

Construction begins on Blaine Lake school



Premier Scott Moe (fourth from left) takes part in the groundbreaking ceremony for Blaine Lake's new K-12 school alongside school staff, Prairie Spirit School Division representatives, and community members.

Nearly two years after it was formally announced, ground has been broken on the new Kindergarten to Grade 12 school for the Town of Blaine Lake.

Premier Scott Moe, Prairie Spirit School Division representatives, teachers, staff, and students of Blaine Lake Composite School, and community members were on hand for the official sod turning ceremony in the existing school on Friday afternoon.

"It seems like just yesterday we were in town and were announcing that we were going to start planning a new school for the community and the communities surrounding Blaine Lake," Premier Moe said, calling the project special because of his own personal connections to the community.

"Here we are today, taking the next

step. We're already seeing a lot of dirt move on what will be a modern, state-of-the-art K-12 facility."

The province is contributing \$14 million to the project, which is being led by Saskatchewan-based Graham Construction, and the Prairie Spirit School Division is also sharing in the costs.

Built to accommodate 150 students from Blaine Lake, Muskeg Lake First Nation, and the surrounding area when it opens in the fall of 2023, Moe said the new facility will be a school with "all the bells and whistles."

The school's gym will be large enough to host both school and community events. It will feature an innovative stage with a folding wall which will give it the ability to be a separate

space from the gym.

The landscaping surrounding the school has been designed to encourage outdoor classroom opportunities. Some of the highlights include plants that are native to the area and can be used for teaching, and a learning plaza which will include a rock circle.

The new school design will also include cultural spaces, and be accessible to handicapped staff and students.

Meanwhile, the Prairie Spirit School Division is contributing to the Industrial Arts Space for the project, which will include both woodworking and welding areas.

"It's more than a place of education or just a building. It's a community centre. It's a place where the magic can happen in small communities," Moe

said. "There's schools, there's arenas, there's curling rinks; these are the places where we see rural Saskatchewan communities come together."

Blaine Lake Composite School was built in 1954 and designed for 200 to 300 students.

Speaking to the *Chronicle & Herald* following the announcement of the project back in July of 2020, Blaine Lake Composite School principal Sean Lockwood stopped short of calling the facility unsafe. He did, however, say that it had outlived its lifespan.

"It's pretty worn out. There's not much left of the school," he said. "They took a peek at it, and figured it was cheaper to rebuild it than to fix what needed to be done in it."

Continued on page 2

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Construction begins on Blaine Lake school

Continued from 1

Unsurprisingly, given its age, Lockwood says the biggest problems with the facility are with air ventilation, and heating.

“We’ve got boilers from 1960 that are pushing air through the school, and pipes that get plugged up,” he said.

“They’ve tested it, and it’s safe. But the boilers are always shutting down, and the heating doesn’t push through the school evenly. You have some rooms that are boiling hot and others that are really cool, so our custodians have to play with it all the time.”

In addition to celebrating the beginning of construction on Blaine Lake’s new school, Premier Moe took a moment to thank the community members who were involved in the planning phase for the new facility, as well as the students who have persevered through two challenging years of grappling with the COVID-19 pandemic and public health mandates.

Premier Moe also expressed appreciation to the school’s teachers and

staff.

“We can build buildings all day long, but you are the heart and soul of what comes out at the end of the year. Thank you for what you do every year, and in particular for what you’ve done over the course of the last two years,” he said.

“Our educational system is funda-

mental to the future not just of Blaine Lake... but to our province as a whole. That’s why we prioritize building new facilities like this.”

Since 2008, the Government of Saskatchewan has committed approximately \$2.3 billion toward school infrastructure projects. These projects include 57 new schools and 28 major

renovation projects, along with two projects approved through the new Minor Capital Renewal Program.

Moe said there are currently 19 schools in the queue at the planning, development, or beginning of construction stages, and that there’s still more work to do as his government looks to the future.



Students of Blaine Lake Composite School were included in the groundbreaking ceremony for the community’s new K-12 school.



Premier Scott Moe took some time to field questions after the ceremony concluded.

Spiritwood Library acquires new books with grant

The Spiritwood Public Library has already put the \$3,000 grant it received from the Canada Post Community Foundation in September of 2021 to good use as part of its ongoing Project Growing Up With Books initiative.

Librarian Heather Gatzke said in an interview that she is especially delighted for the unwavering support they have been receiving in their pursuit of making Spiritwood a community that is well-read and informed. She also mentioned that she started ordering the books January this year and they were able

to come in around the second week of May.

Targeting children and youth, the grant money received was poured into the purchase of picture books, juvenile books, children’s books, and young adult books. While this first shipment contained 94 books, Gatzke says there’s still more to come.

In a Facebook post, the library says the 94 books received thus far are already available for check out.

Gatzke hopes to see more people coming in to visit the library, especially young readers, so they can immerse themselves in

both reality and fantasy by reading, and expand their exposure to new vocabulary.

The library is still seeking other grants and is currently waiting for the response of two other grantors, namely the SARCS Community Grant and the Lions Club Grant. If things turn out favourably and the library receives another

grant from either of the two local organizations, Gatzke shares that the library is planning to order in an additional allotment of at least 25 to 30 non-fiction books for young children.

The community is amazed to see how the library is developing its facilities and utilities by adding more sections, stocking more books, and upgrading

its book displays. And it’s even more impressive that as it continues to count every coming year of serving the community of Spiritwood, its patron base is growing — its family getting bigger in numbers.

“It’s a good thing. It’s a

wonderful thing,” Gatzke smilingly said, expressing gratitude for the Canada Post Community Foundation.

Gatzke encourages the public to come visit the library to read and bask in the scent of book pages.

Nadine Wilson MLA

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Appendix C

FORM H

(Section 66 of The Act)

VILLAGE OF LEASK

NOTICE OF CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

(By-Election)

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that nominations of candidates for the office of:

COUNCILLOR: Village of Leask

will be received by the undersigned at the Village of Leask Office during normal office hours until Wednesday, July 6th at 4:00 p.m. local time.

Nomination forms may be obtained from:

Village of Leask Office

15 Main Street

Leask, Saskatchewan

and on the Village of Leask website

https://leask.ca

Dated this 24th day of May, 2022

Returning Officer

Yvette Hamel

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Thanks to a \$3,000 Canada Post Community Foundation Grant, the Spiritwood Public Library has ordered in 94 new books for younger readers, with more still expected to come.

TOWN OF SHELLBROOK

Please take notice that the Town Office will be closed the AFTERNOON of

Tuesday, May 31, 2022

We apologize for any inconvenience.

Kelly Hoare

CAO

Rivier Elementary celebrates Marie Rivier

Rivier Elementary School spent a wonderful day celebrating the Canonization of Marie Rivier on May 19.

