

Fame Dance Studio holds year-end show



Fame Dance Studio dancers, and guest dancer Lexi Benning, pose for a photo op after the performances.

All photos by Robin Lafond

The Fame Dance Studios Ltd. had their year end dance recital on Wednesday, April 6 at the Spiritwood Civic Centre.

The show began with the Tiny Tots, a group of girls who are 5 years old and under, who stole the show from the beginning. This included Quinley Blocka, Bexley Jarvis, Kenzley Robinson, Harper Diesen, Sophie Lendvay, Blaire Robertson, and Skyler Booker. They had great energy on stage and everyone could feel the happiness of the kids through the entire theatre. The show just got better every minute.

The next performers were the 5 to 8 years old group, which included Ray-Elle Sanders, Norie Beauchesne, Piper Robertson, Mikayla Tkachuk, Sophie Lendvay, Ireland Parenteau, and Hallie Pomedli. This class had a ballet number,

which is one of the hardest to execute as it is so precise. The girls' routine told a story about a fairy who lost her wings because of the poison that she drank. To help her, the other fairies came to the rescue to give her wings back. The girls were fabulous and looked so beautiful with their tiaras. They had to lift Ireland, and worked really hard to get those moves down. They brought the story to life on stage with all those challenges and put on an amazing performance.

Moving on to the realm of jazz, everyone had the chance to be amazed by a duet by Jada Kajner and Daelyn Turgeon. The ladies gave an outstanding performance on stage from jumps, to leg extensions, to lifts and a couple of acrobatic moves, and they brought this number to a high level. They showcased a performance that was unforgettable.

Lastly, was the preteen class. A group of four girls, Ciara Conacher, Mikayla Jewitt, Lexi Kajner, and Mikayla Tkachuk, who took the challenge and ran with it. No matter the level, their coach said that their improvement was exponential.

In between the performances, Fame welcomed guest dancer Lexi Benning from Lloydminster to perform her contemporary and jazz dance numbers.

Mr. Anthony Gervais, the dance teacher for the Fame Dance Studio, started teaching in Spiritwood in September 2019. He always felt welcome and created a strong bond with both the parents and his students.

Mr. Anthony said, "I have never seen a community putting in so much effort and helping each other so much like Spiritwood to put an amazing show on

the stage."

Anthony had a lot of emotions during the year end show as he is so proud of each of his dancers that have improved immensely. Anthony said improvement is not only about the moves, but the confidence, being able to be on stage, smiling and sharing emotions. He feels really proud and happy for his students.

"This is a great closing to a wonderful year and we have to celebrate how successful it was! The show in itself was literally the proof that if someone is putting an effort in what they do they can achieve a lot. All of the students have shown that. They brought us a show that was incredible and of an extremely high quality. We hope you did not miss it," said the Fame Dance Studio Committee in a statement.

More photos on page 16







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Lacrosse makes strong impression in Shellbrook

Assuming everything goes according to plan, Shellbrook's Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre will soon be the home of box lacrosse action.

Plans to bring lacrosse to the arena have been in the works since 2019, just after the new concrete surface and tall glass were installed in the rink as part of the facility's three-year, \$2 million renovation project. At that time, says Town of Shellbrook recreation director Jessica Kernohan, the Prince Albert Lacrosse Association had reached out about renting the facility for box lacrosse.

Then came the COVID-19 pandemic, shutting down everything and preventing those initial discussions from going anywhere.

With the province beginning to re-open, the talks resumed this winter, with plans being formed (and approved by Shellbrook's Town Council) to rent the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre out as the home location for teams from the Mistawasis First Nation. Prior to the agreement, the Mistawasis teams were travelling to and from Prince Albert for practices and games, as there's no arena on the First Nation.

From the looks of it, though, it won't just be Mistawasis teams playing in the arena. Following expressions of interest from Shellbrook and area locals, the Prince Albert Lacrosse Association put together a pair of try lacrosse evenings last week, hosted by the Northern Sask Predators (The Elite "A" team for Prince Albert, Melfort, and Mistawasis), to explore whether there would be enough interest to form Shellbrook teams as well.

Ryan Sandry, who has been the local coordinator for lacrosse and whose sons play on different Northern Sask Predators teams, says the try lacrosse nights were successes, thanks to help from players Jake Boettcher, Theron Netmaker, Khylin Pinay-Ledoux, Ashton Tanchuk, Cashian Sandry, and Talon Sandry. While there wasn't as much interest in the 13-and-over sessions, both the Tuesday and Thursday sessions for 12-and-under age group saw about 30 kids come out to give lacrosse a go.

"I was talking with Shellbrook recreation and some local families about doing U10 and U12 [teams] for Shellbrook,"



About 30 kids showed up for the 12-and-under try lacrosse session at the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre on Thursday evening.

he said. "They did a pretty magnificent job of recruiting over the last week, and we do have enough kids for both divisions. We also have a number [of kids] in the U8 and U6 divisions."

As of Monday, Sandry was hard at work trying to finalize how the box lacrosse season might look going forward. He was still waiting for information from the Mistawasis First Nation about its lacrosse program and which age groups will be playing, and organizing his proposal to the local rink board for rink rentals for games and practices.

With the information he does have, Sandry admits there will be some challenges to getting the first lacrosse season up and running.

First and foremost, there's the issue of certified coaches. On this front, he says his son and a few other local players and parents will be stepping up to volunteer and help the few certified coaches in the community run skills and drills in the beginning.

Then, there's the similar issue of a lack of Shellbrook-based referees. Due to this, Sandry says the first season will likely see only a limited number of home games, so that officials don't have to travel to and from Prince Albert.

"It does look good, but I'll have a better idea by the end of the week of how many games we'll be playing and what our practices will look like," he said.

"Hopefully if we get established, we can get more coaches and refs, and more athletes."

For Sandry, who has been involved with the Prince Al-

bert Lacrosse Association for the past seven years, and has focused much of his effort on outreach and grassroots programming in the Shellbrook area, Shellbrook is a perfect location for lacrosse because it's a hub for surrounding communities and First Nations.

"Talking to the recreation director, there was a lot of interest in trying to attract new user groups to Shellbrook to use the arena, especially in the offseason," he explained. "People realized box lacrosse made a lot of sense, because it's played indoors and the venue is suitable, especially with the new cement and the high glass."

As of Monday, Sandry's best guess was that the box lacrosse season would begin in the last week of April. His hope is to have both the U10 and U12 Shellbrook teams play at least a few games in their home arena this season.



A Northern Sask Predators player gives pointers on proper shooting technique.

NOTICE

The Emerald Lake Regional Park AGM will be held on **Sunday, May 22, 2022**, at 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at Happy Homesteaders Senior's Centre in Leask, SK.

If you wish to submit a Motion for the Board's consideration, please contact the Secretary at elrpsec@gmail.com for more information.

Annual Member Meeting

Monday, April 25, 2022
7:00 pm Virtual Meeting
VISIT PCCU.CA TO REGISTER



Canwood & District Health Services Co-operative

ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, April 27th, 2022
Seniors Room – Elks Hall

Supper: 6:30 p.m. (\$15/person)
Meeting to follow



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If you have any questions please call Sandi at 1-306-961-5217



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RCMP news highlights

Ahtahkakoop-Shellbrook

A woman from the Big River First Nation is facing multiple charges following an assault with a machete at a business in Canwood.

According to the Ahtahkakoop-Shellbrook RCMP, the detachment responded to a report of a person wielding a machete at a business in Canwood at around 9 a.m. on Wednesday, April 6. An adult woman was arrested by officers at the scene, and a machete was seized.

Police report an injured adult male was transported to hospital by EMS for treatment of injuries. The detachment didn't say what those injuries were, and no update on the victim's condition was available.

As a result of the RCMP's investigation, Erin Whitefish, 33, is charged with two counts of assault with a weapon and uttering threats against a person, and single counts of aggravated assault, possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose, and possession of methamphetamine.

Whitefish made her first appearance in Prince Albert Provincial Court on April 8, at which time she requested to be released on bail. Her next court date was scheduled for April 11.

The investigation is ongoing.

Big River

A 27-year-old man from the Big River First Nation is facing a slew of charges in relation to two robberies in March.

According to the Big River RCMP, it received two separate reports of vehicles being stolen at gunpoint on March 5 and March 17. No physical injuries were reported in either incident.

Following investigation, officers identified Brandon Whitefish of the Big River First Nation as a suspect in the robberies.

Big River RCMP and the Saskatchewan RCMP's North Battleford Crime Reduction Team (CRT) actively worked to locate and arrest Whitefish. On April 2, Big River RCMP located Brandon Whitefish in a vehicle on Highway #55. They activated their lights and sirens, but the vehicle did not stop and drove to a residence on Big River First Nation.

Officers from Big River RCMP, the CRT and Sas-

katchewan RCMP Police Dog Services arrested Whitefish at the residence on Big River First Nation shortly after. Whitefish now faces two counts each of robbery with a firearm, pointing a firearm, unauthorized possession of a firearm, and possession of a weapon contrary to order and fail to surrender authorization, and single counts of uttering threats against a person, mischief under \$5,000, flight from a peace officer, dangerous operation of a motor vehicle, operation of a motor vehicle while prohibited, and resisting/obstructing a peace officer.

Whitefish has been remanded into custody and was expected to appear in Prince Albert Provincial Court on April 13.

"Big River RCMP is committed to ensuring the safety of our communities. We will investigate and arrest those who choose to disrupt this safety with criminal activity," said Sgt. Heath Robinson, Big River RCMP's commander. "Investigators worked diligently to investigate these robberies and lay charges. I'm also grateful for the assistance and expertise of other Saskatchewan RCMP units in these investigations."

Big River RCMP have also charged 38-year-old Joseph Rabbitskin, and 28-year-old Chantelle Lachance, both of the Big River First Nation, in connection with the March 5 robbery. Both face one count of robbery with a firearm, and one count of unauthorized possession of a firearm.

Warrants have been issued for their arrests and Big River RCMP are actively working to locate and arrest them. If you have information on their whereabouts, call your local RCMP detachment at 310-RCMP. Information can also be reported anonymously to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or www.saskcrimestoppers.com.

