

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald

VOL. 110 NO. 13 PMR #40007604

Thursday, March 31, 2022

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Shantaia eyes Top of the Country finals

Since her parents enrolled her in singing lessons when she was just three years old, the planets have seemed to align for Spiritwood's Shantaia Poulin to become a star.

Under the tutelage of her older cousin, Riley Siebert, she began learning to play guitar at age six. Then, by the time she was nine, she was already penning her own songs. Moving on to enter competitions in Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Manitoba, Shantaia got her first taste of the recording studio at 13 when she won CKRM's Big Country Talent Show competition.

She followed this up by winning Rawlco Radio's 10K20 Project, securing a prize of \$10,000 to record a full-length album with eight tracks.

"That was the first time I got to step into the studio and see what that whole process was like," Shantaia said. "I absolutely loved it. That was probably the moment that made me want to become an artist and pursue this as a career."

Having grown up in a small town like Spiritwood, Shantaia comes by her musical influences honestly. Her family wasn't necessarily musical, but the classic country music of Waylon Jennings, Willie Nelson, Dolly Parton, and Loretta Lynn was always playing at home or blasting from the farm truck. These deeply ingrained country roots were sprinkled with rock influences from her cousin Riley, who taught her to play Creedence Clearwater Revival and Aerosmith.

"My brothers were always listening to rock and punk music, then I started listening to pop music," Shantaia said. "It was all these different genres influencing the way I was going to write music."

Though she grew up with a small-town mentality, Shantaia says there was always a part of her that wanted a little bit more. She pursued this something more by moving to Saskatoon at 16, finishing out her high school career at Walter Murray Collegiate, where she played sports and joined choir, and getting more involved with the Saskatchewan Country Music Association.

Through this, and by playing any venue, show, and festival she could, Shantaia says opportunities and new doors continued to open for her. All the while, her love of creating music, and having people relate to or connect to her creations, has only fueled her passion.



Spiritwood's Shantaia Poulin is a semi-finalist in SiriusXM and the Canadian Country Music Association's (CCMA) Top of the Country competition.

"As a writer, especially, being able to put out my feelings and this creative process of starting the day with nothing and coming out every day with having created something... that's the fuel to my fire, being able to create something every day, and see it grow," she said, noting that she draws a lot of inspiration from her relationships and own day-to-day experiences.

"What I find cool about writing is you can be whoever you want to be. It's almost like acting in a movie. You can take on roles and write from different perspectives," she added.

Having already devoted a decade of her life to the pursuit of her musical dreams (she's still only 24 years old), Shantaia made the move to Toronto, where she worked with a team to release new music in April 2020. Then,

after deciding Toronto was a little too big for her, she took the leap across the border and moved to Nashville in October 2020.

"I love it in Nashville. It's such an inspiring city and it inspires me every day," she said.

While putting in the work and pursuing every opportunity that comes her way, Shantaia has spent the past few years seeking her next big break through SiriusXM and the Canadian Country Music Association's (CCMA) Top of the Country competition.

This year, with her latest single "Broke to Brand New" charting on the Top 40 and the planets aligning in her favour once more, her online submission has brought her all the way to the semi-finals of the competition.

In April, she and the seven other

artists will be flown out to Toronto to record a song and a music video in studio. Those videos will be posted online for people to vote on, and the top three artists will move on to the finals.

The three finalists will be given a SO-CAN writing camp with industry mentorship, a shot at the \$25,000 Top of the Country competition grand prize, and an opportunity to perform a few songs during the CCMA's 2022 Country Music Week in Calgary, where the winner will be announced.

"This opportunity provides an invaluable experience," Shantaia said.

"It means being seen by your peers and your industry leaders, and people who are noticing the hard work and the talent. It's really pretty incredible."

Country Music Week is slated to run from Sept. 8 to 11.



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Sask. budget lowers deficit, expands PST

In its first budget after emerging on the other side of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of Saskatchewan is claiming the province is back on track with projections the deficit will shrink to \$463 million from 2021's deficit of \$2.6 billion.

Signalling its optimism about the state of the province, the Sask. Party government is forecasting continued improvements in the economy and a return to balance over the next three years. Through those next three years, the path to balance predicts successively smaller deficits of \$384 million in 2023-24, \$321 million in 2024-25 and \$165 million in 2025-26.

A balanced budget is expected in 2026-27.

The Sask. Party government's deficit projection for 2022-2023 is based on anticipated revenues of \$17.2 billion (up from \$14.5 billion last year). This is owed in large part to a near-doubling of non-renewable resource revenues, up to \$2.9 billion from \$1.6 billion, as prices for oil and potash soar in response to increased global demand (though, the government says its budget forecast is based on conservative prices for oil and gas and potash).

Expenses, meanwhile, see only a modest increase this year, climbing to \$17.6 billion from \$17.1 billion.

"Saskatchewan is back on track," Finance Minis-

ter Donna Harpauer said. "We are seeing strong economic growth and job creation as we come out of the pandemic and as a result, the province's financial outlook has improved significantly.

"Our finances will steadily improve and we are on track to balance as a result of careful management of spending and prudent revenue forecasts. This budget makes significant investments that will get important government services back on track as we come out of the pandemic."

As always, Healthcare takes the lion's share of the budget with expenditures totalling \$6.8 billion (up from \$6.54 billion last year). Among the expenses the Sask. Party government is highlighting is a \$21.6 million investment to address the province's surgical wait-list, and lower wait times to pre-pandemic levels over the next three years.

In an unusual move, the government has even explained how it plans to secure the funds for the initiative. Effective October of this year, the province will begin collecting PST on tickets for big sporting events, concerts and professional theatre performances, gym memberships, golf and curling memberships, and hunting and fishing guide fees and outfitter services.

The expansion of the PST, which the government says won't apply to small-town events, is

expected to deliver \$10.5 million to the province's coffers in 2022-2023, and \$21 million in subsequent years.

"If I said to a Saskatchewan resident... would you be willing to pay this for the two concerts and the Rider ticket in order for us to address the very critical surgical wait-list," Harpauer said "because we all know someone, if we're not that someone... that their quality of life isn't what it should be because they need a knee or hip replacement – I think Saskatchewan people would support that."

The healthcare budget also includes \$470 million in spending on mental health and addictions programs and services, \$17 million for a slew of initiatives to help seniors live more safely and comfortably, and \$12.5 million for 11 new ICU beds as part of a three-year initiative to expand capacity by 31 beds (up to 110 beds by 2024-25).

Other key investments include \$3.5 million for physician recruitment and retention initiatives, targeted particularly at rural areas, and the establishment of an independent agency dedicated to recruiting and retaining healthcare workers across the board. Prince Albert's Victoria Hospital, meanwhile, will see a funding boost of \$2.2 million for specialized care in its neonatal ICU.

"This budget includes key investments in healthcare" Harpauer said. "A record \$6.8 billion includes funding for thousands of additional surgeries to bring down wait times. It includes increases to hire and retain physicians, to hire and train more nurses, and to

hire more paramedics to provide the best possible healthcare services for Saskatchewan people."

Where education is concerned, the province is expecting expenditures of \$3.8 billion, up just 1.3 per cent from the \$3.75 billion budget in 2021-2022.

In the classroom, the province will spend \$7 million to hire up to 200 additional full-time education assistants for the 2022-2023 school year, to "support students and manage increasingly diverse classrooms."

The education funding includes \$309.6 million for childcare and early learning, \$4.3 million to create 6,100 new childcare spaces, as part of the province's goal to create 28,000 new licensed spaces over the next five years, and a promise to further reduce childcare fees as early as September.

"Starting in February 2022, parent child care fees were reduced up to 50 per cent on average in licensed care. This year's funding will support further reducing parent fees as early as September 2022, making life more affordable for Saskatchewan families," Harpauer said.

The social services and assistance budget also sees a modest increase this year, climbing to \$1.6 billion from \$1.56 billion. Factored into this funding is \$11.4 million to increase Saskatchewan Income Support basic benefits by \$30 per month and shelter benefits by up to \$25 per month.

The government is also spending \$20 million to launch a new education and training incentive, offering monthly bene-

fits of up to \$200 to those who complete programs on their path to employment, \$11.5 million for the Saskatchewan Housing Benefit to help low-income earners afford housing, and \$3 million to fulfill the second year of a three-year boost to the Senior's Income Plan, increasing payments by \$30 per month.

In other departmental highlights, the budget for protection of persons and properties will see a 10.8 per cent boost, climbing to \$936.2 million. This includes \$6.4 million to establish the Saskatchewan Trafficking Response Team, \$4.5 million to support the Gang Violence Reduction Strategy, \$3.2 million to expand Crime Reduction Teams, and \$220,000 for the Internet Child Exploitation Unit.

The province also plans to go big on capital expenditures, with a budget of \$3.2 billion. This includes \$13.5 million for the expansion of Victoria Hospital, and \$846 million to operate, maintain, build, and improve more than 1,100 kilometres of roads and highways, including the planned twinning of Highway 3 west of Prince Albert.

The capital budget also includes \$291.8 million in government services infrastructure, with \$74.5 million for dams, water supply channels and irrigation projects, \$268.6 million for municipal infrastructure, and \$168.6 million for education infrastructure.