Marie Rivier is the foundress of the sisters of the Presentation of Mary and the namesake for the school. She was canonized in Rome by Pope Francis on May 15.

The staff and students who participated in the celebration were honoured to have His Excellency Bishop Stephen Hero and Father Ramel Macapala spend the day.

Bishop Hero and Father Ra-

mel visited each classroom in the morning and had a great lunch with the students and staff despite the pouring rain.

It was then followed by a mass held in Sacred Heart Catholic Church at 1 p.m.

The administration and staff of Rivier Elementary School say they are grateful to the volunteers who helped with lunch as well as the greeters, ushers, and readers. Other acknowledgements included Mr. and Mrs. Schira, who were in charge of the choir, for sharing their gift of

music, and to the school division staff and board members who were able to be in attendance.

In addition, Mrs. Booth and her Grades 3 and 4 students were able to put on several skits depicting Marie Rivier's life for all to watch, and rounded out their day with a cake celebration.

"This will be forever a wonderful day to cherish in our hearts! May you all feel the spirit of Saint Marie Rivier as you walk into our doors," said Rhonda Turgeon.



Bishop Stephen Hero takes a question from a student during classroom visits at Rivier Elementary School to celebrate the canonization of Marie Rivier.



Students and staff of Rivier Elementary School took part in an afternoon mass during a day to celebrate the canonization of Marie Rivier, the school's namesake.



Students and staff of Rivier after the mass led by Father Ramel Macapala and Bishop Stephen Hero.

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R.M. OF LEASK NO. 464

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice is hereby given that the Council of the Rural Municipality of Leask No. 464 intends to adopt two bylaws pursuant to *The Planning and Development Act, 2007* for the sale of dedicated lands and to amend Bylaw No. 2/2020 known as the Zoning Bylaw.

BYLAW NO. 2 – 2022

INTENT: The proposed bylaw will allow for the sale of a municipal reserve parcel with the sale proceeds to be deposited to the dedicated lands account for future expenditure on other dedicated lands.

AFFECTED LAND: The affected land is Blk/Par MR2, Plan 94B03105 Ext 0 as shown below on Map 1 within the bold dashed line.

REASON: The reason for the sale is to allow existing and proposed uses not permitted on land designated as municipal reserve.

Map 1

Map 2

Map 3

BYLAW NO. 3 – 2022

INTENT: To replace Map 2B – Pelican Cove and Island View Resort attached to and forming part of Bylaw No. 2/2020 known as the Zoning Bylaw.

REASON & AFFECTED LAND: To incorporate the following map change and corrections:

- Remove the municipal reserve designation on land parcel legally described as Blk/Par MR2, Plan 94B03105 Ext 0 as shown above on Map 1 within the bold dashed line.
- Remove a misplaced RC label from land parcels legally described as Lot 2 and Lot 3, Blk/Par 3-Plan 78B17991 Ext 0 and zoned to the Lakeshore District (LD) as shown above on Map 2 within the bold dashed line.
- Poplar Drive road name correction as shown on Map 3 above.

PUBLIC INSPECTION

Any person may inspect the bylaws at the Rural Municipality of Leask No.464 office located at 231 1st Avenue South in the Village of Leask between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding statutory holidays. Copies are available at cost.

PUBLIC HEARING

Council will hold a public hearing on June 8th, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. at the Rural Municipality of Leask No. 464 office located at 231 1st Avenue South in the Village of Leask to hear any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed bylaw. Council will also consider written comments received at the hearing or delivered to the undersigned at the municipal office before the hearing. Issued at Rural Municipality of Leask No. 464 this 12th day of May, 2022.

Riannon Nelson
Administrator

Moe's attacks on NDP show need to look inward

At this point, politics and partisan mudslinging go together like peanut butter and jelly.

But the true measure of any politician's character lies in what they say in the moments when the gloves should come off and the zingy one-liners should be tucked away.

Take the following tweet from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on the forthcoming resignation of Alberta Premier Jason Kenney: "Thank you, @jkenney, for all your contributions. Through the challenges of the past two years and decades of public service, you've been a voice for Alberta and Albertans, and I wish you all the best in the years ahead."

Messrs. Trudeau and Kenney rarely had occasion to agree on anything. Whether or not you believe his well wishes to be genuine, Mr. Trudeau struck the right tone with his comment (for once).

This is more true, when one contrasts it with Premier Scott Moe's offering: "Thank you to my friend Premier @jkenney for everything you have done to unite Alberta conservative voters into a new party, defeat a destructive NDP government and lead Alberta through a very challenging time."

Why Mr. Moe thought this was the moment to take a potshot at an NDP that isn't even his opposition is anyone's guess. But cheap and ugly political attacks like these are becoming a hallmark of the premier's brand, and they're not a flattering look.

What's more, calling Rachel Notley's NDP government "destructive" ignores the challenging times it had to overcome.

When Ms. Notley took office in 2015, she inherited a fiscal mess left behind by 40+ years of Progressive Conservative governance – many of which, in recent history at least, saw the province riding high on non-renewable resource revenues.

Indeed, in its final budget, former Premier Jim Prentice's government delivered a \$6.4 billion deficit, even with the introduction of a healthcare levy and increased taxes on fuel, cigarettes, and alcohol.

With average West Texas Intermediate oil prices having cratered to \$48.66 per barrel in 2015, from a sky-high \$93.18 the year prior, Ms. Notley's government didn't have the luxury of relying on oilsands revenues to dig the province out of the hole it was left in.



JORDAN
TWISS

~
News Editor

So from day one, Ms. Notley was in an impossible position. Spend more, and be lambasted for the fiscal recklessness often attributed to the NDP. Or continue with the austerity of the Progressive Conservatives, and be criticized for cutting critical services.

In its first budget, her government introduced a provincial carbon tax and proposed mandatory production cuts for the oil industry (a move that some oilsands leaders saw as an opportunity to boost the credibility

of Canada's oil and gas sector on the world stage).

At the same time as she spoke of diversifying Alberta's economy, Ms. Notley was also an advocate for the oil sector on the national stage. However, her efforts were hindered by factors beyond her control: pipeline bottlenecks and market uncertainty caused by the federal government's regulatory dithering, and the election of John Horgan's Green Party-backed NDP government in B.C., to name just a couple.