Spiritwood

A man who refused to provide his name to police is in custody, after police discovered there was an outstanding warrant for his arrest.

On April 6, at approximately 2 a.m., officers with the Spiritwood RCMP Detachment received a call about a suspicious person at a business in Spiritwood.

Officers located Tyson Lachance in a vehicle outside of the business. After he refused to provide his

name, officers were able to confirm his identity and determine that he was wanted on warrants from the Big River RCMP Detachment.

Officers also located a small amount of methamphetamine during the arrest.

Lachance, 22, of Big River First Nation was charged with single counts of resisting/obstructing peace officer and possession of methamphetamine.

Lachance was scheduled to appear in Prince Albert Provincial Court on April 11.

The Spiritwood RCMP is reminding the public about the dangers of illicit drugs, after a separate incident in which three individuals were discovered unresponsive in a vehicle on a road between Leoville and Chitek Lake.

On April 9, at approximately 8:30 a.m., officers responded to a call about the individuals in the vehicle. EMS declared them deceased at the scene.

The Saskatchewan Cor-

oners Service is investigating, but because there was evidence of illicit drug consumption at the scene, the Spiritwood RCMP is reminding the public about how to recognize an overdose and what to do if one occurs.

Someone who is experiencing an overdose may have slow, weak, or no breathing, blue lips or nails, and dizziness or confusion. They may also have drowsiness or difficulty staying awake, be non-responsive to attempts to wake them, or make choking, gurgling, or snoring sounds.

An overdose is a medical emergency. If you witness one, call 911 immediately. Emergency responders, including frontline Saskatchewan RCMP officers, carry naloxone, a fast-acting drug used to temporarily reverse the effects of overdoses caused by opioids.

The RCMP notes that The Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act provides some legal protection for individuals who seek emergency help during an overdose, including the person experiencing an overdose. The Act protects the person who seeks help, whether they stay or leave from the overdose scene before help arrives.

Members of the public can also keep naloxone on hand if they or someone they know is at risk of overdose. The Government of Saskatchewan offers a 'take home naloxone' kit available free of charge at many locations in the province. Naloxone can also be purchased at select Saskatchewan pharmacies.

One of the risks of using street drugs is they can contain other substances the user may not be aware of. This can have serious effects on the body or even be fatal.

If you want to quit using drugs, there are services available to support you. To find services near you, visit www.saskatchewan.ca/addictions. You can also call the Province of Saskatchewan's Health-Line at 811.

The R.M. of Shellbrook No. 493

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Spiritwood Women's Show

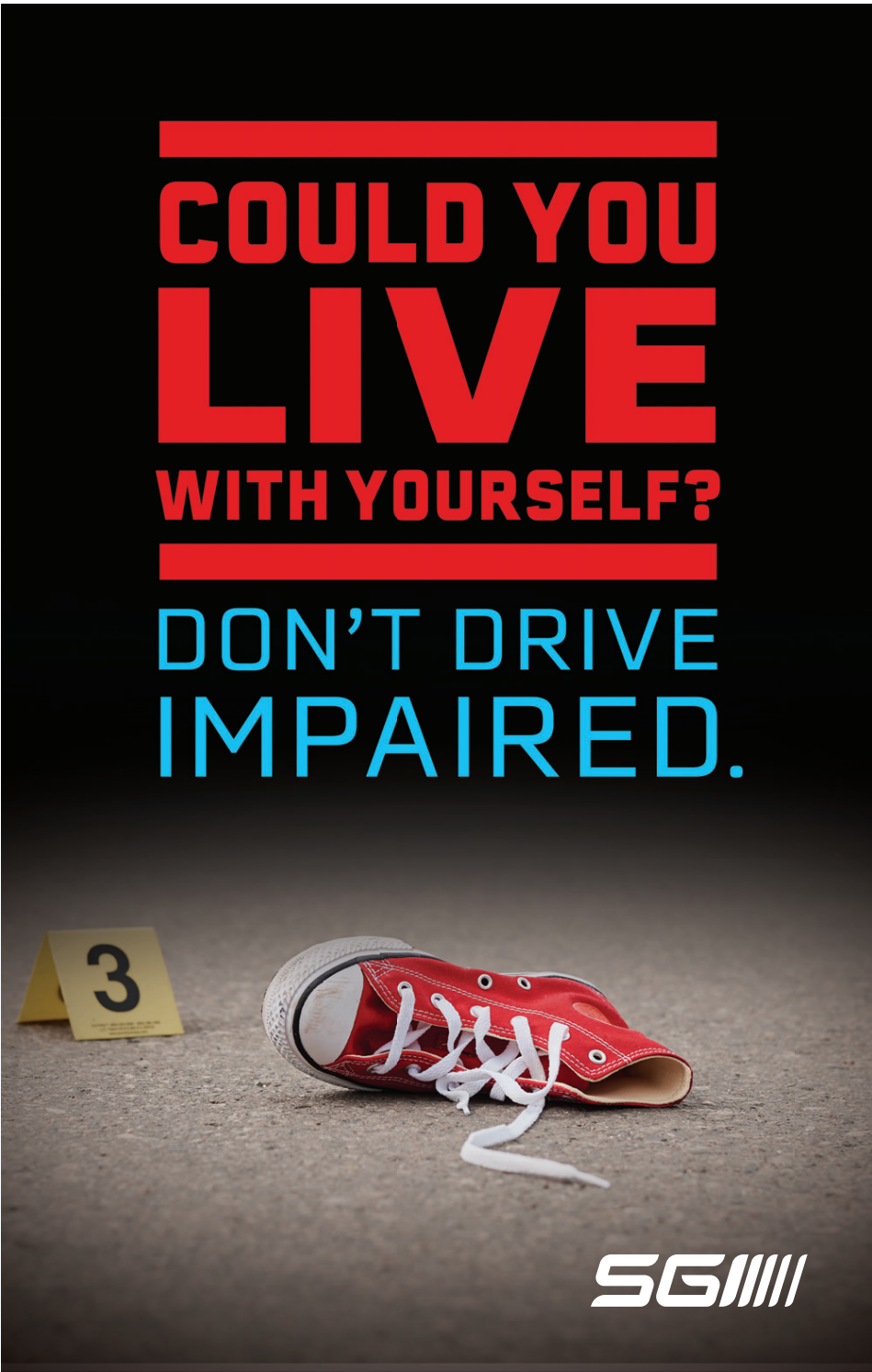
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NDP can't be blamed for Sask. Party's poor record

The Sask. Party government really likes to talk about records.

The word comes up often around budget time, when the government pats itself on the back for its "record investments" in healthcare or capital spending.

Of course, the reality of inflation means governments have to spend more each year just to maintain the status quo. So the more nuanced truth is that every new budget has "record investments" by default, while any portfolio in which spending fails to keep pace with inflation – in Saskatchewan, it tends to be education – is actually falling behind in terms of overall funding.

Also around budget time (and during every election campaign), the Sask. Party likes to disinter the long-rotten corpse of the last Sask. NDP government and conjure the ghost of its record to remind the people of Saskatchewan they have it so much better now.

Just last week, in the Report from the Legislature, our local MLAs wrote, "Rather than closing schools like the NDP did, our government is investing in them."

There's nothing inherently dishonest about the statement, when you take it at face value and look no further. In the 90s, the Sask. NDP government did shutdown 176 schools, most of them rural.

Once again, though, the truth is much more nuanced.

When Roy Romanow's NDP government took the reins from the Ned Devine Conservatives in the early 1990s, it inherited an unparalleled fiscal crisis. Indeed, without emergency financial assistance from the federal government, the province would have been forced to declare bankruptcy.

To get the budget back to balance – as the Sask. NDP government did in 11 of its last 16 years in power – painful sacrifices had to be made. While understandably devastating and upsetting to the affected communities, shuttering schools with declining student populations made sense.

It's also worth noting that, after 17 years in office, the Sask. Party government hasn't reopened a single one of the closed schools. If these closures were so awful, as the Sask. Party likes to remind us, why hasn't it done anything to rectify the injustice?

Instead, the Sask. Party government likes

to tout its investment of more than \$2 billion in "57 new or replacement schools and 30 renovation projects since 2007."

For all this spending, an internal government document released in 2020 found most schools to be in poor condition and facing a \$1.3 billion deficit in deferred maintenance.

Locally, Shellbrook has been waiting for a new joint K-12 school since the idea was first pitched in 2015. Though the project is the top priority for the Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division, it's

yet to move forward as other schools always seem to have more pressing needs.

So, it's worth asking: if the Sask. Party government can't even maintain the schools it has now, how would it have kept the 176 schools shutdown by the Sask. NDP operating?

Moreover, how would it have kept all these schools adequately staffed and resourced?

It couldn't have done either. But the Sask. Party government would rather keep us hating and fearing the NDP for the events of nearly 30 years ago than admit these inconvenient realities to its rural base.

Like a broken record, the Sask. Party repeats much the same tune when it comes to the Sask. NDP's decision to shutdown 52 rural hospitals in the 1990s.

Here again, the Sask. Party is being selectively truthful.

When Mr. Romanow's NDP government took office, Saskatchewan was a front-runner in healthcare with more hospitals than Québec – most of them funded for eight to 12 beds and not actual acute care facilities. The closures of 52 hospitals certainly changed this, but many of those hospitals were converted to community healthcare centres or long-term care facilities.

Again, none of this is to suggest the closures weren't harmful to the communities impacted by them. However, it's worth noting that the Sask. Party government hasn't done anything over the past 15 years to reopen the shuttered facilities.

Surely, if we can blame the Sask. NDP later for the "mistakes" of nearly three decades ago, we can also blame the Sask. Party for failing to remedy them.

As for the Sask. Party's record on healthcare and healthcare capital, it's not exactly



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In 2010, the Sask. Party government launched the Saskatchewan Surgical Initiative to reduce wait times to less than three months by 2014. It met the goal, and surgical wait times dropped to be among the shortest in Canada... until they began a climb to all-new highs just a couple years later.