SaskPower, meanwhile,

will spend \$1.1 billion to improve the province's electricity system, SaskEnergy has earmarked \$272.8 million to improve the province's natural gas distribution system, and SaskTel is investing \$377 million on network improvements.

"Saskatchewan is back on track and our future is bright," Harpauer said. "The investments made in this budget will ensure our economy remains strong, important government services continue to improve, and our best days are still ahead in Saskatchewan."

Surprising no one, the Sask. Party's budget was met with near-universal disappointment from the Sask. NDP, which accused the government of "losing track of the realities facing Saskatchewan people."

"The Sask. Party is cranking up costs, nickel-and-diming folks at a time they desperately need relief. We need to be supporting our hospitality and tourism sector and encouraging people to come together as communities. Instead, we see new tax measures that make events less accessible for Saskatchewan families," said NDP Finance Critic Trent Wotherspoon.

"This is a budget soaring with resource revenues that don't trickle down to people crushed by cost-of-living increases. We need investments that secure our future. This budget fails to deliver the relief Saskatchewan people need."

Diamond North Credit Union's

2022 Virtual Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 7:30 pm

The Annual General Meeting is open to our membership and all members are encouraged to join.

Our Board and CEO will share the Annual Report and highlight our ongoing commitment to our members and communities.

The AGM provides our members an opportunity to engage with the Board and Executive Management.

Online through Zoom Meeting

Interested attendees must register before 5:00 pm April 8th at diamondnorthcu.com/AGM

2021 Consolidated Financial Statements and Annual Report will available after April 1st at diamondnorthcu.com/reports

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Novus Law Group

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

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

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

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

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

SHELLBROOK SENIOR CENTRE Potluck Noon Lunch Wednesday, April 13

General Meeting to follow



Everyone welcome!

Bring your favourite dish and join us!

VILLAGE OF LEASK NOTICE OF ASSESSMENT ROLL

Notice is hereby given that the assessment roll for the Village of Leask for the year 2022 has been prepared and is open to inspection in the office of the Assessor from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday to Thursday from March 28, 2022 until May 2, 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/her assessment is required to file his/her notice of appeal with:

The Assessor, Village of Leask, Box 40, Leask, SK S0J 1M0, by 5:00 p.m. on May 2, 2022.

Dated at Leask, Saskatchewan this 28th day of March, 2022.

Yvette Hamel,
Assessor

Shellbrook students take stand against racism

With March 21 marking the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, students and staff from Shellbrook Elementary School and WP Sandin Public High School took part in an awareness walk on March 22 to #MarchOutRacism.

Led by an RCMP escort, and carrying a banner featuring the #MarchOutRacism slogan, students and staff marched up and down Shellbrook's Main Street. The march certainly drew the attention of folks parked in their vehicles as well as the patrons and staff of local businesses, making many of them pause to watch the procession go by.

While the march brought awareness to the general public, it was only one part of the schools' multi-pronged approach to observing the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Over at WP Sandin, Principal Karisa Klaassen says classes engaged in activities to "foster awareness, knowledge and appreciation of the cultural realities, life experiences and histories of individuals and groups different from our own racial and ethnic background."

Rather than focusing on a single day to combat a persistent and complex issue like racism, Klaassen says the high school encourages students to listen to the stories of others and to reflect on how racism shapes the world around them.

"Our hope is that by educating our students about racism throughout history and how to recognize it in our present day, that they feel empowered to speak up against it and reject it," she said.

"We encourage our students to be allies in support of others and we see our students being leaders for positive change both in and out of school."

Observed all around the world, the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination strives to focus attention on the problems of racism and the need to promote racial harmony. The day was designated by the United Nations in 1966, to commemorate the March 21, 1960 killing of 69 peaceful demonstrators who were protesting Apartheid in Sharpeville, South Africa.

Canada was among the first countries to support the UN initiative, launching its first annual cam-



Students and staff from Shellbrook Elementary School and WP Sandin Public High School united last week for a march to raise awareness for the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

campaign against racial discrimination in 1989.

In Saskatchewan, initiatives for the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination are largely spearheaded by the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan (MCoS), which works with communities and schools across the province to make the fight against racism a year-long battle.

Each year, the MCoS provides educational resources and activities to encourage all Saskatchewan residents to recognize racism and reject it.



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Liberal-NDP alliance is democracy at work

A socialist coalition power pact.

A subversion of Canadian democracy and the end of Canada as we know it.

An unholy alliance.

This is just a small selection of the hyperbole being tossed around in response to the supply and confidence agreement signed by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberal government and Jagmeet Singh's NDP last Tuesday.

The agreement, which will effectively keep Mr. Trudeau in office until at least 2025, came seemingly out of nowhere, the first hints of it only emerging as whispers and media speculation the day before it was formally announced. So, perhaps this is why it evoked such a deep, visceral response from those who either oppose or fear what it represents.

However, if we're to meaningfully discuss the merits and flaws of the agreement reached by the Liberals and the NDP, we're best to begin with some facts.

First, although the word coalition is being bandied about like it's something vulgar, this agreement is not a coalition. Under a true coalition, members of both the Liberal Party and the NDP would form cabinet.

By comparison, a supply and confidence agreement is a less formal pact that will see both parties work on areas of common interest, while making some concessions on others – you know, almost like the Liberals and the NDP have been doing since Mr. Trudeau was reduced to a minority government in 2019.

These are semantics, of course, but it's still important to get these small things right.

As for what the Liberals and the NDP are agreeing to work together on, none of it should come as any surprise to anyone who's paid attention to politics these past six years.

Among the priorities are universal dental care and pharmacare for low-income Canadians, increased funding for the COVID-battered healthcare system, initiatives to make housing more



JORDAN TWISS

News Editor

affordable, and investments to grow Canada's green economy.

Next, let us address the claim that this agreement is an affront to democracy. Those who make this argument suggest this agreement isn't what Canadians voted for, and they're both right and wrong in this assertion.

They're right because voters don't have the option to vote for a coalition government.

They're wrong because, intentionally or not, Canadians

did vote for this by giving Mr. Trudeau a minority mandate and forcing him to work with other parties to keep government functioning.

What's more, supply and confidence agreements are nothing new in democratic countries. The United Kingdom, New Zealand, and Japan have all relied on such arrangements at certain points in their histories.

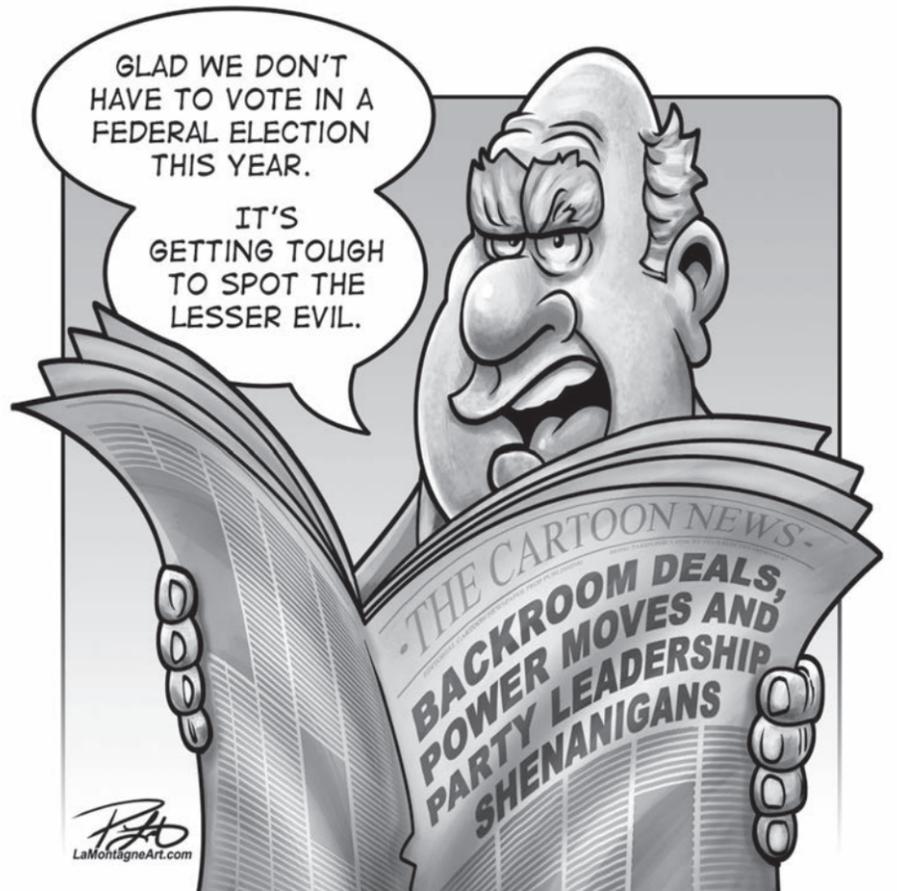
In fact this isn't even the first supply and confidence agreement within Canadian borders. Governments in B.C., New Brunswick, Ontario, and the Yukon have all relied on such agreements at one time or another.

