

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald

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www.shellbrookchronicle.com | www.spiritwoodherald.com

Shellbrook challenges Wapiti over fired librarian

A group of about 40 community members and dedicated library users gathered at St. John's Lutheran church in Shellbrook last Wednesday evening, to begin a campaign on behalf of Dian Campbell following her sudden dismissal as librarian for the Shellbrook Public Library.

According to accounts, Campbell's notice of termination, without cause, was delivered by Wapiti Regional Director and CEO, Tony Murphy, the Wapiti Regional Board Chair, April Phillips, and another Wapiti Regional staff member at a Shellbrook Library Board meeting held the evening of Feb. 22.

While Wapiti personnel policy states "the staffing and supervision of branch employees is the responsibility of the branch library board, in consultation with Wapiti," those in attendance say the Shellbrook Library Board wasn't consulted and the board's objections to the unexpected decision were ignored.

The Wapiti Regional Board representatives are also said to have called for the Shellbrook Library Board to be dismissed and appointed by council for the Town of Shellbrook.

Responding to emailed questions about Campbell's termination, Phillips' only statement was, "Wapiti cannot comment on internal HR matters due to confidentiality."

With Campbell's termination sparking confusion and anger in the community, local resident Nicole Philp took the initiative to call last Wednesday's meeting to formulate a unified community response.

"I didn't call this meeting because I'm necessarily the right person to call it, nor because I have answers to your questions. Nor did I call it because I have a plan," Philp said to kick off the meeting.

"I called it because I think we needed a place to start. There's lots of frustration and anger and emotion. Our voice is



Nicole Philp addresses attendees at a meeting to formulate a plan to challenge the termination of Dian Campbell as librarian of the Shellbrook Public Library.

stronger if it's a collective voice, and if we present a united front with whatever we decide to do on Dian's behalf."

After laying out the sequence of events that led to Campbell's dismissal, and clarifying any points of confusion, Philp suggested the first piece of the strategy should be a letter writing campaign targeting not just Murphy and Phillips but the entire Wapiti Regional Board.

"These people, some of them are from small towns just like us. They would understand the impact of losing our local librarian," she said.

"It's those people we might have the power to convince. And if we convince over half of those people that this is unacceptable, they are technically employing Tony Murphy and that's where our power lies."

While Philp agreed to draft a form letter to speed the process along, she urged community members to include their details about Campbell's achievements as Shellbrook's librarian and what she means to them.

However, she added that it's not enough to just pull at heartstrings, and encouraged everyone to ask the tough questions about why Campbell's dismissal was seen as the right move for Shellbrook.

In addition to the letter writing campaign, plans were made to put together a video compilation to allow the community to express its appreciation for Campbell (both to present to the Wapiti Regional Board, and as a keepsake for Campbell).

There was also talk of starting a petition campaign and having petitions placed around

town, reaching out to other local library boards, starting a fundraiser to support Campbell, and exploring the option of becoming an independent library (this idea was mostly dismissed as too costly for the community).

In the end, there was agreement to wait on any action until contact information for each Wapiti Regional Board member is obtained, and until council for the Town of Shellbrook had the opportunity to discuss the issue at its March 7 meeting.

In the meantime, Philp said there's value in fighting for Campbell, regardless of the outcome.

"We take on battles we may or may not win, but there's a huge victory in even being able to show Dian that this many people care," she said. "It mat-

ters."

As librarian at the Shellbrook Public Library, Campbell oversaw a period of exponential growth in library usage. She was also the mastermind behind a wide array of library programming for all ages, including Lego Club, storytime, book clubs, elder art galleries, seminars and speaker sessions, and a partnership with PA Regional KidsFirst that launched a sensory room.

As of a March 1 post on the Shellbrook Public Library's Facebook page, the library was open under a substitute librarian. However, no library programming is running.

Anyone who would like to join the campaign to reinstate Campbell can contact Nicole Philp at: 306-747-7497 or dnphilp@sasktel.net.

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Hartley Clark hosts winter exercise for students

The students of Hartley Clark got outside for a fun snowshoeing activity on March 1, 2022.

The staff of Hartley Clark Elementary school hosted the activity with the aim of getting kids active and keeping them healthy, which is in keeping with the school's physical education and health curriculum.

About 20 students participated in the activity and had the opportunity to get outdoors and skim over the deep snow with snowshoes.

The snowshoes were provided by the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation (SWF) through its Bigfoot Program. The program's goal is to allow children to get closer to nature by giving them activities to do outdoors.

The local Witchekan Wildlife Federation was able to cover the cost and delivery of the snowshoes to the Hartley Clark students. Hartley Clark was pleased to see the support from the Witchekan Wildlife Federation and the SWF.

Apart from the Bigfoot Program, the

SWF was also able to hold its Fish in School (FINS) program for the students. The FINS program provides students with a first-hand look at fish and aquatic habitats in their very own classrooms.

According to SWF, the program involves raising fish from eggs to fry before releasing them in a provincially stocked waterbody. During the months of January or February, the eggs are placed into special classroom incubators and over the following three to four months, students care for their fish by monitor-

ing and maintaining the conditions required for their fish to thrive.

Although they didn't have a lot of hatches this year, the students will continue to watch the development of the fish until the end of May and will hope for the best.

This is Hartley Clark's third year of participating in FINS and its second year for the snowshoe activity (Bigfoot Program). The Witchekan Wildlife Federation has supported the school in both ventures.



Students from Spiritwood's Hartley Clark Elementary School took part in outdoor snowshoeing, put on with support from the Witchekan Wildlife Federation, on March 1.

Masking requirement remains in SHA facilities

While Saskatchewan's COVID-19 public health orders ended on Feb. 28, allowing life in Saskatchewan to return to normal, the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) has announced it will be keeping mask mandates in place at all of its facilities.

The SHA says the decision was made "to reduce transmission of infectious disease and viruses, such as COVID-19 and influenza, and protect our vulnerable patients, clients, and residents."

Medical-grade masks will be made available inside facilities, either at the front desk or at self-serve stations. Visitors will be asked to remove their current masks, sanitize their hands, and don a new mask.

Visitors are advised to ensure they're wearing their masks correctly, so they're covering their mouth and nose. The SHA advises that anyone who refuses to wear a mask can be denied entry.

In addition to the masking requirement, all visitors to

SHA facilities will be asked to screen for COVID symptoms. All visitors are requested to ask themselves the following questions:

- Are you currently under federal orders to isolate or quarantine due to recent travel?
- Have you or anyone in your household tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 10 days?
- In the last 24 hours, have you had any COVID-19 symptoms?

If the answer to any of those questions is yes, visitors are urged to be honest and not enter the facility.

In its only other announcement since the province's public health orders ended, the SHA said long-term care facilities have moved to open family presence, with the exception of a small number of homes where enhanced precautions are deemed necessary by the local medical health officer.

"This return to pre-pandemic family presence protocols provides the opportunity for all residents to welcome more family and visitors," the SHA said in a release. "Family mem-

bers/support people are essential to the well-being and care of residents, and the SHA has remained committed to allowing as much family presence as safely possible throughout the pandemic."

The SHA says outbreaks in long-term care facilities will continue to be managed on a case-by-case basis, with the commitment to maintaining a minimum of essential family presence with additional precautions — an approach it says is more closely aligned to outbreak management for other communicable diseases.

The SHA also says homes will continue to maintain safety protocols, and processes will remain in place for enhanced protocols when necessary (for example, if an outbreak is declared). The SHA will continue to use information from residents and families through the Family Presence Expert Panel to guide decision-making as the transition to Living with COVID takes place.

As of Feb. 22, 55 percent of SHA long-term care homes (including affiliates) had already transitioned to recovery family presence, accepting additional family and visitors, which is part of the progression to open family presence.

The status of all long-term care facilities can be found on the SHA's website.

You are invited to the
Shellbrook Skating Club's
Year End Ice Show
 This year's theme: *Movies*
 Guest Pair Skaters:
 Our very own *Ashlyn Schmitz & Tristan Taylor*
FRIDAY, MARCH 18TH : 5:00 : AT THE SHELLBROOK RINK
: P.M. :
 FREE ADMISSION

NOTICE OF ABANDONMENT OF POLL
 [Section 82 of The Local Government Elections Act, 2015]
RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF CANWOOD NO. 494
MUNICIPAL BY-ELECTION 2022
 Public Notice is hereby given that:
 Gordon Andrews was nominated for the office of Division 3 Councillor and is the only candidate; and
 Kevin Olson was nominated for the office of Division 5 Councillor and is the only candidate.
 Therefore, no voting for the offices will take place on March 30, 2022.
 Dated this 28th day of February, 2022.
 Lorna Benson
 Returning Officer

CO-OP LAKE COUNTRY
 VIRTUAL
ANNUAL MEMBER INFORMATION MEETING
MARCH 23, 2022 @ 6:30 PM
 All members planning to attend must pre-register by Sunday, March 20, 2022.
 To register, scan the QR code or visit our website at www.lakecountryco-op.crs.

CANWOOD REGIONAL PARK
"FACEBOOK" ON-LINE AUCTION
MARCH 14TH - MARCH 20TH
 Bidding **STARTS** online Monday, March 14th at 5pm and **CLOSES** Sunday, March 20th at 5pm
 Proceeds go to Canwood Regional Park to help funding for upcoming projects like **6 new campsites** and a **WATER SPRAY PARK** in 2023!
 The Canwood Regional Park Facebook Page will be **OPEN** for **VIEWING, SATURDAY, MARCH 12TH at NOON**
 For more information:
 Grant Person 306-893-8085 or Trevor Kvinlaug 306-468-4443

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Telemiracle sets local, provincial fundraising records

An almost back to normal Telemiracle is in the books, and in its 46th edition the telethon set a brand-new fundraising record of \$8,002,722 — topping 2018's record-setting total of \$7,151,254 at Telemiracle 42.