Then, one can hardly forget the Lean fiasco, which was meant to eliminate inefficiencies and waste in the healthcare system. After the contract ended in 2015, a report found the government spent \$1,511 for every dollar it saved, all while delivering no notable improvements to quality of care and making the lives of healthcare workers more difficult.

If possible, the Sask. Party's record gets even worse when it comes to long-term care. Its negligence and refusal to remedy long-standing concerns at facilities or implement minimum standards of care has caused much unnecessary suffering and death.

Under the Sask. Party's watch, we've also seen no end to staffing shortages in healthcare.

For a number of years, Shellbrook's Parkland Integrated Health Centre intermittently operated at reduced capacity due to nursing shortages – a problem remedied less by the Sask. Party than by the town's incentives to attract and retain healthcare workers. Mean-

while, several other communities have experienced reductions and full-on shutdowns of services over the years, with the Town of Lanigan still waiting for emergency services at its hospital to resume after a two-year shutdown.

Staffing challenges are certain to persist as Saskatchewan moves beyond the COVID-19 pandemic, causing further disruptions to services (as was the case in Leader over the past week). The jury's out on how the Sask. Party's record will look when all is said and done.

Finally, where healthcare infrastructure is concerned, the Sask. Party government's love of the P3 model delivered a North Battleford hospital that required a new roof just two months after opening its doors, after the contractors used a material they knew to be risky. In a truly bizarre bit of logic, the Sask. Party tried to spin this as an example of the P3 model working because taxpayers wouldn't be on the hook for the fix.

On education and healthcare, this is the Sask. Party's record, and it's a record that can't be blamed on the ghost of the Sask. NDP's past.

After 15 years at the helm, it's time for the Sask. Party to put on a new record and focus on delivering real results for the people of Saskatchewan.

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

This year's provincial budget focuses on providing high-quality services and programs Saskatchewan families need. Our economy is back on track, allowing us to deliver those programs to you.

Education is a key investment for the Government of Saskatchewan, with our 27 school divisions receiving \$2 billion in operating funding for the upcoming school year. This nearly \$30 million increase will provide an additional \$6 million for student learning supports and fully funds the 2 per cent salary increase for teachers as part of the Teachers' Collective

Bargaining Agreement. To support students and teachers in the classroom, a new \$7 million fund will enable school divisions to hire up to

200 additional full-time educational assistants for the upcoming school year.

On the capital side of things, over \$95 million will support the ongoing planning and construction of 15 new schools and the renovation of five existing schools. A new Kindergarten to Grade 12 (K-12) school to replace Blaine Lake Composite School; and renovations and addition to John Paul II Collegiate in North Battleford is part of this capital spending. Our government has also created a \$4.5 million Minor Capital Renewal Program to extend the life of edu-

cational facilities. School divisions are encouraged to look into the program and submit applications for next year's budget.

Since 2007, our government has invested in building schools throughout the province. This year's record investment builds on the 57 new or replacements schools and the 28 renovation projects already completed. That is in stark contrast to the past NDP government that closed 176 schools throughout the province.

Outside of our schools, early childhood learning and child care services will see continued improvement with this latest budget. This year, \$4.3 million will provide 6,100 new spaces, working towards creating 28,000 new regulated child care spaces over the next five years. We are also working to make childcare more affordable with this budget. Fees for children under the age of six have been reduced by an average of 50 per cent, with a further reduction coming as soon as September 2022. By the end of March 2026, fees will be reduced to an average of \$10-a-day.

Part of the nearly \$310 million in funding for child care will help com-

plete preventative maintenance and repairs to facilities. We are also expanding services for children with disabilities as part of this budget. Another \$11.4 million will increase training initiatives and supports for early childhood educators.

Access to medical care outside of major centres received a lot of attention as we prepared this budget. Improving access is a commitment that we have made, and this year we will see significant investment and expansion. A nearly \$11 million funding increase will support stabilizing emergency medical services with more paramedics, more ambulances and more training.

The new funding will add 70.7 full time equiv-

alent positions and will address critical priority areas in the following communities: Beauval, Beechy, Big River, Blaine Lake, Buffalo Narrows, Cut Knife, Frontier, Humboldt, Imperial, Indian Head, Kipling, Kyle, La Ronge, Lloydminster, Macklin, Maple Creek, Meadow Lake, Melfort, Melville, Moosomin, Naiman, North Vattleford, Oxbow, Redvers, Rose town, St. Walburg, and Yorkton.

As we kick off a new fiscal year, 23 municipalities will be receiving more than \$1 million through the Targeted Sector Support initiative. This cost-sharing program will cover 75 per cent of the eligible costs for things like feasibility studies on safe water projects shared by neighbouring municipalities, governance training for councillors, drafting community plans or hosting capacity-building exercises between communities.

Dedicated to improving life for everyone in Saskatchewan, we are investing in better education, better childcare, better health care and more support for our municipalities. Saskatchewan is back on track and our future is bright.



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PREMIER**

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CTF: Freeland unveils another credit card budget

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation is criticizing Federal Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland for failing to provide a plan to balance the budget and rein in spending.

"Freeland is giving taxpayers another credit card budget with no plan to pay the bills on time and chip away at the \$1-trillion debt," said Franco Terrazzano, Federal Director of the CTF.

"Freeland is taking the wait-and-see approach to the government's credit card bills and hoping the economy can grow faster than its borrowing, but that's not a good bet with its track record of runaway spending."

The deficit is expected to be \$52.8 billion this year. Budget 2022 does not include a plan to balance the books.

The debt is projected at \$1.2 trillion by the end of the fiscal year. Budget 2022 is adding another \$148 billion to the debt by 2027. At 45.1 per cent, the 2022 debt to GDP ratio remains higher than pre-pandemic levels, which were close to 30 per cent.

The federal government's spending is projected to be \$452.3 billion this year, which is \$89.4 billion above pre-pandemic spending in 2019. The federal government's spending was at all-time highs before the pandemic.

Interest on the debt is projected to cost taxpayers \$26.9 billion this year.

"Interest charges on the government's credit card is costing taxpayers more than \$2 billion every month," said Terrazzano. "Every month taxpayers pay more in federal debt

interest charges than the Alberta government spends on health care."

Budget 2022 raises taxes on banks and insurance companies and imposes a so-called anti-flipping home tax. The government is providing relief for some medium-sized businesses by increasing the eligibility to the small business tax rate. It's also removing the excise tax on low-alcoholic beverages. However, the government increased payroll, alcohol and the carbon tax in 2022.

"The government is talking about making life more affordable, but people are struggling to fill their cars with gasoline and pay for ground beef at the grocery store because Ottawa is spending like crazy and raising taxes," said Terrazzano.

"Trying to ease inflation with more government debt is like trying to put out a fire with gasoline.

"Freeland should lower taxes and end the runaway spending to make life more affordable."

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF ASSESSMENT ROLL R.M. OF CANWOOD NO. 494

Notice is hereby given that the Assessment Roll for the Rural Municipality of Canwood No. 494 for the year 2022 has been prepared and is open to inspection at the Office of the Assessor from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on the following days: Monday to Friday, April 14, 2022, to May 16, 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 wishing to discuss the Notice of Assessment or potential appeal may contact the Assessor at 306-468-2014 (R.M.) or 1-800-667-5203 (SAMA).

Any person who wishes to appeal an assessment is required to file a "Notice of Appeal to the Board of Revision," by May 16, 2022, with Mike Ligtermoet, Secretary to the Board of Revision, 642 Agnew Street, Prince Albert, SK, S6V 2P1, along with the applicable fees, made payable to the R.M. of Canwood No. 494, which will be returned if the appeal is successful.

Dated at Canwood, Saskatchewan, this 13th day of April, 2022.

Lorna Benson, Assessor

VILLAGE OF SHELL LAKE NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Public notice is hereby given that the Council of the Village of Shell Lake intends to adopt a bylaw under *The Planning and Development Act, 2007* to amend Bylaw 5-87 The Basic Planning Statement Bylaw.

Intent: The proposed bylaw will update the Future Land Use Map No.1 by including previously annexed parcels within the municipal boundary of the Village of Shell Lake since the adoption of the original Basic Planning Statement in 1987.

Affected Area: The affected parcels of land annexed into the municipality since the adoption of Bylaw 5-87 as follows: 1) Parcel 10, Plan 63B09538, NE ¼ Sec. 11-50-08-W3rd - Residential; and 2) Parcel Surface Number 165149769, NE ¼ Sec. 11-50-8-W3rd - for future Residential: Short Range as shown on the map with a bold dashed line and appears as part of this notice.

Reason: To update the Basic Planning Statement mapping within the current municipal boundaries.

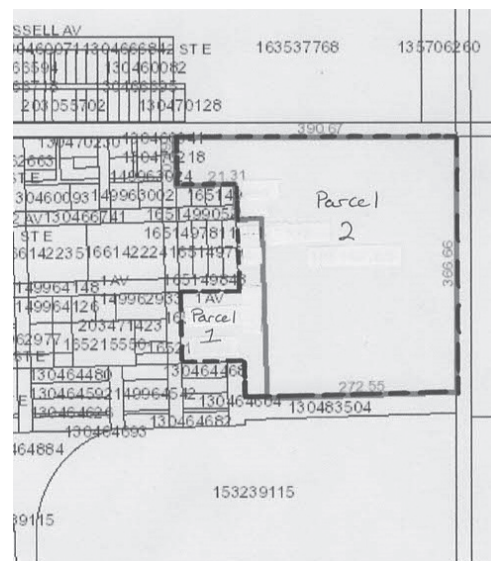
Any person may inspect the bylaw by contacting Tara Bueckert at 306-427-2272 or stop in at the Village Office Monday to Thursday. Copies are available at cost.

Public Hearing: Council will hold a public meeting on Monday, May 16th, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. at the Shell Lake Village Office, 210 Main Street, Village of Shell Lake, Saskatchewan to discuss the proposal. Council will also consider written comments received at the hearing or that is delivered to the undersigned on or before the 12th day of May, 2022.