In the case of the Liberal-NDP alliance, the alternative to the agreement would be to subject every significant motion or piece of legislation brought forward by Mr. Trudeau's government to a vote of confidence.

This, however, would open the door to another federal election. And neither the NDP, nor the currently leaderless Conservatives, nor Canadian taxpayers, can afford an election right now.

Far from being a subversion of Canadian democracy, the Liberal-NDP agreement is a good example of putting aside partisan differences and petty, schoolyard bickering to prioritize what Canadians want and need. This is something all MPs should enter office to do, if they're seeking office for the right reasons.

Now, will the Liberal-NDP alliance actually deliver for Canadians? And will Canadians like what they get? That remains to be seen. But in politics, it's never safe to hold your breath.



NDP: Sask. Party Budget fails the province's most vulnerable

Official Opposition Leader Ryan Meili and Finance Critic Trent Wotherspoon reacted to the Sask. Party's 2022-23 Budget that deepens the affordability crisis and has lost touch with the needs of Saskatchewan families. With no new relief measures, 32 new taxes and fees and no support for seniors or students who need support post-pandemic, this budget reveals a government that has lost track of what's most important to Saskatchewan people.

"At a time when Saskatchewan families need a lifeline, the Sask. Party has thrown them an anchor. Hard-working people are struggling with increased costs at the grocery store, at the pump and in their

housing but this government isn't listening. Not only does this budget not offer any relief for families just trying to make ends meet, it increases taxes and fees when people are already struggling to make ends meet," said Meili. "These are very serious times, with increased uncertainty caused by world events. Saskatchewan people deserve solutions to serious problems. Budget 2022 fails to offer any vision to grow our province."

Saskatchewan has the slowest population growth in the country. Saskatchewan-based companies are looking to invest capital elsewhere, while the province will once again have the dubious distinction of having the lowest mini-

mum wage in Canada as of April 1. Despite Saskatchewan residents indicating they were most concerned about the cost of living increases, and Saskatchewan leading the nation in mortgage delinquencies, this provincial budget offers no relief to Saskatchewan families.

"The Sask. Party is cranking up costs, nickel-and-diming folks at a time they desperately need relief. We need to be supporting our hospitality and tourism sector and encouraging people to come together as communities. Instead, we see new tax measures that make events less accessible for Saskatchewan families," said Wotherspoon.

Continued on page 5

Shellbrook Chronicle

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A Division of Pepperfram Limited Publications
Mail Registration #07621

Published Every Thursday Morning

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Friday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. & 1 to 4 p.m.;

Advertising Deadline: Fridays at 4:00 p.m.

websites: www.shellbrookchronicle.com

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Member of



Report from the Legislature

Saskatchewan is back on track.

A vastly improved financial picture has allowed our government to present a budget for 2022-23 that will touch all corners of the province. This budget will support Saskatchewan people, foster a strong and growing economy, and build a strong Saskatchewan for future generations.

This budget strengthens and protects Saskatchewan with key investments into priorities such as health care, social services and assistance, education and protection of persons and property. A record \$3.2 billion in capital investments will focus on needed infrastructure like hospitals, schools, highways, municipal and Crown projects.

Our government will use this budget to improve health care services across the province, such as our efforts to tackle the surgical waitlist caused by the pandemic. We have committed \$21.6 million to reduce wait times by performing an addition-



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al 7,000 surgeries this year, compared to last year and increasing each subsequent year. We will also work on capacity by creating a new independent recruitment agency to bring more health care professionals to Saskatchewan. Here at home, another 150 nursing seats are being funded in our post-secondary institutions to train more Saskatchewan graduates.

Recognizing the importance of education, our 27 school divisions will receive nearly \$2.0 billion in operating funding for the 2022-23 school year. The increase fully funds the 2 per cent

salary increase as part of the Teachers' Collective Bargaining Agreement along with hiring an additional 200 full-time educational assistants. Our government has also provided an additional \$1.8 million to help cover unexpected staffing costs from the 2021-22 school year.

A changing entertainment industry will bring Saskatchewan's film and television industry back into the spotlight. The 2022-23 Budget includes an \$8 million increase for the Creative Saskatchewan Production Grant Program. More streaming content has resulted in more opportunities for Saskatchewan businesses. Only Saskatchewan labour, goods, and services are eligible for support, ensuring the funds stay in the province.

Municipalities will see more support in this budget with \$262 million through Municipal Revenue Sharing. The unconditional funding helps lay the foundation for stronger communities and a stronger Saskatchewan. Since 2007, more

than \$3.7 billion has supported municipalities and the needs that matter most to them.

Making life more affordable for Saskatchewan families, our province continues to have some of the lowest personal taxes in the country. A Saskatchewan family of four pays no provincial income tax on their first \$53,435 of combined income, more than twice the limit compared to 2007. A family of four with \$100,000 in total income pays \$2,084 less this year compared to 2007.

Affordable, accessible, high-quality child care is a key priority through the Federal-Provincial Early Years agreements. We are creating 28,000 new spaces by the end of March 2026 with an end goal of bringing down the average fee for regulated child care to \$10-a-day.

A favourable invest-



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ment climate and positive outlook for Saskatchewan have resulted in \$13.6 billion in new private investment for major projects. The work by investors and corporations will create 9,000 construction jobs and more than 2,300 permanent positions. Saskatchewan has the second highest rate of job growth in Canada and just last year, saw 30,000 new jobs province wide.

Overall, revenue is

forecast to reach \$17.2 billion, with expenses totalling \$17.6 billion. A \$2.1 billion improvement over last year, the deficit for 2022-23 is projected to be \$463 million. We plan to keep this trend going with smaller deficits in each of the next three years, reaching a balanced budget for the 2026-27 budget cycle.

These are just a few of the exciting announcements to come from this year's budget. More details regarding individual programs and services will be unveiled in the coming weeks and months.

Our provincial economy is back on track. Provincial finances are back on track. And that allows government services to get back on track. The 2022-23 Budget protects and strengthens our province, ensuring investments made today are sustainable into the future.

NDP: Sask. Party Budget fails the province's most vulnerable

Continued from 4

"This is a budget soaring with resource revenues that don't trickle down to people crushed by cost of living increases. We need investments that secure our future. This budget fails to deliver the relief Saskatchewan people need."

The Sask. Party's Budget 2022 is failing families by:

- Offering no economic relief to families struggling to make ends meet;
- Failing to invest in education, after three disruptive school years for students and while educators are leaving the profession;
- Hiking the PST on items such as Riders games, rodeos, movie theatres, craft shows, curling fees and gym memberships;
- Increasing property taxes;
- Leaving Saskatchewan with the lowest minimum wage in Canada;
- Failing to prepare Saskatchewan for changing labour force needs and diversify our economic development;
- Slashing workforce development by 41% at a time when we need to be

training to extend opportunities.

Meili also pointed out that Budget 2022 leaves people behind, offering little to those that need it the most.

"The last two years have been devastating for seniors in long-term care, but we see little to no support for seniors struggling on fixed incomes. Nothing for second stage housing for those fleeing violence, despite nation-leading rates of domestic violence. In the face of an opioid epidemic, we again see no assistance in community-led harm reduction initiatives."

"After a disruptive three school years, our students deserve to see a commitment to get them back on track, yet instead we see a budget that doesn't cover the basic cost of inflation, forcing schools to further cut classrooms and services. This budget proves that the Sask. Party government has lost track of the realities facing Saskatchewan people."

**Advertising Deadline
is Friday 4:00 p.m.**

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the members of Innovation Credit Union will be held on Thursday, April 28, 2022.

Virtual meeting time is set for 7:00 p.m. CST.

Information on how to join this virtual meeting will be available by April 15, 2022 by visiting our website at www.innovationcu.ca.

Meeting agenda items include:

- Report on 2021 operations and presentation of financial statements (copies of financial statements will be available for examination on our website at www.innovationcu.ca or at any advice centre of Innovation Credit Union after April 15, 2022)
- Announcement of elected directors
- Appointment of Auditor
- Other Business



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Local butcher starting new business in Spiritwood

A new butcher shop is coming along and will be opening its doors in Spiritwood this spring.

Northern Meats is owned and operated by Bryce and Erica Olson, who hope their business will bring in more traffic from the broader Spiritwood area. It is situated on 101 2nd Street West and is expected to open in mid-April or early May if they pass thorough inspections and if all equipment will be in place.

Bryce has been a butcher for four years, working for some local stores to cut meat, while Erica works for a business in the Saskatoon area. Bryce and Erica have two children together, and while their family life keeps them plenty busy, they decided to set out on this new venture.

Bryce and Erica said they are very excited to offer this service within the community.

"I've always wanted to work for myself and a couple years ago, I got a once in a lifetime oppor-

tunity and we took the risk. Erica supports my ideas 100 per cent." Bryce said.

Apart from his wife, he also said that they obtained some of the funding to start Northern Meats with the support of their family. Bryce says it would be near impossible to start a new business in Canada without this support.

Since it will be a larger meat shop, Bryce anticipates he'll need at least three or four employees to help him out with all the responsibilities. He will focus more on the butchering side, while his wife will handle most of the office work and inventory. Aside from the regular meat services, they also plan on offering smoked meats and a mini deli.

