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Schools honour Day of Truth and Reconciliation



The Young Bucks, a drum group from the Big River First Nation, perform for the staff and students of Shellbrook Elementary School and WP Sandin High School during the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Students and staff from Shellbrook Elementary School and WP Sandin High School gathered on Thursday to observe and recognize Canada's first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

The afternoon gathering, held in the schoolyard of Shellbrook Elementary School, was steeped in Indigenous culture and featured the musical stylings of the Young Bucks drum group from the Big River First Nation.

Before this, however, WP Sandin High School vice principal Tracy Bloomquist shared a few words about the significance of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

"This is the home of the Nehiyawak (Plains Cree) and Métis people who lived on this land long before our ancestors migrated here in search of a place to begin a new life," she said.

"In the treaty negotiations of the 1870s, our leaders on both sides promised to work together, and live together just like a family would. On this day, the Day for Truth and Reconciliation, we are to remember our shared history and how we are all morally obligated to recognize the spirit and the intent of Treaty."

In a year in which Canada has faced a reckoning over the legacy of residential schools, after an untold number of unmarked graves were found at the sites of schools across the country, Bloomquist also took a moment to reflect on the experiences of her grandparents, aunts, and uncles.

"I know that they have been impact-

ed, and our family has been impacted by those experiences. There are probably people sitting in our circle today who have also had family members who have been impacted as well," she said, before ending on a hopeful note.

"Today is to think about, remember, honour, and look towards the future."

In keeping with tradition, Bloomquist then introduced the Young Bucks and presented them with an offering of tobacco and a bundle of sage for their

The Young Bucks, made up of family members Rocky, Dale, Larson, and Waylan, performed four drum songs in total, finishing each with teachings about the song itself, and about Indigenous culture.

"Everything in our culture comes

in four," Rocky said after the group drummed and sang a traditional honour song. "The number four represents the mind, body, spirit, and ceremony (songs, lodges, places of worship). If you balance those four aspects, your life will be good."

For the students of WP Sandin, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, also known as Orange Shirt Day, was a week-long event in which students engaged in learning activities to deepen their understanding of truth and reconciliation.

This included conversations about the residential school system, the longterm impact the schools have had, and reflective writing assignments about what reconciliation means to them.

Continued on page 2



Schools honour Day of Truth and Reconciliation

Continued from 1

While principal Karisa Klaassen says she was thrilled to be invited to the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation ceremony at Shellbrook Elementary School, she adds that truth and reconciliation goes beyond one day.

"Honouring Orange Shirt Day is just one step in moving toward reconciliation and our school is committed to continuing our learning throughout the school year and to stand in support of those affected by residential schools."

As for Shellbrook Elementary School, principal Kevin Koroluk says both the school and the Saskatchewan Rivers

Public School Division are doing the work to incorporate the teaching and understanding of truth and reconciliation throughout the school year.

Koroluk adds that the school's staff are invited to engage in online presentations and teachings from Indigenous consultants and elders, and the library is well provisioned with age-appropriate material focusing on Indigenous culture and history.

"The Division and Shellbrook Elementary School are committed to building a stronger understanding of Truth and Reconciliation," he said.

Beyond Shellbrook's schools, Can-

wood Public School also planned several special activities in honour of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, including an exercise in which students were tasked with representing what the day means to them on a template of an orange shirt. Those templates are now being displayed at the school.

Elsewhere, Grade 7/8 teacher Keanan Tibbs shared his knowledge of smudging with the school and allowed anyone who was interested to participate. And, during a school assembly, Tessa Genereaux and Brooke Williams read the poem I Lost My Talk by Rita Joe, and teachers Koralee Sansom and Lisa

Howat each shared their personal stories of how residential schools have impacted their families.

Thanks to generous donations of bison from Roger Provencher of Canadian Prairie Bison, carrots from the Bischler farm by educational assistant Zora Renaud, and homemade bannock by custodian Debbie Delisle, students and staff were also treated to a feast of bison stew and bannock.

Finally, following lunch on Orange Shirt Day, the school observed a moment of silence for all the lives lost in residential schools, or as a result of the legacy of residential schools.

adults have found books to enrich their lives because

While many are sad to see her familiar face go from

the library, well wishes were abundant, both at her

Shirley Dauvin, representing the RM of Spirit-

wood, and Jim Bedi, representing the Town of

Spiritwood, present Joyce with a gift to express

their appreciation for her dedication to the library

SALE BY TENDER

The Rural Municipality of Big River No. 555 offers for sale the following

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Tenders must be received by Pricewaterhouse Coopers LLP at the above

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Pricewaterhouse Coopers LLP Attention: Landon Grubb

cash to complete the purchase.

Dated September 22nd, 2021.

Michael Yuzik

and her many years of service to the community.

of her work in the library," Willson added.

retirement celebration and on social media.

Carriere retires after 42 years at Spiritwood Library

"Joyce was a sure thing in a world that has steadily been changing. For 42 years, she was a face you knew would be there at the library to greet you, visit with, and help you find the books you needed," said Susan Siegel, a Spiritwood Library Board member.

The long-time librarian of the Spiritwood Public Li-

Librarian Joyce Carriere holds a bouquet of flowers sent from the Wapiti Regional Library to recognize children in the famher 42 years of service.

brary, Joyce Carriere, officially retired last month, with Sept. 29 marking her last day on the job.

Carriere grew up in Spiritwood in a house just across the street from where the library currently stands. In 1979, she took over the job of librarian after serving on the library's board during the years she spent working as a babysitter.

Reading had been a big part of Joyce's childhood, having grown up with a father who was adamant that all the ily got library cards and learned to read. Over the past 42 years, Joyce has been able to "watch generations of readers grow," says Dana Doucette, library board member.

Joyce facilitated many partnerships in town with the elementary schools and summer recreation program that provide enrichment and learning for youth.

"Joyce made it possible for the library to host after-school programs for children. Working with the Spiritwood Literacy Partnership and using resources from the Wapiti Regional Office, the library was able to offer crafts and board games and toys to learn basic computer coding," said board member Kay Will-

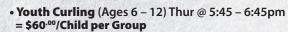
"Many children have grown up reading and many



Larissa Swityck-Conacher and Susan Siegel, representing the Spiritwood Literacy Partnership, bid Joyce farewell on her last day of work.



Fri., Oct. 15th @ 7 - 8 PM



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- Group #2 (Jan 13 Feb 17, 2022)
- Mon OR Wed Night 6-Pack League @ 7:30pm 6 Weeks of 6 End Games + 6 Free Drinks = A lot of fun
- = \$500.00/Team + \$15 Curl SK/CAN Fee per player 6-Pack #1: Week of Nov 8 - Week of Dec 13, 2021
- 6-Pack #2: Week of Jan 10 Week of Feb 14, 2022 6-Pack #3: Week of Feb 21 - Week of Mar 28, 2022
- Thurs Night Year Round League @ 7:30pm = \$1,100.00/ Team + \$15 Curl SK/CAN Fee per player
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Canwood & District Health Services Co-operative

ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, October 13th, 2021

Canwood Business Center – 7:00 p.m.

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Highlights of a Shellbrook Town Council meeting

Shellbrook's town council met for its regular meeting in person and via teleconference on Monday, Oct. 4.

In attendance were Mayor Amund Otterson, councillors Larry Batten, Bruce Clements, Cheryl Ledding, Brent Miller, and Kathleen Nording, and the town's CAO, Kelly Hoare. Newly elected councillor Peter Halayka was also in attendance, and was sworn in.

With the meeting called to order by Mayor Otterson at 4 p.m., council began by approving the meeting's agenda and adopting the minutes of its Monday, Sept. 20 meeting. With no business arising from said minutes, council welcomed recreation director Jessica Kernohan to discuss the vaccine protocol for the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre. and all town-owned facilities.

Due to the province's proof of vaccine or negative test mandate, the Roger's on the Rocks lounge in the curling rink will have to ask patrons for proof of vaccination or a negative test. All other activities, however, are currently exempt from the mandate.