Tara Bueckert, Administrator
Box 280
Shell Lake, SK S0J 2G0

Dated at Shell Lake, Saskatchewan, this 14th day of April, 2022

Tara Bueckert, Administrator



WP Sandin students participate in Model UN

Students from WP Sandin Public High School had the opportunity to represent their school at this year's Model UN at St. Mary's High School on April 6. In attendance were W.P. Sandin, St. Mary's and Carlton Comprehensive High School.

WP Sandin took 11 students, representing the following countries: France, South Korea, China, Malaysia, and Mexico. The France delegation was led by Mason Mamchur and Daniel Vidal, while Ben Lafond and Megan Cameron represented South Korea, and Ethan Klaassen, Graham Lamontagne, and Storm Rudolph represented China. Allison Lamotte and Brielle Empey-McVicker were the Malaysia delegates, and Abigail Kyliuk and Josee Schatkoske represented

Mexico. Each delegation had to prepare speeches that reflected this year's resolution: A framework for regulating social networking companies regarding data storage, usage, transparency, and terms of use to safeguard democracy.

"I was so proud of all of these students for trying something new, developing their research skills, and the strong knowledge of current events that they have. This group of students worked hard to involve themselves in all of the conversations that were had," said coach and WP Sandin teacher Natasha Kostyniuk, who brought the Model UN back to the school four years ago and calls it a big highlight of her career.

"I was so very impressed with the students in the morning," coach and teacher Kirk Pilon added. "However, I noticed that students really flourished in the afternoon. Many of them went out of their comfort



Students from WP Sandin High School participated at the Model UN in Prince Albert on April 6. From left: Coach Kirk Pilon, Mason Mamchur, Daniel Vidal, Storm Rudolph, Ethan Klaassen, Graham Lamontagne, Brielle Empey-McVicker, Allison Lamotte, Josee Schatkoske, Abigail Kyliuk, Megan Cameron, Benjamin Lafond, and Coach Natasha Kostyniuk.

zone." The Rotary Club of Prince Albert hosts this event and works to develop these students. Over the course of the morning, the resolution was discussed. Meanwhile, the afternoon consisted of an emergency resolution that focused on the topic of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

At the end, awards were given, and the delegation of China was presented with an honourable mention by the judges. These students are in Grade 10, and this was the first time they've attended Model UN.

On April 28 and 29, six WP Sandin students will be representing our school at the Model UN in Winnipeg virtually this year, thanks to the Rota-

ry Club of Prince Albert. These students will be representing the following countries: Russia, Yemen, and Uruguay.

"I am excited to see how our students will do at the Winnipeg Model UN, and how they will engage themselves in conversation to develop their critical thinking skills, and an understanding of current events," Kostyniuk said.



Due to an unfortunate miscommunication, the April 7 Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald published the wrong photo for the best dressed team at the Shellbrook Curling Club's year-end Funspiel. The above photo is of the actual winners, the Shamrockers. The Chronicle & Herald apologize for the error.

Town of Blaine Lake Assessment Roll Notice

Notice is hereby given that the assessment roll for the Town of Blaine Lake for the year of 2022 has been prepared and is open to inspection in the office of the Assessor **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY** from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Thursday, April 8th to May 8th, 2022.

Any person who wishes to appeal against his or her assessment is required to file his or her notice of appeal with: The Assessor, Town of Blaine Lake, Box 10, Blaine Lake, SK S0J 0J0 by the 8th day of May, 2022.

Dated this 8th day of April, 2022
Kristina Friesen, Assessor

YOUR TWO CENTS WP students showcase power of education

Dear editor, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." (Nelson Mandela)

This quotation is the motto of WP Sandin High School in Shellbrook. It is a powerful motto given to us by a powerful humanitarian – a motto that has meaning each and every day – a motto that resounds even more dramatically given the challenges the world now faces.

On April 6, 2022, I wit-

nessed several students from WP Sandin demonstrate that motto with clarity and diligence.

Those students were involved in a Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA) at St. Mary High School in Prince Albert. Over 40 students from Shellbrook and Prince Albert gathered to debate 'A framework for regulating social networking,' and 'A peaceful and just end to the War in Ukraine.' The students were there not to present their own bias on

the subjects, but to faithfully represent the positions of the countries assigned to them – no easy task.

It was an exciting day. WP Sandin students accompanied by their staff advisors, Natasha Kostyniuk and Kirk Pilon, added much to what happened. The Shellbrook students represented China, France, South Korea, Malaysia, and Mexico. Those students therefore were obligated to research and present a demanding variety of national opinions.

They did so very, very well. The judges who were tasked to evaluate the students came back with high praise for the speeches, the presentation, the research, and the way the students simulated the world in which we live. In particular, the delegation from China

was singled out for their efforts.

I, a retired history teacher, have worked with Model United Nation Assemblies since 1967. One of the rewards of my experience has been that of being asked to consult with Ms. Kostyniuk as she worked to bring MUNA to her Shellbrook students. It has been most rewarding to observe how well WP Sandin students are prepared, and to enjoy the energy they bring to the Assembly.

I will close by simply saying – Well Done WP Sandin.

Please, please continue to live by your motto – the one you demonstrated so well – "Education is the most powerful weapon."

Morley Harrison, Prince Albert

Saskatchewan Provincial Budget / 2022-23 **Back on Track**

The provincial budget provides record investments in education spending again this year, of **\$2.88 billion** that supports Prekindergarten to Grade 12 students, early learners and school and child care staff. In addition to this increase, a new **\$7.0 million fund** will allow school divisions to hire up to **200 additional full-time educational assistants** for the 2022-23 school year to support students and assist teachers in managing increasingly diverse classrooms.



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

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

Trio of pandemics raises red flags

Pandemics are not new — the 1918 influenza pandemic perhaps being the most notable with some estimates putting the death toll as high as 50 million, and of course there was the bubonic plague in the mid-1300s which killed millions more.

And now, of course, we have been dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, which has touched just about every locale on the planet and a death amassed toll of more than 6 million.

What is perhaps more concerning than the impact of COVID — and certainly it has fundamentally changed our lives

the last 30 months or so, and continues with people still dying — is how the human pandemic has occurred at the same time of a couple of major livestock diseases happening too.

Most recently in Canada, there has been an outbreak of avian influenza being found in three flocks in Alberta. The Alberta outbreak came only a short time after the flu spread across southern Ontario with the East Coast reporting cases earlier this year.

From the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website, (www.cdc.gov), “highly pathogenic avian influenza



CALVIN DANIELS

viruses cause severe disease and high mortality in infected poultry. Only some avian influenza A(H5) and A(H7) viruses are classified as HPAI A viruses, while most A(H5) and A(H7) viruses circulating among birds are LPAI A viruses. HPAI A(H5) or A(H7) virus infections can cause dis-

ease that affects multiple internal organs with mortality up to 90 percent to 100 percent in chickens, often within 48 hours.”

While the good news is bird flu viruses do not normally infect humans, the disease is concerning in terms of what it might mean to the chicken industry.

And we need only go back a couple of years to recall that African Swine Fever devastated the swine herd in China through 2019, with thousands of animals dying and more than a million culled in an attempt to control the disease.

Even with control measures, African Swine Fe-

ver spread to Southeast Asia and eastern Europe, with cases found in Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Korea, Myanmar, the Philippines, Poland, Belgium and Bulgaria.

African Swine Fever is not a threat to human health and cannot be transmitted from pigs to humans. But ASF is highly contagious and a deadly viral disease affecting both domestic and feral swine of all ages.

What is interesting in terms of COVID, ASF, and Avian flu is how it affects populations which are today very much concentrated and highly mobile, allowing for rapid spread of the disease.

Human populations are increasingly clustered in huge urban centres with significant travel connections on an almost hourly basis.

Pigs and chicken are highly concentrated livestock with huge, enclosed populations, and while there are typically tight biosecurity measures, there's still much interaction from country to country with the import and export of pigs, pork products and feedstuffs.

While the three pandemics are obviously independent incidents, the commonality of crowded populations should at least be a possible red flag.

Sask. boosts incentives for value-added ag, tech start-ups

The Government of Saskatchewan has introduced legislation to enhance the Saskatchewan Value-added Agriculture Incentive (SVAI) tax rebates and regulations to increase the Saskatchewan Technology Start-up Incentive (STSI), both aimed at attracting major investment to Saskatchewan.

“The SVAI has helped incent global corporations to undertake major projects in Saskatchewan,” Deputy Premier and Finance Minister Donna Harpauer said. “These corporations are investing billions, creating construction and per-

manent jobs, and establishing Saskatchewan's leadership in value-added agriculture.

“In 2021, a record \$17.5 billion in agri-food exports from Saskatchewan helped feed the world. Enhancements to the SVAI will make Saskatchewan even more competitive and effective in attracting investment to grow the industry and our province's economy.”

The SVAI is a non-transferable 15 per cent tax rebate on capital expenditures valued at \$10 million or more for newly constructed or expanded value-added agriculture facilities

in Saskatchewan.

The Income Tax Act Amendment Act, 2022 increases the credit from 15 per cent to 30 per cent for the portion of a project between \$450-\$600 million in value, and from 15 per cent to 40 per cent on the portion of the project that is more than \$600 million in value.

The legislation caps the dollar value of the SVAI credit at \$250 million, meaning no single project can be eligible for more than that amount of SVAI tax relief.

Regulations for the Saskatchewan Technology Start-

up Incentive (STSI) have been amended.

“The STSI has been a key part of our government's commitment to drive growth in the technology sector,” Harpauer said. “Since launching in 2018, the program has attracted over \$45 million of investment into 46 early-stage companies from over 230 angel investors.”

The STSI encourages investment in early-stage technology start-ups that develop new products and create jobs. The program offers a non-refundable 45 per cent tax credit to Saskatchewan-based investors

who invest in eligible technology start-up businesses.

Last year, the STSI was extended for five years. This year, through amendments to The Saskatchewan Technology Start-up Incentive Regulations, the annual STSI tax credit cap is increasing from \$2.5 million to \$3.5 million.

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

PRINCE ALBERT LIVESTOCK SALES
A division of Northern Livestock Sales



To consign cattle or
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Glen, Boyd or Frederick

Fri., April 22, 2022

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

Mon., April 25, 2022

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



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



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MEADOW LAKE LIVESTOCK SALES LTD.