With the pandemic going on, the owners believe their business will still be a huge hit, as many people are looking for fresh meats and specific meat cuts as well.

Bryce and Erica are also going to offer custom



Bryce Olson is the owner of Northern Meats alongside his wife Erica. The couple expect their Spiritwood butcher shop to open this spring.



cutting of domestic animals as well, and plan on launching a mobile butchering service after they're up and running. Additionally, they also plan to handle wild game, and expect to provide the service for hunters this fall.

Bryce said both he and Erica are thrilled to be part of this thriving community and offer this service in town.

Canwood Regional Park raises \$20,000 in online auction

Submitted by Donna Lovberg

Like so many small-town communities, we are trying to keep our Regional Park organizations and halls operating through this pandemic. We decided that because we had to cancel our Annual Supper and Auction Fundraiser for the Canwood Regional Park the last two years, we would have a second online auction this March and we were more than impressed by the outpouring of support from businesses and individuals who were willing to donate items to another auction.

The funds raised support our Park and other causes in Canwood and area. The bidding on the Canwood Regional Park Facebook page started on Monday, March 14 and closed at 5 p.m. on March 20. The bidding began slow and steady, but on the weekend, it picked up considerably.

It was amazing that bids were placed from all over Saskatchewan and beyond, from places like Lloydminster, North Battleford, Saskatoon, Medicine Hat, Alberta, and Prince Albert areas. Many of these bids also

came from former Canwood residents as well as our neighbors from Shellbrook, Debden, and Big River areas. They all joined together for fun and expectations of purchasing some of the various items.

Some of the items sold for way over the retail price which made the folks that donated them feel good. It was so much fun to watch one "friend" out bid another. At the end of the bidding on Sunday evening, we had realized a total of approximately \$20,000.

We can't say enough about the response we received from the people who donated, or about those who bid on the items. We truly appreciate all the support given to this endeavour.

Come on out to the Canwood Regional Park to golf, camp or just to visit and enjoy the beauties of the outdoors. Plans for a Water Spray Park are in the process, so by 2023 it should be a reality.

As one person commented at the end of the evening, "So good to see all of the support given to this Online Auction."



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Saskatchewan



Roughriders jersey donated by Evan and Dallis Johnson.



Ball dropper donated by Tony.



Rider planter donated by Vince White.



Planter donated by Grant Person.



Blender donated by Lorna and Bradley of BensSun Acres.

AGRICULTURE

March 31, 2022

www.shellbrookchronicle.com | www.spiritwoodherald.com

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald 7

Ukraine conflict casts shadow over agriculture

The war in Ukraine is certainly causing volatility in our world at present, and that of course reflects on agriculture too.

A Canadian Press story at SASKTODAY.ca illustrates the situation from a Ukraine perspective citing Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. Zelensky accused the West of cowardice Sunday as his country fights to stave off Russia's invading troops, and made an exasperated plea for fighter jets and tanks to sustain a defense as the war grinds into a battle of attrition.

"I've talked to the de-



CALVIN DANIELS

fenders of Mariupol today. I'm in constant contact with them. Their determination, heroism and firmness are astonishing," Zelensky said in a video address, referring to the besieged southern city that has suffered some of the war's great-

est deprivations and horrors. "If only those who have been thinking for 31 days on how to hand over dozens of jets and tanks had one per cent of their courage," detailed the CP story.

One can appreciate Zelensky's frustration. It's great to stop buying Russian vodka, or to ban curling teams from World Championships, but realistically such measures are not going to convince Russian president Vladimir Putin to turn his army's tanks around and leave Ukraine.

There are even reports the various bans are hav-

ing limited impact, in particular with suggestions Russian wheat is still moving to market (at record levels, even), according to a story at producer.com

American president Joe Biden hit the nail on the head when he said in a speech last week that Russian President Vladimir Putin could not stay in power. While the U.S. has tried to soften that stance since the speech,

Biden appears right, although whether the west has the resolve to save Ukraine remains very much in question, as Zelensky noted.

Set against the backdrop of Russian missiles flying, and the west waffling on military aid for Ukraine, is the impact on farming – at least for this particular column.

Ukrainian farmers should be planting their crops, but how does that

work when war is close at hand?

Imagine Saskatchewan farmers readying to seed the crop when Winnipeg or Calgary or Edmonton or Regina were being bombed, civilians being killed, or abandoning their homes to become refugees in the face of a foreign force. How would farmers deal with the stress and threat?

In Ukraine it has been reported farmers are ready to plant, although concern over fuel supplies exist. But what if the crop is not planted or harvested? How does that impact Europe in terms of feed supply?

The questions of an expanding war, either in Ukraine now or somewhere later as Putin's expansionism looks elsewhere, coupled with the impact to 2022 cropping in a key agricultural region, creates a huge shadow over the agriculture sector.

Rogers wins March Dessert of the Month



Bruce Rogers won the Dessert of the month draw for February. The dessert was presented by Rachelle Beauchesne, one of the board members of the Spiritwood Library.

Canwood Library hosts Swedish Weaving

On Tuesday March 22, 2022, the Canwood Public Library hosted a Crafter's Choice session. Hilda Gaboury came in to showcase her Swedish Weaving. The ladies enjoyed trying their own weaving. Gerda Bruner brought snowflakes and angels. Using Stiffy, she made nutcracker decorations by counted cross-stitching, a heat and bond method.



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

Mon., April 11, 2022
Regular Sale 8:30 a.m., Presort Sale 11:00 a.m.
Open Replacement Heifer Sale in conjunction with the presort

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WP girls' basketball team ends season at Regionals

WP Sandin Public High School's girls' basketball team travelled to Indian Head on March 15 and 16, to compete in 3A Regionals action alongside 15 other squads.

The Aardvarks were fresh off a second-place finish to St. Walburg at the Conference tournament, which they hosted in their own home gym on March 11 and 12. That finish had them ranked eighth heading into Regionals, earning them a first round matchup against ninth seed Osler VCA.

Coach Devon Thorpe said the tournament opener was fast-

paced from the get-go, but that his team was able to jump out to a favourable lead by halftime.

"Our team excelled at moving the ball in the offensive zone and dominated in rebounds," Thorpe said. "We ran into foul trouble in the second half but were able to hold off their last quarter surge to win 73-55."

With the win, the Aardvarks advanced to the quarterfinals and had a steep hill to climb against the top-seeded Indian Head Broncos. While the beginning of the game was a back-and-forth battle, the Broncos got the better of the action to

take a seven point lead into halftime.

Once again, the Aardvarks ran into trouble with fouls in the second half and struggled to keep up with the pace set by the Broncos' explosive offence, falling by a score of 76-36. The loss ended the Aardvarks' season.

"At Regionals, our team showed determination and hard work. They came together as a solid unit and we had a number of girls elevate their games when it mattered," Thorpe said. "As their coach, I could not be prouder of our team and their dedication and work ethic."

With his team's season at an end, Thorpe says next season will see the girls take the court without four of its cornerstones, as Tegan Naumann, Amy Larsen, Mya Sommerfeld, and Marissa Skavlebo are all set to graduate. Wishing the graduating players the best, Thorpe thanked them for their commitment to the school's basketball program and said they will be sorely missed.

"Our team will be looking towards our younger players to fill the roles of our graduating players," Thorpe said. "We know this will be a big challenge but look

forward to taking this challenge head on. We are excited to see what next year will bring."

Following Regionals, the top four teams — #1 Indian Head, #2 Unity, #3 St. Walburg, and #4 Kamsack — advanced to Hoopla, the Provincial Championship, this past weekend. In a pair of close semi-final matchups, Indian Head topped Kamsack 66-55, and St. Walburg upset Unity to the tune of 59-50.

In the Championship game, St. Walburg came out on top by a score of 65-47. Unity, meanwhile, took bronze with a hard-fought 59-50 win over Kamsack.

Minutes of an RM of Shellbrook meeting

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

Minutes of a regular meeting of Council of the Rural Municipality of Shellbrook No. 493 held on Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2022, in the Municipal Office Council Chambers at Shellbrook, Sask.

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

Delegations:

10 a.m. Rod Atkinson, golf course request.

11:30 a.m. Foreman Bill Aug and Todd Lande update on municipal activities.

Reeve Oleksyn called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

Hamel: That the following items be added to the agenda: Public Hearing, Holbein Care Home, Hours of work. Carried

Skauge: That the Agenda be adopted as amended. Carried

Strube: That the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council of Jan. 12, 2022, be approved as presented. Carried

Skauge: That the Statement of Financial Activities for the month of January 2022 be approved, as presented. Carried

Ferster: That the accounts payable dated Feb. 1, 2022, as attached hereto and forming part of these Minutes, being regular cheque numbers 12576 to 12636 in the amount of \$779,054.09 and payroll cheque numbers 14155 to 14170 in the amount of \$37,292.17 be approved. Carried

Ferster: That the Administrators Report for the month February 2022 be accepted as presented. Carried

Delegation Rod Atkinson, entered the Council Chambers at 10 a.m. to discuss Shellbrook Hidden Hills Golf Course request to use Cat Dozer to clear snow and brush.