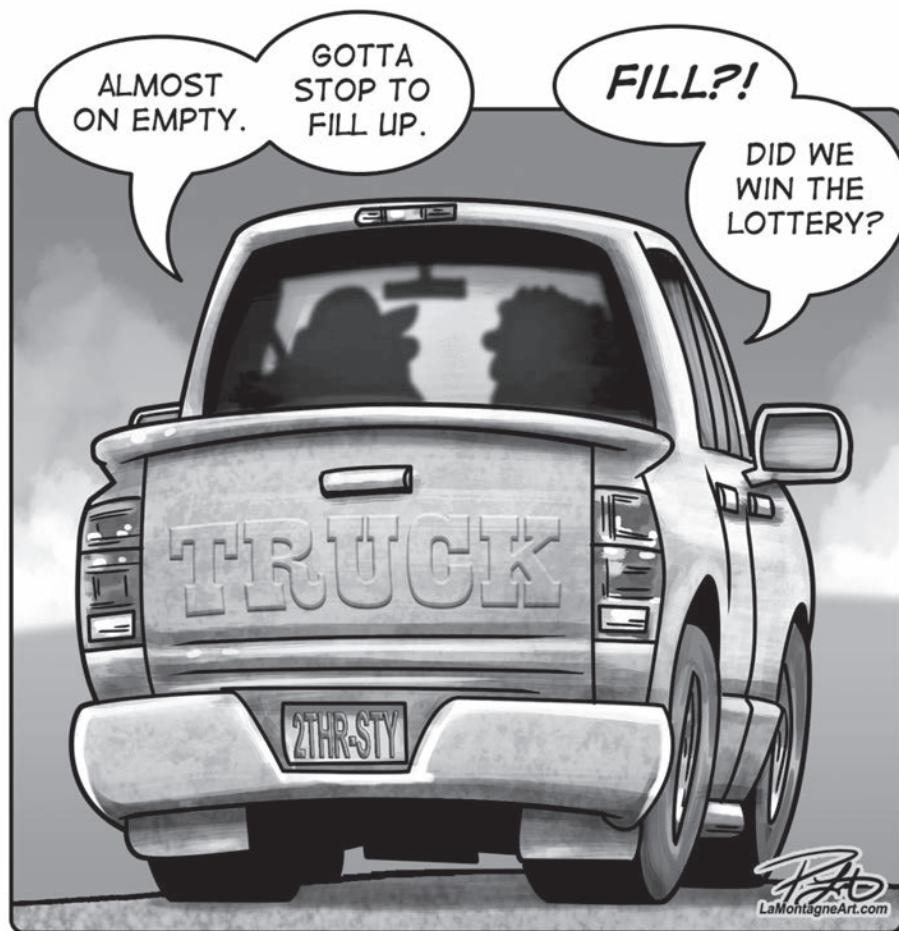
Through her term in office, Ms. Notley tried to have it both ways with oil and gas and was met with mixed results. But Mr. Moe's unwarranted and childish attack on her government's record is still far from the truth.

If one wants to talk of destructive governance, one should also discuss Mr. Kenney. Since 2019, his UCP government has tried to "fix" Alberta with massive tax cuts for corporations, and reductions to program spending, healthcare, and education.

The UCP also harmed youth in the province by removing the cap for post-secondary tuition increases, and, after the Notley government made history by implementing North America's first \$15 minimum wage, it undermined this by introducing a \$13 wage for workers under 18.

Despite these cuts and clawbacks, Mr. Kenney's government continued to run deficits and rack up debt (some of it due to COVID-19). Alberta's finances are only expected to return to balance this year, and only due to – you guessed it – the record profits currently being made by oil companies at the expense of everyone else.

Mr. Kenney's legacy also includes the "Energy War Room," which was established to



investigate and combat negative opinions about the oil and gas sector (while being exempted from having to report to the public), and a call for nurses to take a 3 per cent pay cut in the midst of the pandemic to help his government balance the books.

However, for all the ills his government has been responsible for, Mr. Kenney's destructive governance pales in comparison to the legacy Mr. Moe's Sask. Party government has left in just the past couple of months.

Starting with the provincial budget, which was tabled as the effects of inflation were beginning to truly be felt, Mr. Moe's government expanded the PST for the third time since it was increased to 6 per cent in 2017.

Around the same time, it proposed taking over administration of the rebated funds from the federal carbon tax, so it could redirect the funds to energy sector corporations that are "making progress on environmental initiatives."

While continuing its attack on the federal carbon tax, and the crisis an 11 cent per litre increase on fuel prices is creating, the Sask. Party government is also refusing to reduce or rebate the province's 15 cent per fuel litre tax. (It repeated this refusal last week, but said the idea may be explored if resource revenues remain strong.)

In yet another harmful move for the province's most vulnerable, Mr. Moe's government unanimously opposed an NDP bill to

mandate 10 days of paid sick leave, suggesting it's learned nothing from the pandemic.

Prior to all this, the Sask. Party made changes to its Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS) program in 2021 that require recipients to cover the costs of rent, utilities, and other shelter-related costs with benefits of \$500-600 per month, and all other basic living necessities with \$285. This is actually a drop in benefits compared to 2020, when a single person could receive \$11,704 in income assistance annually (or \$975 per month).

Hoping to make Mr. Moe's government aware of the plight of people like him and advocate for change, Frank Francoeur attended the Legislature in early May. Days later, he was evicted from his residence because he couldn't afford rent. To rub more salt in the wound, the Ministry of Social Services has since said he must find a permanent residence by June, or it will conclude that he "no longer requires benefits" and close his SIS file.

Even the Sask. Party's recent positive step of increasing the minimum wage to \$13 in October, and to \$15 in 2024, doesn't go far enough to help those who are struggling most.

So, if Mr. Moe wants to throw stones at governments he considers destructive, he should perhaps get his own government's house in order first.

Shellbrook Chronicle

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Spiritwood Herald

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

Member of



Report from the Legislature

As the spring session of the Legislature closed, our government was able to celebrate a number of provincial accomplishments. Our population is growing, the economy is expanding and diversifying, Northern Saskatchewan has renewed investment, and Saskatchewan continues to lead the country in multiple economic indicators.

If you listen to the NDP, none of this is good news. We want to recognize the hard work that Saskatchewan businesses and global investors are doing. To support that effort, the Government of Saskatchewan remains committed to creating an economic climate that will be sustainable for generations and create new jobs. This is Saskatchewan's time to shine, and we're happy with the progress made so far.

In March, the value of building permits increased by 20.2 per cent month-to-month and

by 45.7 per cent year-over-year. Merchandise exports increased by 34.4 per cent month-to-month, 38.5 per cent year over year and 27.6 per cent year-to-date. The value of manufacturing sales increased by 11.1 per cent month-to-month and by 44.6 per cent year-over-year. The value of wholesale trade increased by 28.9 per cent year-over-year.

These key economic indicators cover a wide swath of sectors. The fact Saskatchewan is either

leading or near the top in all of them says Saskatchewan's economy is vibrant, diverse, and strong.