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for on-farm appraisals
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Brent, Blair or Brody

Wed., Apr. 20, 2022

Regular Sale 9:00 a.m.

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



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FEEDER FINANCE PROGRAM AVAILABLE - Please contact Brent

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

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

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

KofC Poster Contest awards presented

Representatives of Spiritwood Knights of Columbus Council #5353 presented local council awards to the winners of the Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest.

Michael Swityk and Brad Iverson presented the medals to the following winners in each grade:

Kindergarten – Lael Lee

Grade 1 – Norie Beauchesne

Grade 2 – Cole Simonar

Grade 3 – Mikayla Tkachuk

Grade 4 – Kelsey Doucette

Grade 5 – Lexi Kajner

Grade 6 – McKaylah de Repentigny

A number of posters were forwarded to the State (Provincial) Level. They include: Age 5-7: Cole Simonar; Norie Beauchesne. Age 8-10: Kelsey Doucette; Lexi Kajner. Age 11-14: McKaylah de Repentigny; Ciara Conacher.

The Knights wish the best of luck to these students at the provincial competition to be held later in April.



Winners in the Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest, with award presented by Michael Swityk and Brad Iverson. L. to r.: Lael Lee (K), Norie Beauchesne (Gr 1), Kelsey Doucette (Gr 4), Mikayla Tkachuk (Gr 3), Lexi Kajner (Gr 5), and McKaylah de Repentigny. Missing: Cole Simonar (Gr 2).

Medals awarded in Free Throw Championship

Representatives of Spiritwood Knights of Columbus Council #5353 presented medals to the winners of the District Level of the Basketball Free Throw Competition. Michael Swityk and Brad Iverson presented the medals to the following:

Age 9 Boys – Lucas Buswell (HCE)

Age 9 Girls – Taylin Naistus (HCE)

Age 10 Boys – Hudson Schmidt (Rivier)

Age 11 Girls - Olivia Haggarty (Rivier)

Age 12 Boys – Cain Madden (HCE)

These recipients proceeded to the State (Provincial) Competition. Winners will be determined in late April.



Winners from Rivier Elementary School in the K of C Free Throw Championship: Olivia Haggarty (Age 11 Girls) and Hudson Schmidt (Age 10 Boys). Michael Swityk (seen here) and Brad Iverson made the presentations.



Winners from Hartley Clark Elementary School in the K of C Free Throw Championship: Taylin Naistus (Age 9 Girls), Lucas Buswell (Age 9 Boys), and Cain Madden (Age 12 Boys). Michael Swityk (seen here) and Brad Iverson made the presentations.

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

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
Parkside
11 a.m. - Worship

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

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

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
- 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

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

CHECK IT OUT!

www.shellbrookchronicle.com

www.spiritwoodherald.com

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

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

Gideons International of Canada
Battlefords Camp
Phone Art Martynes
(306) 389-4633
- UNITED /ANGLICAN**
Worship Services
Glaslyn
Time is on the sign
Rev. Kun Kim
Rev. Don Skinner

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

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

FIELDS OF HOPE (HOFFNUNGSFELDER) MENNONITE CHURCH
Glenbush
Worship - 11:00 am

LAKELAND COMMUNITY CHURCH
(Corner of 1st Ave. and 4th
St., Spiritwood)
Sun., 11 am - Worship
Service & Sunday School
Pastor Michael Kluthe
306-883-2380
- PARTNERS IN WORSHIP**
Shell Lake
Worship Services
Sunday 9:00 a.m.
Pastor Sarah Urano
306-841-7333

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

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

Clarks win Sask. Wildlife Federation award

A Shellbrook area couple were recently awarded the prestigious Clayton Young Memorial Award during the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation 94th Annual Convention. This award is presented once annually in each zone by the provincial SWF to an individual whose lifetime volunteerism has had a profound positive influence towards fulfilling the Federation’s mission statement “to ensure the wildlife legacy we leave to our children surpasses that which we inherited.”

This is a somewhat unique presentation this year as the award was presented to Barbie and Ian Clark as a couple. They have both been a part of the Lake Country/Shellbrook Wildlife Federation since the ‘80s. During this time, they have dedicated many hours planning, supporting, and helping to build the club to what it is today.

They were involved in the early years of the present clubhouse and indoor range and a driving force in the extensive upgrades to the indoor range over the years in order to bring it up to

cutting-edge modern standards for continued use by the many men and women who are active club members.

They have invested a lot of time volunteering on various executives in the wildlife club as well as the Target Shooters club, ensuring the different entities of the clubs would prosper and flourish, making things much better than when they started.

Fundraising efforts through Event Tent Rentals, Turkey Shoots, Award Banquets, Medieval Feasts and a multitude of organized club shoots have brought to fruition modern improvements to the outdoor range and made the idea of our new long-range facility into a place where members can enjoy modern shooting sport trends as well as plans to facilitate big bore silhouette and other action shooting sports.

Making this outdoor space even more enjoyable was the organizing, planning and planting of “Ray’s Place”. This old trapping cabin was moved onto the outdoor range from its home in the north and aptly

named in memory of a club member who invested many years of service to the club and was taken from us too soon.

Ian and Barbie’s combined interest in many facets of shooting sports has led to the organization of Range Officer courses, Coaching Certification, and the initiation of formal competition target shooting with airguns and archery. This coaching certification led Ian to manage the shooting team for our zone in the 2014 Saskatchewan Winter Games and coach in the 2018 Winter Games.

Both Ian and Barbie have been long-time active instructors with the provincial Hunter Education program, training the next generation of hunters to appreciate the sport and continue the legacy of hunters actively practicing conservation. They have also been strong advocates for our shooting sports as senior Canadian Firearm Safety instructors, providing courses for shooters in our area as well as travelling North to help out remote communities.

Barbie and Ian have

putting on events that introduce women to the outdoors, as well as supporting new shooters through club events, enabling anyone to try the sport with passionate coaches and capable mentors that make people feel that this is a sport that whole families can enjoy.

Supporting shooting sports is only one of their many passions when it comes to outdoor interests. Conservation is another passion for the Clarks. They have spent hours of organizing, researching and getting their hands dirty in an effort to support, manage and successfully produce trophy Rainbow Trout at the Nesland Lake project, locally known as “The Puddle”. This little gem lake west of Shellbrook near Mont Nebo is a fly fisher’s paradise for trout when the water is warm, and an ice fisher’s delight in winter-

time.

The Clarks and their family have won many club awards for their fishing abilities. Organizing fun events like fly-tying courses or birding symposiums introduces folks to other outdoor experiences. Ian & Barbie have spent a lifetime as ambassadors for hunting, shooting, fishing, and conservation, generously giving

their time to be inclusive with others in staunch defense of our sport, recreation and conservation efforts.

The local Wildlife Branch president, Lyndon Tieszen, comments that “Many of us can gratefully name Barbie and Ian as mentors and friends, knowing our lives are much better for being a small part of theirs.”



Ian and Barbie Clark accept the Clayton Young Memorial Award from Lake Country Wildlife Federation president Lyndon Tieszen.

Forestry operators, contractor take responsibility for water release into Nesslin Lake

In separate legal proceedings, two forestry operators and a contractor have taken responsibility for their roles in road repairs gone wrong that resulted in a significant release of water and sediment into Nesslin Lake in July 2019.

As part of an alternative measures agreement that concluded April 5, 2022, A.C. Logging Ltd. of Spiritwood accepted responsibility for its role in the incident and contributed \$20,000 to the provincial Impacted Sites Fund.

Meanwhile, in previous court agreement, Carrier Forest Products Ltd. of Big River accepted responsibility for its role and contributed \$75,000 to the fund, which helps support the cleanup of contaminated sites across the province. Carrier has also completed work to stabilize the road and decommission the creek crossing.

Additionally, OS-ARC Enterprises Ltd. pleaded guilty to one count under The Environmental Management and Protection Act. The Big River contractor was fined a total of \$17,500 in Prince Albert Provincial Court on Oct. 25, 2021.

In July 2019, OS-ARC, working on behalf of Carrier and A.C. Logging Ltd., began to repair a road and crossing required for forest operations. The removal of a beaver dam resulted in a rapid release of water and sediment into a creek that flowed south into Nesslin Lake. This altered the creek channel and caused the lake’s water level to rise significantly in a short time, causing flooding and reduced water quality.

Saskatchewan’s forests, and the water bodies within them, play an essential role in the province’s environment and economy. When damage occurs, even inadvertently, it is important that parties involved acknowledge their responsibility and take steps to mitigate impacts.

Anyone who suspects forestry, wildlife, fisheries or environmental violations is encouraged to report them to the nearest Ministry of Environment office or to call the province’s toll-free Turn In Poachers and Polluters (TIPP) line at 1-800-667-7561 or #5555 for SaskTel cell phone subscribers. Violations can also be reported online at www.saskatchewan.ca/tipp.

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 Theatre Movie Night, Fri., April 22, American Underdog; Fri., May 13, Spider-man: No Way Home; Fri., May 27, Peaceful. Doors Open 6:30 p.m. Showtime 7 p.m. Cost is \$5 ~ Canteen available!
BIG RIVER: Northern Lights Bluegrass & Old Tyme Festival – Music Camp: August 15-19, 2022; Festival August 19-21, 2022 at the Ness Creek Site, Big River, SK. Feat. The Price Sisters, Five Mile Mountain Road, Stanley County Cut-up’s, The Local Group, Doggone Brothers, Raven She Hollers, Scott Cook, The Salt Licks, Eliza’s C.A.M.P. Showcase. Friday/Saturday night dance in the Jack Millikin Centre. www.northernlightsbluegrass.com
CANWOOD: Canwood & District Health Services Co-operative Annual Meeting – Wed. April 27, 2022, Seniors Room – Elks Hall. Supper: 6:30 pm (\$15/person). Meeting to follow. Please come out and show your support for your community clinic. If you have any questions please call Sandi at 1-306-961-5217.