This marks a significant increase over the past two Telemiracles, which raised \$5.6 million (2021) and \$5.5 million (2020), respectively.

"Saskatchewan people are known for their generosity and this year, they came together to set an all-time Telemiracle record," TeleMiracle 46 Chair Steve Kirwan said in a statement. "The impact of these donations will be felt across the province."

"The best part is that all the money raised stays right here in Saskatchewan, to help friends, neighbours and communities," Kirwan added.

While it was a record-setting year for Telemiracle as a whole, it was also a banner year of Telemiracle fundraising for the Shellbrook Kinsmen and Shellbrook Kinettes.

In a typical year, Shellbrook's fundraising total ranges anywhere from \$10,000 to \$14,000. But this year, much like last, was far from typical.

For the second year in a row, The Kinsmen and Kinettes chose to forego their usual town canvas in favour of an online auction. Thanks to a slew of donations from businesses, community organizations, and individuals, that auction proved to be a boon to fundraising efforts, bringing in a haul of \$16,419 (up from \$14,442 the first year).

Elsewhere, cash and cheque donations contributed \$5,002 to the cause, while Wild Rose School raised \$700, WP Sandin High School donated \$230, and Helping Hands donations totalled \$189.95.

All told, this brings the community's donations to \$22,540.95, topping last year's record of \$21,409.40.

"You don't realize it until you go down to Regina and see what other communities bring in, and you compare them to the size of your community in your head, and it kind of brings a tear to your eye because you're just so proud of your community and where you come from," said Kinette Melissa Moe.

"All I can say is a big thank you to the amazing members of our community. Without you, we wouldn't have been able to give such a huge donation."

As they've done almost

every year, a group of Shellbrook Kinettes packed themselves onto a bus and made the trip down to Telemiracle (this year, in Regina), both to present the community's Telemiracle cheque and to work a six-hour phone shift and take pledges.

For Kinette Tasha Cyr, it was good to see things getting back to almost normal this year (and also nice to share the stage with the likes of Brad Johner, Glen Sutor, Jeffery Straker, Beverley Mahood and Jess Moska-

luke, and get high fives from Telemiracle Teddy).

Aside from the on-stage pledges, announcements, and entertainment, Cyr says the best thing is to see the generosity of the people of Saskatchewan.

"We can't believe this province," she said. "We are truly surrounded by amazingly selfless people."

The money raised throughout the year and during the Telemiracle telethon benefits the Kinsmen Foundation, which provides funding for

Saskatchewan residents requiring special needs equipment to maintain or improve their quality of life, as well as travel assistance to those needing to leave their community to access life-saving medical treatment.

Funding is also provided to institutions and health foundations to purchase specialized, new, or innovative equipment to improve healthcare.

In the past, funds raised through Telemiracle have benefitted local causes.

The Canwood Bus Association was a beneficiary of the fundraiser in 2019, receiving \$20,000 to assist with the purchase and retrofit of a wheelchair-accessible van that helps people in the community and area get to medical appointments.

In 2014, meanwhile, Shellbrook's Woodland Bus Association received \$19,578 from the Telemiracle to assist

with the purchase of a wheelchair accessible van. The van, and the 16-seat bus operated by the association, help residents of Parkland Integrated Health Centre's long-term care facility, and people from other communities, get to medical appointments and other social outings.

Planning will soon be underway for next year's Telemiracle 47 in Saskatoon.



The Shellbrook Kinettes backstage with the community's Telemiracle cheque. From left: Tara Lenz, Tasha Cyr, Amber Larson, Melissa Moe, Becca Collins, Marybeth Gendron, and Angel Scarf.



Shellbrook Kinettes Tara Lenz, Tasha Cyr, Amber Larson, Becca Collins, Angel Scarf, Marybeth Gendron, and Melissa Moe made the trip to Regina for Telemiracle 46.

VILLAGE OF DEBDEN ASSESSMENT ROLL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Assessment Roll of the Village of Debden for the Year 2022 has been prepared and is now open for inspection in the office of the Assessor from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, March 7, 2022 to April 12, 2022 the following days: Tuesday to Thursday inclusive.

A bylaw pursuant to section 214 of *The Municipalities Act* has been passed and the assessment notices have been sent as required.

Any person who wishes to appeal his/her assessment is required to file his/her notice of appeal with: The Assessor, Village of Debden, P.O. Box 400, Debden, Saskatchewan S0J 0S0, by 3:00 p.m. on April 12, 2022.

Dated at Debden, Saskatchewan this 7th Day of March, 2022.

Tamara Couture
Assessor

Village of Canwood Notice of Assessment Roll

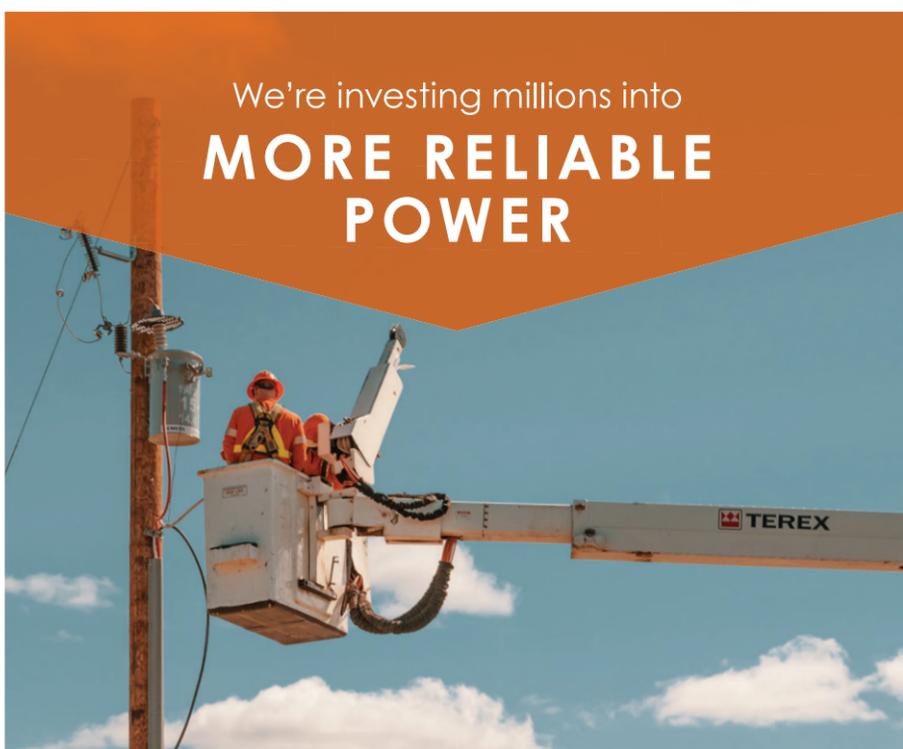
Notice is hereby given that the assessment roll for the Village of Canwood for the year 2022 has been prepared and is open to inspection in the office of the Assessor from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday to Thursday from March 10, 2022, until April 12, 2022.

A bylaw pursuant to section 214 of *The Municipalities Act* has been passed and the assessment notices have been sent as required.

Any person who wishes to appeal against his or her assessment is required to file a notice of appeal with: The Assessor, Village of Canwood, Box 172, Canwood, SK, S0J 0K0, by 3:00 p.m. on the 12th day of April, 2022.

Dated this 10th day of March, 2022.

Erin Robertson, Assessor



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Wapiti's short-sighted decision hurts Shellbrook

When I was a teenager, I got my first job as a page in the children's department of a library in my hometown.

It wasn't much. Just nine or so hours a week after school and on weekends to earn some spare change. But for two years, I spent my hours shelving and organizing books.

Being 16 when I started my job, I was right in that sweet spot of my teenage years where I couldn't fully appreciate the value of anything.

However, I did enjoy my time working at the library – the quiet and the solitude, the satisfaction of putting things back in order, and the opportunity to hide amongst the bookshelves and read when I'd run out of books to return to their proper places (and even when I hadn't).

I share this anecdote by means of drawing attention to the contrast between myself and Ms. Dian Campbell, the former librarian for the Shellbrook Public Library. No, the word former in the previous sentence wasn't a mistake. If word hasn't reached you through the local grapevine, Ms. Campbell was fired as Shellbrook's librarian.

Ms. Campbell's notice of termination was delivered by Wapiti regional director and CEO Tony Murphy and Wapiti Board chair April Phillips at a Feb. 22 meeting of the Shellbrook Library Board. And while Wapiti is supposed to consult with local library boards on staffing matters, the Shellbrook board wasn't consulted about Ms. Campbell's termination and its objections were ignored.

To my knowledge, there was never anything to indicate that Wapiti had cause to be dissatisfied with Ms. Campbell's performance as Shellbrook's librarian. Instead, it seems as if someone woke up one morning and decided, on a whim, to fire her.

To make matters worse, those who played any role in Ms. Campbell's termination don't even have to explain themselves. They can just hide behind the excuse of, "Wapiti cannot comment on internal HR matters due to confidentiality."

All the while, those responsible can re-



JORDAN TWISS
~
News Editor

main blissfully unaware of, or cruelly indifferent to, the very real harm they've done to Ms. Campbell, to Shellbrook as a community, and to the very library they're meant to oversee.