Yet to be fully realized are the economic benefits that four major investment projects for Northern Saskatchewan will bring. Over \$1 billion was dedicated to the forestry sector with 2,600 jobs expected. As we continue to advance economic reconciliation and increase Indigenous participation in the economy, our government created the Saskatchewan Indigenous Investment Finance Corporation. Its goal is to provide support to First Nations and Métis business owners who want to invest in forestry, mining, oil and gas, energy production and value-added agriculture. These investments create economic diversity, support growing communities and lead to more high-paying jobs.

This spring statistics show the number of In-

digenous businesses in the province has been growing by leaps and bounds. With the support of organizations like the Saskatchewan Indigenous Economic Development Network, some areas have seen the number of Indigenous businesses double over the past decade.

Just this week, our government joined with Whitecap Resources and Federated Co-operatives Limited to begin a study that will analyze commercial-scale hydrogen opportunities. Saskatchewan has been at the forefront of carbon capture utilization and storage. This technology allows our province to potentially tap into the blue hydrogen market that uses steam to extract hydrogen from natural gas.

With increasing global use, hydrogen projects are in high demand. The study will accelerate the private sector's interest in our province and



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dence that private investors and multi-national corporations have in our province. They can invest anywhere in the world, but they choose to invest right here.

During this spring sitting, our government presented a budget that highlighted Saskatchewan's improving finances and provided a clear path to balance. We made key investments in health-care, education, and mental health and addictions. We have crafted policies that will expand the economy, facilitate new investment, and allow everyone to benefit.

This summer, we look forward to connecting with you. After two years of emails and phone calls, we're excited to have more face-to-face conversations again. Chatting at the fair, the rodeo, on coffee row, or in the constituency office can help us plan for the future and meet the needs of a growing province.

the emerging hydrogen market. Last fall, policy commitments were announced to advance opportunities for an infrastructure hub in the Regina-Moose Jaw Industrial Corridor. A hydrogen/carbon capture hub in this region could allow for the development of an entire, commercial-scale hydrogen supply and demand chain in Saskatchewan.

Those are just some of the projects currently underway in Saskatchewan, reflecting the confi-

Shellbrook Mamas forms event partnerships

In the four months since it launched, the Shellbrook Mamas Mommy & Me group has easily exceeded founder Kat Mackin-Smith's initial expectations.

The group's Facebook community has surged to include more than 100 moms from Shellbrook and the surrounding area, growing from a membership of about 60 in January. Meanwhile, monthly in-person events now regularly see 12 to 14 moms come out with their babies, toddlers, or kids, leaving Mackin-Smith "happily overwhelmed" by the response and excitement, and excited herself to plan each event.

"I feel the group is creating a wonderful peer support network. It may seem like 'just a social outing' or 'social online forum' but it is actually way more beneficial," she said of the impact she feels the group is having. "There are new and exciting friendships being fostered, the opportunity to learn from other moms,

resources being shared, and it is all happening in a judgement-free and supportive place."

With all the enthusiasm for the group coming from members, their families, public health workers, and the broader community, Mackin-Smith says she only sees more growth potential for Shellbrook Mamas and is looking to add more in-person activities to the monthly calendar.

A key part of expanding the group's offerings, says Mackin-Smith, will be in forming partnerships like the one its already established with Prince Albert Regional KidsFirst, an organization that works in the city and in rural communities to provide child development programs that encourage linguistic, so-

cial-emotional, cognitive and fine and gross motor skill development.

Having seen that the organization had been working with a mommy and me group in another small community, Mackin-Smith reached out to PA Regional KidsFirst and received an immediate and enthusiastic yes.

Continued on page 6



The Shellbrook Mamas' in-person gatherings are seeing regular turnouts of 12 to 14 mothers and their children coming out to socialize and take part in activities.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



Town of Blaine Lake Assistant Administrator

The Town of Blaine Lake is currently seeking a Full Time Assistant Administrator to help with the day-to-day duties of the Municipality.

This position will require an individual who has the ability to complete the financial tasks as well as provide support to the CAO in a variety of Municipal duties.

Must have a Grade 12 education, and conduct oneself in a professional manner.

To apply, please send a resume with references and contact information to:

Town of Blaine Lake
Box 10, 301 Main Street
Blaine Lake, Sask. S0J 0J0
Email: blainelake@sasktel.net

The position is available immediately, however, it will remain open until a suitable candidate is found. Successful applicant will be required to submit a clear criminal record check.

The Town of Blaine Lake thanks all interested applicants, however only those applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



Town of Blaine Lake ADMINISTRATOR

The Town of Blaine Lake is a rural community of approximately 500 people located about 85 km north of Saskatoon. We are centrally located near several lakes with great opportunities for outdoor activities including water sports, hunting, snowmobiling, etc.

We are seeking a forward-thinking individual with strong leadership skills for the position of Administrator. The ideal applicant will have a minimum Class C certificate in Local Government Administration and have previous municipal administration experience. Excellent organizational, communication and interpersonal skills are required.

Salary will be negotiated based on experience and the UMAAS salary scale. The Town offers an excellent benefit and pension package.

Applicants are invited to submit resumes by mail, fax, email or in person to:

Town of Blaine Lake
Box 10
Blaine Lake, SK S0J 0J0
Email: blainelake@sasktel.net
Fax: 306-497-2511

The Position is available immediately, however, it will remain open until a suitable candidate is found. Successful applicant will be required to submit a clear criminal record check.

The Town of Blaine Lake thanks all interested applicants, however only those applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

Shellbrook Mamas forms event partnerships

Continued from 5

Mackin-Smith says PA Regional KidsFirst was a pleasure to plan and work with, especially when it hosted the Mommy & Me gathering at the Shellbrook Community Hall on May 19, offering babies and children everything from playdough, painting, and blocks, to an obstacle course, baby massage, and even a bouncy castle.

“It was incredible to watch the kids learn through play, interact with each other, and form new friendships,” Mackin-Smith said, noting PA Regional KidsFirst has already committed to making their visits a monthly event, and is working on some outdoor activities for the summer.

While PA Regional KidsFirst was Shellbrook Mamas’ first event partner, Mackin-Smith says much of the group’s success is owed to local partners like the Shellbrook Kinettes, who have provided funding for the purchase of toys, books, craft supplies, play mats, and more, and the Town of Shellbrook, which gives the group a large indoor space to host get-togethers.

And given the success of this first partnership, Mackin-Smith says she will absolutely be seeking out more in the future. In fact, she already has one lined up with Tapestry Yoga, which will be hosting a mommy and baby yoga class at the Shellbrook Community Hall on May 31.

With how fast Shellbrook Mamas is growing, Mackin-Smith says it’s clearer than ever just how im-

portant a group like it is in the community — both for moms and for children.