Delegation Rod Atkinson, left the Council meeting at 10:11 a.m.

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

Skauge: That motion 011.01.22 be rescinded and that the use of the Cat Dozer be donated to Shellbrook Hidden Hills Golf Course for 20 hours free of charge. The golf course will supply fuel and grease and supply an operator approved by the municipality. Any use over the donated 20 hours will be billed at \$100/hr. Carried

Hamel: That the Financial Services Agreement from Affinity Credit Union expiring on Jan. 30, 2025, be approved as presented. Carried

Skauge: That the proposal to purchase the service road on SW-28-49-03-W3 presented by Robert Tremain be denied. Carried

Skauge: That a recommendation be forwarded to the Town of Shellbrook to send the Fire Rescue Truck to Ritchie Bros. Auction for disposal. Carried

Delegation Foreman Bill Aug and Todd Lande left the meeting at 1 p.m.

Skauge: That the following Plant Health Officer's be appointed Pest Control Officer's for the purpose of Clubroot for The Rural Municipality of Shellbrook 493 for 2022.

- Chelsea Neuberger Plant Health Officer - SARM Division 5
- Katey Makohoniuk Plant Health Officer - SARM Division 1
- Lynne Roszell Plant Health Officer -

SARM Division 4

- Joanne Kwasnicki Plant Health Officer - SARM Division 2
- Betty Johnson Plant Health Officer - SARM Division 3
- Colleen Fennig Plant Health Officer - SARM Division 6. Carried

Skauge: That the Hamlet of Holbein reserve be adjusted to \$88,385.16 and that the Hamlet of Crutwell reserve be adjusted to \$115,198.82, both for the year ending Dec. 31, 2021. Carried

Strube: That the transfer of \$893 from the maximizer account to the Dedicated Lands account at the Affinity Credit Union be approved. Carried

Strube: That a letter be sent to Garth Evans indicating that past practice is that the municipality does not plow road allowances to properties with no personal residences. Custom work rates would apply. Carried

Hamel: That the allocation of the 2022-2023 Sask Lotteries grant be approved as follows:

- Shellbrook Senior Curling Club \$626.91
- Shellbrook Elementary \$626.93
- Shellbrook Parks Board (playground) \$500.00
- Shellbrook Parks Board (swimming pool) \$626.93
- Shellbrook Public Library \$800.00
- Shellbrook Senior Association \$626.93
- Shellbrook Skating Club \$626.93
- Sturgeon Lake Regional Park \$626.93
- WP Sandin High School Curling Program \$626.93
- WP Sandin School Skating \$626.93
- Wild Rose Public School \$626.93
- Wild Rose Before & After School Program \$626.93
- Lake Country Wildlife Federation \$626.93

Lake Country Target Shooting Club \$626.93

Shellbrook Silver Fins \$626.93
Shellbrook Rangers Fastball \$626.93
For a total of \$10,077.00. Carried

Public Hearing

In accordance with section 128(1) of *The Municipalities Act* public notice was given to set the remuneration for members of council and for members of council committees and other bodies established by the council pursuant to section 81.

Reeve Doug Oleksyn declared the Hearing open on this matter at 3:07 p.m.

Council's intention to set 2022 Council Remuneration and Mileage rates as follows:

1. Per Diem Mileage \$0.70 per KM.
2. Per Diem Council Meetings \$250.00 for Regular Meeting and \$30.00 per Hour for Special Meetings and
3. Per Diem Committee Meetings \$30.00 per hour.

No objections or verbal concerns were received.

Reeve Doug Oleksyn declared the Hearing closed on this matter at 3:22 p.m.

Hamel: That Council Remuneration rates for 2022 be effective Jan. 1, 2022. Carried

Skauge: That more information in regards to Holbein group home be acquired. Carried

Skauge: That the purchase of 7.5HP air compressor from Gregg Distributors LP at a cost of \$7,192.37 plus GST be approved. Carried

Ferster: That the following Correspondence be received and filed: Clubroot response. Carried

Strube: That the meeting be adjourned at 3:34 p.m.

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

50 years on: SHS girls win 1972 Medstead Unit Championship

By Dave Hyndman

The successes in recent years of Spiritwood High School's curling teams at Regional and Provincial levels are bringing back memories of curling prowess of past curling teams. Thus it is with the team of Claire Turgeon, Laurie Heisler, Elaine Martodam and Terry Turnbull, as they look back on their championship run of 50 years ago.

The foursome represented Spiritwood High School at the Medstead School Unit Championships in 1972, and their main claim to fame is that they secured the first Unit Championship for SHS in 24 years.

However memorable it was, the memories are somewhat hazy for all the partici-

pants, including coach Dan Listoe.

"I don't recall anything being said about this as the first Unit Championship in 24 years," Listoe replied in an email when asked for comment. "Surely that should have been news for the Spiritwood Herald!! Is there a write-up about this in the Yearbook, even?"

Scrambling around to find such a yearbook, I came up empty. No one seems to have a copy of the 1971-72 Milestone — or at least no one came forward with one. But the writing on the back of the photo listed the date, Feb. 3, 1972.

But 50 years. Without a yearbook or newspaper clipping to provide some detail, the event seems to be a bit fuzzy

around the edges.

"There isn't a lot that comes to mind about any particular team that I coached those many years ago," Listoe's email read. "I do recall driving a girl's team to Meadow Lake and a girl's team to Kerrobert. I don't know what year(s) or if it was the same team. The one thing that comes

to mind was the frustration of sitting behind the glass and observing the games without being able to offer any 'coaching'."

One thing that 50 years hasn't changed is the friendships that have continued since those high schooldays, and the love of curling.



Medstead Unit Senior Girls Champs, 1972: Claire Turgeon (skip), Laurie Heisler (third), Elaine Martodam (second), and Terry Turnbull (lead).

Provinces release strategic plan to advance small modular reactors

The governments of Saskatchewan, Ontario, New Brunswick, and Alberta have agreed to a joint strategic plan outlining the path forward on small modular reactors (SMRs).

A Strategic Plan for the Deployment of Small Modular Reactors highlights how SMRs can provide safe, reliable and zero-emissions energy to power our growing economy and population, while creating new opportunities to export Canadian knowledge and expertise around the world.

The report identifies five key priority areas for SMR development and deployment:

- Positioning Canada as an exporter of global SMR technology by propelling three separate streams of SMR development, covering both on-grid and off-grid applications.
- Promoting a strong nuclear regulatory framework that focuses on the health and safety of the public and the environment while ensuring reasonable costs and timelines.
- Securing federal government commitments on financial and policy support for new SMR technologies that would lead to vast economic benefits across the country and help meet our emissions reduction targets.
- Creating opportunities for participation from Indigenous communities and public engagement.
- Working with the federal government and nuclear operators on a robust nuclear waste management plan for SMRs.

Since December 2019, Saskatchewan, Ontario, and New Brunswick have been working together to advance SMRs in Canada through an inter-provincial Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Alberta joined the MOU in April 2021.

This report builds on the provincial power utilities' SMR Feasibility Study, requested by the provinces as part of the MOU, which concluded that SMR development would support domestic energy needs, curb greenhouse gas emissions, and position Canada as a global leader in clean technologies and the fight against climate change.

"SaskPower has worked closely with Ontario Power Generation, New Brunswick Power and Bruce Power to advance the

pan-Canadian deployment of SMR technologies to the benefit of all regions of the country," Minister Responsible for SaskPower Don Morgan said.

"In particular, SaskPower's four-year collaboration with OPG to assess SMR designs for fleet-based deployment in both Ontario and Saskatchewan has laid a strong foundation for nuclear power and to support deep reductions in Canada's GHG emissions to ultimately achieve net zero by 2050."

Quick facts:

- SMRs are scalable and versatile nuclear reactors that typically produce 300 megawatts (MW) of electricity or less. They can support large established grids, small grids, remote off-grid communities and resource projects.
- A 300 MW SMR could generate enough clean electricity each year to power 300,000 homes.
- In December 2021, GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy was named Ontario Power Generation's technology development partner to deploy Canada's first grid-scale SMR at their Darlington new nuclear site.
- Global First Power, a joint venture between Ontario Power Generation and Ultra Safe Nuclear Corporation, is proposing to build a 5 MW micro-SMR project at the federally owned Chalk River Laboratories in Ontario. The project is intended to demonstrate feasibility for off-grid applications, such as remote mines.
- SMRs can provide stable baseload clean energy to complement renewable energy sources such as wind and solar
- Advanced SMRs can offer a source of both clean electricity and heat energy (co-generation) for clean fuel production such as hydrogen for residential applications and heavy transport, ammonia, and synthetic fuels for transportation, as well as for heavy industry such as chemical, cement, steel, aluminum, mining, desalination and oil sands.
- Micro (off-grid) SMRs can be used to displace diesel generation used in mining in remote areas, and heat and electricity generation in northern remote communities.

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.

SHELLBROOK: Shellbrook Senior Centre - Potluck Noon Lunch, Wednesday, April 13. General meeting to follow. Everyone welcome! Bring your favourite dish and join us!

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Minutes of a Village of Canwood meeting

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

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council for the Village of Canwood, held at 651 Main Street, Canwood, Sask., on Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2022.