I said at the outset of this column that I enjoyed my job as a page at my local library. But it was, at the end of the day, just a job to me.

For Ms. Campbell, being a librarian wasn't just a means to pay the bills, or even something she simply enjoyed.

Ms. Campbell exuded passion for her job, and her passion was infectious. She was, without any exaggeration, the heart and soul of the Shellbrook Public Library.

Under Ms. Campbell's stewardship, the Shellbrook Library became one of the most used libraries in the province, competing with, and often surpassing, libraries in communities much larger than Shellbrook in terms of books checked out.

But, for all the work she did to instill a love of reading and learning in everyone in this community, she always believed the library was about more than just the books. Over the years, she introduced an endless list of programming, turning the library into an irreplaceable community resource.

With Ms. Campbell gone, none of what the library offered is available to the community. Once again, the Shellbrook Public Library is only about the books.

There is, to be blunt, no scenario in which firing Ms. Campbell was the right move for the Shellbrook Public Library, for Shellbrook as a community, or even for Wapiti.

This short-sighted and unjust decision can't be allowed to stand. Even if Ms. Campbell can't be rehired (or doesn't want to be after how she was treated), it falls to us as a community to let the powers that be in Wapiti know the gravity of the mistake they've made.

Already, members of the community have taken up Ms. Campbell's cause and are trying to make the community's voice heard.

If you would like to lend your voice to theirs, contact Nicole Philp at: 306-747-7497 or dnphilp@sasktel.net.



Government Police & Digital ID – What's on YOUR Mind?

Besides the topic of vaccine injuries, two others are emerging as issues of grave concern to the people of Saskatchewan.

The first is Bill 70, which is scheduled for second reading in the legislature on Monday March 7, 2022. This is a bill that is being rushed through with the intention to make sweeping changes to the existing security at the Legislative Building.

The opposition was only made aware of the bill on Nov. 15, 2021, and were not able to actually read Bill 70 until it was introduced in the house for first reading on Nov. 23, 2021.

This bill will remove the neutrality of the ex-



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isting security in the legislature and instead, put it under the purview of the Ministry of Corrections, Policing, and Public Safety.

Minister Christine Tell was asked multiple times in the legislature why there was a need

to change the system of security from independent to government controlled. (This potentially removes the ability of citizens to conduct peaceful protest on the grounds of the legislature at the government's whim.)

Minister Tell could not, or would not, provide a reason, saying only, "that we all find ourselves living in an ever-changing world."

In other words, the reason why the government is moving to a partisan security model is a secret that the public cannot be trusted with.

The second topic at issue is growing public awareness of the push towards mass Digital Identification of people.

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Shellbrook Chronicle

Serving the Communities of Shellbrook, Canwood, Debden, Big River, Parkside, Leask, Marcelin, Blaine Lake, Holbein, Mont Nebo, Mayview

Spiritwood Herald

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: In the interest of readers of this newspaper, we will publish opinions of our readers. Letters To The Editor are most welcome; however, they must be signed and include writer's contact information and will only be published with the writer's name on it. Letters should be limited in length and be typed or clearly written. We reserve the right to edit letters depending on available space.

Member of



Report from the Legislature

As the world watches the unprovoked attack instigated by the Putin regime unfold in Ukraine, the Government of Saskatchewan stands with our friends, family, and neighbours both at home and abroad.

Throughout Saskatchewan, communities are coming together to show that we stand with Ukraine. Our government has donated \$100,000 to support humanitarian efforts on the ground. SaskTel has waived long-distance and text messaging fees from Canada to Ukraine to assist families in reaching one another. We are also working with post-secondary institutions to determine the impact on our international students. The Saskatchewan Liquor



HON. SCOTT MOE, PREMIER
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and Gaming Authority has delisted Russian products from the distribution centre and retail stores, with private retailers being encouraged to do the same.

Our government is committed to supporting those

from Ukraine who are fleeing the brutal attacks through funding for community support coordination, including settlement services for Ukrainian families arriving in Saskatchewan. The Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program is prioritizing any applications received from Ukrainian citizens. We are committed to ensuring Ukrainian newcomers are welcomed into our communities, with long-term successful resettlement in Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan has become known as a welcoming and vibrant place for newcomers to Canada. The Government of Saskatchewan will assist our new neighbours in putting down roots to find suc-

cess. Funding of \$638,000 has been committed to the Bridging to Employment program currently offered in Regina, Saskatoon and Prince Albert. This 20-week program, split between in-class learning and on-the-job paid work experience, focuses on communication, job readiness and digital literacy skills.

Support is also available to residents trying to reach new job goals while rejoining the labour market. The Government of Saskatchewan has announced \$2.2 million for the Training Voucher Program to make re-training affordable and accessible. Various sectors are being targeted to help drive Saskatchewan's economic growth, including



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information technology, professional truck drivers, healthcare, and the hospitality industry.

And an incredible amount of work by volunteers around the province has returned to our airwaves. TeleMiracle,

a rooted in Saskatchewan fundraiser, has touched thousands of lives thanks to the organizing committee's efforts. The event stretches out further than just that dedicated group, as communities across the province rally together for bake sales, charity events, auctions and grassroots fundraisers. The fabulous showing of what it means to be from Saskatchewan supports the Kinsmen Foundation in their efforts to make life better. The foundation provides specialized mobility and medical equipment to people and organizations within our great province.

Thank you to the organizers, volunteers and all those who have supported TeleMiracle over the years.

Government Police & Digital ID – What's on YOUR Mind?

Continued from 4

Unbeknown to almost everyone, while we were dealing with the pandemic, Saskatchewan has been participating in the Digital ID & Authentication Council of Canada (DIACC). The Province of Saskatchewan has been a member since at least March of 2020.

Since 2016, DIACC has been developing the Pan-Canadian Trust Framework (PCTF) in collaboration with many partners, including other G7 countries.

The PCTF Voilà Verified Trustmark Program was set to launch in 2021, and claims, "The PCTF will make it easier for Canadian citizens and businesses to interact with governments, businesses, and other organizations with a high degree of confidence. Canadians should have basic access to services such as:

- Health Records
- Applying for a student loan
- Launching a business
- Qualifying for disability

In fact, the PCTF, while claiming we will benefit from "Repeatability, consistent and continuous identification processes," proposes to do this by "Creating a trusted Digital Identity for a Person."

This process establishes and maintains a digital record for a Verified Person (also referred to as a Verified Person Record), in order to uniquely distinguish them from other Persons. There are many techniques that can be used to verify a Person is a "real, unique, and identifiable human being." For example, a system could:

- Require the presentation of official documents (e.g., driver's license) and confirm that

the user is the same Person.

- Require the provision of sufficient biometric data that allows the Person to be distinguished uniquely from the rest of the population.
- Capture a digital identity from the Person's device and use behavioural data (e.g., typing speed, touch-screen pressure, walking gait as measured by a mobile device's accelerometers) to determine that device is in that Person's possession.

On the DIACC website, the timeline seems to indicate implementation in 2022, although it may be fluid. On our government website, www.saskatchewan.ca, I have not been able to find any reference to DIACC or Saskatchewan's membership in it.

People have understandably connected the two issues. Some have asked, "Is the reason

why the government needs its own police force for the legislature because it expects pushback from citizens on implementing Digital ID? What is the motive for this? Why is it necessary?"

My question to the government is, when and why did they sign on to DIACC? What

public consultation was there, if any? What is our commitment to this program?

But the most important question is, will the people of this province be heard if they tell their elected officials they do not want to be a part of it? Or will they once again be forced to comply through a coercive mandate?

R.M. OF BIG RIVER NO. 555 TEMPORARY OFFICE ASSISTANT

The RM of Big River No. 555 is accepting applications for an Office Assistant. This is a temporary full-time position Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm from April through October 31st. We are seeking a highly motivated, detail oriented individual who enjoys working with the public. Interested applicants will require excellent communication skills, both verbal and written, proficiency with Microsoft Office programs and skills related to administrative practices and procedures.

Duties will include answering phones, dealing with ratepayers, receipting, inventory control, preparing bank deposits, managing and processing development and building permits, developing policies, managing bylaw and agreement registries and other duties as may be assigned.

Qualified persons may submit their resume, detailing education, experience, qualifications and salary expected to rmofbigriver.ca with Office Assistant in the subject line or mail to:

RM of Big River No. 555
Office Assistant Position
Box 219,
Big River, SK S0J 0E0

Applications must be received at the municipal office by 3:00 pm, March 17th, 2022.

If you have any questions please contact our office at 306-469-2323.

Only those applicants chosen for an interview will be contacted. Successful candidate must be bondable and will be required to pass a criminal check.



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PHARMACY APPRECIATION MONTH

Lu's Crafty Boutique opens in Shellbrook

With how busy life gets these days, it's easy to put off the things you've always dreamed of doing until it's too late to do them.

If things had worked out differently, that could have been the case for Shellbrook's Luann Anderson. Instead, she realized her lifelong dream by opening up her own shop, called Lu's Crafty Boutique, on Shellbrook's Main Street.

Anderson is a crafter herself and has spent the past 40 years creating and teaching herself new hobbies. However, with work and family to tend to, the stars never aligned for her to open the artisan boutique she'd always envisioned.

Then, just before Christmas, Anderson says she made up her mind that now was the time for her to pursue her dream. Conveniently, a perfect space came available in the Shellbrook Sportswear & Embroidery (Nightowl Embroidery) building and everything else seemed to fall in place.