“Being a parent is a game-changer. It is incredibly rewarding, fun, and amazing to watch your children grow. It can also be exhausting, stressful, and at times it can even be a little lonely. I truly believe a group like this provides a great outlet for moms to find connections in their community they may not have had otherwise,” she said.

“Not only that, having in-person activities where children of all ages can interact with each other and

learn through play is extremely beneficial for their growth. It enhances their social awareness, gives different stimulation, grows confidence, encourages a healthy and social lifestyle, and more.”

As a mother to a ten-month old daughter, Mackin-Smith says the idea to form Shellbrook Mamas came (in part) from her own desire to live, work, and have her daughter grow up in an “inclusive, spirited community.”

The Shellbrook Mamas group can be found by searching for it on Facebook.



The Shellbrook Mamas group formed its first event partnership with PA Regional KidsFirst, which came out to offer a wide range of activities on May 19.

Co-op BBQ raises \$900 for Canwood Library



Pictured: Left to Right: Tim Keller (CEO), Wanda Neufeldt (Canwood/Big River Store Team Leader), Matthew Stenerson (VP, People & Culture), Adena Viczko (Executive Assistant), Dave Pisio (Director, Food), Dannie Wreford (Lake Country Co-op Board Director), Sarah Johnson (President Library Board), Darcy Nordquist (Canwood Team Member), Michele Person (Canwood Delegate), Judy Stempfen (Librarian), Ryan Demers (Canwood Food Store Team Leader) & Lynn Harper (Canwood Delegate).

Lake Country Co-op held a barbecue on May 12 to grill up funds for the Canwood Public Library. With community support, the fundraiser ended with a generous donation of \$900 to the library. The Canwood Public Library will use the funds to improve its collection of literacy materials, maintain a welcoming environment, and host special events and activities.



Ryan Demers, Co-op’s Canwood Food Store Team Leader, mans the grill during Lake Country Co-op’s barbecue to raise funds for the Canwood Public Library.



Strong Saskatchewan Economy Continues to Grow

For the second month in a row, Saskatchewan leads the nation in two key economic indicators. The value of wholesale trade grew 28.9 per cent, and manufacturing sales increased by 44.6 per cent, seasonally adjusted. We are focused on creating an economic environment attractive to investors, resulting in more jobs to support our growing communities.

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

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



Gene editing practices require oversight

There are some issues that by their nature tend to be divisive.

In the world of agriculture, how plant breeders go about developing the crop varieties of tomorrow is certainly one of those issues.

Traditional plant breeding techniques don't raise much concern or attention.

But if plant breeders use more recent scientific developments such as gene-editing, their efforts are applauded by some, and for others the hairs on the back of their neck rise in concern.

For background, gene editing technology in ag-

riculture is based in the traditional breeding process.

"Through gene editing, scientists can make precise, targeted changes to plants' specific DNA sequences that mirror what could occur either in nature or through traditional plant breeding, but in a more efficient way," notes crop life.ca

In Canada, gene-editing has typically faced higher hurdles in terms of having varieties developed using the technique accepted. But recently Health Canada has lowered the bar, putting the technique on a more or less even footing with



CALVIN DANIELS

older crop development techniques.

It is a decision which has taken years for Health Canada to make, so one can infer it was not a decision taken lightly, but the body has decided that crops developed through gene editing are safe and, in most cases, will not re-

quire a pre-market safety assessment.

"This will open up the very real possibility of dramatic improvements for small- and large-acre crops alike, from productivity improvements to new solutions for emerging pest pressures, to advances in food and fuel crops that will benefit the entire value chain including consumers," said Rick White, chair of the Canada Grains Council, in a recent article at www.producer.com.

But other organizations are sounding an alarm, in particular calling attention to the government's decision to let companies

provide their own oversight.

A release from the National Farmers Union expressed its concern that Health Canada will allow private companies to release many new genetically engineered (genetically modified or GM) foods without any government oversight.

This is the knife's edge of a rather important debate.

On one side the issues of increasing desertification, salinity, climate changes and growing population all point to an increased need for fast varietal development to meet the changing real-

ities of crop production. Obviously, gene-editing can be an important tool in that work.

But consumers have good reason to be at least somewhat distrustful of business, and cases of contaminated water, abandoned hazardous waste sites, and questionable safety rules in too many countries are all too real.

It would seem at least some level of government or third-party oversight would still be worthwhile, although it would need to work with expediency to ensure science can advance crops for our future in a timely fashion.

Changes to PST will benefit farmers, agriculture industry

Amendments to the Provincial Sales Tax (PST) regulations will provide greater clarity to farmers and help ensure that PST is applied fairly and consistently to farming and agricultural goods and services.

"After speaking with agricultural organizations in our province, we heard concerns that PST was inconsistently applied to farming and agricultural activity," Deputy Premier and Finance Minister Donna Harpauer said. "The changes to the PST regulations will be more equitable, consistent and protect farmers

against perceived 'PST creep' in farming activity."

Effective April 1, 2022, new PST exemptions were made through regulation changes. These exemptions include:

- prefabricated wind breaker panels for use in the protection and handling of livestock
- insulators for electrified livestock fences
- certain farm equipment attached to a registered vehicle
- on-farm dugout excavation and for trenching (in specific circumstances related to farming)

Additionally, it was clarified that the following products are also exempt from PST and are retroactive to April 1, 2016:

- water storage tanks used in spraying or irrigating crops
- storage tanks for weed control chemicals, insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, liquid fertilizer
- adjuvants that improve their efficacy or application
- portable seed cleaners used on-farm by farmers in preparing their crop for storage or market (farmers in the business of seed

cleaning must pay PST on their seed cleaning equipment)

• farm tractors
"While inflation and operating costs have been rising the last couple of years, cattle producers, and all farmers, simply cannot pass along higher costs including taxes," Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association Chair Arnold Balicki said. "The recognition of this by the Government of Saskatchewan when it comes to PST on several important farm related goods and activities is appreciated by Saskatchewan's cattle producers. Keeping this tax

out of the industry helps keep it on a level and fair playing field, making us more competitive in the long run."

The estimated, annual cost of these changes is about \$1 million. The Ministry of Finance is also beginning discussions about modernizing the agriculture and farming section of PST legislation, to potentially be considered in future budgets.

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Royal Purple Brain Injury Walk raises \$1,000

The Shellbrook Royal Purple continues to be one of the busiest groups in Shellbrook. After hosting the Saskatchewan Royal Purple AGM and the provincial level of the Canadian Royal Purple Brain Injury Prevention Poster Contest in April, the group turned its focus to fundraising on May 18 during its third annual BrainLove Brain Boogie Walk for Brain Injury Awareness.