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Shellbrook seniors take up line dancing

They won't be heading to Las Vegas to compete or taking over your local saloon anytime soon, but members of the Shellbrook Seniors Association are finding a new way to stay active with a line dancing crash course.

The course kicked off at the Shellbrook Senior Citizen's Centre last Thursday morning under the instruction of Dolores Beaulieu, a retired LPN who's been line dancing with a close friend just for fun. After hearing the Shellbrook seniors were looking to try something new through a connection of a connection of a connection, she touched base with Adeline Fossey and agreed to try it out for six weeks.

"Line dancing is quite an aerobic workout, not only physically but mentally," Beaulieu said. "It's for all ages and you don't need a partner. That's what's nice about it. You can totally do it on your own. You just adapt accordingly with your music."

While she noted that line dancing can get quite complex once you've built up enough skill, Beaulieu kept things fairly simple in her first line dancing session with the Shellbrook seniors, walking the handful of participants through the basic steps and having them attempt a trio of dances.

"It's just to get the basic steps first. Most line dances all have the basics, and then you just add on as you get more confident," she said. "It gets your heart and your brain working. And music is always a healing thing."

Though some will inevitably pick up the moves quicker than others, Beaulieu says the beauty of line dancing is there's no competition. You just do what you can however you can. For this reason, line dancing is great not just for physical and mental activity, but for building camaraderie with others.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, she feels there's nothing everybody needs more than some camaraderie.

"We've been people-starved for two years now, so it's just an opportunity for people to get out and get our social skills back. It's totally a social activity," she said. "When you dance and you're having fun and [listening to] music, you get all the positive vibes out there and you feel good when you leave."



A handful of dancers came out to try line dancing, hosted by the Shellbrook Senior's Association and instructed by Dolores Beaulieu.

Federal government tables 2022-2023 budget

Federal Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland tabled the Liberal government's 2022-2023 budget last Thursday, unveiling a more restrained approach to spending in the midst of great global uncertainty.

The budget pegs the federal deficit at \$52.8 billion for 2022-2023, slightly less than expected in last fall's economic update at \$58.4 billion. Though the government benefited from an additional \$14.3 billion due to increased tax revenue from inflation, Freeland opted not to spend all the extra money.

The ratio of debt-to-GDP is also on the decline according to the government's projection. It will dip to 45.1 per cent in 2022-2023 and will progressively go down to 41.5 per cent by 2026-2027.

The deficit is set to decline progressively as well, dropping less than \$10 billion within five years.

Here are some of the budget highlights:

On affordable housing, the budget promises a tax-free savings accounts that would give first-time home buyers the chance to save up to \$40,000. Contributions would be tax-deductible and withdrawals to buy a first home would not be taxed. The program is expected to provide \$725 million in support over five years.

Ottawa is also launching a housing accelerator fund, worth \$4 billion over five years, to create 100,000 new housing units in the next five years, and committing an additional \$1.5 billion over two years to extend the rapid housing initiative and build 6,000 new housing units to tackle homelessness.

Making good on one of the key pillars of its confidence and supply agreement with the NDP, the government is promising \$5.3 billion over five years, and \$1.7 billion each year thereafter, for a national dental care program. The program will begin this year with children aged 12 and under, and expand to cover Canadians under 18, seniors, and people with disabilities in 2023.

Once fully implemented by 2025, the program will be limited to families with incomes of less than \$90,000, with no

co-pays required for those earning less than \$70,000.

In the broader healthcare portfolio, the Canada Health Transfer will provide provinces and territories with \$45.2 billion in support in 2022-2023, an increase of 4.8 per cent over last year.

Responding to the federal budget, Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe said he and his fellow premiers would like to see Canada Health Transfers increased.

"Dental care or any healthcare services that are being offered, you know this is a prime example of where the federal government does need to work closely with the provinces. Health care is provincially delivered across the nation," said Moe. "All of the premiers have unified in an ask to increase the Canada Health Transfer to a fair level."

Where the environment and climate change are concerned, one of the big attention-getters was the introduction of a refundable 50 per cent tax credit to boost investment in carbon capture and storage technologies.

There's also a tax credit of 37.5 per cent to cover the cost of equipment to transport and store carbon dioxide emissions, and a tax credit to cover 60 per cent of the costs of direct air capture technologies to remove carbon from the atmosphere. Enhanced oil recovery, a common use for captured carbon, was excluded from eligibility for the tax credits, which are expected to cost \$2.6 billion through the first five years and climb to \$8.6 billion by 2030.

Premier Moe said the federal government's environmental policies "missed the mark" for Saskatchewan's energy sector.

"This federal budget continues to invest in programming without having the incentives to stimulate the economy to pay for it in the future," Moe said. "The Trudeau government had an opportunity to make a clear commitment to North American energy independence, but of course, that's something we will never see in an NDP-Liberal budget."

Elsewhere, the budget includes plans to extend incentives and eligibility for a program to get more Canadians to

buy electric vehicles, at a cost of \$1.76 billion over five years. Jointly, the government intends to impose a sales mandate to ensure that at least 20 per cent of new light-duty vehicle sales will be zero-emission vehicles by 2026. That market share is supposed to rise to at least 60 per cent by 2030, and 100 per cent by 2035.

The budget also commits \$3.8 billion to launch Canada's first strategy to develop exploitation of the critical minerals used in everything from phones to airplanes.

Finally, the federal government is planning to rebate \$100 million from the carbon tax to farmers in provinces where the federal system applies, including Saskatchewan. But some in Saskatchewan's agricultural sector don't feel that it's enough.

Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) president Ian Boxall says the rebate is a start, but he feels that it's nowhere close to being enough to cover the increasing costs of carbon pricing.

"Our estimates show much higher costs for essential activities like rail transportation, grain drying, and heating barns, and producers need to be exempted or rebated for these costs," Boxall explained.

"We could be upwards of \$4.92 an acre in carbon tax alone," he added. "So in my 4000-acre farm, we're looking at \$18,000 to \$20,000. That's a huge, huge amount of money to come off our bot-

tom line. So, \$100 million to the provinces in the backstop, it's really just a drop in the bucket."

Where Indigenous reconciliation is concerned, the budget promises to spend an additional \$11 billion over six years to support Indigenous children, families and communities, including \$4 billion for housing over seven years. It also pledges \$4 billion over six years to help ensure access for First Nations children to health, social and educational services through Jordan's Principle.

Additionally, almost \$400 million over two years will go to improve infrastructure on reserves, including \$247 million for water and wastewater infrastructure. And to address a key commitment on reconciliation, the budget sets aside \$210 million to help communities document, locate and memorialize burial sites at former residential schools.

With the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, the budget includes plans to boost defence spending by \$8 billion over five years, including \$500 million in military aid for Ukraine. This brings Canada's defence spending to 1.5 per cent of GDP, still shy of the 2 per cent of GDP threshold NATO has called on member nations to spend.

Separate from this expense and the budget, the government also inked an \$18 billion contract to buy 88 F-35 fighter jets, bringing an end to a long and tumultuous effort to modernize the Canadian Air Force.

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Homer-happy Jays have high hopes

After being pushed around by the Yankees, Red Sox and Rays since last winning the American League pennant in 2015, the homer-happy Toronto Blue Jays plan to be the neighbourhood bullies in 2022.

For Canadian baseball fans, it could be an enjoyable season.

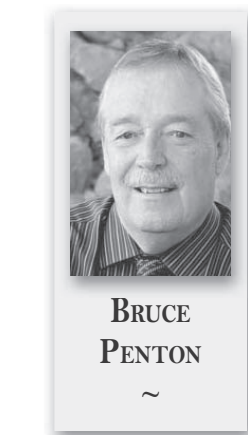
All the tangible assets are in place, such as a lineup featuring young and talented players like first baseman Vladimir Guerrero, Jr., and shortstop Bo Bichette, and a strong pitching staff bolstered by free agent acquisition Kevin Gausman, who won 12 games for San Francisco Giants in 2021 and finished sixth in Cy Young award voting. Gausman will help to offset the loss of Robbie Ray, who won the A.L. Cy Young last year and then promptly cashed in with a huge free-agent contract with Seattle. Gausman joins Jose Berrios, Alex Manoh and Hyun-Jin Ryu in a Jays rotation that's not spectacular, but certain-

ly solid.

Many intangibles are also lining up in favour of the Jays, particularly the fact that the team will have a post-Covid home base for the full season. Two years ago, the Jays played their home games in Buffalo, while last year, they started the season in Dunedin, Fla., moved to Buffalo for a good chunk of the spring, and were finally allowed to play at Rogers Centre in Toronto from July 1 on.

Of course, when you're talking about intangibles, the injury factor is always a concern, but if the Jays can avoid any serious, long-term absences by any of their starters, the 2022 season could be one to remember.

Guerrero, Jr. is coming off a campaign where he slammed 48 home runs, and was runner-up to Shohel Ohtani as most valuable player in the American League. At only 23 years of age, there is no reason to suspect he'll hit fewer hom-



BRUCE
PENTON

ers.

The Jays could score an astronomical number of runs this year and be one of the most entertaining teams in MLB as a result. With centerfielder George Springer finally healthy and leading off, followed by Bichette, who hits for both power (29 homers last year) and average (.298), it is conceivable that Guerrero, Jr., will often approach the plate with either Springer or Bichette, or both, already on base. With sluggers Teoscar Hernandez, Lourdes Gurriel and newly acquired Matt Chapman (27 homers last year with Oakland) fol-

lowing in the 4-5-6 positions, opposing pitchers are going to have sleepless nights before facing Toronto.

It says here that the Blue Jays will threaten the Major League Baseball record for most homers hit by one team — 307 by the 2019 Minnesota Twins — and round the bases laughing to the A.L. East Division title.

• Nick Canepa of the San Diego Union-Tribune, on Bucs QB Tom Brady's unretirement: "Brady obviously loves his kids, but after two months of seeing too much of him, Gisele told Tommy to go spend more time with much larger children."

• NOTSportsCentre, on Twitter: "BREAKING: After watching Will Smith assault Chris Rock on live TV, the Cleveland Browns have agreed to a 7-year, \$400 million deal with Will Smith to be their new hard hitting safety."