Present: Mayor - Robert Thompson, Deputy Mayor - Ken Moar, Councillors - Lorne Benson, Kaytlyn Mitchell and Ron Willner, Administrator - Erin Robertson

Mitchell: That the minutes of the Jan. 19, 2022, Regular Meeting of Council be approved as amended. Carried

Willner: That the Statement of Financial Activities and Bank Reconciliation for the month of January 2022 be approved as presented. Carried

Moar: That the water report for the month of January 2022 be approved as presented. Carried

Moar: That we acknowledge receipt of Maintenance Manager Calendar, Office Assistant and Administrator Attendance Statements for January 2022 as presented. Carried

Willner: That we issue Cheques 5517 to 5534 and other payments totaling \$29,056.58 as detailed on attached List of Accounts for Approval, Pay Period 01 and February 2022 payroll advance from the general account. Carried

Thompson: That we move to in-camera at 9:53 a.m. sighting The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, section 15(I) (b)(ii) and section 23(I)(b) "personal information" and Human Resources and ask that the Administrator remain in Council chambers. Carried

Let the minutes note that the Administrator was asked to leave Chambers at 10:41 a.m. so Council may discuss a topic later on agenda.

Let the minutes note that the Administrator was asked to rejoin the

in-camera session at 10:44 a.m.

Thompson: That we move out of in-camera at 10:45 a.m. Carried

Committee Updates:

- Public Works Committee verbal summary provided by Councillor Mitchell. Topics of discussion: time allotted for snow removal, digging out culverts, sidewalk on highway.
- Human Resource Committee verbal summary provided by Councillor Moar. Topics of discussion: HR Policy review and development.

Let the minutes note that Mayor Thompson left Chambers at 11:13 a.m. and returned at 11:14 a.m.

Thompson: That the approval of HR - 4 Proof of COVID-19 Corporate Vaccination Policy was to parallel Provincial guidelines and recommendations from Public Health Orders, and the aforementioned has changed as of Feb. 14, 2022; be it resolved that we align with the Provincial mandates and pause our policy for proof of vaccination or negative COVID test and re-enact if Provincial guidelines or Public Health Orders recommended otherwise. Carried

Moar: That the approval of HR - 5 Proof of COVID-19 Arena Vaccination Policy was to parallel Provincial guidelines and requirements from Public Health Orders, and the aforementioned are expected to change as of Feb. 28, 2022; be it resolved that we align with the upcoming changes and pause the policy. Furthermore, the policy will remain if changes do not occur or re-enact if Provincial guidelines or Public Health Orders recommend otherwise at a later date. Carried

Moar: That we agree to purchase item(s) with an approximate value of \$350 that will be donated to the Canwood Regional Park and Golf Course

annual fundraiser. Carried

Willner: That the correspondence be noted and filed. Carried

Let the minutes note that Mayor Thompson declared a conflict as it relates to the next agenda item, and as such left Council Chambers at 12:08 p.m. In his absence, Deputy Mayor Moar assumed the Chair.

Benson: That we approved the request from Robert Thompson to extend his Development Permit 2021-04 to the expiry date of Oct. 15, 2022, and advise our building inspectors of the extension. Carried

Mitchell: That we acknowledge the letter from the Canwood Curling Club, detailing the soft summary of the survey results as not in the best interest to rebuild, fundraising concerns, curling club opinions as it relates to rebuild and salvage of ice plant. Based on the aforementioned, be it resolved that we agree with the Curling Club that rebuilding the Canwood Curling Rink is not in the best interest of ratepayers and inform the Federal and Provincial Government that we will not be utilizing the approved monies from the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program that was approved for this purpose. Furthermore, we agree to tender the sale of the remaining ice plant. Carried

Thompson: That we agree to move \$225 from our General Operating account at Affinity Credit Union to Funded Reserve Savings account 001. These monies represent donation monies received in 2021 for the Canwood North Cemetery and will be used for future upgrades. Carried

Thompson: That we acknowledge receipt of the Canwood Public Library

Financial Statement for the year ending Dec. 31, 2021, and proposed budget for 2022. Carried

Willner: That we agree to the purchase of a laptop as quoted from MuniSoft for the cost of \$1,249, along with network setup, software program and additional MuniSoft user license for a cost of \$2,948 plus taxes. Carried

Moar: With the appoint from Council Resolution 274-21 of Chris Gates, Terry Rollseton and Karly Heatcoat as the Villages Building Officials, be it resolved we further agree to the addition of Ryan Shepherd, Raymond Humeney, Jerry Wintonyk, Kim Pedersen, and Virginia Shepley to act as our Building Officials for the 2022 year. Carried

Mitchell: That we have no objections to the draft as presented by Water Security Agency in the Permit to Operate a Waterworks Permit No.: 00002075-05-00 and advise that we have no additional comments. Carried

Benson: That we have no objections to the draft as presented by Water Security Agency in the Permit to Operate a Sewer Works Permit No.: 00003075-04-00 and advise that we have no additional comments. Carried

Benson: That we approve the draft GG - 1 Committees of Council, Human Resources as presented. Carried

Moar: That we approve the draft GG - 2 Committees of Council - Public Works as presented. Carried

Willner: That we agree to set a budget meeting for March 3, 2022, commencing at 9:30 a.m. Carried

Willner: That we adjourn at 1:08 p.m., with the next regular meeting to be set for March 16, 2022, commencing at 9:30 a.m. Carried

PRAISE & WORSHIP

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

PARTNERS IN FAITH

Lutheran/United/
Christchurch Anglican,
137-2nd St. W.
Spiritwood
Worship 11:00 a.m.
Rev. Sarah Urano

UNITED / ANGLICAN

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

CATHOLIC

SUNDAY
Spiritwood - 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

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

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

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

IMMANUEL

LUTHERAN
Parkside
11 a.m. - Worship

ANGLICAN CHURCH

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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

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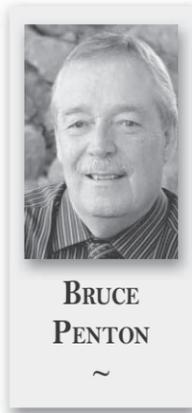
Offering services for Norman's tour

Greg Norman
LIV Golf Investments
Saudi Arabia
Dear Greg,
Congratulations on overcoming the Phil Mickelson setback and getting your new golf tour off the ground. Golf fans around the world were excited to hear the announcement of your eight-tournament schedule between June and October that each features \$25 million in prize money. There were gasps of astonishment when the PGA Tour's Players Championship, the flagship event of the PGA Tour, announced a \$20 million purse for its recently completed tournament, and then you turn around and one-up them big time with your events offering \$25 million each.

Still waiting to hear about a TV contract, or sponsor affiliations, but I'm sure the Saudi backers of your tour aren't too concerned about a return on their \$200 million investment. Their money pit is reportedly rather deep.

Of course, the biggest concern is who will tee it up in your tournaments? Who will risk their professional reputation on what could be a fly-by-night operation, even if the pilots of the flying machine are made of money? Mickelson will presumably be on hand, and a couple of Korn Ferry Tour players will be lured by the cash you're offering, but if you're waiting for the biggest names in the world of golf to sign up, your blond hair might turn grey before that happens.

Here's where I can help. I'll be willing to sign the appropriate documents to turn professional, giving up my chance for glory at amateur events in Canada, in order to help you fill your fields. I understand last-place money is \$92,000, with no cut and only 54 holes. I've been a single-digit handicap player most of my life, and I'm sure I could break 100 on the courses you've picked. No doubt my game is second-, third-, or even 14th-tier, but



BRUCE
PENTON

that ability level describes most of the other players you might attract, so I might fit in nicely.

There would be nothing more embarrassing for you to advertise 48-player fields and then get Phil and only a couple of dozen others to offer their services to play. A few guys like me might be needed to make sure you get 48 players in a tournament. See my bank information below to make sure the \$92,000 last-place money is deposited into the proper account.

Oh, and one more thing: I can't hit the ball too far anymore. Could you make sure I get to play the forward tees? I'll accept a 10-per-cent reduction of my prize money for your trouble.

Yours in golf,
Bruce

• Dwight Perry of the Seattle Times: "Mikey Williams, a 6-foot-2 high-school junior basketball star in North Carolina, has landed a multi-year footwear and apparel endorsement deal with Puma. Heck, when we were 17 we thought having a paper route was cool."

• Golf journalist Jason Sobel: "Viktor Hovland on once struggling to splurge for added guacamole and now playing for a \$20 million purse: 'That's a lot of guac and double meat.'"

• Scott Hanson, on Twitter: "How'd ya like to be the guy who just bought Brady's 'last NFL TD ball' at auction for \$500,000?"

• Club Pro Guy, on Twitter: "That bogey/double bogey

finish saved Keegan Bradley almost \$800k in federal income taxes. There's no better feeling."

• Bob Molinaro of pilotonline.com (Hampton, Va.): "After learning that New Mexico State guard Teddy Allen has played for his fifth school in five seasons, some might wonder about his academic major. I'm guessing geography."

• Molinaro again: "You know gas prices are high when even Tom Brady has to go back to work."