Despite these exemptions, Kernohan has drafted a policy to require proof of vaccination or a negative test at the rink so the town is prepared if the mandate is changed or expanded.

While it thought it was a good idea to be prepared for all eventualities, council was largely in agreement that it

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chads@ sbchron.com should wait to speak to Shellbrook Minor Sports and discuss all perspectives on the policy before doing anything to restrict sports for local kids.

After a lengthy discussion, it agreed to table the matter in case further guidance comes from Hockey Saskatchewan or the province.

Later in the evening, council welcomed representatives from companies who submitted tenders for the town's garbage and recycling contract.

While TJ Disposals owner Randall Johnson was one of the bidders on the contract, and council has a policy to go with a local contractor if their bid is within 5 per cent of the lowest bid, council unanimously decided it had to renew its contract with Greenland Waste for the next five years.

Council was in agreement that it couldn't justify a more expensive contract, noting that the added cost of going with TJ Disposals would have been \$47 per resident per year, or about \$70,000 total for the town.

Moving on with the meeting, council approved payment of its regular accounts. It then shifted gears to oral reports

Starting with hospital and clinics news, Mayor Otterson was happy to inform council that a new physician has entered the SIPPA program and has been assigned to Shellbrook. Assuming all goes according to plan, she could start as early as January.

Mayor Otterson also reported that the town is currently hosting two medical students and is expecting three more before Christmas.

In fire and rescue news, Otterson reported that the Shellbrook Volunteer Fire Department is currently sitting at six active members, with a few volunteers looking to get their certification.

Otterson also reported the department is looking at expansion, noting that it can be difficult to get four vehicles through a single door.

Lastly, on the subject of vehicles, Otterson informed council that the department is looking to replace its yellow truck/tanker. The department is hoping to build the replacement itself and is estimating it will cost about \$50,000.

With nothing further to report, council continued with unfinished business and started by giving second reading to Bylaw 2020-05, a bylaw to repeal the heritage status on the CN Station/ Museum. Council also gave second reading to Bylaw 2021-08, a bylaw amending zoning bylaw 2018-01 regarding development permits and cannabis retail stores.

In its first item of new business, council gave the green light to Hidden Hills Golf Course to finance 12 golf carts at a cost of \$42,276. Mayor Otterson clarified that the golf course is townowned but run by volunteers, and council must authorize expenditures over a certain amount. He also noted that none of the funds for the purchase will come from the town or taxpayers.

In a second golf course related item, council also carried a motion to allow it to build its proposed golf cart shed close to the property line.

Moving on, council agreed to allow a second applicant, Shellbrook resident Bill Mumm, to proceed through the regulatory process and apply to operate a cannabis retail store in Shell-

brook. Council agreed it will need to proceed carefully, and eventually set a limit on the number of stores it will allow, as the first applicant for a cannabis store has already leased a building and is beginning renovations.

Moving on, council discussed the town's vaccination and testing policy for employees, contractors, and council. Council agreed some wording in the policy needed to be clarified and removed, including text that would have prohibited employees from sharing their opinions about vaccines. Instead, the policy will prohibit employees from discouraging others from getting vaccinated.

Later on, council agreed to have the curl-

ing rink lounge open for Parkland U18 AA Elks games starting on Oct. 15. The lounge is slated to begin regular operations on Monday, Nov. 8.

Wrapping up the meeting, council discussed correspondence from University of British Columbia professor Dr. Shahabaddine Sokhansanj regarding the establishment of a biomass pellet plant in Shellbrook. Dr. Sokhansanj was seeking the town's endorsement to help secure funding to conduct a feasibility study for a facility.

Since the request required no money from the town, council agreed to write a letter voicing its support for the idea.

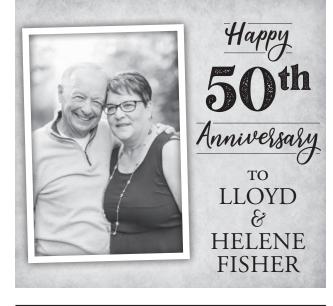
Council's next meeting is scheduled for Monday, Oct. 18.

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Saskatchewan 🙎

Merriman must walk the walk on responsibility

When it comes to taking genuine accountability for your actions, there are two vital steps to follow.

First, and most obviously, you must accept responsibility for what happened.

Second, and most importantly, you must make an honest effort to ensure the mistake isn't repeated.

It sounds simple, and it is. But we humans tend to have a hard time admitting when we're wrong, and a harder time, still, changing our ways.

That's why it was surprising to see Saskatchewan Health Minister Paul Merriman nail the first step of taking accountability in his first press conference in over a month.

"I absolutely do take responsibility for everything, the good, the bad, and everything in between that happens within the healthcare system," he said.

Pretty words. A real A+ for effort.

Yet none of it is backed up by the actions taken by Mr. Merriman and the Sask. Party government since case numbers began to trickle upwards in mid-August.

Mr. Merriman and his government had plenty of time to read the proverbial writing on the wall, and develop some sort of contingency plan to deal with a potential surge in case numbers and the subsequent strain on the province's healthcare system.

Instead, as late as Aug. 25 — when active cases had already exploded to 1,528, compared to the low of 242 in mid-July — Mr. Merriman and Premier Scott Moe were swearing up and down that there would be no reintroduction of public health measures and no provincial vaccine mandate.

Active cases, new daily cases, and hospitalizations grew exponentially after this, but Mr. Merriman and his team didn't take action until Sept. 10, when it was announced that some elective and non-emergency surgeries would be cancelled to allow healthcare system resources to be redirected to where they were most needed.

Six days later, Mr. Merriman and Mr. Moe were made to eat their words when indoor public masking mandates were



News Editor

reinstated, with a limited proof of vaccination or negative CO-VID-19 test mandate to follow on Oct. 1.

Regardless of the state of denial Messrs. Merriman and Moe were in on Aug. 25, it's clear they were well aware of the very real threat of the fourth wave by Sept. 10.

Yet 11 days later, Mr. Moe used a press conference to call on the province's medical community to step up and combat COVID-19 misinformation — as if they hadn't spent the past 18

months doing exactly this.

A couple days later, Mr. Moe singled out northern Saskatchewan as a large part of the province's COVID-19 problem and blamed Ottawa for failing to do its part in "federal jurisdiction."

All the while, the province was suspending its organ donation program to further free up healthcare resources and address record numbers of hospitalizations and ICU admissions. And just days after this, it announced that some communities can expect to see their ERs shutdown temporarily until the fourth wave recedes.

Given this, you might have expected to see some urgency or evidence of forward thinking. Instead, Mr. Merriman and his team waited until Sept. 30 to take the federal government up on its offers to aid the province with healthcare staffing issues and funding.

Prior to reaching out to Ottawa, Mr. Merriman opted to reach out to Ontario, B.C., and Alberta – the only other province that may have it worse than Saskatchewan – to see if COVID patients can be transferred to those provinces. Predictably, Alberta said it didn't have the capacity to accommodate extra patients.

And, in an eerie repetition of his words from Aug. 25, Mr. Merriman has once again sworn that no further public health measures will be reintroduced.

These are not the words and actions of a man and government that are taking responsibility for their decisions.

This too little, too late, approach is leaving Saskatchewan's overworked and underappreciated healthcare workers to pick up all the slack, and needlessly endangering the people of Saskatchewan.



Champion the truth

By Bob Cox, Publisher, Winnipeg Free Press

"Falsehood flies, and the truth comes limping after it."

If you think that quote comes from someone studying the spread of misinformation through social media, think again.

Jonathan Swift, author of Gulliver's Travels, wrote those words in 1710, more than 300 years ago.

The quote has been rephrased and repeated many times in many ways. It is often misquoted and attributed to someone else. One version — "a lie can travel around the world and back again while the truth is lacing up its boots" — is often wrongly attributed to everyone from Mark Twain to Winston Churchill.

The quote is so popular because it is so true. It is human nature to spread and believe falsehoods. The truth always has an uphill battle.