"When I saw the [for rent] sign in the window, and I came in, my vision started of how I wanted to have it in here," Anderson said, noting she and her husband got to work immediately on bringing her vision to life. "My husband still works full-time, so we spent a lot of evenings and weekends in here to get it the way we wanted it to look."

Calling Lu's Crafty Boutique "basically a big family business," including her husband, kids, and siblings, Anderson admits it wasn't easy to get everything in place for the shop's opening day on March 1.

For starters, she had to find crafters who would be interested in displaying their goods in her little shop. This meant hours upon hours of scrolling through the Facebook pages of Saskatchewan-based crafters, making note of what they make, and reaching out with an eye to stocking the boutique with a bit of something for everybody — from artwork, to home décor, to

clothing items and accessories, and even food.

Once her vendors were all lined up, it was a matter of figuring out the best way to sell their goods. With help from a tech savvy daughter-in-law, Anderson opted to barcode everything.

"That was a big learning curve for me, but it keeps everything simple at the end of the month when I send out my reports," she said. "It says exactly what they sold and what is left for inventory. If I'm out of something, it shows up automatically, so I can be more organized."

With Lu's Crafty Boutique officially open, Anderson says she's still searching for more unique gift ideas to bring to the shop and plans to bring in new goods with each season. She's also planning to give back to her customers, by holding monthly draws.

In the meantime, she says she's been overwhelmed and humbled by the support shown to her venture, and she hopes it will be a good thing for Shellbrook and the sur-



Luann Anderson has realized a lifelong dream, after opening up her own shop, Lu's Crafty Boutique, on Shellbrook's Main Street on March 1.

rounding area.

"It will keep people shopping locally," she said.

"You go to Prince Albert, and it's hard to find gifts or something unique for friends and family. I wanted to have something to keep people in town. There's a little bit of everything here that you would never find in a department store and it's all locally

crafted and handmade."

Anderson's new shop gives folks in the area a second local option to hunt for unique, handmade goods. Designer's

Edge, located right across the street, re-branded as Designer's Edge Salon & Gift Shop in 2021, and also features a variety of items from local artisans.



Anderson says her aim is to bring in a bit of something for everyone and keep people shopping locally.

RM OF BLAINE LAKE NO. 434

Office of the Administrator
PO Box 38, 118 Main Street, Blaine Lake, SK, S0J 0J0
Ph: (306) 497-2282; Fax: (306) 497-2423; Email: rm434@sasktel.net
Website: <https://rmofblainelake434.ca/>

Public Notice

Please take note that pursuant to Section 13 of *The Municipalities Act* and Public Notice Policy Bylaw No. 94/2005, Public Notice is hereby given that the Council of the Rural Municipality of Blaine Lake #434, intends to consider the initial report on a proposed bylaw to close the following undeveloped municipal road (otherwise known as the Aframe Road) crossing the road allowance described as ORA 111-43-06-3 Ext. 111 and connecting Pt. SE 06-43-06 W3m and Pt. SW 05-43-06 W3m as per the attached diagram.

Any person claiming to be affected prejudicially by the proposed bylaw or that person's agent has the opportunity to be heard at the next regular meeting of Council to be held on March 22, 2022 at the RM Council Chambers located at 118 Main Street in Blaine Lake, Saskatchewan commencing at 10:00 am.

That Public Notice of the above be issued at Blaine Lake, Saskatchewan dated this 10th day of March, 2022.

Linda Klimm
Chief Administrative Officer



SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Rural Municipality of Leask No. 464 is accepting applications for a full time seasonal maintenance position.

Qualifications:

- Class 3A License
- Be capable of accepting instruction and working with minimal supervision
- Heavy equipment experience is an asset

Duties include:

- To keep records of daily work performed in the manner prescribed by the R.M. administration
- To perform assigned work which may include: fencing; shop, machinery & yard maintenance; traffic sign placement & repair; cleaning and repairing of culverts and/or bridges.

Hours of work: Monday to Friday 8am-6pm, some weekend and evening work may be required
Rate of pay: as per union agreement
Anticipated Start Date: May 2, 2022

The R.M. wishes to thank all who apply, however, only those individuals to be interviewed will be contacted.

Please submit resume by April 6, 2022, stating work experience and references to:
rmlask.464@sasktel.net
306-466-2091 (fax)
Rural Municipality of Leask No. 464
Box 190
Leask, SK S0J 1M0

March is Agriculture Literacy Month

This month students across the province will learn about agriculture's significant role in our province's food chain, economy and future.

For more information visit saskatchewan.ca/news



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

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

AGRICULTURE

March 10, 2022

www.shellbrookchronicle.com | www.spiritwoodherald.com

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald 7

Ag literacy vital to restoring connections to the farm

How does farming stay connected with the next generation of Canadians – the source of workers and the consumers of tomorrow.

It's hardly a new question in terms of agriculture as more and more people live in urban settings and the numbers of farms shrink, reducing the natural connections of family and friends.

When I was a youngster, I grew up on a farm. My grandparents lived in the same yard for many years, and when they finally retired to town I'd spend some summer holiday time with them. All of the people in the neighbourhood had farming connections –

most still had huge gardens, which I always saw as a connection to those agrarian roots.

But a lot has changed in the years since.

Gone for the most part are the section-sized farms of the 1960s, which had a few pigs, chickens, and even a milk cow or two to ship cream from.

People have moved to towns and cities, and frankly many have not looked back.

Walk into a school, even in a moderate sized city such as Yorkton, and there will be many young students who have not set foot on a working farm. Their connection to what a cow is, or



CALVIN DANIELS

what wheat looks like, is largely limited to school tours and events such as Harvest Showdown or taking in the Pizza Farm initiative.

What was once learned as a result of helping a grandparent, or aunt or uncle collect eggs, feed the pigs, or haul grain to the elevator, is now left to the school classroom.

No offence to teachers, but it's not the same thing.

But somewhere along the way in a youth's life, it is important they should learn something about farming and just how the farm sector produces our food.

That's where Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month (CALM) is supposed to help, as it encourages students to learn about and celebrate Canada's agriculture and food story.

This year, to kick-off the month, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, announced up to \$415,000 in support for

Agriculture in the Classroom Canada (AITC-C).

In celebration of CALM, AITC-C is hosting the Great Canadian Farm Tour, a learning experience which gives students an opportunity to learn about Canada's agriculture industry by interacting virtually with real farmers. The Great Canadian Farm Tour includes a virtual field trip with 11 live farm tours focusing on the diversity of commodities across Canada throughout the month of March.

Going virtual is important here, as it opens the tour to just about any school interested in having students partic-

ipate, and it allows limited funding to be used in production of the programming knowing it has a huge potential audience.

As the release about the funding noted, "by connecting youth directly with farmers to learn how our food is produced and showcase the vital role that farmers play in our food system, the Government of Canada is helping to inspire and build the next generation of young farmers to ensure a strong, sustainable Canadian agriculture sector."

It's definitely a worthwhile initiative given the loss of those more direct ties to farming.

Anglers: it's time to remove ice fishing shelters

With ice fishing season winding down, anglers should plan to remove their ice fishing shelters before the deadlines - March 15 south of Highway 16 and March 31 north of the highway.

Spring weather is unpredictable and it can be easy to overestimate how much time you have to safely remove your ice shelter. Every year, shelters end up abandoned on the melting ice, posing a danger to boaters, water skiers and others enjoying our lakes. Leftover debris can also wash up on shore, causing litter and potential environmental hazards.

Ice fishing structures must be re-

moved from the ice surface and transported away, along with all litter and leftover debris. Shelters not removed may result in the owner's prosecution, with the structure and its contents confiscated. All shelters require the owner's complete name, address and phone number marked clearly on the outside, in letters that are at least 2.5 cm high.

Anyone travelling on the ice should be extremely cautious. Slush indicates that ice is quickly eroding, and fluctuating temperatures can cause thermal cracks and pressure ridges, which are also indicators of unsafe ice conditions. Ice thickness and strength can

vary considerably from one area to another, so check and be sure.

For more information about fishing in Saskatchewan, check the Anglers Guide, available online at saskatchewan.ca/fishing.

If you suspect wildlife, fisheries, forestry or environmental violations, please call Saskatchewan's toll-free Turn In Poachers and Polluters (TIPP) line at 1-800-667-7561 or call #5555 from a SaskTel cellular device. Violations can also be reported online at saskatchewan.ca/tipp. You can remain anonymous and may be eligible for cash rewards from the SaskTip Reward Program.

The Classifieds Have Everything You Are Looking For!

Miscellaneous • Autos
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Feed 'n Seed • Land • Houses • Pets
Help Wanted • Employment Opportunities

20 words for only

\$16.00 plus GST

\$8.00 for each additional week

• Additional words 20¢

**Shellbrook Chronicle
Spiritwood Herald**

306-747-2442

chads@sbchron.com

MEADOW LAKE LIVESTOCK SALES LTD.



To consign cattle or
for on-farm appraisals
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Thurs., Mar. 17, 2022

17th Annual All Black Bull Sale 1:00 p.m.

Sellers Include:

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Producers wishing to market cattle prior to sale day
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Your independently owned & operated livestock marketing
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FEEDER FINANCE PROGRAM AVAILABLE - Please contact Brent

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

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Fri., Mar. 11, 2022

Bred Cow, Heifer & Pair Sale
feat. Artesian Angus 1:00 p.m.

Mon., Mar. 14, 2022

Regular Sale 8:30 a.m., Presort Sale 11:00 a.m.