The evening began with Shellbrook Royal Purple member Elaine Perkins sharing the story of how the provincial Royal Purple teamed up with the Saskatchewan Brain Injury Association (SBIA).

Together, Saskatchewan Royal Purple Lodges, including Shellbrook, have raised more than \$160,000 for the SBIA over the past six years, becoming its top source of funds. All this money stays in the province, supporting the survivors of brain injuries and their families with information, educational programming, and more.

Just recently, the Canadian Royal Purple got on board by making brain injury awareness its national cause.

After Perkins' introduction, her fellow group member Colleen Schwehr shared about brain injury survivors and the effect their injuries have on them, and Cindy Wall spoke about how brain injuries affect the family of the survivor.

The event culminated in a walk from the Shellbrook Senior Citizens' Centre to Kinsmen Park. With members, families, and friends, 19 people, ranging from two years old to 79, took part, raising close to \$1,000 (a marked improvement over years one and two, which saw three and five people come out, respectively).

"To me [the community support] means the world. It's a touchy thing for me, because of my grandson," Perkins said. "The more we know about brain injury, the better off we all are. It's important to protect your brain, and to bring awareness in the community and the province."

With the scope of brain injury awareness expanding to include the survivors of domestic violence and interpersonal violence, and the impact of their experiences on their lives,

Perkins says more always needs to be done. Starting with the very basics, Perkins says she'd like the provincial government to get on board by making bike helmets mandatory (interestingly enough, the week of the Royal Purple's walk was Bike Safety Week, and June is Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month).

"We need to have our governments realize that people have to wear helmets. I realize you can't put kids in a glass cage, but we do need to have support there," Perkins said.

On the policy side, Perkins says housing is one of the top needs for brain injury survivors and their families, along with more treatment centres and more therapists, including physiotherapists, speech therapists, and occupational therapists.

Perkins says too many brain injury survivors are left to navigate the medical system on their own, and the costs to find the right supports for their specific needs can be exorbitant. These struggles, Perkins adds, can lead mental health issues, making an already difficult situation worse.

While the SBIA is advocating for more and better housing for brain injury survivors, Perkins says much more must be done to help the approximately 2,200 people who suffer brain injuries in Saskatchewan each year.

"A brain injury is something that never completely heals," she said. "You're never the same."



Cindy Wall shared a story about the impact brain injuries can have on survivors' families.



Colleen Schwehr spoke about the challenges faced by brain injury survivors.



The Brain Walk concluded with a trek to Kinsmen Park and a group photo.

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

ANGELICAN 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

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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

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

Gideons International of Canada
Battlefords Camp
Phone Art Martynes
(306) 389-4633

EVANGELICAL FREE
Mont Nebo
Wed., 7:30 pm -
Bible Study & Prayer
Sun., 10:30 am - Worship
Pastor Bill Klumpenhower
- LAKELAND COMMUNITY CHURCH**
(Corner of 1st Ave. and 4th
St., Spiritwood)
Sun., 11 am - Worship
Service & Sunday School
Pastor Michael Kluthe
306-883-2380

BELBUTTE FULL GOSPEL
11 am Worship Service
1st Sun., 7:30 pm
- Hymn Sing
Pastor Floyd Berg

COWBOY CHURCH
Spiritwood
Every Wednesday Night
7 pm
Spiritwood Legion Hall
Pastor Rick Martin

PRAISE & WORSHIP

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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 SATURDAY**
Medstead - 6 p.m.
Shell Lake - 8:00 p.m.
SUNDAY
Spiritwood - 9:00 a.m.
Leoville - 11:00 a.m.
Chitek Lake - 12:30 p.m.
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FIELDS OF HOPE (HOFFNUNGSFELDER) MENNONITE CHURCH
Glenbush
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11 am Worship Service
1st Sun., 7:30 pm
- Hymn Sing
Pastor Floyd Berg
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Worship Services
Sunday 9:00 a.m.
Pastor Sarah Urano
306-841-7333

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

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Spiritwood Legion Hall
Pastor Rick Martin

Two MLAs kicked out of legislature

The Saskatchewan Legislature is a place where heated exchanges are more the rule than the exception. But this year's spring session ended with more fireworks than usual, as two MLAs were kicked out of the assembly for refusing to apologize for the language they used while criticizing the Sask. Party government.

Former Sask. Party member Nadine Wilson shouted at Trade Minister Jeremy Harrison, asking if he was going to commit another crime, and accused the government of lying. When Speaker of the Assembly Randy Weekes asked her to withdraw her comments, she refused three times.

"In our assembly you have to apologize and if you don't you're in violation of disregarding the authority of the chair. When I refused to apologize, he asked the Sergeant at Arms to escort me out and I was suspended for the day," she said.

Speaking to reporters after the incident, Wilson said the crime she was referring to is the government justifying COVID-19 restrictions with the Charter of Rights and

Freedoms.

Now sitting as the independent MLA for Saskatchewan Rivers, after resigning from the Sask. Party caucus last fall over claims she misrepresented her vaccination status, Wilson has been among the most vocal critics of the Sask. Party government.

Her frequent criticisms of the government put her in the crosshairs of Premier Scott Moe.

Moe recently called on her to resign her seat and run in a by-election in late April, citing concerns he's heard from constituents that they didn't vote for an independent MLA and claiming that she's missed every vote in the legislature this sitting.

Wilson said she's heard no such concerns and has no plans to go anywhere.

"I'm not resigning," she said. "I'm there for the people."

While she plans to stay put, Wilson says her independent status has made the spring sitting of the legislature a challenging one.

"It's been a long spring session of emotions and frustration. I'm sitting as an indepen-

dent now so of course I'm in opposition to the government," she said. "They've been doing some things that I feel have trampled the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms."

Joining Wilson in being ejected from the assembly was NDP MLA and mental health critic Doyle Vermette, who used a curse word while talking about the government's efforts on suicide prevention.

For the last 22 days of the spring sitting, Vermette has stood near the end of question period to ask the government to do more in preventing suicides. Last Tuesday, he asked the government to support his motion to strike an all-party committee on suicide prevention.

The government declined that request and on Wednesday, Vermette became emotional when he took to his feet at the end of question period.

He read the names of the families he had introduced who lost a loved one to suicide and said they "have been treated miserably by you."

"They wanted the premier to stand. Why didn't you just

tell them you didn't care about them?" he asked.

"And the [Minister of Mental Health and Addictions Everett Hindley], why didn't you just tell the truth that you don't give a s*** about anyone?" he continued.

Responding to Vermette's allegations, Hindley said the government takes the issue very seriously and will continue to work on existing initiatives and treat it as a priority.

Hindley and Premier Moe also said an all-party committee on mental health was not needed because a committee of representatives from different levels of government already exists in the form of a "strategic planning and oversight team."