• Speedy receiver Tyreek Hill, on his departure from Kansas

City to sign with Miami: "It's tough. But when someone comes to you with a lot of money, feelings change a bit."

• Vancouver comedy writer Steve Burgess, on Twitter: "Might be time for the Canucks to replace their post-game song from Elton John's 'I'm Still Standing' to Goodbye Yellow Brick Road."

• Jack Finarelli, at sportscurmudgeon.com, after Tampa Bay Bucs coach Bruce Arians quit: "Memo to TV network execs: Please take pity on your audience and resist any and all temptations to hire Bruce Arians as a colour commentator. He did that for one season, and he was as bad on the microphone as he was good on the sidelines."

• RJ Currie of sports-deke.com: "Bruce Arians, head coach of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, has retired. At least for the next 40 days."

• Headline at theonion.com: "NFL Satisfies Outraged Fans With New Overtime Rule That Both

Teams Win"

• Dwight Perry of the Seattle Times: "Let's hear it for the Seattle Kraken's DJ, who, upon seeing a first-period fight last week, immediately spooled up the theme song to Will Smith's 'The Fresh Prince of Bel Air.'"

• Nick Canepa of The San Diego Union-Tribune, on the Browns giving QB Deshaun Watson the thumbs-up despite 22 sexual-assault charges against him: "Seems Deshaun's baggage got lost on its way to Cleveland."

• Tim Hunter of Everett's KRKO Radio, with a sign you're a lousy golfer: "The people playing in front of you are wearing helmets."

• Charle Gay of Seattle: "It's obvious we need to add one more metric for Oscar nominees: slugging percentage."

• Comedy writer Paul Lander, via Twitter: "Next year's Oscars host has to be Michael Buf-fer!"

Care to comment? Email brucepen-ton2003@yahoo.ca

Pickleball growing in popularity in Shellbrook

It may be a game with a funny name, but pickleball is certainly making a lot of racket in Shellbrook and the surrounding area.

Invented in 1965 by three dads who were looking to entertain their kids over the summer, pickleball is a paddle sport that combines elements of tennis, badminton and ping pong. The sport can be played in singles or doubles format, indoors or outdoors, on a badminton-sized court. Like the sports it takes inspiration from, players use solid paddles to bat a perforated polymer ball over a net.

Sally Jacobson, president of the Shellbrook Pickleball Club, was first introduced to the sport in Prince Albert in the winter of 2018 by a friend who had played it in Arizona. Finding it to be a fun social experience as well as a great exercise, she and her friend thought it would be a perfect activity to bring to an active community like Shellbrook.

"We organized a few learn to play nights in Shellbrook in 2019 and the interest was great," Jacobson said. "COVID slowed player development in the last

couple of years, but we have an enthusiast group of people who are committed to play and develop the sport for anyone who is interested to learn."

With everything opening back up, the Shellbrook Pickleball Club decided to host more "try pickleball" sessions at the end of March. Jacobson estimates 18 or so people came out to these sessions, meaning the four courts set up in the gymnasium at WP Sandin

Public High School were busy throughout each of the nights and some players had to wait for their turn to play. Regular play nights, meanwhile, typically see about a dozen players come out.

Jacobson says the reasons she fell in love with pickleball are the same reasons she's certain others in Shellbrook and the surrounding area will enjoy the sport.

Apart from being a fun, social experience and a way to stay fit,

Jacobson says the sport is inclusive and accessible. It's inexpensive, requiring only running shoes and a paddle, and its simple rules make it easy for people of any age or athletic ability to learn and play.

"Our club offers one free learn to play session (including supplying paddles) to anyone who wants to try out the sport," Jacobson said. "Our members offer mentorship to new players on a continuous basis."

Jacobson isn't the only one interested in seeing pickleball grow in Shellbrook. At a meeting in early February, Shellbrook's Town Council unanimously voted to allow the curling rink to be used as a pickleball court during the offseason.

Jacobson says the Pickleball Club was delighted to have Town Council's support, and believes it will be a great use for a facility that would otherwise sit vacant until curling starts back up in the fall. She's also happy players will have a controlled weather environment to play in when summer finally arrives.

She says the curling rink will be set up to accommodate four pickleball courts. The first tiled sport court is expected to arrive in mid-May.

"We are still building our club and it would be amazing if we were in a position to build outdoor courts. Unfortunately the cost is unrealistic at this time," Jacobson said.

"We are hoping to increase our membership this summer and introduce the fastest growing sport in North America to Shellbrook and surrounding area."



In hopes of growing the popularity of pickleball in Shellbrook and area, the Shellbrook Pickleball Club has been hosting try pickleball sessions in WP Sandin Public High School's gymnasium.

OBITUARIES

David Richard Hildebrand



David Richard Hildebrand (Aka: Rich) Rich was born on August 18th, 1958, in Winkler, MB. He was raised in Greenfarm, MB. He started elementary school in Greenfarm

later graduating from high school in Winkler. Rich attended Kelsey Post-Secondary Institute in Saskatoon, graduating with a Renewable Resources degree. Rich met Valerie Roberts during his post-secondary studies, and they were married on June 28, 1980. Rich and Val raised three kids in Shellbrook. Rich has 5 grandkids. He loved being a Papa. Rich worked for the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment in various departments from 1979 – 2018. Post-retirement, Rich worked part-time for Beau “Lac” Funeral Home and his

personal workshop doing various wood works. Rich had many hobbies including fishing, hunting, woodworking, wood carving and photography. Rich loved to laugh and make groan-worthy Dad jokes. Rich played rec league hockey with the Nordic Raiders for many years and slow-pitch ball in Prince Albert. Rich was very well decorated with medals and awards in his work, wood carving, and photography. Rich loved his church, Shellbrook Pentecostal Church, and his community. He is best known for his love of people and love of visit-

ing. He was always found chatting with someone wherever he went. Rich is lovingly survived by his wife, Valerie Ann Hildebrand (née: Roberts) of Shellbrook, SK; his Parents, Doreen & Alvin Hildebrand; his children: David (Erin) Hildebrand of Melita, MB; Jennifer (Daniel) Lundy of Niverville, MB and their children, Gideon, Jaelle, Adaya; Theresa (Blayne) Smith of Shellbrook and their children, Ciera (Brett Bischler), Cole; his siblings: Roxanna (Alf) Enns, and Dale Hildebrand. Rich is predeceased by

his grandparents, Henry Hildebrand December 12, 1997; Annie Hildebrand January 20, 1986; David Suderman August 22, 1974; and Margaret Suderman September 27, 1968. There will be a Funeral Service held for Rich on Friday, April 15, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. from the Shellbrook Pentecostal Assembly in Shellbrook, SK (61 – 2nd St W, Shellbrook, SK), with Pastor Dave Bodvarson officiating. There will be a private interment following the service in the Shellbrook Cemetery and everyone is welcome for a time of refreshments and

fellowship back at the Church Hall following the interment. In lieu of tributes, memorial donations may be made in memory of Rich to either the Shellbrook Pentecostal Assembly (Box 1118 Shellbrook, SK. S0J 2E0) or to the Canadian Cancer Society. 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.

Judith Bernadine Krakalovich



Judith Bernadine Krakalovich passed away peacefully on April 8th, 2022, at the age of 70 years after a courageous battle with cancer. Judith and her twin sister Janet were born October 20th, 1951, to Henry and Eleanore Scheper of Anaheim, SK. They were

the eldest of 5 sisters, who grew up on the family farm. She attended Bunker Hill School for grades 1-5 and Anaheim Laurier School for grades 6-12. Immediately after school, she began working at the Bank of Nova Scotia in Humboldt, SK which began her 42-year career in the banking industry. She steadily advanced throughout her career, briefly leaving to work for MICC and ultimately returning to the Bank of Nova Scotia where she retired from the Commercial Division in Prince Albert, SK. Judy's job took her to Regina, SK for a period and it is there that she met Larry Krakalovich and they were married on March 31st, 1994. Their love of golfing

and fishing eventually took them north to Shellbrook, SK where they settled into retirement. In her retirement years, Judy and Larry did a lot of traveling and golfing. Their travels took them on memorable adventures to Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa, and many places in the U.S. She had many fond memories of spending time with best friends Alwyn and Loretta Fourie. Larry and Judy did many winters in Yuma, AZ with her twin sister and her husband. She also partnered with her good friend Rae Moe, going to auctions looking for antiques to buy and sell as a pastime. Judy cherished her two children Duane and Tammy. Her grandchildren,

Tristen, Lauryn, Ryker, and Bryn, whom she loved unconditionally, were also a great source of pride. She loved teaching them about nature and how plants grow. Judy also had a passion for cooking and baking. She took great pleasure in finding new recipes to please friends and family. In the summer, you could usually find her in her backyard tending to her plants. In addition to her huge vegetable garden, she had a deck bursting with beautiful flowers. Judy's special gift was her generous nature. She loved to eagerly share with friends and family whatever she had, whether it was her cooking, recipes, golf tips, general knowledge, or the vegetables she grew in her garden. Fulfilling the

needs of others and seeing her delight is what gave her great joy. Judy served on the board of Shellbrook Hidden Hills Golf Course, through the years in different chair positions. Judy is survived by her husband Larry Krakalovich; her son Duane (Cheryl Praski) Schemenauer, grandchildren Tristen and Lauryn; her daughter Tammy (Blaire) Hornung, grandchildren Ryker and Bryn; her stepdaughter Dana Rubin; her stepdaughter Cheryl Husum (Curtis); her sisters Janet (Al) Richter, Marilyn Breker (Lawrence Melis), Rita Dash, Carol (Scott) Grierson; her sister-in-law Sandra (Gary) Graham; and many nieces and nephews. Judy is predeceased by her parents Henry

(Eleanore (nee Stumborg)) Scheper; her parents-in-law Peter (Mary) Krakolovich; her brothers-in-law Gordon Acton, Donald Breker, and David Dash. Judy left us much too early from cancer. Thank you to the Oncology Department at RUH for their care as well as the staff at Shellbrook Hospital and Care Wing for the exceptional care given in her final days. At Judy's request, there will be a private interment in Humboldt, SK at a later date. No service will be held in Shellbrook, SK. Condolences can be sent to the family on our website at www.mackenziechapel.ca. Arrangements in care of MacKenzie Chapel & Crematorium. Brian & Bev Stobbs, Mark Gyoeirick - Matayah Loyst - Mel Curle. 306.763.8488.