After all, false claims are much more interesting. That was true in the 1700s just as it is now

A study released recently on user behaviour on Facebook during the last U.S. presidential election found news publishers known for putting out misinformation got six times the amount of likes, shares, and interactions on the platform as did trustworthy news sources, such as CNN or the World Health Organization.

Publishers who traffic in misinformation have been repeatedly shown to be able to gain major audiences on social media platforms.

You can blame Facebook and other social media, but it's the humans behind the messages who are putting out the falsehoods and spreading them.

The antidote was born in Swift's time. The first daily newspaper – The Daily Courant – started publishing in England in 1702. The first North American newspaper – The Boston News-Letter – was started in 1704.

Since then, newspapers have evolved into trusted sources of information, relaying to readers the truth about what is happening in their communities. By doing so, they have changed human history – from spurring revolutions to advancing human rights.

The truth may limp, but it is a powerful force once unleashed.

Canada's newspapers are celebrating that power during National Newspaper Week, which runs from Oct. 3 to Oct. 9. This year's theme is "Champion the Truth," how the trusted journalism of local newspapers powers communities.

By supporting your local newspaper, you can do your part to champion the truth. If you already subscribe, thank you. If not, subscribe today and help make falsehoods fly away.

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Member of









Wilson resigns from Sask. Party caucus

Nadine Wilson, the long-time Saskatchewan Party MLA for the Saskatchewan Rivers constituency, has resigned from the party's caucus after "misrepresenting her vaccination status."

Premier Scott Moe accepted Wilson's resignation Thursday morning. Later that afternoon, he and Sask. Party caucus chair David Buckingham held a press conference to discuss the mat-

Buckingham said he had asked MLAs for verbal decla-



Saskatchewan Rivers MLA Nadine Wilson has resigned from the Sask. Party caucus and will now sit as an independent MLA.

rations of vaccination status in the spring and recently asked for proof of vaccination, anticipating he would find all members to be fully vaccinated.

"I asked to see a paper version of their vaccination status and that's when we found out that one of our members was not indeed vaccinated," said Buck-

Wilson was pictured wearing an "I got my COVID-19 vaccine" sticker, which was handed out by the Saskatchewan Health Authority after first doses, in the Legislative Assembly on May 14.

When asked how he feels about Wilson wearing the sticker when she wasn't vaccinated, Moe said the MLAs wore the stickers as a caucus with the understanding "all MLAs were fully vaccinated or in the process of getting their second shot."

According to the Sask. Party Caucus, all the 47 remaining Sask. Party MLAs are fully vaccinated.

In a statement to media, Wilson said she can "no longer support the direction of the Saskatchewan Party government or follow the government with true conviction regarding the current health situation."

"I have taken time to listen to the people in my riding and reflect on my role as an elected official and citizen. I believe in the fundamental values of freedom of personal choice, voluntary informed consent, without the element of duress or coercion." she wrote.

In an interview with John Gormley on Monday, Wilson shared her side of the story and revealed it was her decision to resign from the Sask. Party caucus. She also refuted some of the statements made by Premier Moe and Buckingham, in particular the assertion that she had shared her vaccination status in the spring.

"I never disclosed my status," Wilson said Monday. "I said I would go home and think about it. Apparently then they took that to be affirmative.

"I said, 'My medical history is personal.' I believe some things should remain personal and confidential. Equity of rights under the Charter of the Rights and Freedoms protects rights and civil liberties under both sides of the debate."

As for the "I got my COVID-19



Wilson was spotted wearing an "I got my COVID shot" sticker in the legislature on May 14, prompting claims she misrepresented her vaccination status.

vaccine" sticker that kicked off claims of Wilson misrepresenting her vaccination status, Wilson says she didn't even realize the sticker was there or what it

She adds that MLAs are given pins, or ribbons, or stickers on a daily basis to show support for a number of different causes.

"After this daily occurrence, (after) over a decade in my career, you won't even glance at what was pinned to you as you're concentrating on your debates (and) your speech notes," she said.

"Every day there's an awareness day about a disease or cause."

When asked about the efficacy of vaccines in reducing the harms of COVID-19, Wilson refused to "get into the semantics." She also criticized Health Canada for its failure to greenlight treatments other countries are successfully using to combat COVID. Though, she didn't say what those treatments are.

Wilson was the Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and has served as the MLA for Saskatchewan Rivers since 2007.

She will now sit as an independent MLA.

October is Agriculture Month

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Sask. introduces proof of vaccine mandate

Saskatchewan's proof of vaccine or proof of negative COVID test requirement is officially in effect.

The policy, which was implemented as of Friday, Oct. 1, covers indoor dining at restaurants; nightclubs, bars, taverns, and other licensed establishments; event and entertainment venues, including conference centres, casinos, movie theatres, concert venues, live-music venues, museums, and indoor facilities hosting ticketed sporting events; and indoor fitness centres, and gyms.

Retail businesses, in-

cluding grocery stores, and places of worship are exempt from the mandate. So, too, are fast food restaurants offering takeout our delivery; healthcare services, professional services, or personal services; hotels or other lodging; facilities hosting non-ticketed amateur sporting events, including youth athletics and recreational leagues; business meetings and places of business closed to the general public, unless otherwise directed by the business or employer; and private gatherings held at an indoor public residence.

At this time, the province-wide masking mandate also remains in effect for all indoor public places. However, it is expected to be rolled back at some point later this month.

To help support businesses and organizations that are required to verify their patrons' vaccination status, the province has introduced two apps.

The SK Vax Wallet app allows all vaccinated Saskatchewan residents to download their MySaskHealth Record vaccine certificate with the re-implemented QR code. Meanwhile, the SK

Vax Verifier app allows businesses and organizations to scan the QR codes in patrons' vaccination records.

Other options for proof of vaccination include printed or downloaded versions of the MySaskHealthRecord vaccine certificate, wallet cards issued at the time of vaccinations, or a COVID-19 vaccination printout from Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) public health.

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

A self-administered take-home rapid antigen test will not be accepted as valid proof of negative COVID-19 results, and the SHA is no longer supporting testing for asymptomatic individuals at its public testing sites, in an effort to preserve resources to test symptomatic and other at-risk populations.

The cost for all proof of negative test results for asymptomatic testing will be the responsibility of the individual. 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.

Even before the government of Saskatchewan introduced its vaccine passport program last week, the Saskatchewan NDP was criticizing it for being "chaotic" and "riddled with barriers and costs." The official opposition called on the government to fix the system and create a free, phone-based service to allow Saskatchewan residents to access their vaccination records.

"The web-based system the Sask. Party has concocted is frustrating enough for the most computer savvy. It's simply not intuitive for the many seniors contacting my office," said NDP Critic for Seniors Matt Love.

"We all know how to use the old-fashioned phone and it shouldn't be hard to set up a tollfree line to type in your health card number to receive a free paper copy of your COVID-19 vaccination record in the mail. Seniors and others struggling shouldn't be penalized because this government failed to come up with a real plan."

Contending that the provincial government had the summer to develop a vaccine passport system, the NDP says the "last-minute" system it came up with has been plagued by issues. These include privacy breaches, which resulted in the temporary suspension of QR code vaccination records when the wrong patient information appeared on at least 19 documents, the lack of clarity provided to businesses about proof of vaccination procedures, and the lack of accessibility.

According to the NDP, those who can't access their vaccination records online must go to a public health office and complete an application, then wait for about five days for the application to be processed. After this, they must return to the office and pay the \$20 fee in person or pay over the phone using Visa or Mastercard and have it mailed out.

"We're hearing from businesses and people who feel they've received little to no direction when it comes to proof of vaccination requirements coming into place on Oct. 1," said NDP Critic for Health Vicki Mowat.

"Not only that, the government is charging those who can't use the difficult online system, many of them seniors, \$20 to receive a printout. We need to make sure we're taking down barriers and making it as easy as possible for everyone to get a copy of their vaccination record."



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Saskatchewan Provides Coverage for New Cystic Fibrosis Medication

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Learn more at Saskatchewan.ca



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

Hon. Scott Moe, Premier

MLA for Rosthern-Shellbrook
scottmoe.mla@sasktel.net

Wariness of science impeding benefits for all

In a world where people are increasingly wary of science, one is left to wonder why.