Initially, the Speaker said he wouldn't ask Vermette to apologize for his comments, calling the topic "an emotional issue for all of us." An hour later, he reversed course, and when Vermette refused to apologize three times he was censured and suspended from the chamber for the remainder of the day.

Following question period, Vermette spoke to reporters and said he was frustrated by the government's lack of interest in his pitch for a committee, which he said is being asked for by families who feel they are not being heard by MLAs.

As for the government's existing committee, Vermette called it "the best-kept secret from everybody. I don't even know about this committee."

The removal of a member from the assembly is a rare occurrence, with the last incident coming in 2017 when NDP MLA Trent Wotherspoon was kicked out for calling the Sask. Party's budget "deceitful." An ejection from the assembly results in a reduction in pay for the MLA who is removed.

Speaking after the incidents, Premier Moe said heckling happens in the legislature, but all members need to keep it to a minimum.

"We're seeing a lot of heckling in there from all sides of the house including the Independent member," Moe said.

"This is a place to debate policy and not personalities. And I think it would do everyone good to pause for a moment and remember that."

GOOD NEWS



WORKERS TOGETHER

A number of years ago, when I was in grade 9 or 10, I think, I decided I would do my part and help a young lady get elected as Hay River Carnival Queen. I realize the rules changed later but at the time to get elected what one needed to do was sell the most tickets.

Well, I felt I could help out. I did live in the New Town, but broadened my base to include the Old Town or what is called Vale Island. There were some nasty days out there selling, but I didn't allow the weather to deter me as I went door to door. Surprisingly, people were quite happy to buy a ticket in support of the young lady. And yes, she did become Carnival Queen that year.

I got thinking we need to work together; we can't do it all alone. I was asked lately which is my favorite Bible verse. Well, I can't say I really have one. I like a lot of verses, like the New King James Bible edition of I Corinthians 3:6 where Paul says: "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase."

I read of a little boy who was selling pencils door to door for a nickel each. A woman answered the door. The little guy was ready with his sales pitch.

He said, "Ma'am, would you like to buy one or two pencils from me? I'm selling these pencils at five cents a piece to help build a \$30 million dollar hospital for our community."

The lady smiled at the boy and replied, "That is a mighty big job for just one boy selling pencils for a nickel."

The little guy piped with enthusiasm he replied "Oh, Ma'am, I'm not doing it all myself. You see that boy across the street? He is my partner. We're doing this together."

We do what we can, and God does the rest. So don't get discouraged, keep sowing, keep believing, and leave the results to God.

Blessings,
Pastor D. Bodvarson, SPA

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., May 27, Peaceful. Doors Open 6:30 p.m. Showtime 7 p.m. Cost is \$5 ~ Canteen available!
SHELLBROOK: Pickleball Courts at Shellbrook Richardson Pioneer Centre, Curling Rink Section starting May 24 - June 9. Seniors & adults interested in "Learn to Play" sessions must register prior to May 25th. Contact Sally at (306)747-7535. \$40 for a 10-session players card incl. 4 hours of free lessons. Your first introductory session is FREE. Come try it out (paddles provided)! Tues.: 1:30-3:30pm - Seniors Regular Play; 6:30-8:30pm - Adult Regular Play. Wed.: 6-7:15pm - Seniors Learn to Play; 7:30-8:45 - Adult Learn to Play. Thurs.: 6:30-8:30 - Adult Regular Play. For more info contact: Sally (306)747-7535.

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No guarantees in sport, thank goodness

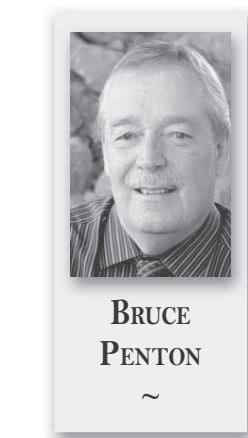
Growing up in a sports-oriented family, there were two professional teams we were disinclined to root for: the Montreal Canadiens and the New York Yankees. The reason was simple: They seemed to always win. Rooting for the underdog was our family's style, so the longshot winning, the underdog coming through in the clutch, or the surprise victory always seemed more exciting than the same old, same old Habs and Yankees celebrating another championship (Montreal — five Stanley Cup titles in a row in the late '50s; Yankees — eight World Series crowns from 1950-62).

That's why this year's Kentucky Derby was such a thrill to underdog lovers everywhere. Rich Strike was not only an 80-to-1 longshot, but his status as a starter in the 20-horse field wasn't even determined until the day before the race at Louisville, Ky. One horse was a late scratch, opening the door

for Rich Strike to be added as the 20th and final entry in the field.

Then, of course, he shocked the sporting world by crossing the finish line first, and winning in spectacular fashion. With about two-thirds of the race completed, Rich Strike was in the middle of the pack, 10th or 11th, before an amazing final burst earned him the victory by half a length at the wire. It was a "wow!" moment.

A great underdog story has always been a favourite of mine. When Buster Douglas defeated Mike Tyson in a heavyweight bout in Tokyo in 1990, I remember where I was when I heard the news (driving down Victoria Avenue in Regina on a Sunday morning following the end of a newspaper convention). Tyson was regarded as being a man of steel, unbeatable, a beast, an uncontrollable wild animal. Buster Douglas was just another journeyman boxer looking for a quick



BRUCE
PENTON

payday, cuts, bruises, and concussions be damned.

When John Daly moved from sixth alternate at the 1991 PGA Championship at Crooked Stick in Indiana into the starting field the night before the event was to start, it was a feel-good story of a golf straggler getting a chance. No real hope, but a chance. Then, of course, Daly shocked the golf world by winning. It was his first title on the PGA Tour and he went on to become a cult hero with his risky lifestyle and booming drives.

The biggest sports up-

set, however, is probably the Miracle on Ice of 1980, when the U.S. Olympic hockey team stunned the powerful Russians in the semi-final and went on to win gold. The fallout included the making of heroes, movies, and legends.

So, Rich Strike, you made my day on the first Saturday in May. This horse proved there are no guarantees in sport — and thank goodness for that.

• Columnist Norman Chad, on Twitter: "You know what's gonna be worse than Hell for me? Arriving in Purgatory to see James Harden and Joel Embiid shooting free throws."

• Mike Bianchi of the Orlando Sentinel: "Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. But teach a man to fish, and he's going to drink a lot of beer for a day."

• Comedy writer Alex Kaseberg: "The New York Post reported Fox Sports will pay Tom Brady \$375 mil over 10 years to be a broadcaster. Maybe this

will be the break that finally turns things around for poor Tom Brady."