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

For market info visit: www.northernlivestocksales.ca

Fun-filled week held for kids in Spiritwood

The Spiritwood Area and Recreation (SARCS) put on a bunch of activities during the February break that stretched out over four days from Feb. 22 until the 25.

The activities were of-

fered to a variety of ages in Spiritwood and surrounding areas.

On Tuesday, Feb 22, kids created ink art coasters from 1 p.m. to 2:30

p.m. All told, 11 participants took part throughout the afternoon.

During Wednesday, moms and children had the chance to relax with

yogaled by Laura Beauch- esne. And on Thursday there was opportunity to learn important skills in the kitchen during a cooking class hosted by Ron Sawatsky.

On Friday, kids were invited to take part in a

DIY wood décor work- shop, which was fund- ed by the Community Initiative Fund (CIF). The woodworks were from Starlight Creations, which provided different designs to decorate.

Kaeli Cross said that

their registration num- bers were a bit low, but the kids who did partic- ipate really enjoyed the activities. Cross added that she hopes to make the February break pro- gramming an annual at- traction.



Kids were excited to show off their creations after Friday's DIY wood décor workshop.



A small group of kids took part in February break programming hosted at the Spiritwood Rec. Centre.

Spiritwood Library snow art contest

The Spiritwood Library hosted a snow art contest from Jan. 21 to Feb. 26 for kids in town to participate in. The Snow Art Contest was in lieu of the celebration of Family Literacy Day, which is typically celebrated on Jan. 27.

The library posted instructions for kids, including family, to follow to make art in the snow using food colouring. Afterwards, every family who decided to participate took photos to submit their artwork for an entry in the contest. By the Feb. 26 deadline, the library

had received six entries.

Finally, on Feb. 28, two lucky winners had their names pulled from the draw bin.

Kelsey Doucette was the winner of a gift Certificate from Martodam's Family Retail, and Levi Barth won the book *A Parrot's Life For Me*.

The Spiritwood Public Library was happy to see kids and families submit their entries and participate in the Snow Art Contest. Heather Gatzke said that all entries were fun and artistic.



Kelsey Doucette won a gift certificate in the Spiritwood Library's Snow Art Contest.



Levi Barth won a copy of the book *A Parrot's Life For Me* in the Spiritwood Library's Snow Art Contest.

PRAISE & WORSHIP

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

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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.
St. Andrew's - Shellbrook
Sunday, 11 a.m. Service
Canwood - Christ Church
Sunday, 2 p.m. - Service
Rev. Wendell Brock
306-460-7696
H.C. Service with Rev.
Brock - 1st Sunday of the
month

MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH

Blaine Lake Gospel Chapel
109 Railway Ave. W.
Blaine Lake
306-497-3316
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

UNITED CHURCH

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

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 11 a.m.
St. Henry's - Leask
Mass - Sunday - 9 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

PRAISE & WORSHIP

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

PARTNERS IN FAITH

Lutheran/Unite/
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 - 11:15 a.m.
Leoville - 9:30 a.m.
Shell Lake - 2:00 p.m.
Chitek Lake - Closed for
the Season
Everyone Welcome
SATURDAY
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 Martynes
(306) 389-4633

EVANGELICAL FREE

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

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

Highlights of a Shellbrook Town Council meeting

Shellbrook's Town Council met for its regular meeting in person and via teleconference on Monday, March 7.

In attendance were Mayor Amund Otterson, councillors Larry Batten, Peter Halayka, Dave Knight, Cheryl Ledding, Brent Miller, and Kathleen Nording, and the town's CAO, Kelly Hoare.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Otterson and council began by approving the meeting's agenda and adopting the minutes of its Feb. 22 meeting.

With no business arising from said minutes and no delegations on the docket, council approved payment of the town's regular accounts, then moved on to provide its reports.

In an update on the Parkland Pool Project Steering Committee, Mayor Otterson said the committee is next scheduled to meet on March 15 and is expected to be reviewing proposals for a feasibility study of the project. Having been heavily involved with the pool throughout the

years, Councillor Nording said she'd like to review the proposals.

Speaking next about the theatre committee, Nording told council it's unclear what's happening with the committee. However, she said the theatre has its license to screen movies until October and added she will be applying for a grant.

In hospital and clinics news, Mayor Otterson updated council on the AGM hosted by the Parkland Physician Recruitment and Retention Committee. The key takeaway from the meeting is that the committee is looking to increase the per capita levy to \$7 from \$5 to help it keep up with the costs of maintaining the duplex for physicians and bringing in new doctors.

Speaking of new doctors, Mayor Otterson said a new one is expected to begin practicing at the Shellbrook Medical Clinic this month. Currently, there are six doctors and three nurse practitioners serving the community.

Shifting to new business, council began with a few housekeeping items by reversing or writing off erroneous charges. Next, it carried a motion to transfer \$68,230 from the sale of land into a reserve for future land development, and made plans to revisit a motion from its May 10, 2021, budget meeting to reduce the recreation deficit by \$175,000 without sacrificing services.

Turning next to discussion of the Shellbrook Public Library, Wapiti, and local library board appointments, council didn't discuss the recent dismissal of librarian Dian Campbell. Instead, it focused its attention on drafting a bylaw to set out

guidelines for future library board appointments.

In the end, council agreed to prepare a bylaw that sets out a ratio for board membership of five town representatives for every one out-of-town member. The bylaw will also allow for an RM of Shellbrook council representative and appoint Hoare to work with the board.

Noting she'd received a number of emails from ratepayers concerned about Campbell's dismissal, Hoare said she's waiting until she gathers enough information to send a universal reply to all of them.

Carrying on with new business, council approved a series of recommendations from the Recreation Steering Committee, including one to enter into an agreement with the Prince Albert Lacrosse Association to allow it to use the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre for lacrosse. Under the agreement, a team will be using the rink as its home rink, and council is hopeful the partnership will raise interest in the sport locally.

Up next, council agreed to waive the ice rental fee for the annual Jim Willoughby Tournament, so long as 50 per cent of the proceeds from the event are donated back to the rink, and it also approved rate increases for the campgrounds and the swimming pool for the 2022 season.

Having no further new business to address, council discussed its plans to hold a spring ratepayers meeting. Currently, it is planning to host the meeting on Tuesday, April 12 or Thursday, April 14.

Council's next meeting is scheduled for Monday March 21.

Another new charge laid in sex assault investigation

As a result of continued investigation by the Saskatoon RCMP General Investigation Section and the Blaine Lake RCMP, a man on trial for multiple sexual assault charges has been charged with another additional offence.

Cecil Wolfe, 60, is now facing eight charges of sexual assault, linked to his work as a supposed traditional healer or medicine man.

The Saskatoon Police Sex Crimes unit laid the first charge against Wolfe in September 2021. As more victims came forward, the Saskatoon Police partnered with the Saskatoon RCMP General Investi-

gation Section, as other offences were believed to have occurred in RCMP jurisdiction.

The additional charge laid last Thursday is the seventh to be laid in RCMP jurisdiction related to this ongoing investigation. RCMP collaboration with the Saskatoon Police Sex Crimes Unit continues.

Investigators say they still believe there may be additional victims from over the past twenty years in the communities of Loon Lake, Blaine Lake, Muskeg Lake Cree Nation, Saskatoon, and surrounding areas. The investigation remains active and victims are encouraged to contact

their nearest RCMP Detachment or Police Service if they have information to share.

Information for sexual assault survivors, including what will happen when you report the assault to police, is available at: <https://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/relationship-violence/information-sexual-assault-survivors>

The Saskatoon Sexual Assault and Information Centre's Crisis Line can be reached at 306-244-2224.

Wolfe was next scheduled to appear in court on March 9.

The charges against Wolfe haven't been proven.



CHECK IT OUT!

Shellbrook Chronicle Website
www.shellbrookchronicle.com

Spiritwood Herald Website
www.spiritwoodherald.com



JUNIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

For over the past four decades The Saskatchewan Weekly Newspapers Association, in partnership with SaskPower and the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, have recognized the youth of Saskatchewan through the Junior Citizen of the Year Award.

These prestigious awards are given to youth who:

- Have a positive lifestyle
- Have had the ability to overcome life's challenges
- Have a strong sense of caring and responsibility
- Are dedicated to community and school
- Inspire others
- Are between the ages of 8 to 18

This year four deserving youth will receive a **\$3000 bursary**, provided by SaskPower, to use towards their post-secondary education. Someone you nominate could be one of them.

JUNIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR SCHOLARSHIP CALL FOR NOMINATIONS




Visit www.swna.com for further information and nomination forms
Nominations close March 31, 2022

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 12 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.

LEASK: Leask Sports Centre Ltd. - Open House, Free Skate & Annual General Meeting. Thurs., March 17, 2022, 4:00 - 7:30 pm | AGM @ 6:30 pm at the Sports Centre.

SHELLBROOK: You are invited to the Shellbrook Skating Club's Year End Ice Show! This year's theme: Movies. Guest Pair Skaters: Our very own Ashlyn Schmitz & Tristan Taylor. Friday, March 18 - 5:00 pm at the Shellbrook Rink. Free Admission.

TRIPLE YOUR ADVERTISING

We'll advertise your important community event in our Community Calendar FREE for two weeks prior to the event with purchase of a 2 column x 2" Display ad for only:

\$60.00 plus G.S.T. - A savings of over 30%

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Ph: 306-747-2442 • Fax: 306-747-3000 • Email: chads@sbchron.com

Silvertips punch ticket to league finals

The Shellbrook Silvertips continued their quest for the Twin Rivers Hockey League championship over the past week, hosting the Rosthern Wheatkings for games three and four of the league semi-finals.