The latest flag to bring the question into focus happened earlier this summer when the Philippines became the first country on the planet to approve Golden Rice for production and human consumption.

Golden Rice technology was licensed to Syngenta 20 years ago, and it was looked at as a development in genetic modification that was groundbreaking.

GMOs had typically

been production-oriented breakthroughs, such as a crop being glyphosate tolerant, which helped farmers with weed control options, and of course the company selling the herbicide.

Golden Rice was different as it was a variety of rice which provides people eating it with increased vitamin A, which is a problem in rice-heavy diets. Globally, tens-of-millions of children are deficient, leading to countless annual deaths.

It was a development which one might have



expected to be readily adopted, much as glyphosate tolerant canola swept across the Canadian Prairies, but with a direct benefit to those consuming the rice. It could actually save lives.

The story here has been a general boon to canola production, but, not so for Golden Rice.

Groups, led by the likes of Greenpeace, have lobbied against Golden Rice which ultimately has cost lives.

The success of GMO canola, and its track record of safety, speaks to the technology not being the bugaboo some might suggest.

To oppose GMOs in general, is short-sighted based on the science. But when it has allowed a development which could help alleviate a rather significant health issue, it is simply put – ridiculous.

Unfortunately, we often fear new things. There were those who rallied against milk pasteurization after all. But imagine a world without milk being pasteurized?

Certainly not all science is fool proof, but it is still our best bet for positive development.

While we need to be careful in what is approved, Golden Rice taking nearly 20-years to be adopted in its first country speaks to far too much rhetoric and

political wrangling over studying the science and adopting it for a very good reason – the health of consumers.

As much as we need to study scientific advancements, we also need to study the source of the voices of dissent, which increasingly seem more 'politically' motivated than having real concerns about product safety.

There needs always to be an eye to ensuring the population of our world is fed, and that those people are kept as healthy as new science will allow.

APAS sets team for federal-provincial ag framework talks

The Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) has created a task force to prepare its recommendations for the federal and provincial government's Next Policy Framework (NPF). The NPF consultations will result in a new five-year federal-provincial agricultural funding agreement, which will begin in 2023.

The provincial and federal governments are expected to finalize a shared policy direction statement this fall and begin discussions on the details of the program's design.

"Federal-provincial agreements set out the direction of most of the important government programming for agriculture, and it's time to renew our approach," APAS President Todd Lewis said. "Funding has not changed over the last three agreements, but our agricultural production has increased, and so has our risk."

Lewis explained that risk has increased due to instability in international trade, the COVID-19 pandemic, and widespread drought.

"It's time to update our Business Risk Management programs and make sure we're ready for the future."

The NPF Task Force will consult with producers, other agricultural stakeholders,

and government officials and develop priorities for the NPF from its research.

Members of APAS's NPF Task Force are: Chair: Bill Prybylski – APAS Vice-President (RM of Garry #245), Norm Hall – Former APAS President (RM of Emerald #227), Scott Owens – Director of District 6 (RM of Eldon #471), Brent Freedman – APAS Representative (RM of Willow Creek #458), Trevor Green – APAS Representative (RM of Moosomin #121), and Devon Walker - APAS Representative (RM of Wilton #472)

"All the members of this task force have different agricultural backgrounds, are from different regions of the province and together will be able to provide a strong, united, and diverse voice for Saskatchewan producers," Lewis said. "Their perspectives on what needs to be included in the NPF is essential for the sustainability and success of the province's agricultural sector."

The Canadian Agricultural Partnership agreement ends March 31, 2023, and will be replaced with the NPF.

Once applications are submitted, the Government of Canada will have one year to determine the funding model of the NPF split between federal, provincial, and territo-

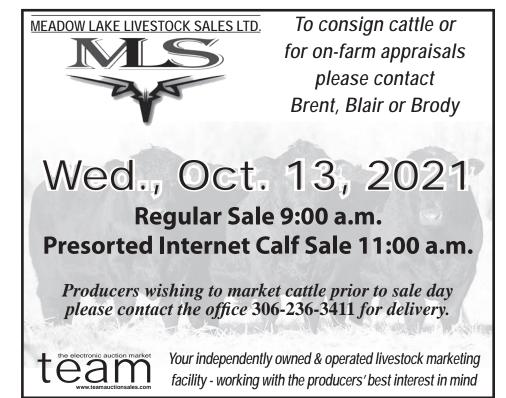
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rial governments for Canada's farmers and ranchers.

APAS's submission will highlight the need for Business Risk Management, AgriStability, research investment, trade, and market development programs, and increasing agricultural exports to international markets.

"It's important APAS adds its voice to the NPF because Saskatchewan has an important role to play in the export growth of the country," Lewis said. "This proposal will outline what Saskatchewan producers see as successes in the current agreement but also ways to improve the new contract for all parties."

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Presort Sale 9:30 a.m., Regular Sale to follow

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Peter Halayka elected to Shellbrook Council

All the ballots have been counted, and the results of last Wednesday's municipal by-election in Shellbrook have been signed off on.

With that, Peter Halayka has been elected to Shellbrook's Town Council, filling the seat left vacant by former councillor John Hughes.

Shellbrook's voter base cast 125 ballots in total, with Halayka earning 61 votes (or 48.8 per cent of the vote). His closest opponent, former Shellbrook Councillor Dave Knight, received 33 votes (26.4 per cent), while Donovan Kultgen finished in third place with 31 votes (24.8 per cent).

Town of Shellbrook CAO Kelly Hoare estimates that there are about 900 eligible voters in Shellbrook, meaning this election saw an overall voter turnout of 13.9 per cent.

A resident of Shellbrook since 2011, Halayka first ran for council in the regular municipal election held in the fall of 2020. He came up just short in his bid then, finishing in fourth place in a race to fill two open council seats (the other four seats had previously been filled by acclamation).

Up until his retirement in 2019, Halayka enjoyed a long career as a firefighter and fire inspector, starting out in Prince Albert and eventually moving to La Ronge.

Serving as a Fire Protection Coordinator for Northern Saskatchewan, Halayka organized fire departments in all Northern Saskatchewan communities, trained the firefighters, conducted fire inspections and investigations as required.

Halayka then worked for the Saskatchewan Fire Commissioners office from 1982 to 1993, and as a Building/Fire **Inspector for the City of Prince** Albert from 1993 to 2007.

For the last 12 years of his

working life, Halayka operated his own building inspection company, serving multiple communities, including Shell-

"I am really looking forward to working with the Town of Shellbrook and providing any help I can," Halayka said ahead of his first council meeting on Monday, thanking every everyone who came out to

"I feel the Town is well run and managed and look forward to helping maintain it like that. My main interests are water and roads, as well as fire protection."



Peter Halayka has been elected to Shellbrook Town Council following last Wednesday's municipal by-election.

Minutes of an RM of Shellbrook meeting

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

Minutes of a regular meeting of Council of the Rural Municipality of Shellbrook No. 493 held on Wednesday, Aug. 11, 2021, in the Municipal Office Council Chambers at Shellbrook, Saskatchewan.

Present: Reeve - Doug Oleksyn, Division 1 - Cliff Skauge, Division 2 - Phil Hamel, Division 3 - Christine Strube, Division 4 – Jay Ferster, Division 5 -Derwin Joelson, Division 6 – Ron Herzog, Administrator - Duane Storey.

Reeve Oleksyn called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

Joelson: That the Aug. 11, 2021, agenda be adopted as amended. Carried

Strube: That the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held on July 7, 2021, be approved as presented. Carried

Skauge: That the minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held on July 28, 2021, be approved as presented. Carried

Ferster: That the Statement of Financial Activities for the month July, 2021 be accepted as presented. Carried

Ferster: That the List of Accounts dated August 4th, 2021, as attached hereto and forming part of these Minutes, being regular cheque numbers 12236 to 12291 in the amount of \$590,654.63 and payroll cheque numbers 13987 to 14013 in the amount of \$50,120.19 be approved for payment. Carried

Hamel: That the reconciled bank statement for the month of June 2021 be approved as presented. Carried

Skauge: That the Administrators Report for the month July 2021 be accepted as presented. Carried

Joelson: That motion 233.07.21. be amended, to send Ratepayer a letter advising that the RM of Shellbrook No. 493 will not accept any further harassing or negative behavior towards municipal staff, and that the next incident will result in ratepayer being banned from all municipal facilities. Carried

Delegation Rod Gjerde entered the Council Chambers at 10:35 a.m. to have discussions in regards to possible site within the municipality to facilitate a Clean Farms Grain Bag Recycling De-

Delegation Rod Gjerde left the meeting at 10:46 a.m.