GOOD NEWS

BEAUTY FOR ASHES

I came across quite a testimony in the Winter edition of the Testimony. One has to appreciate how transparent Betty Ryan was. She starts off her testimony saying that her parents partied non-stop. It certainly was a difficult atmosphere she grew up in. She didn't have much stability in her home life, her grandmother was the only person who provided safety and stability. “Whenever fear overcame me, which was often, I ran to her house,” Betty wrote. Betty's dad eventually found a job in a mine but that meant he would be away from the family for some six months. Betty testified “After he left, Mom began bringing strangers to the apartment. One day, Mom told me to watch my two-year old sister. ‘I'll be right back,’ she said. “She never returned. I lost count of how many days we were alone in that second-floor apartment. I made icing sugar sandwiches on mouldy bread for us to eat. When those ran

out, I went across the street to a restaurant and stood beside a couple eating hamburgers. I didn't say a word- just stared at their food. One of them asked, ‘Are you hungry, little girl?’ They ordered hamburgers and fries to go. Those kind strangers kept us alive.” Betty and her sister not only experienced a lack of food, but she mentions that they had no heat in their apartment. They lived in Northern Ontario and winter temperatures could often dip to minus 20. Her dad did eventually return on Christmas Eve. He soon realized that the apartment was freezing, and his wife was gone. Betty grew up and had children at a young age. One Sunday, she decided to visit a small evangelical church. Her testimony emphasizes the importance of the local church. In her testimony, Betty Ryan puts it this way: “I had never been inside such a church. I slipped quietly into a chair at the back. At the end of the service, everyone stood to leave.

I felt stuck to my seat. The young pastor approached and stood in front of me. He then told me all about myself. When he finished, I came unstuck and quickly left the building. I had always loved God and often cried at night, asking Him why I had been born. I had no idea what happened to me at church, but I knew God was in it. I gave my life to Jesus, and the pastor and his wife mentored me.” Betty Ryan mentioned in her testimony that she loved God but still hated her mother. It must be a tough thing to go through abandonment. God would have it that Betty would reconcile with her mother. Betty's mom called her out of the blue. She told her “Betty, this is Mom. I just want to tell you I love you.” Betty was shocked and caught off guard, she was able to reply because it seemed the right thing to do, she said, “I love you too, Mom.” Betty confessed she did feel love for her mother. In fact, she told God “I just can't love my mother.” God said to Betty, “Betty can never love her mother on her own, but Betty can love her mother with My agape love.”

Agape love, or unconditional love, is a great thing. Betty was able to establish a relationship her mom. Betty testified “God not only healed my relationship with my mother and filled us with love for each other, He healed all the broken places in my life and all the damage I suffered as child. God has made me a strong woman, strong enough to assist others on their journey. Strong enough to tell my story. Strong enough to stand and declare that God has healed all my broken places. He will do the same to you.” Love those words in Isaiah 61:3: “To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.” Thank God. He can give us Beauty for ashes.’ Blessings, Pastor David Bodvarson SPA

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Tara Bueckert, Treasurer 1-15

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The Easter Lily

By Patricia Hanbidge

As Easter approaches, the characteristic symbol of the Easter Lily begins to grace our shops and homes. We have long associated this plant with spring and the Easter season. *Lilium longiflorum*, the Latin name for the Easter lily, is native to the Ryukyu Islands of southern Japan. The Easter lily is a mark of purity and grace throughout the ages symbolizing joy, hope and life. Traditionally, the Easter lily yields large white flowers, but others range from cream to pink and may include the cultivars 'White Heaven', 'Deliana' or 'Nellie White', which is one of the most popular lilies grown commercially.

Prior to 1941, the majority of the Easter Lily bulbs were exported to the United States from Japan. World War II eliminated the dependence on Japanese-produced bulbs and commercial bulb production shifted to the U.S. Today over 95% of all bulbs grown for the potted Easter Lily market are produced by just ten farms in a narrow coastal region straddling the California-Oregon border. The production of consistent, high quality lily bulbs requires specific climatic conditions, which just happen to exist in this region aptly termed the Easter Lily Capital of the World. The Easter lily bulbs must be cultivated in the fields for three, and sometimes four years, before they are ready to be shipped to commercial greenhouse growers. Throughout that time, the bulbs are never dormant and require constant care and attention to assure superior quality and cleanliness. Each bulb is handled up to 40 times before it is ready to be shipped. The Easter lily bulbs are harvested in the fall, packed and shipped to commercial greenhouses where they are planted in pots and forced under controlled conditions to bloom for the Easter holiday. The cultivar most widely grown today is 'Nellie White'.

When purchasing an Easter lily, look for high quality plants

that are aesthetically pleasing from all angles. Select medium-to-compact plants that are well-balanced and proportional in size - not too tall and not too short. Choose plants with foliage that is dense and plentiful, all the way down to the soil line. As the flowers mature, remove the yellow anthers before the pollen starts to shed. This gives longer flower life and prevents the pollen from staining the white flowers. When a mature flower starts to wither after its prime, cut it off to make the plant more attractive while you still enjoy the fresher blooms.

In the home, Easter lilies prefer relatively cool temperatures of 18 to 21 C (65 to 70 F). Avoid placing plants near drafts, and avoid exposure to excess heat or dry air from appliances, fireplaces or heating ducts. The lily will thrive near a window in bright, indirect natural daylight. Easter lilies prefer moderately moist, well-drained soil. Water the plant thoroughly when the soil surface feels dry to a light touch, but avoid over-watering. If the pot

is wrapped in decorative foil, be careful not to let the plant sit in trapped, standing water. For best results, remove the plant from decorative pots or covers, take it over the sink and water thoroughly until water seeps out of the pot's drain holes to completely saturate the soil. Allow the plant to air for a few minutes and discard the excess water before replacing it back into its decorative pot cover.

It is very difficult to force Easter lilies into bloom a second time. What you can do is plant them outside in the spring and they may bloom again in the fall. They require a location with bright light, well-drained soil that is rich in organic matter. They need some shelter from extreme heat or wind. They will not survive our prairie winter.

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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Ahtahkakoop, governments reach Treaty land deal

Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation and the governments of Canada and Saskatchewan have reached a settlement agreement for Ahtahkakoop's Treaty Land Entitlement claim.

Ahtahkakoop will receive \$30.7 million from the federal government and \$12.6 million from the provincial government, for a total of \$43.3 million.

Treaty Land Entitlement claims are intended as a remedy for cases where First Nations did not get all the reserve land that was promised under a treaty signed with the Crown. Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation, which is located in Treaty 6 territory, had agreed to a land entitle-

ment of one square mile of land per family of five — or 128 acres per person — when the treaty was signed in 1876.

But In 1878, a federal Order in Council set apart 42,988.8 acres of land as reserve for the First Nation, enough for 336 people. Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation asserts that the total eligible membership was 368 individuals, resulting in a Treaty land entitlement shortfall of 4,115.2 acres.

The First Nation submitted its land claim in July 2001, and it was accepted for negotiations in 2010. More than a decade later, the community was able to vote on this settlement agreement in

October 2021. Ninety-seven per cent of Ahtahkakoop voters were in favour of the agreement, which gives the First Nation the option to add more than 40,000 acres to its reserve lands.

Ahtahkakoop Chief Larry Ahenakew said he is pleased that the Treaty Land Entitlement claim is now settled, and optimistic about what it will mean for his community.

"Thinking of our future generations, this settlement will provide for hunting and trapping lands, cultural and ceremonial lands, as well as additional lands for our members to benefit from," he said.

"In the not too distant

future, this settlement will also provide for our members economic development opportunities and create much needed employment on Ahtahkakoop-owned commercial and urban lands."

In a statement on April 6, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations Marc Miller said the federal government is committed to meeting its legal obligations under Treaty 6 and is glad to have reached an agreement.

"We recognize the harms caused to the Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation and are committed to addressing them through concrete actions, for the development of the community — and all future

generations," Miller said.

Saskatchewan Minister Responsible for First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs Don McMorris said the settlement "demonstrates the Government of Saskatchewan's commitment to reconciliation, and provides Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation with opportunities to invest in land, economic development, and community enhancement."

Under last week's agreement with the Ahtahkakoop First Nation, Canada and Saskatchewan will also set aside \$6.7 million as compensation to rural municipalities and school divisions once taxable land is set apart as reserve land.

Canada has a longstanding policy and process in place to resolve these claims by negotiating settlements with First Nations. Since Jan. 1, 2016, it has settled more than 183 specific claims with First Nation partners, totalling \$8.9 billion in compensation. In fiscal year 2020-21, 56 claims were filed, 46 claims were assessed (41 accepted for negotiations and five not accepted), and 36 claims were resolved through negotiations.

Since 1973, Canada has settled nearly 600 claims from First Nations through negotiated settlements — now including Ahtahkakoop's.

Fame Dance Studio holds year-end show



Fame Dance Studio dancers, with their instructor Mr. Anthony Gervais and guest dancer Lexi Benning, pose for a photo op after the performances.



A group including Ray-Elle Sanders, Norie Beauchesne, Piper Robertson, Mikayla Tkachuk, Sophie Lendvay, Ireland Parenteau, and Hallie Pomedli perform their recreational 5-8 ballet called "Fairy's rescue".



The dancers of Fame Dance Studio put on one exciting year-end show in Spiritwood on April 6, showcasing a wide variety of dance styles and skills.



Jada Kajner and Daelyn Turgeon performed their recreational Jazz duet.



Ciara Conacher, Mikayla Jewitt, Lexi Kajner and Mikayla Tkachuk performed their recreational Pre-teen and Teen Jazz called "Come and Get it!"



Sophie Lendvay poses before taking the stage to showcase her dancing skills.

All photos by Robin Lafond