Though the Tips came into the series as the underdog against the Wheatkings, having lost both regular season matches to the team, they entered games three and four of the best-of-five series with the series tied at one game apiece.

Both teams pushed each other to the limit through the pair of games, forcing both of them into overtime. In both cases, the Tips held on, taking game three by a score of 6-5 in single overtime, and winning game four by a score of 5-4 in double overtime to punch their ticket to the league finals.

Tips (6) vs Kings (5) OT

Both the Tips and the Wheatkings came out of the gate with fire in game three on Wednesday night, playing fast-paced, back-and-forth hockey until the Tips seized momentum on a four-minute powerplay. Jody Blais took full advantage of the opportunity, slipping a shot under the goalie to put the Tips up 1-0. Evan Williams and Mathew Kutnikoff earned assists on the goal.

Once the Wheatkings killed off the remainder of their penalty, both teams continued trading off scoring opportunities for the remainder of the period.



Silvertips forward Dylan Smith taps home a goal from the side of the Rosthern net in action from game three of the Twin Rivers Hockey League's semi-finals.

With solid work on the penalty kill, the Tips managed to keep the score locked at 1-0 but failed to add any points of their own.

After a fast-paced 20 minutes, the Wheatkings began to outpace the Tips throughout the second period. This opened the door for Riley Lehmann to pounce on a defensive turnover and redirect it into the Tips' goal. Michael Epp earned the lone assist on the play.

Minutes later, Matt Pilon put the Wheatkings up 2-1 by slipping a puck through the five hole of netminder Todd Bazley. Jakob Tournier assisted on the goal.

Buckling underneath the

Wheatkings' pressure, the Tips gave up a third consecutive goal after getting pinned in their own zone and allowing Aiden Forseille to score on a floater from the point. Jordan Swenson and Epp earned helpers on the play.

Though the Wheatkings continued to set the pace for the rest of the period, the Tips' penalty kill closed the gap, when Daryl Blais scooped up a loose puck and blasted it off Rosthern netminder Kyle Rahier and into the net. Blais' goal was unassisted.

With the score at 3-2 heading into the final 20 minutes of regulation, the Wheatkings started the third period in the same way they started the second. Airik Price struck early on a sneaky goal, with an assist from Jordan Greyeyes.

Tournier followed up less than a minute later, tucking home a juicy rebound in front of the Shellbrook net to give the Wheatkings a commanding 5-2 lead. Paul Ayres and Pilon assisted on the goal.

Facing a three-goal deficit, the Tips dug deep and leaned heavily on leading scorer Dylan Smith, who proved more than up to the task.

Smith opened the scoring on a power play, blasting home a shot from the side of the Rosthern goal. Jody Blais and Gage Helm assisted on the goal.

Returning to even strength,

Smith tallied again on a beautiful cross-crease feed and backhand shot. Gage and Williams assisted on the goal.

With time winding down, and a chance for a series advantage on the line, Smith jumped on a loose puck in front of the Rosthern goal and buried it to tie the game at 5-5 and force overtime.

The Tips nearly undid their comeback effort by taking a penalty early in the extra period, but managed to threaten Rosthern on the penalty kill. Finally, with the help of a turnover in the neutral zone, Smith completed the comeback with another backhander on a setup from Helm.

Tips (5) vs Kings (4) 2OT

With a chance to close out the semi-finals, the Silvertips welcomed the Wheatkings back to Shellbrook on Sunday evening for game four of the semi-finals. Both teams came out playing more tentative hockey, racking up few shots in the first eight minutes of play.

Eventually, it was Rosthern who broke the goose eggs, scoring on a textbook setup on the powerplay. Jordan Swenson scored the goal, with an assist from Jeremy Margeson.

By contrast, the Tips struggled on their first powerplay of the game and failed to establish any real zone pressure. However, they tied things up at 1-1 in

the final minute of the period, when Dylan Smith took a beautiful drop pass and found the back of the net on a wrist shot. Braidon Turner and Gage Helm assisted on the goal.

In a second period that closely mirrored the first, the Wheatkings poured on the pressure and reclaimed the lead on an unassisted goal by Margeson. The Tips, meanwhile, responded with a powerplay goal on a screen shot from the point to knot things back up. Jody Blais netted the goal, with assists from Mathew Kutnikoff and Daryl Blais.

Later in the frame, the Tips were left playing catch up yet again, when they let Margeson sit in front of their goal and redirect a loose puck into the net for another unassisted goal. The Tips proved up to the task, as Smith tied the game up at 3-3 with an unassisted goal on a late penalty kill.

Keeping the pattern going in the third period, Rosthern went up 4-3 on an early powerplay goal from Matt Pilon. Margeson and Michael Epp earned helpers on the goal. The Tips had an answer once again, when Nathaniel Martin scored, unassisted, with an odd-angled wrist shot on a seemingly harmless rush to force overtime.

Through that first 10-minute extra frame, both teams came close but just short of ending the game. Moving to a second full period of overtime, the Tips claimed the series victory when Gage Helm scooped up a loose rebound and shot it home. John Martin and Smith assisted on the play.

With the series win, the Tips now move on to face the Birch Hills Blackhawks in the league finals in a rematch of the cancelled 2019-2020 league championship. Like the Wheatkings, the Blackhawks were a foe the Tips couldn't beat in the regular season, falling to them by scores of 10-4 and 9-4.

Game one of the series will be played in Birch Hills on Friday evening at 8:30 p.m. The action returns to Shellbrook for game two, which is set for Sunday, March 13 at 5 p.m.



Rosthern's Jordan Swenson slips a puck past Todd Bazley in action from game four of the Twin Rivers Hockey League's semi-finals.

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 **Canada**

Brier features rare 'grudge' match

Rarely, if ever, has a game at the Brier involving New Brunswick been must-see TV. But if you follow curling and are a dedicated viewer, it's likely that last Saturday night's battle in Lethbridge between James Gratton of New Brunswick and Brendan Bottcher of Edmonton, in the field representing Team Canada as defending champion, was one you wouldn't want to have missed.

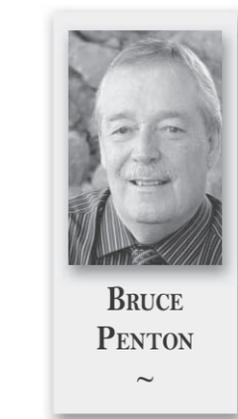
In a sport known for its pre- and post-game handshakes, its extreme sportsmanship and overall gentlemanly approach, usually followed by post-game mingling with the opposition over cool refreshments, this particular curling game had 'grudge match' written all over it.

Last December, you might recall, Bottcher's long-time third, Darren Moulding, was basically fired from the team, after great success, including three Alberta titles and one Canadian championship. Reasons for

his departure were vague, but it seems it was a matter of bad chemistry involving team personnel, not to mention concerns about how the business side of the team — money, baby, the root of all evil — was handled. The cut came with all the class of a clique of high school girls shunning one of their classmates.

To say there were hard feelings from the Moulding camp, harder than the granite used for curling stones, is an understatement. Bottcher tried to frame the split as a mutual decision, which Moulding immediately called "BS." He said he was especially hurt about not being able to curl in his home-province Brier.

It didn't take long, however, for Moulding to land on his feet and regain an opportunity to curl in the Lethbridge Brier. Gratton, who last year led the Brier standings in the early stages of the week, winning four of his first five games, juggled his team's lineup to create



BRUCE PENTON

an opening at third. It didn't take Moulding long to accept the invitation from Gratton, who has represented New Brunswick 14 times. Gratton finished 4-4 last year, just missing the playoffs, and was 3-4 the year before, one win out of the playoffs. Perhaps the addition of Moulding will be enough to push the rink over the top this year.

Regardless, Moulding really only cared about winning one game — the one vs. Bottcher. As for post-game drinks? Not likely.

• Dwight Perry of the Seattle Times: "A cargo ship

packed with luxury cars caught fire and was aimlessly adrift in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. Sort of the nautical equivalent of the L.A. Lakers."

• Boyce Garrison on The San Diego Union-Tribune, after country singer Trace Adkins was chosen to perform the national anthem before the Daytona 500: "Snoop Dogg must have been unavailable."

• RJ Currie of sportsdeke.com: "Commissioner Roger Goodell, when confronted about the NFL's apparent systemic racism in not hiring black head coaches, said 'we have to do a better job' and 'we believe in diversity. Translation: Tsk, tsk.'"

• Greg Cote of the Miami Herald: "Los Angeles held a Super Bowl victory parade for the Rams. Highlight: Brief diversion from nightmare that is the Lakers season."

• Jon Wertheim of Sports Illustrated, on long-winded and bombastic basketball broadcaster Dick Vitale's re-

cent throat surgery: "Dickie V has been instructed not to speak, which is like telling Joey Chestnut not to eat."

• Janice Hough of leftcoastsportsbabe.com, after Medina Spirit was disqualified as last year's Kentucky Derby winner due to a doping violation: "So two of the last three horses who crossed the Kentucky Derby finish line first have now been disqualified. It's enough to make you long for the purity of pro wrestling."

• Vancouver comedy guy Torben Rolfson: "(Phil) Mickelson was trying to use the Super Golf League as leverage against the PGA to get what, ... more caviar in the players' tent?"

• RJ Currie again, on numerology: "Yesterday's date was 2022-02-22. That's the biggest load of number two since Novak Djokovic tried to BS his way into the Aussie Open."