• Blue Jays' Vladimir Guerrero, Jr., on Toronto's chances this year (via Sportsnet's Shi Davidi on Twitter): "Last year was the trailer. Now you guys are going to see the movie."

• Comedy writer Alex Kaseberg: "Yale has qualified for the NCAA tournament. Although Yale could use some work on their trash talking: 'Your matriarch is an unrepentant Wordle cheater.'"

• Jack Finarelli at

sportscurmudgeon.com, imagining a potential March Madness match-up: "We might see the Miami Hurricanes facing the Iowa State Cyclones in a battle of the natural disasters."

• RJ Currie of sportsdeke.com: "Tom Brady decided to return and quarterback the Buccaneers just 40 days after he retired. That's right, he unretired — what Brett Favre called the option play."

• Headline at the onion.com: "Report: Secretly Watching March Madness During Work Way Less Fun Working Remotely"

• Janice Hough of leftcoastsportsbabe.com, via Twitter, after the Dodgers paid \$162 million for Freddie Freeman and the Rockies \$182 million for Kris Bryant: "Yeah, I can see why MLB needed to lock out players because the owners couldn't afford to stay in business otherwise."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Willoughby hockey tourney makes exciting return

With COVID-19 public health mandates ended, 2022 is shaping up to be the year when important community events make long-awaited comebacks. Among the events returning from a two-year hiatus is the annual Jim Willoughby Memorial Hockey Tournament.

Up until his sudden passing in December 2011, Willoughby was a mainstay in the hockey community, and in the recreation community more generally. An avid lover of hockey and golf (he's also honoured through an annual golf tournament), he served on the recreation board for a number of years, helped put in the ice and put the lines on the ice every hockey season, and volunteered his time as a referee and

in many other capacities.

"We spent lots of time together, so I'll do this every year until I die," said Ken Person, a close friend of Willoughby's and one of the tournament's key organizers since it started in 2012. "It means a lot to me, and lots to many other people as well."

In the first post-pandemic tournament, eight local and area teams took to the ice to compete for the championship trophy and the traditional case of Pilsner, including the Elks, the Slot Rockets, the Willoughby's, the Silvertips, Here for a Beer, the Brew Crew, the Cromartie's, and the Debden Jets.

The tournament was played in a standard draw format,

with an A, B, and C event, ensuring each team was allowed to play three games.

At the sounding of the final buzzer, the Elks emerged undefeated from the tournament, topping the Slot Rockets in the A Final by a score of 8-4 to hoist the trophy (and the beer). The B Final, meanwhile, saw the Willoughby's top the Silvertips by a score of 10-7.

As for the C Final between Here for a Beer and the Brew Crew, Person said they just had a lot of fun (though, Here for a Beer did emerge with bragging rights).

Apart from providing a weekend of fun hockey and an opportunity to remember Willoughby, the tournament also raises funds for the things he

loved. All told, this year's take was \$2,700, with \$1,350 going to Shellbrook Minor Sports

and the other \$1,350 going to the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre.



Shane Willoughby, son of Jim Willoughby, presents the Jim Willoughby Memorial Hockey Tournament trophy to Elks players Kris Moe and Jamie Capner.



The Elks were the A Final winners of the Jim Willoughby Memorial Hockey Tournament, played in Shellbrook March 18 and 19.



The Willoughby's topped the Silvertips to win the B Final.



Here for a Beer beat out the Brew Crew in the C Final.

Sask. proposes taking over carbon tax administration

With the federal carbon tax set to increase to \$50 per tonne on April 1, The Government of Saskatchewan has revealed plans for a proposal to take over administration and revenue from the tax as part of its 2022-2023 budget.

The province, and in particular Premier Scott Moe, have been among the most vehement critics of the federal government's carbon pricing regime since it was introduced, going so far as to lead a constitutional challenge against the tax. That challenge was struck down by the Supreme Court of Canada in 2021.

"Ultimately, the Supreme Court has ruled that we do have to participate in this. So, what we have asked the federal government to do is to turn the administration of this ridiculous tax back over to the provinces," Premier Moe said following the provincial budget's release last Wednesday.

Currently, proceeds from the federal carbon tax are returned

directly to residents in provinces where the tax was implemented in the form of the Climate Action Incentive rebate.

Wednesday's budget document said if the plan is approved, the province would address its "own unique priorities and needs" by deciding how revenues from fuel charges would be distributed in Saskatchewan.

Premier Moe, meanwhile, said with provincial control, the government would be able to "reward those industries that are making investments in actual emissions reduction" like energy, mining and agriculture, suggesting he would split the revenues between consumers and industry.

"As long as the federal government is going to cling onto the administration of this very foolish tax, we are not able to move forward with a proper, robust offset or carbon credit system," Moe said. "So those industries that yes, are emitting but are investing in lowering those emissions, can be recognized for

work that they've already done and work that they are doing today that will pay dividends long into the future."

If the proposal is successful, a larger plan will be announced in fall 2022, according to the budget.

A previous attempt at establishing a Saskatchewan carbon pricing plan was rejected by the federal government in July 2021.

In response to Moe's comments, NDP agriculture critic Trent Wotherspoon said Saskatchewan's NDP always supported a made-in-Saskatchewan carbon tax strategy.

He said any plan needs to recognize and ensure industries and workers affected by the carbon tax, like agriculture producers in the province, are taken care of.

However, he said the province needs to be clear about what it's proposing to do first.

"The government should lay this plan on the table for Saskatchewan people as well, and it should be open and transparent

about what they're presenting," Wotherspoon said.

"Judging by their history and how they consult with Saskatchewan people and who they consult and who they listen to, I'm concerned that this government hasn't gone about this in a very even-handed way."

In addition to the volleys lobbed by Premier Moe, the federal carbon tax came under further fire from critics after a report from the Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO), Yves Giroux, suggested most households in Saskatchewan, Alberta, Manitoba, and Ontario will see a "net loss" from the tax by 2030, when the levy is slated to reach \$170 per tonne.

As the carbon pricing increases, lower income households should continue to receive rebates, but middle-class and upper-class households should be expecting to pay hundreds, if not thousands, according to the PBO, depending on their carbon consumption.

This is the first time that the

PBO has calculated the impacts of a \$170 per tonne price on carbon on households — whether it be for gas, for heating or for electricity.

In his calculations, Giroux included the GST paid on these amounts, and the assumption of a more sluggish economic growth with carbon pricing. His calculations do not include the economic and environmental costs of climate change, nor do they try to.

"There could be potential benefits, for example, by mitigating the impact of climate change or fostering the development or adoption of new technologies, but to expect these benefits to be realized before 2030-2031 is... wildly optimistic," Giroux said.

Last week, Finance Canada released its own estimates of the increased Climate Action Incentive payments for the year to come. The department expects a family of four to receive \$1,101 in Saskatchewan, \$745 in Ontario, \$832 in Manitoba, and \$1,079 in Alberta.

GOOD NEWS

WHY CAN'T WE LEARN FROM BIRDS AND ANIMALS?

**Rev. Dave Whalley D.L.M.®
First United Church, Big River**

Several years ago, while we were farming and raising cattle south of Pike Lake, we had a black Galloway cow who always raised a great calf and was a good, protective mother. We named her Elvis because of her long, shaggy, black hair. We learned to respect that mother while she protected her young calf.

One year, she gave birth in the corral and we wanted to give a needle to the newborn calf. My son Ryan and I walked into the corral to give the needle and Elvis took offense to our actions. The end result was that Ryan and I ran and jumped over the corral for safety reasons. For two days that calf stayed near its mother and we were unable to give the calf its needle. That calf, which weighed over 100 lbs., stayed near to its mother because she was providing what the calf needed.

I learned from that experience that just about any young animal you would care to mention knows more than people about the protection of mothers. That young calf had enough sense to stay close to its moth-

er, close to food, close to protection, and close to warmth and nurturing. I have also learned that young chicks don't stray too far from the protection of the mother hen's wings. To do so would be totally opposite to their nature.

Sure, it's instinct, but for all of that, even the least intelligent animal offspring stay close to the one who gave them life; they cry out to the one who nurtures and protects them.

But people? That's another story. Only human beings stray; only the children of God exhibit the unnatural behaviour of turning away from the love and protection of the God who made them. God loves us as children and yet sometimes we stray from our protector. As a mother hen spreads her wings over her brood; God spreads protective wings over us, the people.

What chicks and calves would not do... and could not do...the children of God have done. We have counted the love and protection of the creator as nothing. Many times we have chosen to go our own way, to leave that protection.

The question I have is; how could such

a thing be? How could the people of Israel and us, be so foolish, from time to time, to turn away from the warm wings offered to us by the great spirit? Especially when those warm wings of love have brought us through so many difficulties in our individual lives?

That is a hard question for us. I believe that the answer is that even the strongest among us desperately feel our lack of security from time to time. Can anyone of us say that we have never struggled through a troubled night, or felt the dread of old age, or death — either as it draws near to us or our loved ones? Who among us has never felt the fear of loneliness or worried about our children, or our finances? Who among us can say that there haven't been mornings when we have looked in the mirror and felt remorse, or regret because of something we had said or done the day before?