• Comedy guy Torben Rolfson of Vancouver, on the Buccaneers playing Seattle in Munich this year: "You saw Tom Brady on that boat party . . . is it safe for him to be that close to Oktoberfest?"

• A groaner from Jack Finarelli, at sports curmudgeon.com: "Q: Why should you never fall in love with a tennis player? A: Because 'love' means nothing to them..."

• RJ Currie of sportsdeke.com: "(Canadian tennis pro) Denis Shapovalov called his childish tantrum and cussing at the crowd in the second set against Italian Lorenzo Sonego a 'heat of the moment kind of thing.' More like dope of the moment."

• Headline at theonion.com: "Tom Brady's announcing deal includes incentives for number of verbs."

• Dwight Perry of the Seattle Times: "Viking QB Kirk Cousins' career

record as an NFL starter is 59-59-2. Shouldn't that make him the Minneapolis 500?"

• Mike Bianchi of the Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel, on Elon Musk vowing to reverse the Twitter ban on Donald Trump: "In related news, Pete Rose is lobbying for Musk to buy the Baseball Hall of Fame."

• Nick Canepa of The San Diego Union-Tribune, on Titans QB Ryan Tannehill saying 'I don't think it's my job to mentor' rookie Malik Willis: "What's he going to teach Malik, anyway, how to hand off to Derrick Henry?"

• Steve Simmons of Sunmedia, on why Barry Trotz would be a poor fit as coach of the Maple Leafs: "Having Trotz coach Auston Matthews, Mitch Marner and William Nylander is like having the fastest horse at [the] Kentucky Derby with Shaquille O'Neal as the jockey."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Minutes of a Spiritwood Town Council meeting

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

The regular meeting of the Council of the Town of Spiritwood was held in the Council Chambers at the Spiritwood Town Office, 212 Main Street, on March 22, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

In attendance were Mayor Gary von Holwede, Councillor Bryan Wingerter, Councillor George Pretli, Councillor Ragnar Latus, Councillor Kiera Andres, Councillor James Bedi, Councillor Brad Nemish, and Acting Administrator Hugh Otterson.

A quorum being present, Mayor Von Holwede called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Nemish: That the agenda be adopted as presented to form part of the minutes. Carried

Bedi: That the minutes of the March 22, 2022, council meeting be adopted as presented. Carried

Nemish: That we approve a donation to the Spiritwood & District Museum for the 2022 year in the amount of \$535. Carried

Wingerter: That we approve NLEDC's funding request of April 4, 2022, in the amount of \$20,000. Carried

Bedi: That the correspondence be filed as presented. Carried

Bedi: Accounts for Ratification, Cheque No. 31960-31966 & Payments 726-751 in the amount of \$80,455.79. Carried

Wingerter: Accounts for Approval, Cheque No. 31967-31984 in the amount of \$135,440.83. Carried

Nemish: Accounts for Approval, Cheques No. 31985-31988 in the amount of \$9,613.95. Carried

Wingerter: That the Bank Reconciliations for the month of March 2022 be approved as presented. Carried

Bedi: That the Financial Statement for the month of March 2022 be approved as presented. Carried

Public Hearing at 7 p.m. for the Discretionary Use Application #DU22-001 for a Retail Cannabis Store at Lot 22, Block 3, 107 Main Street, Town of Spiritwood.

Wingerter: That it now being 7 p.m. we now recess our council meeting to hold a Public Hearing concerning the discretionary use application for a Retail Cannabis Store at Lot 22, Block 3, Plan AP518, 107 Main Street, Town of Spiritwood. Carried

Acting Administrator advised that no written submissions or delegation requests were received by noon, on the publicized deadline of April 5, 2022.

Andres: That we now reconvene our council meeting at 7:05 p.m. Carried

Latus: That council approves the Discretionary Use Permit application, DU#22-001 for a Retail Cannabis Store at Lot 22, Block 3 Plan AP518, 107 Main Street in the Town of Spiritwood. Carried

Wingerter: As per 2021 budget, council approved for \$150,000 to be transferred from the Gas Tax Account to the General Account. The actual cost of the sewer relining repairs was \$109,341.65. As such, the transfer of \$109,341.65 as of Dec. 31, 2021, be now authorized. Carried

Wingerter: As per 2021 budget, council approved for \$10,000 to be transferred from the Infrastructure Account to the General Account. The actual cost of the skid steer was \$86,084.61. As such, the transfer of \$10,000 as of Dec. 31, 2021, be now authorized. Carried

Pretli: That the verbal reports be accepted as presented. Carried

Wingerter: That for 2022 the Town of Spiritwood will supply a 30-yard composting material roll off bin from Loraas Environmental located at the transfer site. This service will be at no charge to Town residents for grass clippings and leaves. Furthermore, an addition of \$18,000 for compost will be added to the 2022 Operational Budget. This service will be reviewed for the year 2023. Carried

Councillor Latus declared a conflict of interest and excused himself for the discussion relating to loader tires.

Wingerter: That we will purchased the 2 Loader Tires from Lake Country Co-Op at the quoted price from March 30, 2022. Carried

Wingerter: That we approve the quote from Triple S Transport Shellbrook to provide the dust control material as per the quote of March 31, 2022. Carried

Wingerter: That council approves the recommendation from Associated Engineering to award the Tender for the Arena Mezzanine Upgrade Project. Carried

Bedi: That we approve the transfer of \$109,298.44 from the PCCU Reserves Checking Account - ***3734 to the CU Gen-

eral Account ***300 to cover the amount of Con-Tech General Contractors Progress payment #9. We also approve that \$109,298.44 will be transferred back to the PCCU Reserves Checking Account - ***3734 from the CU General Account ***300 upon receipt of grant funding. Carried

Council: That we approve the development permit for 200 Iris Bay pending the approval of compliance to the Town of Spiritwood Zoning Bylaw and the building permit pending authorization from the Building Inspector. Carried

Brenda Beaulac, Assistant Administrator, left the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Wingerter: That the Council meeting proceed in Camera at 8:22 p.m. as per Section 23 of the Local Authority Freedom of Information to discuss matters relating to HR and ask that the Acting Administrator remain in the Council Chambers. Carried

Nemish: That the Council come out of in camera at 8:31 p.m.

Bedi: That effective May 1, 2022, we agree to increase Neil Gaboury, Town Foreman hourly rate of pay by \$1 per hour. Carried

Wingerter: That effective May 1, 2022, we agree to increase Brenda Beaulac, Acting Administrator hourly rate of pay by \$3.35 per hour during the leave of Rhonda Saam, CAO. Carried

Brenda Beaulac Assistant Administrator returned to the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

Nemish: That this meeting be adjourned at 8:33pm and that the next meeting of Council of Spiritwood be held at 6:30 p.m. on April 26, 2022.