Strube: That a sign be posted in the municipal office stating that there will be a charge of \$7.00 to cover the cost for issuing a second card for the bulk water filling station. Carried

Strube: That Scott Hahn, Steve Schmidt and Dave Middlebrook be appointed to the Sturgeon Lake Regional Park Board.

Hamel: That the motion received from The City of Mississauga in regards to Indigenous Treaty and Traditional Territories be received and filed. Carried

Delegation Foreman Bill Aug entered the Council Chambers at 11:25 a.m. to update Council on Municipal Operations.

Councillor Ron Herzog left the Council Conference call at 12:10 p.m.

Delegation Foreman Bill Aug left the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Skauge: That the Rural Municipality of Shellbrook No. 493 5-Year Capital Plan be adopted as amended. Carried

Hamel: That there is no opposition with the purchase of ISC Parcel # 203748879 and consolidation with ISC Parcel # 147370440 on SE-17-49-03-W3. Carried

Councillor Jay Ferster left the Council Chambers at 3:04 p.m.

Joelson: That the request for a time extension until July 31, 2022, be granted in order for the requirements of Subdivision of proposed Parcels A &B NE-21-49-03-W3 to be completed. Carried

Councillor Jay Ferster re-entered the Council Chambers at 3:08 p.m.

Strube: That the request for previous year tax abatement on PT SE-24-49-02-W3 Roll No. 31 be denied. Carried

Joelson: That the list of stale-dated outstanding cheques presented by the Administrator be reversed as presented. Carried

Strube: That the list of stale-dated unpaid receivables presented by the Administrator be reversed as presented.

Skauge: That the Administrator report back to Council on what the municipalities level of liability coverage is under the SARM Self Insurance Liability Plan.

Hamel: That the Sturgeon Lake Regional Park be requested to upgrade to an Audit of their Financial Statements from the current Statement Review, also that The Rural Municipality of Shellbrook No. 493 be provided with Bank Reconciliations monthly, that, for the 2022 financial year that the same Audit Firm as The RM of Shellbrook No. 493 be utilized to eliminate any delays in reporting. Carried

Skauge: That an information pamphlet on the Pine Tree Management Skills Training be forwarded to employee Todd Lande. Carried

Skauge: That the time being 4:15 p.m., Council close a portion of this meeting to the public to go in camera under the authority of Part III of The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, to discuss Strategic Planning issues, the public gallery be vacated and those present for this closed session be Reeve Doug Oleksyn and Councilor's Cliff Skauge, Phil Hamel, Christine Strube, Jay Ferster and Derwin Joelson.

Joelson: That the time being 4:30p.m., Council go out of camera and invite the public and Administrator Duane Storey back into the Council Meeting. Carried

Joelson: That the correspondence having been read now be filed and that a list of the correspondence having been read be added to and form part of these minutes: Community Policing Report, gas tax listing. Carried

Ferster: That, this meeting be adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

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 Klumpenhower

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

SRPSD introduces vaccine requirement for school staff

Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division (SRPSD), following recommendations from Saskatchewan Health Authority Public Health officials, has implemented new measures to protect students and staff from the fourth wave of COVID-19, including a proof of vaccination or a negative CO-

VID test policy for all staff.

The policy, inspired by the province's own vaccine passport mandate, was decided upon at a recent Board of Education meeting, and the details were finalized over the past few days and added to the SRPSD's Administrative Procedure.

"The health and safety of stu-

dents and staff continues to be a priority and we consistently work closely with the provincial and local medical health officers for advice and direction," Board Chair Barry Hollick said in a statement.

Recognizing that the decision will impact SRPSD staff, the Board of Education says the policy will include "accommodations for medical or other approved reasons." The Board says staff will also be given adequate time to comply with the policy by getting vaccinated or making arrangements for testing, but it didn't specify how long employees will be given.

"The Board has had several

discussions about this topic and recognizes that this decision will have both positive and negative impacts on staff and on our operations," Hollick said, "but the Board was ready to make the decision. Student and staff safety is paramount to providing an excellent learning environment."

Op-ed: O'Toole has a serious credibility problem

By Franco Terrazzano **CTF Federal Director**

In politics, nothing is more important than credibility. Politicians can deliver stirring speeches and launch searing attack ads, but if they don't tell the truth, nobody believes any of it. And, one way or another, voters will hold them ac-

After our "election about nothing," Erin O'Toole has a serious credibility

Take his flip-flop on the carbon tax. O'Toole once railed against the carbon tax. "Families, people on fixed income like our seniors, they don't have more coming in yet they see costs going up, the carbon tax adds to that and raises the cost of everything," O'Toole said in 2018.

When running for leader of the Conservative Party, he promised Canadians he would fight carbon taxes. He even signed the Canadian Taxpayers Federation's pledge: "I, Erin O'Toole promise that, if elected Prime Minister of Canada, I will: Immediately repeal the Trudeau carbon tax and reject any future national carbon tax or cap-andtrade scheme."

His own leadership platform acknowledged that "a carbon tax is not an environmental plan, it is a tax plan."

But then in the run-up to the election he blindsided taxpayers, not to mention many members of his party, and announced he would hammer families with a carbon tax of his own and also impose a second carbon tax through fuel regulations. His carbon taxes would have soaked a family for nearly \$20 every time they fueled up their minivan.

To add insult to injury, he claimed his carbon tax was "not a tax at all." If you're going to break your promise, at least have the spine to tell the truth rather than play word games and insult Canadians' intelligence.

We do want politicians to be able to change their minds. Take the famous quote: "When the facts change, I change my mind. What do you do, sir?" But changing your mind on a big, important issue should be a rare event. A politician whose mind seems to be on a swivel will soon lose all credibility.

O'Toole also turned his back on reining in government spending. He and his party's ads constantly reminded Canadians that "Trudeau is borrowing \$424 million each day" and that "Canada's debt is already over \$1 trillion." He talked the talk. But he didn't walk the walk.

Instead of providing a credible plan to balance the budget, O'Toole proposed continuing the spending spree. He said he would spend about \$50 billion more than the Trudeau government's last budget. His "plan to return to fiscal prudence," according to his leadership platform, turns out to mean outspending the Trudeau government that took per person spending to all-time highs even before the pandemic.

Then there was his backtrack on the Liberals' gun ban and buyback scheme. The buyback could cost taxpayers billions of dollars but it won't make Canada safer because it targets law-abiding citizens rather than criminals. The RCMP union said the scheme could even make Canada less safe because "it diverts extremely important personnel, resources, and funding away from addressing the more immediate and growing threat of criminal use of illegal firearms."

The Conservative platform first promised to repeal the Trudeau government's gun ban. But after a little blowback from the Liberals and the press, O'Toole took out his magic marker and added a footnote: "All firearms that are currently banned will remain banned."

In terms of credibility, it's often "one strike and you're out." Or at most two. But O'Toole had three strikes in not much more than a month. He originally said he would make life more affordable by scrapping the carbon tax. He said he would get irresponsible spending under control. And he said he would make Canada safer by stopping illegal gun smuggling rather than wasting money

taking guns from licenced gun owners.

Maybe he hoped voters wouldn't notice his campaign platform proposed exactly the opposite: raising the carbon tax, increasing runaway spending and maintaining expensively ineffective gun policies. Voters aren't stupid. They held him accountable. And they're not likely to forget. Once you've lost your credibility it's very hard to grow it back.

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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

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.