• Dwight Perry again: "The next time 'Do you believe in miracles?!' — coined by Al Michaels 42 years ago — will

next be uttered when: a) the Detroit Lions win the Super Bowl b) baseball owners come out the winners in the players strike c) the Russians go an entire Olympics without testing positive."

• David Whitley of the Gainesville (Fla.) Sun, on MLB not testing players for steroids for the first time in 20 years: "In totally unrelated news, Barry Bonds announced he is stepping out of retirement and will bat cleanup for the Giants this season."

• Jack Finarelli of sportscurmudgeon.com, on the stalled baseball talks: "Neither side is worthy of praise or support. If you 'take sides' here, you are merely selecting the tallest of the Seven Dwarfs."

• Headline at fark.com: "Due to their success on the field and general wealth in Cleveland, Browns raising season ticket prices for fourth straight year."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

WP Sandin curling teams fall in Regionals

WP Sandin Public High School's curling teams were busy competing in Regionals over the weekend, with the mixed team hosting seven other squads at the Shellbrook Curling Club and the boys' rink vying for a spot in Provincials in Prince Albert.

The open mixed team was fresh off winning the District playoffs in Prince Albert on Feb. 11, while the boys' team took the B event at District playoffs to earn its place at the Regional contest. Despite good showings by both rinks, neither was able to punch a ticket to Provincials.

Mixed Regionals

WP Sandin's mixed team, featuring Marcail Philp, Jake Boettcher,

Payten Keyowski, Carson Ledding, and alternate Lane Keyowski, kicked off its Regionals competition against Bjorkdale on Friday afternoon.

The team played strong in its first two ends of the tournament, jumping out to an early lead over Bjorkdale. Despite some stumbles through the middle of the match, the team rallied to claim a hard-fought 7-5 victory.

The win pit the home team against Watrous in its next match, and it was outshot and outswept by its opponents, losing by a wide margin of 10-3.

Wrapping up a busy day of curling, the mixed team was matched

against the PA St. Mary rink with the loser of the game facing elimination from the tournament. Rebounding from the earlier loss to Watrous, the home team shot its way to a 9-2 victory.

After a night to rest and recalibrate, WP Sandin returned to action on Saturday morning with a shot at the B qualifier on the line. Standing in its way, was the rink from Watson.

Starting with the hammer, the WP Sandin rink stumbled in the first end of the match, allowing Watson to steal one when the last rock failed to catch enough of a Watson rock to clear it from the house. Watson grew its lead to 4-0 with a steal of three in the second, taking advantage of another missed last rock by WP Sandin.

Thanks to a beautiful shot from Carson Ledding, WP Sandin closed the gap to 4-3 in the third end. However, Watson made no mistakes when it had the hammer, scoring another two points in the fourth end to go up 6-3.

Plagued by more missed shots, WP Sandin surrendered another two points in the fifth end, then scored just one in the sixth end to leave the score at 8-4. Watson proved deadly with the hammer once again, ending the game after the seventh end by scoring another three points to take an 11-4 win.

While WP Sandin and Watson

deduced it out for the B qualifier spot, the teams from Tisdale and Watrous were busy on another sheet competing for the A qualifier spot.

In the end, Tisdale proved too much for their opponents, scoring an 8-0 victory over the Watrous rink and ending the game after just five ends of curling.

After the defeat, Watrous dropped to the B qualifier to face off against Watson in the afternoon. The Watrous squad was able to rebound from its earlier loss to Tisdale, topping Watson 11-6 to claim the second spot in Provincials.

Boys' Regionals

Much like its mixed team, WP

Sandin's boys' team started its Regionals contest with a win, topping the Melfort rink by a modest margin of 7-5.

Unfortunately, the team, consisting of Lance Paton, Daniel Vidal, Sawyer Mamchur, Noah Verbonac, and alternate Mason Mamchur, failed to tally a win after this, falling to Rosthern by a score of 9-4 and ending its tournament with a 10-3 loss to Martensville.

When the tournament was done, the Bellevue rink earned the A qualifier spot with an 8-2 win over Rosthern. Moving down to the B qualifier match, Rosthern lost by an 8-2 margin once again, this time to PA St. Mary 1.



WP Sandin's Carson Ledding and Payten Keyowski plan their next shot during their Mixed Regionals opener against Bjorkdale.



WP Sandin's Marcail Philp and Jake Boettcher get ready to sweep a shot from Payten Keyowski during B semi-final action against Watson.

OBITUARIES

*Rodney Anderson*

ANDERSON – Mr. Rodney
1947 – 2022

It is with heavy hearts that the family announce the passing of Rodney Anderson on Friday, March 4, 2022, at the age of 75 years. Rodney was born on February

14, 1947, in Leoville, SK to Gertrude and Albert Anderson. Rodney resided in Big River, SK where he worked as a loader operator at DC North.

He is lovingly remembered by his brothers and sisters, Wayne (Dana), Barry (Carol), Marge (Stan), Terry (passed away on March 6, 2022), Shirley, and Peggy (Ron). Rodney was predeceased by his parents, Albert & Gertie (Mitchell) Anderson; his brother Kenneth Anderson; his brother-in-law, Phillip Arcand; and his sister-in-law, Shirley Anderson.

There will be a Celebration of Life held for Rodney on Monday,

March 14, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. from the Big River Community Hall with Pastor Dave Whalley officiating. In lieu of tributes, memorial donations may be made in memory of Rodney to the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Canada (2300 Yonge Street, Suite 1300, Toronto, ON M4P 1E4).

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.

Gilbert Boyer

BOYER – Mr. Gilbert

It is with heartfelt sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved husband, father, and grandpa Gilbert Joseph Boyer, of Marcelin, SK. He passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family on March 1, 2022, at the age of 93.

Gilbert was born on August 9, 1928, he was survived by his loving wife of 64 years,

Muriel, his children: Alvin (Laura), Sylvia (Gabe) Clouthier, Glenn (Bernice Ewankow) and Sharon (Alvin Trapp); His grandchildren: Jodie Clouthier, Jamie (Josh) Gegner, Crystal Clouthier and Megan Boyer; His great grandsons: Paxton and Arlo Gegner, Van Clouthier; also, the Church and Lapierre families. Numerous nieces and nephews as well as the countless friends whose lives he touched and held a special place in his heart.

He was predeceased by his father Ernest; his mother Lucy; an infant brother Leonce; his sister Denise; his brother-in-law Ken Sabin; his stepmother Blanche (Lapierre); his in-stepbrothers Joe

and Oscar Lapierre; his in-laws Emerson and Lucille Church; sister in-laws Judy Church and Delaine Krantz.

Special thanks to Haford Home Care and his doctors and nurses at the Prince Albert Victoria Hospital.

A Celebration of Gilbert's life will be held on Saturday, March 19, 2022, at 1:30 at St. Joseph Parish in Marcelin, SK. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Marcelin Cemetery.

Family and friends wishing to send online condolences may visit www.beaulacfuneralhome.com. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home & Crematorium, Tammy Smart, Funeral Director, Shellbrook SK. 306-747-2828.

GOOD NEWS



BODVARSON BEANS

I never planned it that way.

In 1977 I graduated Grade 12 from Diamond Jenness High School in Hay River N.W.T. If you looked at my yearbook you would see the question of what I planned to do with my life was answered "undecided."

I get it that some people know exactly what they want to do with their life. Well, that wasn't me. In the summer of 1977, I landed a good job with Northern Construction in Canada's high Arctic on a barge. I was a deckhand on this barge equipped with a crane. The huge crane was literally removing sandbags around artificial islands that had been built to explore for natural gas. The islands would disappear in the ocean.

During the summer in 1977 on a barge in the High Arctic at the age of 18, I rededicated my life to Christ. In the fall of 1977 I was accepted in Red Deer College and I was off to study in hopes to become a lawyer. I thought I had direction for my life.

I got through the first year at college and in the summer headed back to the high Arctic. This time I got a position as a seaman on the Coast Guard Ship called the Nahidik. I understand Nahidik means "passage finder".

In the fall, I headed back to Red Deer College but I found myself restless. I left the college and Red Deer and headed for Calgary. I am thinking it was about 1979. Calgary was booming. I remember going to a job site and getting hired on by just showing up. I started working as a cribber's helper building basements. I advanced to eventually become a cribber.

I worked in Calgary in Ranchlands when the community was just being built. We built some 50 basements or so that winter. In the summer I went back to the High Arctic and worked another year on the Nahidik.

In the fall I decided I would head back to Calgary and enter the University of Calgary. I transferred my credits from Red Deer and now hoped to complete a degree in Social Work. In the meantime, I met Marlene at Christian Centre in Calgary on a Sunday evening service. That wasn't my home church, and it was the Holy Spirit's prompting that led me to that service.

So glad I was obedient. I don't always understand the Holy Spirit's leading, but I know there enough Scriptures that tell us He does lead us. Marlene and I were married in 1981. We just celebrated this year some 41 years of marriage.

I got restless studying Social Work and decided that just wasn't what I wanted to do with my life.

I had quite an intervention in an evening service in Calgary at First Assembly on Elbow Drive. Some years before, after I had left Red Deer, I went home to Hay River to catch my breath. At home I was asked what I would do with my life. It just came out. I said I would be a pastor.

My mom was quick to say, "David that is a calling." I tucked that in my heart. At that evening service in Calgary my calling was confirmed. In that particular service the associate pastor laid aside his message. He then proceeded to call people to the mic as he was led. I was one of them. As I got to the mic the pastor asked me what I was most thankful for. I immediately responded that I was most thankful for a mother who prayed for me when I wasn't walking as close to Jesus as I should have.