We have trouble turning over our worries, pain, and regrets to the protective wings of God. Listen — hear the voice of invitation from Jesus speaking, the call to protection and holy love — "Come unto

me, all you who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)

Even now, the mother hen would gather us, in the shadow of outstretched wings, warm and secure, next to the beating heart of God. God calls to us in times of joy and certainty, to acknowledge the Creator's part in it, and God goes to those who despair, and calls to them, to offer the gift of hope. God has called to us in times of sin, urging us to repent, and to return in the confidence that we will be forgiven, and that life can start anew.

God has called us many times in our lives. Through our baptism, the Creator pledges us love and protection, that we only see in the behaviour of animals. There is one major difference; animals can and will protect and care for their young only for a time, and then they are on their own. The Great Spirit loves, nurtures and protects us for "eternity". That is true love, true nurturing, and true protection given to us by our creator.

Once again, Jesus Christ calls to you and me. He calls us to the shelter of his protecting wings. Christ calls you and me to the safety of his arms, stretched out for us on the cross. He calls us to trust him, no matter what our fears, hurts, or troubles; to trust that his outstretched arms are strong enough, his wings broad enough, to keep us safe.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the estate of Bernice Crawford, late of Shellbrook, Saskatchewan, deceased. All claims against the above estate, duly verified by statutory declaration and with particulars and valuation of security held, if any, must be sent to the undersigned before the 15th day of May, 2022. NOVUS LAW GROUP Barristers & Solicitors 1200 Central Avenue Prince Albert, SK S6V 4V8 Attention: Bill Cannon Solicitors for the Estate

2-14

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It is hard to believe a whole year has passed since you were with us. It seems like yesterday you were around to share your bright smile and positive attitude with everyone around you. You were always there for us. Talking with you was so easy and enjoyable because you never had a bad word to say about anyone.

I want to pick up the phone and call you now and it hurts knowing I never hear your voice on the other end. We were lucky to have you for as long as we did. Not a day goes by that we don't think of you and mom and see your many pictures in our homes. Missing you always,
Your family

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Studying the world's largest T. rex to learn about evolution

Saskatchewan researchers may have uncovered unprecedented details in dinosaur fossils.

Scotty, the world's largest T. rex, has captured the public's attention since it was discovered in Saskatchewan in 1991. Now, researchers from the University of Regina (UofR) and the Royal Saskatchewan Museum (RSM) are taking a closer look at the dinosaur's remains using the Canadian Light Source (CLS) at the University of Saskatchewan.

The scientists are using synchrotron light, which is millions of times brighter than the sun, at the CLS to non-destructively analyze Scotty's rib bones on a molecular level. The study is in its early stages, but the team may have identified something remarkable.

"We have found what seems to be a network of blood vessels in the 67 million-year-old fossils," said Dr. Mauricio Barbi, a Professor with the Department of Physics at the UofR.

Barbi emphasized that it is too early to state any findings from the ongoing research project. "We are at the CLS to collect data so that we can try to verify what these structures really are," he added.

If confirmed, the discovery will be a world first. "Such a network of blood vessels has never been observed before in a T. rex fossil," said Barbi.

The team is using multiple beamline laboratories at the CLS to analyze different characteristics in their samples.

"The synchrotron is particularly helpful for paleontology research," said Ryan

McKellar, the RSM's Curator of Palaeontology. "We can create these three-dimensional models of fossils in glorious detail and overlay chemical data to bring all of these pictures together in one place."

The group is in the process of reviewing the data they collected from their experiments at the CLS.

"We have what appears to be a very vast vascular structure in multiple areas inside of our sections of a rib bone from Scotty," said Jerit Mitchell, an MSc candidate with the UofR's Department of Physics. "We're very interested to see where this will take us."

By examining fine details in the anatomy of the ancient dinosaur, the team could provide new insights into evolution and details from Scotty's life.

"These analyses might give us a better comprehension about Scotty's habits and how the animal lived and how fast it had to grow to face dangers," said Barbi, who has been fascinated with dinosaurs since childhood.

"I always loved prehistoric animals and to learn about the evolution of our planet," he stated. "For me, it's a connection with our past, you can understand our present, and project our future."

On the Beamlines: This series profiles scientists using the Canadian Light Source and their ongoing research that has not yet been peer-reviewed or published. It is meant to give the public a peek into how scientists do science, what drives them, and how they're trying to answer the big questions.

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Asparagus: a perennial vegetable worth the wait

By Jackie Bantle & Sara Williams

Asparagus (*Asparagus officinalis*) is a perennial vegetable that is easily grown on the Prairies despite being native to the Mediterranean areas of Europe, northwest Africa and Asia. Called “sparrow grass” by many (including Shakespeare and Sara’s Dad when she was a kid), both the common and generic names are from the Greek word *asparagos* or *sparago* which means turgid or full to bursting - an allusion to its supposed phallic properties.

The species name, *officinalis*, is from a Medieval Latin term denoting plants used in medicine, herbalism and cookery. Hippocrates, the Greek physician considered the “Father of Medicine”, alludes to the use of asparagus as an aphrodisiac, possibly because of its phallic appearance. (Yet, he also advised it as a treatment for diarrhea.) During the Middle Ages, monks grew it in abbeys and monasteries. Europeans of the Renaissance swore by it as an aphrodisiac and the church banned it from nunneries. The English herbalist Gerard (1633) likewise said eating asparagus was thought to increase seed (semen) and provoke lust.

Asparagus plants are dioecious: this means that each plant is either a male or female plant. Older asparagus cultivars (such as ‘Martha Washington’ and ‘Viking’) have both

male and female plants. The female plants produce small red berries which are eaten and transported by birds, enabling asparagus to become an invasive weed in natural areas throughout Saskatchewan. Gardeners should avoid older asparagus varieties that produce female plants. More recent recommended seedless male asparagus varieties are ‘Guelph Millennium’, ‘Guelph Thiessen’, ‘Jersey Supreme,’ and ‘Jersey Giant’.

An asparagus garden patch can be directly seeded outdoors, transplanted as seedlings or started with established asparagus crowns. Avoid direct seeding and begin seedlings indoors in late winter/early spring. Seed is slow to germinate and plants are very tender and fragile when they emerge.

Asparagus crowns, the roots of the asparagus plant, can be purchased from your favorite seed catalogue or local nursery. Beware that there is a risk of planting diseased crowns. *Fusarium* crown rot is a devastating disease that can destroy an asparagus patch and render your soil uninhabitable to asparagus for years. There is no certification program to ensure that asparagus crowns are ‘fusarium free’.

Because asparagus is a perennial, prepare the soil with care and attention. If possible, choose an area with well-drained loam to sandy loam

soil. Prior to planting, incorporate a layer of well-rotted manure (at least 5 cm thick) into the soil. Plant the asparagus as soon as the soil has thawed and can be easily worked. Dig a trench at least 20cm deep. Plant seeds, crowns or transplants in the trench, covering with 5cm of soil. As the growing season progresses, fill in the furrow a little every few weeks, covering part of the plant but never burying the entire crown. By the end of the growing season, the trench should be level with the surrounding soil. Space the plants 30 cm within-the-row and 2m between rows.

To establish a strong, healthy asparagus patch, refrain from harvesting any spears until the plants are at least 3 years old. Premature harvesting decreases the vigor and health of developing crowns. In year 3, harvest up to 2 spears per plant. In year 4, harvest spears for 4-5 weeks. In year 5, harvest for 6-8 weeks. A good rule of thumb is to stop harvesting when spear diameter is less than 10mm (3/8 in.). Spears should be harvested when they are 10-20cm (4-10 in.) in length. Older spears will be fibrous. Cut spears up to 5cm below the soil line. Asparagus harvest occurs from spring until mid-June, then allowing plants to form a ferny hedge for the remainder of the growing season.

After asparagus ferns turn yellow and die in the fall, the

ferns should be mowed or removed from the patch. In northern latitudes we tend to leave asparagus ferns in place over winter to catch snow. This is not recommended if you have a problem with asparagus beetles such as the common asparagus beetle (*Crioceris asparagi*) or the spotted asparagus beetle, (*Crioceris duodecimpunctata*).

In 1781, Benjamin Franklin wrote that “A few Stems of Asparagus eaten, shall give our Urine a disagreeable odour...” This was echoed by Marcel Proust, the French novelist in 1913 when he noted, perhaps with sarcasm, that it “...transforms my chamber-pot into a flask of perfume.” So, why does your urine smell after eating asparagus? Asparagusic acid is

broken down into sulfur containing by-products. When you pee, these evaporate almost immediately, causing that unpleasant scent.

Retired from the University of Saskatchewan, Sara’s most recent book is *Growing Fruit in Northern Gardens* with Bob Bors. She’s been hosting garden tours for over 20 years - to Great Britain, Ireland, Europe, Turkey and Iceland. Join her for a tour to France this September (contact Ruth at 1-888-778-2378, www.worldwideecotours.com).

Jackie Bantle is horticulturist living on an acreage north of Saskatoon.

This column is provided courtesy of the Saskatchewan Perennial Society (SPS; saskperennial@hotmail.com).



Mature female asparagus ferns producing seeds in mid-summer. Photo credit: Jackie Bantle

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