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Three more arrested in death of Richard Netmaker

Police have arrested and laid charges against three more suspects in connection with the abduction and death of a man on the Big River First Nation in 2020.

Richard Netmaker, 36, was last seen alive on Jan. 6, 2020, in an isolated area around five kilometres northwest of Big River First Nation. At the time of his disappearance, Big River RCMP received a complaint that Netmaker had been abducted from his residence on the Big River First Nation and assaulted.

Fearing he may need medical attention, and that he wasn't wearing a jacket, police began searching for Netmaker and asked the public for any information that might help them locate him.

Officers from the Big River RCMP detachment found Netmaker's body near Pekakumew Lake just four days later.

The Major Crimes Unit - South has been investigating his death since.

On July 26, 2021, officers arrested and charged Karlyne Morin (DOB: 2000-09-18) of the Big River First Nation with one count of criminal negligence causing death and two counts of forcible confinement.

Now, Riley Ahenakew, 30, Stephanie

Starblanket, 37, and Roderick Dreaver, 26, have been arrested and each charged with one count of criminal negligence causing death and two counts of forcible confinement.

Morin was scheduled to make her next court appearance on Wednesday, while Ahenakew, Starblanket and Dreaver have pending court dates later this month.

Minutes of a Shell Lake council meeting

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

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Council of the Village of Shell Lake in the Province of Saskatchewan held on Monday Aug. 16, 202,1 at 7 p.m. in the Village Council Chambers.

Present: Mayor Anita Weiers, Councillor Greg Ardagh, Councillor Joe Delisle, Councillor Dillan Simonar, Councillor Al Sulymka, and Tara Bueckert, Administrator

A quorum was present and Mayor Anita Weiers called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Delisle: That the minutes of the July 19, 2021, meeting be adopted as presented. Carried

stepped away from 7:11 p.m. to 7:19 p.m.

Delegation: Larry and Louise Fisher attended the meeting from 7:30 p.m. to 7:35 p.m.

Sulymka: That the Village of Shell Lake signs the 3-year contract with Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency. Carried

Ardagh: Council approve the presented Bank Statement for the month of July as presented. Carried

Simonar: That Council approve the presented Financial Statement Summary for month of July as presented. Carried

Delisle: That Council approve the list of accounts presented cheque number 6142-6164 and the manual online pay-

Ardagh ment in the amount of \$170,934.29. Carried

> Delisle: That Council approves for payment the following invoices: Shell Lake Plant & Decor for \$50.00 and Regional Fire Department #2 for \$1,506.75. Carried

> Sulymka: That the Village of Shell Lake sends a letter to the RCMP Spiritwood Detachment, Shell Lake Sask. Housing, Gary Vidal, MP and to Honourable Scott Moe that the Village has received numerous complaints and witnessing of crimes. Carried

> Simonar: That the verbal Maintenance, Administrator, Mayor, Fire Chief and Water report be filed as presented.

Sulymka: That the cor-

respondence be filed. Carried

Weiers: That we hire Tyler Bueckert and Uriah Ahenakew for the summer student grant for the Village of Shell Lake and Shell Lake Museum. Car-

Councillor Ardagh abstain from voting declaring an interest.

Delisle: That the building application to build a storage shed located on Lot 1, Block 23, Plan 00B01075 at 108 1st Street East, Shell Lake, SK be approved as per the recommendations of BuildTech Inspections and the Zoning Bylaw. Carried

Sulymka: That the building application to build an addition to existing dwelling located on Lot 1, Block 24, Plan move shed located on 00B01075 at 112 2nd Street East, Shell Lake, SK be approved as per the recommendations of BuildTech Inspections and the Zoning Bylaw. Carried

Sulymka: That we purchase two (2) Your Speed signs through Airmasters. Carried

Sulymka: That the building application to Lot 15-16, Block 1, Plan AO1928 at 106 1st Street West, Shell Lake, SK be approved as per the recommendations of Build-Tech Inspections and the Zoning Bylaw. Carried

Sulymka: That Kevin Lockhart receives a \$2 raise starting July 1, 2021. Carried

Weiers: That the meeting be adjourned at 9 p.m.



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Cancelled season hasn't slowed the Bombers

Winnipeg Blue Bombers may have missed an entire season due to coronavirus, but they apparently haven't missed a beat when it comes to winning.

When we last experienced Canadian Football League excitement, the Bombers were breaking a 29-year drought by beating Hamilton for the 2019 Grey Cup championship. Momentum crashed to a halt, however, when the global pandemic arrived in the spring of 2020, causing complete cancellation of the 2020 season.

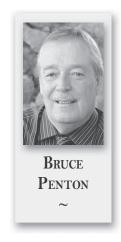
Now, however, things are back up and running and ... well, speaking of running, Andrew Harris is running wild again, and his Blue Bombers are running away with the West Division of the league.

Through seven games of the abbreviated 14-game regular season, the Bombers posted a 6-1 record and were the clear class of the league. Their only loss was to the 3-3 Toronto Argonauts,

30-23, and if that game were to be thrown out of the statistical picture, the Bombers have given up only 68 points in their other six games.

Defence, Harris and quarterback Zach Collaros have been the key reasons for the Bombers' success and for the enthusiasm in Winnipeg as fans look ahead to another possible Grey Cup triumph. The last time Winnipeg won back-to-back Grey Cups was 1961-62, when the Bombers in the Kenny Ploen-Bud Grant era won four Cups in five years.

Standings in the West Division of the CFL look weird these days, as perennial powers Calgary and Edmonton are last and second-last, respec-Saskatchewan Roughriders stood second at 5-2, while B.C. Lions were at 4-3 through seven games. The Riders' only two losses came in their most important games of the regular season, the Labour Day Classic and the Banjo Bowl, which they lost to



Winnipeg 23-8 and 33-9. A win for Saskatchewan in a potential Riders-Bombers West final in late November, however, would eliminate some of that regular-season pain in the Wheat Province.

Willie Jefferson, Jackson Jeffcoat and Adam Bighill have keyed the Bomber defence, and Collaros leads the league in passing yards and touchdown passes. The veteran Harris, a three-time CFL rushing leader and No. 1 among Canadians, remains a bull in the backfield for Winnipeg, and recently moved into sixth place on the CFL's all-time rushing list.

The Bombers' success is contingent, of course, on good health. Were Collaros to go down with an injury — and his record of sustained good health is not good — the team's offence would be in the hands of Sean McGuire, who had thrown exactly one pass in Winnipeg's first seven games.

So, there are no guarantees. But Bomber fans are liking what they see from their team through the first half of the season

- Bob Molinaro of pilot online.com (Hampton, Va.): "In a bit part for a current TV ad, John McEnroe once again dusts off his 40-year-old lament, 'You cannot be serious.' Mac should seriously think about finding new material."
- Janice Hough of leftcoastsportsbabe.com: "Nothing is certain but death, taxes, and the fact that a pass-interference call will never go against Tom Brady in the last two minutes of an NFL game."
 - Headline in the Win-

nipeg Free Press, on the suspension to Saskatchewan Roughriders' A.C. Leonard for failing to pee in a bottle: "Either urine or you're out, Leonard."

- Comedy writer Alex Kaseberg: "Boxer Conor McGregor threw out the first pitch at the Chicago Cubs game and it went 40 feet wide right and hit the wall. The pitch was so bad he was immediately signed by the 48-102 Diamondbacks."
- Kaseberg again: "After scoring a touchdown, Green Bay Packer Aaron Jones lost a small football necklace charm that contained his father's ashes. A team trainer searched until 2 a.m. and found it. 'See, that's why we don't score touchdowns, you can lose stuff,' said the New York Jets."
- Dwight Perry of the Seattle Times: "The Washington Capitals became the first NHL team to sell advertising on their jerseys, and now the door is wide open: Molson Canadiens? STP Oilers? Bud Lite Sabres?"

