to those presenting with symptoms unless identified as a close contact, have had a positive rapid antigen test, identified as part of an outbreak situation or requiring transfer or admission to long-term care, primary care, social services or intensive care units.

A self-administered take-home rapid antigen test will not be accepted as valid proof of negative COVID-19 test results. Individuals requiring a negative test result have several private options on the market that will provide a rapid antigen test or a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test for a fee.

COVID-19 vaccinations remain the best defense to prevent serious illness and hospitalizations. The Saskatchewan Health Authority and pharmacies throughout the province continue to provide vaccination clinics. To find a clinic near you go to www.saskatchewan.ca/covid19-vaccine.

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