I sat down beside a gentleman I never met. He grabbed my hand and said God had showed him something about my future. I did call my pastor and explain what happened and was reassured that the gentleman had a proven ministry.

Marlene and went to this gentleman's

house. I can remember it like it was yesterday. He said to me God had given me an office of authority according to Ephesians 4:11. It says "And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers"

Before we left for Saskatchewan in 1981, we met with our pastor and he said to my wife Marlene that she shares my calling. I entered Central Pentecostal College in 1981, transferred some university credits, and graduated in 1984 with a B.T.H. I along with another student were the first to graduate the college with this degree.

Interestingly, in all my time in Bible College I never experienced the restlessness I had experienced before. The Holy Spirit led us into what He wanted us to do. But after 38 years of ministry, I can still say I never planned it that way.

Love those verses in Isaiah 55:8-9: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Blessings,
Pastor David Bodvarson
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Soils in Winter – Part III

By Patricia Hanbidge

For the past couple of weeks, we have been focusing on soils and that amazing entity we call the Soil Food Web. Our world as we know it is very complex with some of the most important organisms being so tiny we cannot even see them. However, these tiny critters are essential to life as we know it and we would most likely not be able to live our lives very easily without the healthy soils that we work so hard to maintain. Let's look at some of the larger but also very important critters making up the soil food web and a few ways to ensure your soils are kept healthy.

Worms in the soil food web use very interesting techniques to survive winter. Before the soil freezes, common earthworms will burrow deeper into the subsoil below the frost line. They can often be found down as deep as six feet. They form a slime-coated ball and hibernate in a state that is called estivation. As they are encased in mucous, they can survive for long periods without moisture until the spring temperatures wake them from their slumber. Other earthworms lay eggs in cocoons that hatch when spring arrives while others manufacture an antifreeze-like compound in their internal fluids that allows them to supercool their body temperature to 15°C.

Ensuring your garden areas are heavily mulched is the best way that we can help keep our soils healthy. Deep mulch on the soil surface helps to reduce temperature fluctuations in the soil over the winter months and due to their insulative capacity decreases the amount of freezing in the soil. If you are fortunate to live in an area that has less severe temperatures and does not have the deep freeze and snow for many

months, it is important to avoid watering the mulched areas as this reduces the insulative capacity. Covering the soil prior to winter reduces the exposure of the soil and stops it from being relocated in heavy winds. Gardeners who use a surface organic mulch, create a higher percentage of organic matter in the soil – without any extra effort. Those amazing little critters making the soil food web, help to decompose the organic mulch making nutrients more available to your plants and of course improving the tilth of the soil itself.

Composting is always a good idea as it provides organic matter high in nutrients to the soil for further decomposition. Remember that successful composting requires organic matter, moisture, oxygen and bacteria to allow the rotting to occur. The organic matter is made of a mixture of brown materials like fall leaves that supply carbon and green materials like grass clippings or salad waste that provide nitrogen. The best ratio is 1-part green to 1-part brown material. Shredding, chopping or mowing these materials into smaller pieces will help speed the composting process by increasing the surface area of what is being composted. In winter, it is always an option to move the composting indoors with vermicomposting!

In severe climates, the compost

pile will not continue to “work” as the temperatures become too cold and the compost pile is rarely large enough to allow for enough heat to be generated. However, my compost pile on the cattle farm was definitely large enough to keep it working well into January. The cattle would congregate on the compost pile on cold days to enjoy the heat that was emanating from the work being done within! In warmer areas, continue to add moisture to your compost pile to allow the work to continue as long as possible.

Leaves are your friend in any garden area. They mat up and fall rains and early snows help to stick them together and keep them on the soil surface. Smaller particles will always rot faster and adding chopped leaves to the compost is a great idea. Decomposed leaves feed the soil and provide beneficial environments for some of our other critters who are looking for a warmer place to spend the winter.

Make this year the growing season where you always remember about the soil food web and provide all the ingredients for a healthy soil!

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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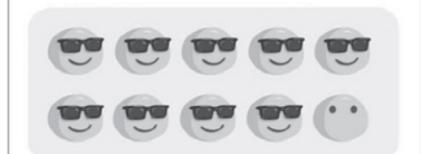
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World curling champions crowned in Canwood

Submitted by Grant Person

Eleven teams gathered at the Canwood Memorial Arena on Friday, March 4 and Saturday, March 5 for the chance to become the Natural Arena Ice World Curling Champions. Players from Canwood, Debden, Shellbrook, North Battleford, Allan and Saskatoon came together for the event. It was great to see so many people in the rink visiting and enjoying the curling.

The bleachers were full in anticipation of the final game to determine the Champions. The aromas of the rink burgers, onions and french fries lingered in the waiting room of the arena. The ice was prepared. Everything was ready. The two undefeated rinks were ready to battle for the championship.

Team Benson from Canwood and Team Cyr from Debden were the last two teams standing.

The game was a tight game all the way, with each team taking the lead at one point in the game. The score was tied at 4-4 coming home in the sixth end. Benson had the hammer as Cyr scored 1 in the fifth end to knot the score. There were many rocks in play. With his final stone, Guy Cyr was able to raise in a second shot stone to leave a difficult play for Benson with his final rock.

After a long deliberation to determine the shot being played, the long-time curling partners of Lorne Benson and Terry Hamborg decided on attempting to negotiate a small port to win the championship. The final rock over curled by an

inch and racked on one of the guards, which gave the title to Team Cyr.

There were three other event winners on the weekend. The Second Event saw Team Grimard defeat Team Oleynick. The Third Event winner was Team K. Person, who outscored Team Kvinlaug. The Fourth Event went to Team G. Person, with a win over Team Altstadt.

The other teams participating in the event were Team Vaughn, Team Nordby and Team Moar.

The event wouldn't have been a success without all the teams that entered, the spectators who watched, and also those who volunteered their time to help run the bonspiel, canteen, and bar.

Hopefully everyone will be back again next season.



World champions, left to right: Normand Poirier, Neil Cyr, Eugene Lalonde, and Guy Cyr.



Championship runners up, left to right: Lorraine Benson, Eileen Hamborg, Terry Hamborg, and Lorne Benson.



Second Event winners, left to right: Adam Moritz, Marie Anne Grimard, Dylan Grimard, and Gerald Grimard.



Third Event winners, left to right: Michele Person, Tyson Bloom, Brian Person, and Ken Person.



Fourth Event Winners, left to right: Tom Wilson, Mike Wegawitz, Shari Edwards, and Grant Person.

Sask. forestry sector sets new sales record

Saskatchewan's forestry sector reached an all-time high of \$1.8 billion in forestry product sales in 2021, an increase of 60 per cent from 2020.

"These record numbers are more great news for Saskatchewan's economy and show we're fully on track to achieve our goals of doubling forestry sector growth by 2030 and substantially increasing the value of our exports," Energy and Resources Minister Bronwyn Eyre said. "Forestry is currently the largest sector in our province's north, supports nearly 8,000 jobs and relies heavily on Indigenous workers and businesses."

In September 2021, the Government of Saskatchewan announced timber allocations to support four major forestry projects, totalling nearly \$1 billion in capital investments and is expected to create over 2,600 forestry jobs. These projects include construction of an oriented strand board (OSB) mill in Prince Albert, expansion of the Carrot River sawmill, upgrades to facilitate increased lumber production at the Big River sawmill, and the reopening of the Prince Albert pulp mill.

Saskatchewan has seven large pri-

mary forest product facilities producing lumber, OSB and pulp. Additionally, approximately 210 businesses produce a variety of primary and secondary forest products, and over 230 supply chain businesses provide goods and services that support primary forest product manufacturers.

Saskatchewan is also home to the largest 100 per cent First Nations owned forest product mill in Canada (NorSask Forest Products in Meadow Lake). Indigenous people comprise over 27 per cent of Saskatchewan's total forestry sector workforce, the highest percentage of any province. Further, 30 per cent of the provincial timber supply is allocated to Indigenous businesses, also the highest percentage of any province.

Sales in 2021 were led by increasing market prices for lumber and OSB, with continued growth of Asian economies and an increase in housing starts in the U.S. More than 75 per cent of Saskatchewan's primary forest products are exported to other countries, including 67 per cent of lumber and OSB to the U.S. and 100 per cent of pulp to Asia.

Sask. launches public engagement on virtual care

The Government of Saskatchewan is seeking feedback from patients and health care providers on their experiences with virtual care.

Saskatchewan quickly adopted new methods to safely connect patients to their doctor or another health care provider during the pandemic.

"Saskatchewan patients have now had millions of virtual medical appointments to directly connect with their health care providers during the pandemic," Health Minister Paul Merriman said. "Virtual care can be as simple as a telephone call, text or email but can also be a video visit with a member of your health care team.

"We want to hear what both patients and health

care workers have to say about their experience. And if you haven't used virtual care, we'd like to hear about that too. I encourage everyone to participate as we work to shape the future of virtual care."

The information gathered will be used to develop a long-term provincial strategy around virtual care. The province is also seeking input from health system partners and other affected organizations on their experience using

virtual care over the last two years.

Please visit virtualcare.saskatchewan.ca to participate. There are several ways to provide input, such as voting in polls, completing a survey, and sharing a story or idea. Participation opportunities will be open until April 30, 2022.

Those requiring an alternate method of participation are asked to contact 306-787-6750 or email virtualcare@health.gov.sk.ca.

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