- Another one from Perry: "Toronto plunked the Rays' Kevin Kiermaier with a pitch, two days after he swiped Toronto catcher Alejandro Kirk's data card. Flummoxed scorekeepers couldn't decide how to score it hit by pitch or caught stealing?"
- Columnist Norman Chad, on Twitter: "I've got a feeling that, although Bill Belichick doesn't hold grudges, he probably never joins Tom Brady for lunch at Subway."
- Another one from Chad, on his aversion to sitting in a middle seat of an airplane row: "I'd ride in a hot air balloon with Stephen A. Smith before I'd sit in a middle seat."
- RJ Currie of sports-deke.com: "Scientists said of recently-found planet PSOJ318.5-22, 'We have never before seen an object just floating like this.' I'm thinking they never saw Randy Moss play."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Parkland Elks struggle in season openers

The Parkland U18 AA Elks began their second go at an inaugural hockey season over the weekend, playing backto-back games in Saskatoon on Saturday and Sunday

Saturday's match saw the Elks pitted against the Saskatoon Riverkings, while Sunday's game was played against the Saskatoon Screaming Eagles. A third game against the Saskatoon Icehawks, scheduled for Friday evening, was postponed at the last minute.

As for the two games the Elks did play, neither of them went according to plan. Instead of skating home with two wins and a solid ranking in the SAAHL standings, the Elks suffered a crushing 10-0 loss to the Riverkings and fought to a 2-2 tie against the Screaming Eagles.

Elks (0) @ Riverkings (10)

Not much went right for the Parkland U18 AA Elks in their season opener against the Saskatoon Riverkings.

Less than four minutes into the game, Saskatoon's Gunnar Gabruch found the back of the net on the power play, thanks to an assist from Mason Karakachuk

With another power play around the halfway point of the first period, the Riverkings' Beck Humber grew Saskatoon's lead to two, unassisted. A third power play, just 90 seconds later, allowed Saskatoon to go up 3-0 on a goal

from Karakochuk. Carter Degelman and Gabruch provided assists.

Already down 3-0, the Elks managed to stanch the bleeding for the rest of the first period. But they were unable to stop it in the second period, giving up another six goals over the course of 20 minutes.

Sam Grosso kicked off the scoring for the Riverkings with an unassisted even strength goal, and Degelman followed up two minutes later. Karakochuk and Humber earned assists on the play.

Degelman netted his second of the night a few minutes later, with a lone assist from Kyle Lardner. And, after a brief lull in the scoring, Cohen Swan found the back of the net with an assist from Karakochuk.

Rounding out the period on a scoring note, Tomas Wiersma-Aparicio took a pass from Humber and redirected it to the back of the Elks net. Then, with one second left in the middle frame, Tanner Clezy scored on helpers from Karako-chuk and Humber to push the Riverkings' lead to 9-0.

In a comparatively quiet third period, Gabruch netted the only goal (his second of the night) on an assist from Rhett Ewen to give Saskatoon its big 10-0 victory.

Elks (2) @ Eagles (2) OT

After suffering a beatdown to end all beatdowns on Saturday, the Parkland

U18 AA Elks returned to action the next evening and faced off against the Saskatoon Screaming Eagles.

Looking to bounce back from their tough loss, the Elks put up a valiant effort in the first 20 minutes of the game. Still, it wasn't enough to keep the Screaming Eagles' Keenan Bender from drawing first blood on an assist from Sedrik Murfitt.

The Elks bounced back this time, with Ashton Tanchuk finding the back of the net just after the midway point of the frame. Jase Martin and Carson Favel assisted on the Play.

Just over a minute later, the Elks claimed their first lead of these season on an unassisted goal from Kaiden Couture. This lead evaporated three minutes later, when Taelan Casavant knotted the score at 2-2 on an assist

from Tyson Carter.

That wrapped up the scoring for the game, as the Elks struggled to get shots on goal, tallying just fifteen shots over the second, third, and overtime periods.

Meanwhile, Elks starting goaltender Shae Stewart turned aside a relentless barrage of Screaming Eagles scoring chances through the second and third periods, stopping 56 out of 58 shots on the evening.

With the loss and the tie, the Elks left Saskatoon with just one point to their name and occupy sixth place in the SAAHL's Centre Four conference.

The Elks' next action will see them host the Prince Albert Lakeland Towing Vulcans for their home opener on Friday, Oct. 8. Puck drop for the game is scheduled for 7:30 p.m.



CHECK IT OUT!

www.shellbrookchronicle.com www.spiritwoodherald.com

OBITUARY

Theodore (Ted) Joseph Marud



Sadly on September 18, 2021, Ted Joseph Marud passed away peacefully at the age of 96 at the Spiritwood Health Centre

Ted was born in 1925 to Mike and Johanna Marud in Trebowla, Poland. They, along with his

sister Kay, immigrated to Canada in the late 1920's to the Brightholme/ Yankee Valley area. In 1943 they moved to the Holbein district where his dad bought some land. Here his farming career began, helping his dad on the farm. In 1959 Ted bought his own half section. He farmed all his life, first breaking his own land. Later in life he would add cattle, pigs, and chickens.

Ted met Shirley and in 1960 they were married. Gordon was born in 1961, Robert in 1962 and Debbie in 1963.

Besides farming, Ted also worked at Arcade Body shop in Prince Albert for a year then at the Texaco gas station which was located on 15th Street East where the Venice House Restaurant now stands.

Ted was very much involved in sports. Growing up he played short stop for Holbein and attended many sports days.

As his kids were growing up, he coached baseball for many years. He even umped a few games. Later on he would be involved in hockey, being the manager of the local midget team. From here he moved on to being involved with the Junior B Knights, first in Marcelin and then Shellbrook. He was involved with them for many years from the very beginning to the bit-

ter end. He was the official score keeper. Ted also had his own article in the Shellbrook Chronicle called "Hockey News" where he would write about all the games being played in the rink. He spent countless hours doing this. This is where he got his nickname "Scoop Marud".

In the early 2000's Ted started slowing down and was admitted to Rose Gill Lodge in Rabbit Lake in 2009. He was later transferred to Spiritwood Health Centre in 2011 where he resided until his passing.

Ted is survived by his children, Gordon Marud (Virginia Kasner) and children, Corey

(Dena) Kasner and their children, Ethan and Rayna; Carey (Logan) Sexsmith and children, Stockton and Hudson; David (Mallissa) Kasner and children Aaron (Mandy) and their children, Lukas, Lux and Lexy; Jared (Megan); Calli (Marshal); Robert "Bob" Marud; Debbie (Dwight) Rudolph and their son, Michael; his siblings, Ed Marud and Fred Marud; sister-in-Angie Smibert; and numerous nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Ted was predeceased by his wife, Shirley Marud; his parents, Mike and Johanna Marud; his brother Adam Marud; his sister, Kay Tomporowski; sisters-in-law, Marie Marud and Viola Marud.

October 7, 2021

There will be a private service held for Ted at a later date.

In lieu of tributes, memorial donations may be made in memory of Ted to the Idylwild Lodge Ladies Auxiliary Rec Dept. (Box 69 Spiritwood, SK SOJ 2MO).

Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit www.beaulacfuneralhome.com

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home & Crematorium, Tammy Smart - Funeral Director, Shellbrook, SK 306-747-2828.

Planting bulbs for spring bloom

By Bernadette Vangool

As perennial gardeners, we look forward to harbingers of spring, such as pussy willows, forsythia blooms and early irises. One way to extend the season even further is by planting hardy bulbs, such as some species of crocuses, narcissus, fritillaria and tulips in the fall. Many of the selections available to prairie gardeners will naturalize in the perennial border and can be enjoyed for years to come.

Hardy bulbs are available from garden centres and big box stores, starting in

late August, and depending on the variety, through September and October. For best results, plant your Narcissus (daffodils) as early in September as possible to allow the root system to establish before freeze-up. All bulbs should be planted as soon as they become available. The most forgiving of the bulbs is the tulip, which can be planted as long as you can get a spade into the soil. If you can't plant your bulbs immediately, place them in a paper bag and keep them in a cool dry place.

When buying bulbs, select plump, firm

bulbs. Avoid those that have already sprouted, are moldy, have had injuries or feel mushy. Usually, the bigger the bulb the larger the bloom. Bloom time of alliums vary greatly, so check for spring flowering varieties. In the last couple of years, the adage 'you get what you pay for' has gone by the wayside. You are just as likely to find great bulbs at a home improvement store as from a garden centre, although the former may sell varieties that are not truly hardy here.

Most bulbs prefer well drained, loamy soil. They do not do well on soil which may become water-logged. The bulb contains all the nutrients needed to provide for the flower in spring, but it never hurts to add a little compost at planting time. Water the area to be planted the day before planting. Dig the soil a little deeper than required, so you can mix in your compost and have the bulbs, with the pointed side up, sit on soil that has been worked. Plant the bulb to a depth of three times its height. Plantings look better when five to nine bulbs are planted in a group, but place bulbs two bulbwidths away from each other. Water well after planting and cover the area with mulch to retain moisture and to provide some winter protection in case snow fall is insufficient. If planting small bulbs like crocus, don't mulch too heavily, as the young plants may not be able to push through thick layers of mulch. Bulbs lose their foliage after blooming, so it is a good idea to mark where you planted them. Golf tees work great.

Here are some bulbs you may want to try, listed in order of bloom in my garden, starting mid- April.

Crocus vernus, Dutch crocus (10 cm/4 in.) is the hardiest crocus to grow. I planted these last fall in a new perennial bed. Fortunately, we had good snowfall and I believe every single bulb produced. Crocus vernus usually come in mixed colour packs. Mine bloomed mostly white and purple.

Puschkinia scilloides, striped squill (15 cm/6 in.) is a true little warrior that easily naturalizes. I have enjoyed this in my garden for over 20 years. Plant it along a driveway, where it will pop up and surprise you on an early spring day.

Tulipa pulchella, a species tulip (15 cm/6 in.) comes in shades of pink to mauve with yellow highlights. This little tulip graced my garden for about five years. Other long-lived species tulips available are Tulipa urumiensis and Tulipa tarda.

All of the prairie-hardy fritillary (Fritillaria) have tall upright stems with blooms hanging down. The following cultivars are all equally hardy and will naturalize and self seed. Fritillaria Me-

leagris (45 cm/18 in.) with checkered bell flowers in reddish purple and pink. F. meleagris alba is a white form. Fritillaria pallidiflora, also known as the Siberian fritillary, has creamy yellowgreenish flowers.

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

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

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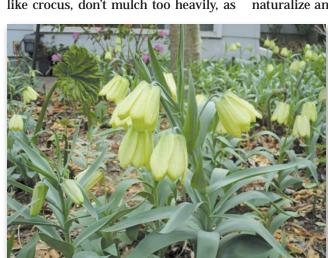
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Siberian Fritillaria naturalized in a perennial border.

Photo credit: Bernadette Vangool

com/saskperennial).

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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

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Sask. launches online flu shot booking

Effective Oct. 5, Saskatchewan residents are able to begin booking appointments to receive this year's flu vaccine.

"The Government of Saskatchewan strongly encourages residents to get their flu shot this year," Health Minister Paul Merriman said in a statement.

"Protecting yourself and your loved ones from contracting influenza is a simple thing we can all do to further ease the pressure on our health care system caused by the COVID-19 pandemic."

For the first time, the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) is providing an online option for booking appointments. A flu shot booking tool is now available on their website at www.4flu.ca. Flu shot appointments can also be booked by telephone at 1-833-SASKVAX (1-833-787-5829).

SHA operated flu shot clinics begin on Tuesday, Oct. 12, 2021.

Also new this year, COVID-19 vaccinations will be available at most SHA operated flu shot clinics, so residents can receive both flu and COVID-19 vaccinations at the same time and location. The COVID-19 vaccinations can also be booked using the same online flu shot appointment tool at www.4flu.ca or by telephone at 1-833-SASKVAX (1-833-787-5829). If you need both a COVID

and flu shot, only one appointment is needed. Health staff are trained to offer both vaccines to those eligible.

"All Health Canada-approved COV-ID-19 vaccines can be given at the same time as other vaccines," Saskatchewan Health Authority COVID-19 Immunization Co-Chief, Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) Dr. Tania Diener said. "No additional safety risks or adverse events following immunization have been identified by simultaneous administration of these vaccines."

"The path out of this pandemic is to get as many people as possible vaccinated against COVID-19," Merriman said. "To that end, we are making every effort to make the COVID-19 vaccine readily available to residents across the province, including the convenience of booking and receiving your flu vaccine and your COVID-19 vaccine at the same time and place."

The Government of Saskatchewan is pleased to once again be partnering with the province's many local pharmacies to provide additional options for residents to receive their flu shot.

"Saskatchewan pharmacists are honoured to be a part of the health care team offering flu shot services to Saskatchewan residents once again this year," Pharmacy Association of Saskatchewan

Interim CEO Virginia Wilkinson said.

"Pharmacists are among the most publicly accessible health care professionals across the province, so we are able to offer flu shots to Saskatchewan residents when and where they need them. In fact, more than 380 pharmacies across Saskatchewan are available to administer flu shots to residents aged five and older, with most offering extended hours and convenient locations."

A complete list of pharmacies offering influenza vaccinations this season can be found on the Pharmacy Association of Saskatchewan website at https:// www.skpharmacists.ca/site/patients/ flu-shots.

All Saskatchewan residents ages six months and older are eligible to get a free influenza vaccine every year.

The flu vaccine is a safe, effective way to help people stay healthy, prevent illness and save lives.

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Tick season is not yet over

The Ministry of Health is reminding Saskatchewan residents to remain vigilant for ticks on themselves and pets during the fall season.

While blacklegged ticks are rare in Saskatchewan, they remain active throughout fall, particularly in tall grass, brush or wooded areas. In this province, any ticks found in the fall are likely to be blacklegged ticks, which can cause Lyme disease.

"While we certainly want everyone to get outside and enjoy the beautiful fall weather, we also want you to be smart about it," Deputy Chief Medical Health Officer Dr. Julie Kryzanowski said. "Simple precautions such as checking for ticks on yourself, as well as on children and pets, after spending time in long grass or brush will reduce your risk of a tick bite." Other precautionary mea-

sures include:

- light-coloured clothes so ticks can be seen easily.
- Wear pants, long-sleeved shirts and shoes that do not expose your feet.
- Pull socks over your pant legs to prevent ticks from crawling up your legs.
- Use insect repellents that contain DEET or Icaridin. Apply repellent to clothes as well as your skin. Always read and follow the directions.
- In Canada, clothing that has been treated with the insecticide permethrin has

been approved for use by people over the age of 16.

- · Shower or bathe as soon as possible after being outside to wash off loose ticks and inspect for attached ticks.
- Do "full body" tick checks after being outside on yourself, your children and your pets.
- · If you find a tick attached to your skin or on your pet:
- · Carefully remove it with fine-tipped tweezers and grasp the mouth parts of the tick as close to the skin as possible.
- Pull slowly upward and out with a firm steady pres-
- Be careful not to squeeze, crush or puncture the body after removal as it may

contain infectious fluids.

• Do not put Vaseline, gasoline or other noxious substances on an attached tick gurgitate.

If you do find a tick and want to know if it is a blacklegged tick, send a photograph to www.etick.ca, Saskatchewan's image-based tick identification system.

Between Jan. 1 and Aug. 31, 2021, eTick received 840 valid tick submissions. Of these, only one was identified as a blacklegged tick. Most ticks found in Saskatchewan are American dog ticks. However, that species is active from mid-April to the end of July and is not capable of transmitting Lyme disease to people.

The number of ticks detected thus far this season is much lower compared to previous years. This is likely due to the which may cause it to re- cooler temperatures observed during spring and the subsequent hot, dry weather during the summer months.

> For more information on ticks and Lyme disease, including how to submit a tick for Lyme disease testing, visit www.saskatchewan.ca/lyme or https:// research-groups.usask.ca/ ticks/#Passivesurveillance.

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This artwork was created by Canadian artist Ola Volo in celebration of National Newspaper Week from October 3-9, 2021.

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald



