Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald



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Shellbrook to auction off CN Station, Rayside School



Shellbrook's old Rayside School building will be auctioned off in March, after plans to give it new life failed to gather traction.

By JORDAN TWISS

Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The end of the line is near for Shell-brook's CN Station, which currently houses the collection of the Shellbrook and District Heritage Museum, and the Rayside School building.

On March 12, both town-owned buildings will be sold in an online auction. While the fate of the CN Station had already been decided, the Rayside School was only added to the list of items to be auctioned off alongside the museum's collection at a Shellbrook Town Council meeting held last Monday.

Council's decision brought an end to plans to see the building given new life, either as a new Shellbrook tourist booth, or a new home for the museum, or both.

"There isn't any momentum or desire to put any resources into it, either by the private sector or the town," Shellbrook Mayor Amund Otterson said of council's decision. "Before it burns down, or vandals get into it, we'll liquidate it and somebody can make good use of it as a building, or there's quality materials inside."

Constructed in 1949 on land donated by Guy Van Eaton, the Rayside School was actually the second building to bear the name.

Originally located eight kms north of Shellbrook, before it was eventually moved into town to sit next to the CN Station, the school educated children in Grades 1 through 8, and was considered pretty "modern" by country schoolhouse standards.

Where most one-room schoolhouses had a few shelves for libraries, the Rayside School had a dedicated library room. It also had a coat rack room, indoor washrooms, a water pump connected to a cistern, an upstairs attic

area, referred to as the "physics lab," and a basement that was used for recreation during the winter.

Around the time that Shellbrook's town council began mulling over what to do with the CN Station, similar questions began to be asked about the Rayside School building. And in 2021, the Friends of Rayside group, consisting of some of the school's former students, was formed with the idea to give the building new life.

"The idea came up to move it and use it as the new tourist information booth and replace the A-frame building that's there, and put it on a foundation similar to the one it used to sit on when it sat in Rayside," Shellbrook Town Councillor Brent Miller said at the time (Miller was a Grade 1 student at Rayside School in 1964/65, the last year of operation for the school).

"The idea would be to store some of

the antiques in the museum in the basement. At the same time, we could take a small piece of the classroom upstairs, where the curator of the museum could rotate pieces into it to display," he added

Per Miller's vision for the Rayside School, the building would have become a place for travellers along Highway 3 to stop for tea, coffee, and a bathroom break throughout the warmer seasons. And, funding permitting, the area immediately around it could have been developed into a full rest stop.

While this would have given the building a new lease on life and preserved it as a centrepiece of the Shellbrook Museum (a sort of museum within a museum, if you will), Miller said everything would come back to the question of dollars and cents, and how the town justified decisions to ratepayers.

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Shellbrook to auction off CN Station, Rayside School

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According to preliminary research, just moving the building to Kinsmen Park would have cost anywhere between \$45,000 and \$60,000. Then, of course, there would have been the costs of digging and finishing a basement, getting the services hooked up, putting in modern bathrooms, and performing any other necessary renovations.

At the time, Miller was confident the

costs could be whittled down to next to nothing with the help of grant funding, selling off redundant museum items, and some innovative thinking. Unfortunately, none of the plans for the building ever gathered momentum. And while he thought it was a good idea at one time, Mayor Otterson now feels transforming the school into a tourist booth isn't feasible.

"To make it accessible for everybody —

the idea of putting a washroom in there is a great for the public — you'd have to have some kind of wheelchair ramp to get up in there. It's all doable, but not very feasible," he said. "If we're going to replace the tourist booth, which was originally paid for by the business community, [a] ground level [building] would be more suitable."

Looking to the future and the sale of the CN Station and Rayside School, Otterson says the sales will come with the caveat that buildings be moved to free up the land for use. Once some drainage issues are fixed, Otterson says there's great potential for the area.

"We could use a long-term care facility that is along the lines of assisted living. We could use a retirement resort," he said. "We do not, in town, have many alternatives for the transition from your own private home to assisted living, so we're losing people to Prince Albert and Saskatoon."

Shindle and Lotz have sights set on future competitions

By MEGAN SHINDLE & SANET KAAP

Julia Shindle (11) from the Shellbrook Skating Club and Stefan Lotz (16) from the Prince Albert Skating Club, are a newly formed figure skating pair team, who will be representing Saskatchewan at the Skate Canada Challenge in Regina and the Canada Winter Games in Charlottetown, P.E.I., this year.

Stefan was approached in June 2021 by the province's high-performance director, David Schultz, with the main goal to train as a pair skater and represent Saskatchewan at the Canada Winter Games in 2023. After tryouts to find a suitable partner, the pair started their journey together on Aug. 3, 2021. At first, they both felt this goal was a little farfetched. After just three months together they competed at Juvenile level. And six months into their training they moved up to the Pre-Novice level.

Stefan and Julia were not the only ones who needed to learn an array of new skills. Tasje Sharron from Shellbrook (Julia's coach) and Carla Matheson from Prince Albert (Stefan's coach) also had to step up to the plate and learn how to coach a pairs team. With the help of the coaching team of Skate Regina, David and Vicky Schultz and Garrett Gosselin, and several hours of extra coaching courses and training with other pairs teams, they "put both feet in the fire" as Matheson calls it. Together, the coaches have guided

and supported this team all the way to success.

Lotz said, "We are extremely lucky and grateful to have such a dedicated coaching team behind us."

Shindle and Lotz train together four times a week between Shellbrook and Prince Albert and separately, on and off the ice, the rest of the week. From April to August, they travel to Regina and Saskatoon, when there is no ice in their area. This past summer, when most kids their age were enjoying the short Saskatchewan summer at the lakes, they spent seven weeks traveling across the province, training.

Julia said, "It was fun. It gave us the opportunity to learn new skills and train, as it is difficult to get to Regina during the school year."

In August, the pair competed in Leduc, Alta., at the Wild Rose Competition, where they achieved the qualifying score for the Skate Canada Challenge.

"At first, I was like, wow, that is a really big goal. But as we trained and improved, I realized that going to the Canada Winter Games may actually happen and that is what drives me to work hard," Lotz said.

In October, Shindle and Lotz had the opportunity to travel to Barrie, Ont., to compete. This was a new experience for both of them, travelling and staying with Team Saskatchewan on their own. They placed third in Barrie. They then competed at Sask Skate in October, and the Saskatchewan Sectional competition in December, both as a pairs team and as solo

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skaters. Both of them placed second in their respective levels in the Saskatchewan series as solo skaters.

The Skate Canada Challenge will be their first national competition. It will be held in Regina, Jan. 25 to 28, and can be watched via a live stream link on the Skate Canada website.

When asked what their goal was for the Challenge, Lotz said, "I wish to have all of our elements count and to obtain a personal best."

Shindle added, "Our ultimate goal is to place in the top ten and I think we can do that if we skate clean programs."

On Feb. 26, Shindle and Lotz will head out to Charlottetown, P.E.I., with Team Saskatchewan. They will compete March 1 and 3, and information on all events and how to watch them can be found on the Canada Winter Games website.

When asked what their goal was for the games, they agreed that they want to do their best and enjoy the experience.



After only a short time skating together, Stefan Lotz and his pairs partner Julia Shindle have their eyes set on national competitions.

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R.M. OF MEDSTEAD NO. 497

SEASONAL MAINTENANCE/EQUIPMENT OPERATOR POSITION

The R.M. of Medstead No. 497 invites applications for an experienced full time Seasonal Maintenance/Equipment Operator. The Seasonal Maintenance/Equipment Operator will be responsible for mowing this municipality's ditches, rock picking, mulching in conjunction with the grader operators, installing and repairing signs and other jobs as directed by the Reeve. Opportunity may be present in the future to move into a grader operator position. Pay rates depending on experience.

The R.M. of Medstead No. 497 is located in central Saskatchewan located approximately forty five minutes north of North Battleford.

Applicants must possess a valid Class 5 driver's license and have skill and experience in maintenance and operation of equipment including tractor, mower, rock picker and mulcher.

Submit written resumes stating experience, expected wage, two references and a current driver's abstract by 4:00 p.m. on February 13th, 2023. All resumes shall be marked "Seasonal Maintenance/Equipment Operator Position" and dropped off at the RM Office, mailed to the address below or emailed to m497@sasktel.net.

R.M. of Medstead No. 497 Box 12 Medstead, SK S0M 1W0

Council thanks all applicants for their interest in this position but only persons selected for interviews will be contacted.

The R.M. of Medstead No. 497 reserves the right to reject and refuse any or all expressions of interest.

Woodland Pharmacy

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Grant or Daryl at 306-747-2545

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Box 160, Shellbrook, SK S0J 2E0
Or email woodlandshellbrook@sasktel.net

Thank you for your interest. Only those applicants granted an interview will be contacted.

TOWN OF SPIRITWOOD

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

Councillor: Town of Spiritwood **Number to be elected:** One

will be received by the undersigned on the $1^{\rm st}$ day of March, 2023 from 9:00am to 4:00pm at the Spiritwood Town Office;

and during regular business hours on January 27th to March 1st, 2023 at the Spiritwood Town Office.

Nomination forms may be obtained at the following location:

 $\underline{www.townofspiritwood.ca}$

Spiritwood Town Office - 212 Main Street

Public Disclosure Statements are required to be submitted with all nomination forms.

Dated this 27^{th} day of January, 2023.

Rhonda Saam Returning Officer

Northern Spirit advances to Provincial 4-H Curling

By NATASHA CABASE

Spiritwood Herald Reporter

On Saturday, Jan. 14, the Northern Spirit 4-H sent five members to compete in District 33 Senior Curling in Biggar.

The District 33 team consisted of: skip Avarie Conacher, third Peyton Smith, second Jessie Allchurch, lead Raef De Bruijn, and alternate Winston De Bruijn.

Though fog delayed the schedule somewhat, pushing the round robin action to wrap up at 7:30 p.m., the first day of competition was filled with fun.

In Northern Spirit's first game, Conacher, Smith, Allchurch, and De Bruijn quickly showed the Hillmond rink who had the advantage, winning by a score of 12-3.

In a much more strategic second match against St. Walburg, both teams had to call timeouts to plan things out. While Northern Spirit was leading the game 6-3 at the end of the fourth end, St. Walburg stormed back to claim a 10-7 victory.

Facing the local favourite Catherwood 4-H squad in their third match-up, the Northern Spirit foursome was able to secure its spot in Provincials with a dominating 11-4 victory, tying in a total score of 30 points along with the St. Walburg team.

Both teams now advance to Provincials, which will be hosted by District 9 and played in Swift Current from Feb. 17 to 19.



The Northern Spirit 4-H Senior Curling team. Back row, left to right: Jessie Allchurch, Avarie Conacher, and Peyton Smith. Front row, left to right: Winston de Bruijn and Raef de Bruijn.

Silvertips go 2-0, Raiders notch first victory

By JORDAN TWISS

Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

With their 2022-2023 regular season coming to a close, the Shellbrook Silvertips looked to end the year on a high note, and break out of the bottom of the West Division standings, in a pair of weekend road games against the Hague Royals and the Clavet Cougars.

Though the Royals and the Cougars both put up a fight, the Tips managed to skate back home with two victories.

Tips (5) vs Royals (4) SO

Like too many games throughout the 2022-2023 campaign, the Tips got behind early in Friday night's game against the Hague Royals, taking a penalty in the early minutes and opening the door for Steve Wolfe to score on an assist from Dillon McFadyen.

The Tips managed to rebound after this early stumble, keeping the Royals off the board for the remainder of the first period but failing to pull even. That changed early on in the second, when Torey Stewart knotted the game at 1-1 on an assist from

for off-site consumption.

John Martin.

The score remained tied for 10 minutes, until McFadven netted an unassisted goal to put the Royals back on top.

The lead was short-lived, however, as a power play for the Tips allowed Nathaniel Martin to strike on assists from Devin Dicus and Ashton Miller. And less than 20 seconds later, the Tips had their first lead of the game thanks to a goal from Shayden Smith, assisted by Brooks Nyberg.

Following an almost 20-minute goalless drought, McFadyen tied it up for the Royals with an unassisted goal, and Miller reclaimed the lead for the Tips on helpers from Dicus and Stewart.

Once again, the Royals had an answer, as McFadyen netted his hat trick goal, on assists from Carson Henrion and Jordan Valcamp, to knot the game at 4-4 and force overtime. And after a scoreless overtime period, the game moved on to a shootout.

Up first for the Tips, Nathaniel Martin was unable to beat Royals goalie Jared Reddekopp, but Dillon Mc-Fadyen got a puck past Tips netminder Todd Bazley, putting the Royals up 1-0 in the best-of-five.

Kaleb Willoughby and Devin Dicus scored for the Tips on their shots, while Carson Henrion and Jordan Valcamp were shutdown, giving the Tips a 2-1 lead and a chance to win. With his turn, Ashton Miller made no mistakes, giving the Tips the

Tips (6) vs Cougars (5) OT

Following Friday night's shootout thriller against the Royals, the Tips headed off to Clavet for another tough match-up with the Clavet Cougars.

Mirroring the against the Royals, the Tips once again got into penalty troubles early in the opening period, allowing Clavet's Ayden Cummins to draw first blood on assists from George King and Chase Unger.

Late in the frame, both teams got in on the offence, as Cody Schlosser tallied, with assists from Cummins and Unger, to put the Cougars up 2-0, and Nathaniel Martin closed the gap back to 2-1 on helpers from Devin Dicus and Ashton Miller.

In a second period filled

with offensive fireworks, the Cougars got to work early, scoring two even strength goals within the first twoand-a-half minutes. Schlosser struck first on assists from King and Cummins, then King followed up with helpers from Schlosser and Un-

With his team down 4-1, Miller brought the Tips back to life by rattling off two back-to-back goals. The first was unassisted, while Dicus and Martin assisted on the second.

After this, the Cougars and Tips exchanged goals just 10 seconds apart. Clavet's Brody Vogel scored on an assist from Marshall Hodgson, and Dicus scored for the Tips with helpers from John Martin and Miller, leaving the Tips down 5-4 after two periods.

In a quiet third period, Dicus was the only goal scorer, tying the game at 5-5 on assists from Nathaniel Martin and Miller to send the game to overtime.

The tie stuck until the dying minutes of the overtime period, when Brendon Beau-

lac found the goal on a lone trick on the evening, while assist from Justin Kerr.

With the pair of victories, the Tips climbed to 3-11 on the season. This weekend, they finish up their season on home ice with games against the Waldheim Warriors on Friday night, and the Willow Cree Chiefs on Saturday.

Raiders (7) vs Pirates (5)

Over in the Saskatchewan Prairie Hockey League, the Redberry Raiders had just one game this weekend -ahome ice showdown against the Perdue Pirates. There, after weeks of hard-fought losses, the Raiders notched their first victory as a franchise, topping the Pirates 7-5.

Adam Horner led the way for Redberry, scoring a hat

Ryan Smith tallied two goals and an assist, Patrick Gauthier had a goal and two helpers, and Dawson Horner netted a single goal. As for assists, Eric Lamontagne had one.

On the Pirates' scorecard, it was also a hat trick night for Cade Shields, who had three goals and one assist. Right behind him in offence was Mason Lammers, who tallied two goals and two helpers. Meanwhile, Layk Pawluk earned three assists, and Brett Cohen and Mathew Stan had one assist each.

With the win, the Raiders are now 1-11 on the season. This weekend, they welcome the Glaslyn North Stars to Blaine Lake for a Saturday night showdown.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that the Council of the Town of Big River intends to adopt a bylaw pursuant to Section 207 of The Planning and Development Act, 2007 to amend Bylaw No. 2015-02, known as the Zoning Bylaw.

INTFNT

The proposed bylaws will amend:

Bylaw 2015-02, the Zoning Bylaw Part 14, C2-Arterial Commercial District Section 14.2 Discretionary Uses to add: 13. Cannabis Retail Store

AFFECTED LAND

The affected lands are legally described as C2- Arterial Commercial District of the Town of Big River Zoning

District Map.

REASON

The reason for the amendment is to add a Cannabis Retail Store as a Discretionary Use in the C2-Arterial Commercial District. **PUBLIC INSPECTION** Any person may inspect the bylaws at the Town Office in Big

River on any judicial day from Monday to Friday between the

hours of 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. **PUBLIC HEARING**

Council will hold a public hearing on February 21, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. in the Meeting Room at Big River Community Centre, 606 1st Street North, in Big River, Saskatchewan to hear any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed bylaws. Council will also consider written comments received at the hearing (or delivered to the undersigned at the municipal office before the hearing).

Issued at Big River this 26th day of January, 2023.

Noreen Olsen, Administrator

TOWN OF BIG RIVER

All that Municipal Reserve in Block MR4, Plan 102067635 as shown within the bold line on the following map. REASON

The

AFFECTED LANDS

dedicated lands.

INTENT

reason for the sale is allow existing and proposed uses not currently permitted on lands designated municipal

reserve.

PUBLIC INSPECTION

Any person may

inspect the bylaw at the RM Office on any judicial day between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Rural Municipality of Big River No. 555

Public Notice is hereby given that the Council of the RM of Big

River No. 555 intends to adopt a bylaw pursuant to Section

199 of the Planning and Development Act, 2007 for the sale of

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 expenditures on other dedicated lands.

PUBLIC HEARING

Council will hold a public hearing on February 13th, 2023 in the Big River Community Centre at 606 First Street North, Big River, SK at 10:00 a.m. Council will also consider written comments received at the hearing or delivered to the undersigned at the municipal office before the hearing.

Issued at Big River this 19th day of January, 2023.

Michael Yuzik Administrator



Auction Notice

Retail Liquor Store Permits

A Retail Store Permit (RSP) allows a business to

sell beer, wine and spirits in closed containers

The permits associated with the SLGA stores

Please note that the auctions are for the interest

to the permit only – it does not include any

will be required to meet SLGA's licensing

requirements before receiving the permit.

For further information visit: www.slga.com.

physical building or assets. Successful bidders

will be available through a public online

are staggered and closing dates will vary

auction beginning Feb. 6. The auctions

depending when the auction began.

Media makes a scandal out of a Moe-hill

From healthcare, to energy policy, to economics, to favourite hockey teams, there are few things that Premier Scott Moe and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau seem to agree upon.

Over the past few years, Mr. Moe has expelled a lot of hot air in Mr. Trudeau's direction, some of it well deserved on Mr. Trudeau's part, but much of for no other reason than to score political points with his base.

Meanwhile, Mr. Trudeau has, at best, offered lip service and platitudes in response, or,

at worst, ignored Mr. Moe altogether. Needless to say, it's been a fractious five years for Messrs. Moe and Trudeau. And thus, it wasn't at all surprising when

headlines emerged last week about Mr. Trudeau "snubbing" Mr. Moe. The "snub" in question occurred when

Mr. Trudeau made a stop in Saskatoon at Vital Metals, a rare earth elements processing plant, without letting Mr. Moe know he was coming.

The visit doesn't seem to have been all that important. No funding announcements were made, and Mr. Trudeau mostly said things that everyone already knows: rare earth elements are important for the future, and Saskatchewan has

Yet, to read the coverage of the event, you'd think it was the biggest snub since Orson Welles' Citizen Kane lost the 1941



JORDAN **Twiss** News Editor

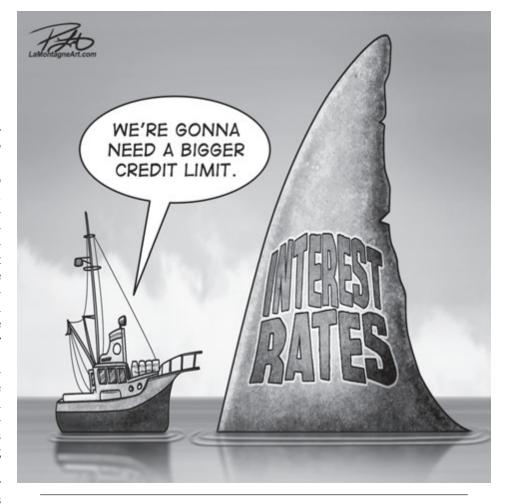
Best Picture Oscar to Henry Ford's How Green Was My Valley.

Every article was sure to make mention of how Mr. Moe's office hadn't been informed of Mr. Trudeau's visit. And two days after Snubgate, when the whole incident should have been buried, the Regina LeaderPost's Murray Mandryk wrote a column headlined, "Trudeau, Moe both acting like children over invitation."

The trouble is, that's not really what happened. And, in an era where journalism is under intense scrutiny and facing monumental challenges, the media did itself a disservice by blowing this incident out of proportion and ignoring the facts.

Fact the first, Mr. Trudeau absolutely committed a social and political faux pas when he neglected to inform Mr. Moe of his pending visit to Saskatchewan. It was poor manners, and poorer optics for a prime minister who is seen as being at odds with the province.

Fact the second, Mr. Moe did release a statement in which he said he was "disappointed but not surprised." However, his full statement makes it clear this wasn't the childish partisan jab the Sask. NDP tried to depict it as – unless you dive so deep into the subtext that you lose sight of the surface.



In his own words, Mr. Moe was disappointed because the value of Saskatchewan's rare earth mineral deposits is something he and Mr. Trudeau agree upon. It is an area where the two governments could and should work together, he believes, for the benefit of Saskatchewan, Canada, and the world.

The lack of surprise, meanwhile, wasn't about Mr. Trudeau failing to invite him to the party. According to Mr. Moe, it was expected because Saskatchewan has the potential to be a global leader in critical

minerals and rare earth elements, and pave the way for North American energy security.

Indeed, only when pressed repeatedly by reporters did Mr. Moe show an iota of frustration about the incident. In return, Mr. Mandryk excoriated him for not handling the matter privately.

Fact the third, Mr. Trudeau handled a question about his failure to invite Mr. Moe with zero grace, going off on a condescending tangent about how Saskatchewan has work to do when it comes to recognizing the potential of its green economy. His office did, however, issue a formal apology to Mr. Moe.

Given the toxic cesspool that passes for politics in the United States, perhaps we should all be thankful that last week's Snubgate is what passes for high political drama in Canada.

Could Messrs. Moe and Trudeau have handled the situation better? Undoubt-

But the true mishandling of the whole affair was by the media and the political pundits, who salivated at the sight of a scandal and pounced on the opportunity to exploit it for reads and clicks.

At a time when it needs to be united, Canada is already divided enough without people fanning the flames.

The media can, and should, do better.

Your Two Cents

Trudeau snubs Moe

Dear editor,

CTV and CBC both reported this juvenile and countervailing episode at a time when Canadians want our government to mesh as challenges loom.

Nicholas Rebin (Nick), my the value of mutual respect vors in a sometimes-horrific

when in someone else's house. Dad said, "Always pay attention, compliment your host, even if you don't like him or her, and show respect. If you can't do that, stay home."

Saskatchewan is our collective home. Scott Moe is our father, a practical and com- collective premier, and Sasmon sense fellow, taught me katchewanites, hearty surviclimate, deserve collective respect.

As a former speechwriter and Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau's task force member, I had the privilege of writing the speech he gave on his visit to Saskatchewan.

The premier was notified, the accomplishments were edified, and used humour and heart to drive his point home. Never taking his position for granted, he knew the value of grace and good will. Joe Clark beating him in the general election proved that no one is irreplaceable.

Despite his vast array of aides in the Prime Minister's Office, Justin Trudeau evidently was badly briefed on protocol, and on the value of the deal reached on the rare minerals docket.

Had he walked next door, he might have seen the ability of SRC Sask. and the rare vital metals group.

Snub one of us, sir, and you snub us all. Sometimes a snub tells you more about the snubber than the one who was snubbed. Be wary!

Norm Rebin, Blaine Lake, Sask.

Shellbrook Chronicle

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

Spiritwood Herald

Serving the Communities of Spiritwood, Shell Lake, Leoville, Chitek Lake, Mildred, Rabbit Lake, Medstead, Mayfair, Bapaume, Belbutte, Glaslyn

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> Editorial: chnews@sbchron.com Advertising chads@sbchron.com

C. J. Pepper, Publisher

Jordan Twiss, Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter jordan@sbchron.com/chnews@sbchron.com

Natasha Cabase, Spiritwood Herald Reporter (306) 914-3890 or tashacabase@gmail.com

Meghan Penney, Composition/Pagination & Advertising Sales chads@sbchron.com

Karen Stene, Bookkeeping/Reception accounting@sbchron.com

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. & 1 to 4 p.m.; Advertising Deadline: Fridays at 4:00 p.m. Websites: www.shellbrookchronicle.com www.spiritwoodherald.com

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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.

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Member of









Report from the Legislature

Saskatchewan's future as a North American mining and critical earth processing hub is bright. In our 2030 Growth Plan, we stated that our province would create the first North American rare earth elements (REE) processing facility. REEs are a key component used to manufacture permanent magnets used in electric vehicles, wind turbines, and electronics.

To make this goal a reality, our government announced it would invest \$31 million in the Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC) REE processing facility. The first phase of the project, a monazite processing unit, was unveiled in Sep-



tember 2022 and is operation-ready for 2023. The second phase includes a separation unit. We invested an additional \$20 million in 2022 to add a third phase to the facility, a metal smelting unit.

This unit will produce rare earth metals, a key ingredient used to manufacture permanent magnets. Both the separation unit and metal smelting unit will be operational in 2024 and will be producing rare earth elements products for sale in international markets, including individual rare earth oxides and didymium metals.

SRC's facility will be the first of its kind in North America and is already beginning to establish a vertically integrated REE supply chain in Saskatchewan, forming an industry model for future commercial REE resource expansion in the province. This facility also po-

sitions Saskatchewan as a key player in the clean technology industry. With the ability to process REEs in Saskatchewan, we can reduce our reliance on foreign markets as we transition to clean energy right here at home.

This industry expansion is already taking place as Vital Metals constructs its own separate rare earth extraction facility in Saskatoon. Vital Metals will take REE ore that is mined at its Nechalacho mine in the Northwest Territories, process it at their facility here in Saskatoon.

Our province is a great place for investments from both the government and private sector investors in the mining industry. Saskatchewan was selected as the best jurisdiction for mining investment attractiveness in Canada and second globally, according to the Fraser Institute Annual Survey of Mining Companies. The survey ranks jurisdictions on



factors such as stability, regulations, tax regimes, infrastructure and geological attractiveness. Along with this investment attractiveness for mining companies, Saskatchewan boasts world-class research facilities and strong supplier networks.

The province can support developments like the SRC and Vital Metals facilities with a strong and growing workforce. Annual labour force figures show Saskatchewan had 576,000 people working in 2022, an

increase of 18,600 from 2021. This is the second-largest percentage increase since records began in 1976. The province is well on its way to creating 100,000 new jobs by the end of 2030, another Growth Plan goal.

In support of this emerging industry, Premier Moe is working to promote Saskatchewan's important role in producing REEs and connecting with critical trading partners. In December last year, he met with key stakeholders in Washington, D.C. to promote Saskatchewan as an essential mineral trading partner. We continue to work to identify opportunities to strengthen the critical mineral sector and explore ways to address global energy con-

With significant projects like these well underway, growth in the mining and technology industries will continue in the coming years, making Saskatchewan a leader in the REE field.

Your Two Cents

Decisions for the right reasons

Dear editor,

This is our response to the minutes of an RM Spiritwood meeting, published on Jan. 5, 2023, and I quote, "Whereas, the RM of Spiritwood received an application for a ten lot subdivision on Memorial Lake; and whereas the RM of Spiritwood No.496 put forth a request to Memorial Lake Regional Park and the Village of Shell Lake to partner with the RM of Spiritwood to make application for provincial funding for an Environmental Carrying Capacity Study on Memorial Lake; and whereas, Memorial Lake and the Village of Shell Lake have declined to partner with the RM of Spiritwood to make application for funding through the TSS Initiative for an Environmental Carrying Capacity Study to be completed on Memorial Lake. Therefore, we authorize Administration to proceed with the process for the subdivision application on Memorial Lake."

In a letter dated July 6, 2022, addressed to the Village of Shell Lake council, we were advised that the RM had received an application for a 10-lot residential subdivision adjacent to Memorial Lake. The same letter invited us to participate in an Environ-

mental Carrying Capacity study. The letter didn't specify that the approval for the proposed subdivision was contingent on the Village partnering with M.L.R.P. and the RM but it was clear that our share of the cost was \$12,500.

Council declined to participate, largely due to the fact it was not a budgeted expense, and we weren't convinced that it is necessary. Over the years, many studies have been done and we believe the RM holds the results of those. The general consensus of the locals is that Memorial Lake is at capacity for growth.

In our opinion there are two separate issues at stake. The decision to grant further subdivisions along Memorial Lake shore should be based on whether or not the development is legally surveyed; whether they can provide for proper sewage and garbage disposal; whether they can provide road access and maintenance; and whether they can provide the amenities of power/gas, water and fire protection, NOT whether or not the Village and M.L.R.P. will participate in a study.

Respectfully, Anita Weiers, Mayor, on behalf of Shell Lake council NOTICE TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS
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Panel approves SaskPower Rate increase

By JORDAN TWISS

Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Starting April 1, Saskatchewan residents will have to dig a little deeper into their wallets to pay their power bills.

On Friday, the Saskatchewan Rate Review Panel approved Sask-Power's application to increase rates by 4 per cent.

A press release announcing the ruling said the recommendation comes after a review of SaskPower's updated financial statements and material changes to its business operations, as well as meetings with officials from the power company.

"The updated financial information forecasts that SaskPower's projected net income of \$33 million in 2022-23 and a return on equity (ROE) of 1.1 per cent is now forecast to result in a net income loss of \$105 million (an overall decrease of \$138 million)," the release said.

The latest review is part of Sask-Power's initial application for a 4 per cent rate increase effective Sept. 1, 2022, followed by a second 4 per cent increase on April 1, 2023. However, SaskPower customers also saw a 3 per cent increase to their power bills, effective Jan. 1, due to an increase in the federal carbon tax.

"We saw a significant drop in wa-

ter levels, which limited what we could do with electrical generation for hydro," Minister Responsible for SaskPower Don Morgan said, calling the Crown's shortfall a rarity. "We've had significant increases in some of our supply costs: 38 per cent increase to natural gas, 36 per cent increase to coal, [plus] both coal and natural gas attract carbon tax, which is a significant expense as well," Morgan said.

According to SaskPower, fuel and purchased power costs increased by \$121 million. Meanwhile, Morgan said federal government carbon pricing is having an impact on Sask-Power, with emissions payments going up to an estimated \$180 million in 2022 from \$56 million in 2020.

"So, our goal has to be to move away from fossil fuels and find a path forward for additional renewables and look more carefully at nuclear," he said.

The approval of the rate increase application, coupled with news of SaskPower's financial shortfall, has raised red flags for the Saskatchewan NDP, who has called on the Sask. Party government to reject the rate review panel's recommen-

"If approved, this will be the third rate increase in 8 months, leaving Saskatchewan families, farms, and

small businesses paying a minimum of 11% more," Official Opposition Critic for SaskPower Aleana Young said in a statement. "Only the worst financial managers in Canada could raise rates three times in a year – while sitting on windfall revenues - and still manage to run a \$138 million loss. This Sask. Party hat trick would be impressive if it wasn't so harmful."

Young added, "It's clear that no one in this tired Sask. Party government has to worry about their bills. Instead of sneering at a generational cost of living crisis, the Sask. Party can stop making life more expensive."

Good decisions in Sask. would have led to a PST cut

By GAGE HAUBRICH CTF Prairie Director

One point of PST revenue – that's how much the interest on the provincial debt costs you.

In 2023, the provincial government is expected to finally balance its budget. This is great news; it comes along with inflation relief cheques and up to \$1 billion in debt repayment. If only this happened every year.

If the government had been willing to make the tough choices in the past, it could be. And you could have got a PST cut out of it.

The PST applies to almost everything you buy. It is a tax you must continue to pay after you pay all other taxes. During the holidays, the PST cost Saskatchewan taxpayers \$40 million. This year, the government plans to collect \$2.6 billion in PST. That's over \$2,100

Now that's a lot of cash, but here's the kicker: since the budget was last balanced in 2014-15 the government has spent \$3.6 billion on interest payments on the debt. If the government had managed its money correctly, it could have provided a one percentage point cut in the PST for all nine years.

If the debt can didn't get kicked down the road, everything you buy today could be cheaper. Now, instead of getting a better deal on that car you bought, you're paying for politicians' bad spending habits.

Say you spent \$10 thousand on a new-to-you vehicle, bought \$200 worth of clothes for your kids, and went out to eat once a month at \$65. In total, you could expect to pay \$658 in PST.

If the government cut the PST by a point today, your tax bill would drop \$109. That's a tank of gas or a trip to the grocery store. Instead, that money is being wasted on interest payments.

Now why has this happened?

Why is the government wasting hundreds of millions of dollars a year on interest payments instead of cutting taxes?

Well, the Saskatchewan government has a history of failing to balance the budget. Instead of being responsible and only spending

what it brings in, the government decided to keep swiping the taxpayer's credit card and rack up the debt.

Some of the latest debt can be attributed to pandemic spending, but this trend of the government spending beyond its means starts long before 2020.

The Saskatchewan Party has presided over 15 full budget years since being elected in 2007. In 2009, Saskatchewan had its largest debt reduction on record. A move that reduced the debt all the way down to \$4.15 billion. A great step that was failed by what came after it.

Since 2007, the government has only managed to balance the budget five out of those 15 times. Not because there wasn't any money, but because there was too much new spending. After adjusting for inflation, government revenues have increased 20 per cent since 2007. Meanwhile, spending increased by 56 per cent.

When you spend more than you make one month, you cut back on beer for the next, you don't go out and finance a new truck. Now, because the government refused to cut back, taxpayers are paying for it.

Before this year, Saskatchewan last balanced its budget in 2014-15. Since then, the debt has tripled from \$4.7 billion to a projected \$17.1 billion at the end of this year. That averages out to over \$14,000 per Saskatchewanian.

With debt comes interest payments, and, due to seven consecutive deficits, Saskatchewan's interest payments keep getting larger and larger.

Interest payments in 2015 were about \$266 million. In 2023, they are projected to reach over \$620 million. That's a 125 per cent increase in only nine years. It's a problem that will only get worse as interest rates rise.

Put another way, if the government was responsible and paid back the debt earlier, the money set aside for interest payments this year alone could have been used to fund another \$500 cheque to every single person in the province.

But instead of taxpayers getting further relief, the money is being sent to big banks and bond fund managers with nothing to show for it. None of that money is being used to pay down the debt, it is only paying the interest.

This year, the government is on the right track by planning to reduce the debt, but more hard work needs to be done if they want to make up for all the money wasted maxing out the taxpayer's credit card.

Praise & Worship

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

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

PENTECOSTAL CHURCH Parkside

10:30 a.m. Worship

Pastor Lorne Valuck 306-747-3572 Shellbrook Adult Study 9:30 a.m. Sun., 10:30 a.m. - Worship Pastor David Bodvarson 306-747-7235 Canwood Summer: 10 a.m. - Worship

Pastor Bob Wrench 306-468-2138 Leask Gospel Tabernacle Sunday 11 a.m. 306-466-2296

PRESBYTERIAN

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

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN

Parkside 11 a.m. - Worship

ANGLICAN CHURCH Leask - All Saint's

Sunday Service - 9 a.m. St. Andrew's - Shellbrook Sunday, 11 a.m. Service Canwood - Christ Church Sunday, 2 p.m. - Service Rev. Wendell Brock 306-460-7696 H.C. Service with Rev. Brock - 1st Sunday of the

MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH

month

Blaine Lake Gospel Chapel 109 Railway Âve. 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 Sun. Worship - 11:00 a.m. (10:30 a.m. June – August) 306-468-2525

UNITED CHURCH

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

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Debden Sun. Mass - 9:30 a.m. Fr. Mariusz Zajac 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. Mariusz Zajac St. Agatha's - Shellbrook Mass - Sunday 9 a.m. St. Henry's - Leask Mass - Sunday 11 a.m. Mistawasis 1st & 3rd Sundays 1:30 p.m. Fr. Tuan Doan

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

PARTNERS IN FAITH Lutheran/United/

Christchurch Anglican, 137-2nd St. W. Spiritwood Worship 1:30 p.m. Rev. Sarah Urano

UNITED /ANGLICAN

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

CATHOLIC SUNDAY

Spiritwood - 11:15 a.m. Leoville - 9:30 a.m. Shell Lake - 2:00 p.m. SATURDAY Medstead - 6 p.m. Everyone Welcome Fr. Ramel Macapala

COWBOY CHURCH

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

LAKELAND **COMMUNITY CHURCH** (Corner of 1st Ave. and 4th

Praise & Worship

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

St., Spiritwood) Sun., 11 am - Worship Service & Sunday School Pastor Michael Kluthe 306 - 883 - 2380

FIELDS OF HOPE (HOFFNUNGSFELDER) MENNONITE CHURCH Glenbush

Worship - 11:00 am

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

MENNONITE BRETHREN Glenbush

10:00 am - Sunday School Worship 10:50 am

Gideons International of Canada

Battlefords Camp Phone Art Martynes (306) 389-4633

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

BELBUTTE FULL **GOSPEL**

11 am Worship Service

PARTNERS IN WORSHIP

Shell Lake Worship Services Sunday 9:00 a.m. Pastor Sarah Urano 306 - 841 - 7333

More ag research investment needed

January is typically the time of year where the money the federal and provincial governments will invest in agriculture research is announced, meaning there are usually lots of media releases bouncing around detailing the allotments.

The money, in the grand scheme of things, is not massive. We do live in a time when top pro baseball players are signing deals worth around \$30 million a year.

By contrast, the University of Saskatchewan was recently awarded \$14 million to support innovative crop research.

The \$14 million came through the Saskatchewan's Agriculture Development Fund (ADF), with \$7.2 million of the funds allocated to operating the Crop Development Centre (CDC) for the next five years.

Now yes, baseball is a private business, and government is spending taxpayer dollars, so the comparison is not straight apples to apples. But it does put into context just a little the investment level for ag research.

And it is rather easy to argue that ag research is rather important given our world's growing popu-



lation, and that it is the ag sector which keeps all of us fed.

Add to that rather obvious level of ag sector importance the growing issues it faces – reduced arable acres, climate change, and concerns over some long-standing farm prac-

tices – and it's easy to see how research will be needed to cope with change moving forward.

The question, beyond whether the level of government financial support for research is enough, is what that research should be targeting?

The goals have always been pretty straight forward in terms of research: find ways to increase yields – whether bushels per acre, or pounds per calf weaned.

For crop research, that has generally meant plant breeding to develop varieties which yield better; research that can of course mean better drought or disease resistance, and other traits associated with boosting yields.

But moving forward it is rather clear a guiding principle will be research focused on sustainability, which resonates with the public, and of course is a key to having food production in the future.

That said, it shouldn't be lost that most farmers have always been concerned with ensuring the farm would be viable for the next generation when balanced against the need to be financially viable today. The bank needs to be paid or the farm is lost to someone else.

Of course, the other side of the sustainability question goes back to issues such as growing crops as weather patterns change and moisture conditions alter, as well as some other environmental changes related only partially to farming operations themselves.

Moving forward, the ag research of today and tomorrow is likely to be essential, and potentially far sooner than we like to think.

Then, we will need to circle back to the question if public investment is sufficient? The most likely answer will be that it is not.

Government, Sask Pork invest in swine disease preparedness

Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister David Marit has announced \$700,000 in funding to support swine disease mitigation efforts. Sask Pork will also be providing \$300,000 toward a swine market disruption plan, which will help industry respond to potential market closures due to an animal health emergency event such as African swine fever

"Mitigation of, preparedness for, and response to animal diseases are all critical factors in supporting the Saskatchewan swine industry," Marit said in a statement. "This funding will support a healthy hog sector and protect hog producers and abattoirs during potential market disruptions."

The funding will support the creation of a cull line at the sow processing facility Donald's Fine Foods is constructing in Moose Jaw. This would allow for humane slaughter of domestic hogs if a serious swine disease outbreak ever temporarily stopped trade.

"The pork industry has been working diligently on both prevention, such as biosecurity improvements, and preparedness, so infrastructure is in place to respond if African swine fever were to enter the country," Sask Pork Board Chair Toby Tschetter said in a statement. "We appreciate the collaboration with the provincial government and industry that made today's announcement possible."

"Ensuring Saskatchewan's pork industry is positioned to respond to a potential market disruption and safeguard animal welfare is key to the continued success of the sector," North 49 Foods CEO Allan Leung said in a statement. "We are pleased to play a role in this important plan."

African swine fever (ASF) is a viral disease that only impacts pigs. To date, ASF has never been detected in Canada.

The public can reduce the risk of ASF infection in Saskatchewan pigs by declaring all animal and food products, as well as out-of-country farm visits at the border, when entering Canada, to prevent the spread of foreign animal diseases.



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Regular Sale 8:30 a.m.



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For market info visit: www.northernlivestocksales.ca

Minutes of a Spiritwood Town Council meeting

(Where necessary, the fol*lowing 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 Dec. 20, 2022, at 7 p.m.

In attendance were, Mayor Gary von Holwede, Councillor Jim Bedi, Councillor Bryan Wingerter, Councillor Ragnar Latus, Councillor George Pretli, and CAO Rhonda Saam.

Absent were Councillor Kiera Andres, and Councillor Brad Nemish.

A quorum being present, Mayor Von Holwede called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Latus: That the agenda be adopted as presented. Carried

Latus: That the minutes of the regular meeting on Nov. 22, 2022, be approved as presented. Carried

Latus: That the correspondence be filed as presented. Carried

Wingerter: That the Accounts for Ratification, Cheque No. 32350 to 32352 & CAFT payments #1105 to 1133 in the amount of \$53,526.09 be approved as presented. Carried

Bedi: That the Accounts for Approval, Cheque No. 32353 to 32370 & On-line Payment #1134 in the amount of \$138,963.46 be approved as presented. Carried

Bedi: That the reports be filed as presented. Carried

Wingerter: That we appoint Councillor Jim Bedi as the Town of Spiritwood representative to the Spiritwood Library Board, effective immediately and for 2023. Carried

Wingerter: That we send Brad Nordquist to the Class 1 Wastewater Treatment & Collection Training offered through ATAP from Feb. 27 to March 3, 2023, in Saskatoon. Carried

Pretli: That Councillor Jim Bedi be registered for the SUMA Virtual Sector Meeting on Jan. 31, 2023. Carried

Latus: That we advertise that we will accept tenders for the rink glass and construction materials in the old arena on both Kijiji and Town of Spiritwood Facebook page and accept tenders until Jan. 6, 2023. Carried

Councillor Wingerter declared a conflict and left the council meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Latus: That we renew the contract with Fast Genetics under a 36 month lease agreement for the office space at 511 Fourth Street East, effective Jan. 1, 2023 in the amount of \$16.60 per square foot (\$3,032.27 per month plus GST) for the 2023 calendar year, \$17.77 per square foot (\$3,245.99 per month plus GST) for the 2024 calendar year, and \$19 per square foot (\$3,470.67 per month plus GST) for the 2025 calendar year. Carried

Councillor Wingerter re-entered the council meeting at

Latus: That this meeting be adjourned at 7:45 p.m. Carried

Minutes of an RM of Spiritwood meeting

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

The Regular Meeting of the Council of the Rural Municipality of Spiritwood No. 496 was held on Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2022.

In attendance were Reeve Shirley Dauvin, Division 3 Terry Wingerter, Division 4 Dennis Laventure, Division 5 Heather Warkentin, Division 6 Bevra Fee, Administrator Colette Bussiere, and Foreman Darcy Laventure.

Absent: Division 1 Larry Vaagen, and Division 2 Dale Wasden.

A quorum being present the meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. by Reeve, Shirley Dauvin.

Laventure: That the agenda be adopted

as presented. Carried

Warkentin: That the Oaths of Office for Dale Wasden (Div 2 Councillor), Dennis Laventure (Div 4 Councillor), and Bevra Fee (Div 6 Councillor) be acknowledged and filed. Carried

There was no conflict of interest acknowledged.

That the regular meeting of council be adjourned to move in camera to discuss road access to S 1/2 01-49-08-W3. That the regular meeting of council be called back to order at 9:35 a.m. (Editor's note: The minutes didn't name who made these motions)

Wingerter: That the Foreman's report having been read now be filed. Carried

Fee: That the minutes of the Nov. 8,

2022, Regular Meeting of Council be approved as presented. Carried

Delegation: Delegates Kristen Dube and Aran McCallen joined the council meeting at 10:30 a.m. to discuss the access road to Par A Plan 101926212, located on S 1/2 01-49-08-W3.

Delegates Kristen Dube and Aran Mc-Callen left the council meeting at 10:57

Foreman Darcy Laventure left the council meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Laventure: That the Administrator's report having been read now be filed. Car-

Fee: That the CSO reports having been read now be filed. Carried

Warkentin: That the bank reconciliation for the month ending Nov. 30, 2022, be accepted as presented. Carried

Wingerter: That the "List of Accounts" as listed on the attached Schedule "A" forming part of these minutes be passed for payment: Cheque No. 13948-13993 (\$108,642.17), Payroll File No. 390, 391 & 393 (\$38,185.51), EFT 2022 0057-0062 (\$60,501.11). Carried

Warkentin: That the Statement of Financial Activities for the month ending Nov. 30, 2022, be approved as presented. Carried

Warkentin: Whereas, additional information has been presented, that we do not proceed with a bylaw to prohibit the use of engine retarder brakes in designated areas. Carried

Fee: That Bylaw No. 2022-6, being a Bylaw Respecting Buildings be read a second time. Carried

Wingerter: That Bylaw No. 2022-7, being a bylaw to Establish Planning & Development Fees be read a second time.

Warkentin: The Council of the Rural Municipality of Spiritwood No. 496 confirms the municipality meets the following eligibility requirements to receive the Municipal Revenue Sharing grant (list the requirements that the municipality has met):

- Submission of the 2021 Audited Financial Statement to the Ministry of Government Relations;
- The municipality runs a Municipal Waterworks System that is not subject to public reporting requirements.
- In Good Standing with respect to the reporting and remittance of Education Property Taxes;
- Adoption of a Council Procedures Bylaw;

 Adoption of an Employee Code of Conduct: and

 All members of council have filed and annually updated their Public Disclosure Statements, as required; and

That we authorize the Administrator to sign the Declaration of Eligibility and submit it to the Ministry of Government Relations. Carried

Fee: That we have no objections to the transfer of NW 27-51-08-W3 & the N 1/2 34-51-08-W3 to TLE status, however, we have concerns in regards to the amount of tax loss compensation municipalities receive when lands are transferred into reserve status. Carried

Laventure: Whereas, Councillor and past Deputy Reeve Al Steinhilber did not seek re-election, that he be removed as a signor and that Councillor and Deputy Reeve Bevra Fee be added as a signor for the RM of Spiritwood No. 496. Carried

Warkentin: That we offer to lease the basement of the municipal office at a rental rate of \$1,700.00 per month including utilities for a proposed dental office. The term of the lease shall be from 3 - 5 years and the lease rental rate shall be reviewed after one year. Any retrofitting of the lease space for the proposed use shall be the responsibility of the lessee. Carried

Fee: That we enter into a road maintenance agreement with Venture Construction to haul aggregate from SW 19-53-10-W3 to Hwy 24. Carried

Editor's note: Council spent much of the rest of the meeting making its annual appointments. These have been omitted due to space restraints.

Fee: That the regular meeting of Council be adjourned at 2:54 p.m. to move into an in-camera session to discuss any HR matters. Carried

CAO Colette Bussiere left the council meeting at 2:54 p.m.

CAO Colette Bussiere returned to the council meeting at 3:23 p.m.

The regular meeting of council was called back to order at 3:23 p.m.

Fee: That the following correspondence having been read now be filed: SARM Policy Bulletins, SARM Rural Sheaf, SARM

Updates, Farm & Food Care - November 2022 Newsletter, NCTPC - July 27, 2022 Meeting Minutes, Emails - Green Jewel Estates Snow Removal, PARCS Update, Winter Weight Orders, APAS Update Video, Letter - TLE Selection File Closed.

Warkentin: That the meeting be adjourned.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SPIRITWOOD: Wapiti Regional Library - Tuesday 9 am - 5 pm; Wednesday 9 am - 5 pm; Friday 9 am - 5 pm

LEOVILLE: Wapiti Regional Library - Wednesday 10 am - 4 pm; Thursday 10 am - 3 pm SHELL LAKE: Wapiti Regional Library - Tuesday 12:30 pm - 4 pm; Wednesday 12:30

BLAINE LAKE: Wapiti Library - Wednesday 11 am - 6 pm; Friday 11 am - 5 pm; Saturday 10 am - 4 pm. Contact us for more info 306-497-3130, www.wapitilibrary.ca. BIG RIVER: Wapiti Library - Wednesday 11:30 am - 4:30 pm; Thursday 11:30 am -

4:30 pm. Phone # 306-469-2152 **CANWOOD:** Canwood Branch of Wapiti Regional Library. Tuesday 10 am - 3:30 pm; Thursday 3:30 pm - 8 pm; Friday 1:30 pm - 4:30 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 9 am - 2 pm; Wednesday 3 pm - 6 pm; Friday 1 pm - 5 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.

WILD ROSE: Sweet Heart Supper & Fundraiser Auction - Wild Rose 4-H Beef Club. February 12, 2023 at Wild Rose School, Doors open at 5, Supper at 5:30, Live auction to follow. Tickets - \$25 each. For tickets or further information call Brenda 306-841-7590 or Terry 306-961-7355.

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NHL bottom-feeders drooling over Bedard

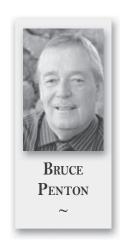
Like a six-year-old kid window-shopping at the toy store a few days before Christmas, National Hockey League general managers — especially those in the bottom half of the league standings — are uncontrollably drooling while watching the Connor Bedard legend grow.

One of those GMs is going to win the draft lottery this summer and unwrap a franchise-changing player who comes along perhaps once every 10 or 15 years. There was Orr, then Gretzky, then Lemieux, Crosby and the current wunderkind, Connor McDavid. Next year, Bedard will be dazzling NHL crowds while wearing the uniform of well, we'll have to wait and see how this lottery unfolds. D-Day (draft day) is June 28 in Nashville.

Six to eight of the worst teams all believe they have a legitimate shot at drafting No. 1, and grabbing Bedard in an "easiest decision" since picking Charles Barkley No. 1 in a kids' pickup basketball game. A website called 'tankathon.com' lists daily odds of getting the top pick and at last look, Chicago Blackhawks are leading at 25.5 per cent, followed by Anaheim, Columbus, Arizona and San Jose, in that order. Decreasing odds (7.5 per cent and lower) are in effect for Montreal, Vancouver, Philadelphia, Ottawa, Florida and Detroit.

Vancouver might be the perfect landing spot for the 17-year-old Bedard, a native of North Vancouver who is lighting up the Western Hockey League with Regina Pats. He became a household name across Canada with his spectacular showing in the World Junior championship, which Canada won in an overtime thriller in early January. Bedard picked up 23 points in seven games, nine ahead of his closest rival, Logan Cooley of the U.S. Upon returning to the WHL, Bedard scored nine goals and picked up five assists in his first three

Team Canada team-mate Shane Wright, drafted No. 4 by Seattle last year,



couldn't contain his admiration for Bedard's skills. "I'm running out of things to say about how unbelievable his whole performance was this entire tournament," Wright told NHL. com. "How mature he's been, how much of a good teammate he's been to every single guy."

One NHL franchise is definitely going to be able to build a winning team around Bedard, who is not physically imposing but incredible at puck-control, on-ice vision and shooting speed and accuracy. Bedard leads all WHLers in shots on goal and on Jan. 15, he was 27 ahead of his closest rival, who had played seven more games.

As lower-level teams in the NHL continue to drool, pray, and lose as often as possible without making their tanking too obvious, Bedard will finish out his three-year junior career with the non-contending Pats. He's used to being with a non-contender, and his future NHL team will be one, too. But likely not for long with Bedard steering his new team's fortunes.

- From TheBeaverton. com: "Oilers fan sick of media always talking about the Leafs has tweeted about the Leafs six times today."
- From Steve Simmons of Sunmedia: "Morgan Rielly is engaged to figure skating star Tessa Virtue. That's a combination of nice and nicer."
- Simmons again, with a question: "Connor McDavid is phenomenal. Leon Draisaitl is terrific. Zach Hyman and Ryan Nugent-Hopkins are having all-star-like seasons. So tell me, how is it that the Edmonton Oilers are this

average, barely in a playoff spot nearing the halfway point of the regular season?"

- · Comedy writer Torben Rolfsen of Vancouver: "Switching over from the end of the World Juniors to the NHL games Thursday night...it was like watching the Moon Landing followed by a documentary on plumbing."
- Another one from Rolfsen: "The Raptors' Pascal Siakam is sixth in the Eastern Conference frontcourt after the first NBA All-Star fan voting returns. Despite the GOP trying to prevent Canadians from voting."
- Janice Hough of leftcoastsportsbabe.com, after Detroit Lions' win over Green Bay eliminated the Packers: "The Detroit Lions were eliminated earlier today from the postseason. But Lions have the consolation prize of the gratitude of millions of Americans for their win to keep Aaron Rodgers out of the playoffs."
- Bob Molinaro of pilot online.com (Hampton, Va.): "The Miami Heat set

an NBA team record by making all 40 of its free throws. That must have made an exciting highlights package."

- Comedy writer Alex Kaseberg: "Video shows former NFL receiver Odell Beckham Jr. refusing to wear a seatbelt and pants that caused his plane to have to be evacuated. Beckham was escorted off by police. Beckham was a hot free agent, but now teams are hiding the 10-foot poles with which they won't touch him."
- · Kaseberg again: "Less than a week after team trainers saved the life of Damar Hamlin, the Packers' Quay Walker was ejected for shoving a Lions trainer aiding an injured player. It was the stupidest thing I have ever seen in the NFL and I saw the Chargers draft Ryan Leaf second overall."
- Headline at fark.com: "NFL QBs ranked in order of competence. Jets' fans can skip to the end."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.

Elks go 2-1 over busy weekend

By JORDAN TWISS

Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

With a trip to the SAAHL U18 AA playoffs looking increasingly certain, the Parkland U18 AA Elks took the ice three times this weekend, hoping to make it a sure thing.

Through home against the Humboldt Broncos and the Saskatoon Riverkings, and a road game against the Martensville Marauders, the Elks amassed a 2-1 record over the weekend, and put themselves in a good position as they head into their final regular season matches in the coming weeks.

Elks (4) vs Broncos (2)

Few would have expected the Humboldt Broncos to put up much of a fight when they came to the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre on Friday evening, but the team made the hometown Parkland Elks work for their victory even if the game wasn't really as close as the scoreboard made it seem.

The Elks came out flying fast, racking up chances and overwhelming the Broncos until their momentum was derailed by a four-minute head and Tyson Gagnon. contact penalty. Falling back into their rhythm after killing off the penalty with relative ease, the Elks repeated the cycle by taking another penalty, only to be bailed out when the Broncos took a penalty of their

With their first full power play of the period late in the frame, the Elks poured on the pressure and managed a few close calls. In the end, Broncos goalie Hunter Edwards kept them off the board.

In a more highlight-filled second frame, the power play proved to be a valuable tool for both teams. The Elks got burned first, as Matthew Solar deflected a shot from the point into the back of the goal to put the Broncos up 1-0. Jackson Beggs and Landin Frank assisted on the goal.

Minutes later, the Elks found themselves on a four-minute power play, and Kendon Skalicky tallied early to tie things up on assists from Jake Boettcher and Bronson Parker. Skalicky would tally again with the remainder of the power play, scoring off a faceoff on assists from Chase Hansen

Back at even strength, the Broncos pounced on an Elks turnover to take off on a twoon-none breakaway. With a textbook setup from Landin Frank, Gavin Lefevbre found the back of the goal to tie the game at 2-2.

Just when it looked like the second period might end in another tie, a Broncos penalty opened the door for the Elks. Hansen made no mistakes, burying a rebound with assists from Cody Morash and Boettcher.

In a dominant third period outing, the Elks unsurprisingly provided the only offensive highlight of the frame. Brendan Aug scored on a blast from the point, with assists from Morash and Parker, securing the Elks' 4-2 win.

Elks (2) Kings (5)

With less than 24 hours of rest, the Elks returned to action Saturday afternoon, hosting the Saskatoon Riverkings. Whether they were tired from a tough game the night before, or just outplayed by a better opponent, the Elks struggled to keep up from the opening face off to the final buzzer.

An early penalty got the Elks in hot water, allowing Jackson Fox to strike on assists from Sean Shiels and Benett Leibel. Minutes later, the Elks found themselves down 2-0, when Noah Hepp scored on a helper from Reid Wandler.

The Elks stopped the bleeding after this, and Kendon Skalicky notched an unassisted goal in the second period to close the gap to 2-1 going into

With the score close, the Riverkings took control of the action in the third period, rattling off three unanswered goals. Samual Wardell started things off with an unassisted goal, then Beckett Holzman scored on an assist from Leibel. Finally, Dylan Danyluk tallied on helpers from Fox and Shiels, putting the Riverkings up 5-1.

With time winding down, Kamden Shewchuk scored for the Elks, with an assist from Ashton Harris, to set the final score at 5-2.

Elks (6) vs Marauders (0)

In another short turnaround, the Elks traveled to Martensville on Sunday afternoon for a showdown with the Martensville Marauders. There, the Elks put on a dominant display en route to a 6-0 victory.

Corvan Stewart started the scoring for the Elks just over five minutes into the first period, tallying on assists from Luke Evans and Cody Morash. On the power play near the midway point of the period, Brody Anderson found the back of the net with assists from Chase Hansen and Bronson Parker to put the Elks up

The power play struck again in the second period, when Tyson Gagnon scored on assists from Brendan Aug and Parker. And the penalty kill also proved dangerous, as Morash tallied with a helper from Gag-

Mirroring the first two periods, the Elks struck twice in the third. Gagnon scored at even strength, with assists from Parker and Morash, then Stewart tallied on the power play, with helpers from Gagnon and Aug.

With their weekend performance, the Elks sit at 12-15-1-1 on the season and are in seventh place, three points ahead of their nearest rival.



Medicine Hat College takes you from classroom to career

By the MEDICINE HAT COLLEGE

Saskatchewan highways and high schools are a familiar sight for Landon Heilman. As the student recruitment coordinator for Medicine Hat College (MHC) he's travelled extensively throughout the province over the years, meeting with students and high school counsellors and sharing all that MHC has to offer.

As a comprehensive community college in sunny Southeast Alberta, MHC is focused on unique student pathways and programs that help learners reach their educational goals. From certificates, diplomas and degrees to university studies and apprenticeship training in the areas of health care, community services, business, education, science, arts,

trades and technology, there really is something for everyone.

- Consider a rewarding career as a health care aide, improving the lives of those in hospital or living in a care facility or pursue degree options in nursing or paramedicine and benefit from access to state-of-theart simulation training.
- Gain hands-on training through a wide variety of apprenticeship programs including automotive service and welding, or build sought after skills as an information or engineering technologist.
- Expand your business acumen and specialize in accounting, administration, marketing, management or financial services, or explore exciting

new specialty programs in Sport & Event Marketing and Management, Sustainable Innovation, or Service Dog and Canine Management Studies.

 Become a teacher in our collaborative Bachelor of Education program, discover your creative side with an applied degree in art and design, or start your education with a variety of university studies programs in arts and sciences that build a solid foundation for degree completion elsewhere.

Small class sizes across our programs create more opportunities to engage and build relationships; while work integrated learning provides real world experiences. Flexible delivery options help students balance school and life. Dedicated faculty and staff know you by name.

From application to graduation, MHC strives to be a leader in student support by offering exceptional services and a personalized approach that builds confidence and trust. Academic advising and coaching, writing support, personal counselling, accessibility services, tutoring, and career services are all available to MHC students, while a brand new fitness centre and Indigenous gathering space

provide opportunities for health, wellness and cultural growth.

Speaking from experience as a former student in MHC's School of Business, Heilman is passionate about supporting future students on their own path to post-secondary.

"The best part about being a student recruiter at MHC is the opportunity to have a meaningful impact in people's lives. Being a source of encouragement for someone to take the first step in achieving their educational goals, and then getting to see them walk across the stage during graduation, is my favorite part about my job."

With all the amenities

of a larger centre plus the feel of a small town, there's lots to love about "The Hat." Enjoy the natural beauty of the region with the city's extensive trail system, parks and golf courses, and easy access to Cypress Hills Provincial Park and the Canadian Badlands. Medicine Hat also boasts a vibrant arts and entertainment scene featuring exceptional musical talent, sporting events and festivals, and unique local coffee shops, pubs, and retail stores.

Join us for Open House on Saturday, March 4 and discover MHC! Visit *mhc.ab.ca* for details or call 1-866-282-8394 to book a tour or appoint-

Three tips to help your teen choose a post-secondary path

There are more options than ever to keep learning after high school, whether it's college, university, trade school, apprenticeships or online learning. With all these options, deciding what path to take can be extra tricky. Here are a few ways you can help the student in your life make an informed, confident choice for their future.

1. Narrow down the options

A good place to start is to simply eliminate what isn't a good fit. Maybe your student doesn't want to move far, which eliminates out of province or international learning. Or perhaps they have an idea of what they want to

study, and it's only offered in certain schools or formats. Start with a smaller list and explore each option based on preferences.

2. Find an objective, experienced listener

It can help a student to speak with mentors, such as a teacher or guidance counselor, to offer advice and expertise without personal investment. Close family and friends often have conflicting advice, which can be overwhelming. Discussing everyone's ideas and insights with a third party is a valuable step to reach a sound decision.

3. Research, research

Do a deep dive, not just on schools and courses, but also on details of the job market. You can use up-todate census data for insights on employment and growing sectors and trends across the country. Learn more about common careers in a region, as well as income by occupation and level of education.

There are many valuable ways to get an education, so it's okay to take time to find the right choice.

Find more information at *statcan.gc.ca/census*.

www.newscanada.com







Learn Where You Live with USask Nursing

By the UNIVERSITY **OF SASKATCHEWAN**

The University of Saskatchewan's (USask) top nursing student for 2022 may have never entered the nursing program if it wasn't for the chance to learn close to home.

Taylor Fulawka is from Yorkton, and along with 14 classmates, together they pursued a nursing education in Yorkton. The supportive environment where it was possible to live at home rent free and concentrate on studying was a major contributing factor to not just graduating, excelling. Taylor was awarded the W. S Lindsay Gold Medal in Nursing and the University Prize in Nursing; the top academic nursing awards at USask.

Taylor says finances

were a significant concern and the cost of relocating to a major centre was simply not possible. The College of Nursing's Learn Where You Live model removes these barriers for approximately 450 nursing students in communities throughout Saskatchewan each year, as these students reside outside of Saskatoon, where the main USask campus is located.

Taylor says many people in Yorkton would not complete the nursing program if they had to leave the community.

Passing the National Council Licensure Examination in fall 2022, Taylor is now working as a registered nurse at Yorkton Regional Health Centre. Taylor's story highlights why USask's College of Nursing has taken steps to ensure nursing education is offered throughout the province.

Smaller centres face special challenges in recruiting and retaining health-care professionals. The College of Nursing Learn Where You Live model has proven successful in establishing the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program in rural and northern communities.

Since the first nursing students entered the BSN program at distributed sites in La Ronge and Ilea-la-Crosse in 2012, 65 students have completed their program in northern Saskatchewan.

Since the program began in Yorkton in 2014, 63 students have completed their BSN.

When nursing students complete their degree in rural and northern communities, most graduates stay and practice there. Saskatchewan's rural and northern communities need nurses, who are familiar with the culture, the people, and the rural and remote way of life.

The need for registered nurses has never been greater. Over the next three years, USask is taking responsive steps to expand access to nursing education in the northern and rural regions of Saskatchewan.

By adding additional seats to nursing sites beyond Saskatoon, communities will be able to take advantage of USask's distributed nursing education infrastructure and strengths in rural, remote, and Indigenous nursing education.

Taylor has seen health centres in smaller communities around Yorkton close, in part due to staffing shortages. Taylor believes nurses educated in Yorkton and similar centres will be more willing to work in rural settings because they are already from a smaller community.

Taylor felt called to the profession of nursing when Taylor's grandmother, who used to share stories about practicing as a young nursing aid, was in the hospital, and Taylor saw firsthand how care was provided with kindness and support.

Our province and the world needs nurses like Taylor, who are smart, talented, and want to be there for others in a time of need.

USask's College of Nursing is making this possible for students, no matter where they live in Saskatchewan.

For more information about USask nursing programs, please visit nursing.usask.ca.



University of Saskatchewan Nursing Graduate Taylor Fulawka (BSN'22) at Spring Convocation. Photo submitted by University of Saskatchewan.

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The Graduate Retention Program is the most ambitious youth retention program in Canada; it provides up to \$20,000 in tax credits to post-secondary graduates who remain in Saskatchewan after graduation to start their careers. To date, more than 75,000 graduates have claimed these credits. Since 2007, the province has invested \$12.6 billion in post-secondary institutions and student support.

Learn more at Saskatchewan.ca.

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

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



Obituary ~

Esther Strate



Esther Strate was born on February 27, 1924, to Axel and Jonette Haroldson. Esther passed away on November 22, 2022, at the age of 98 years. A memorial service was held on Saturday, January 7, 2023, in the Shell Lake Lions Hall with Pastor Sarah Urano officiating. Music by Patty Heisler, readings by Pastor David Jensen, Urn bearer was Troy Stene and Eulogy was given by Esther's grandchildren Sheila Marentette and Gavin Gunderson. A big thank you to Darcy and Janice Strate for the video presentation.

Left to cherish her memory her children: Sharon (Ken) Cameron; Nicole Cameron, Quinn (Mindy) Cameron, Ronald (Donna) Strate; Bonnie (Trevor) Mandziak, Angie (Claude) Denis, Scott

Carol (Albert) Francoeur; Sheila (Don) Marentette; Michelle Francoeur, Amy Johnson, Jocelyn (Trende) Stene; Troy (Candice); Dorin (Marcy); Bradley (ToniRae), Deborah (Don Zwingli); Gavin (Kristy) Gunderson; Ashley (Shane) Gerein, Darcy (Janice); Kyle (Jasmine); Lexi (Paul) McDonald, daughters in law: Elaine Strate; Dwayne (Denise); Lorne; Robert (Susan); Lisa Strate, Joyce Strate; Rodney (Kristan); Tracy (Lance) McLean, 45 great grandchildren and 6 great-great grandchildren.

Esther was born in 1924 on her family farmstead near Shell Lake. She was the only girl in a family of five children. She attended Lonesome Pine School until Grade 10. For grade 11, she attended Shell Lake High School but because of how far away it was she lived in town in a granary without heat or power with her friend Ruth Vaagen. Esther was unable to attend grade 12 as the family had a bad crop year but her dream was to become a teacher, so she started to do her Grade 12 through correspondence. She said she won the lottery that year as there was a shortage of teachers due to the

war, so they were offering a teaching course for those who had completed grade 11 – she applied and was accepted. Only a short five weeks after she started the course, she was hired to teach at Camp Lake School with 28 students in Grade 1 - 10. Over the years Esther also taught Grades 1 - 8 at Lonesome Pine School, Mont Nebo School and finally in1969 in Shell Lake School - where she taught Grade 1 until she retired in 1983 after 27 years of teaching. She was able to teach all of her children at school and even a few of her grandchildren were lucky enough to have Grade 1 with Mrs. Strate.

In 1948 on August 28 Esther married Garnett Strate and they moved to Grandpa's farm and raised their family. Together they shared 8 children - Morris, Bob, Sharon, Ron, Carol, Jocelyn, Debbie and Darcy. Esther often shared stories about living on the farm, getting power, their first TV, the experience of raising children, teaching school in one room, gardening and helping grandpa with farming, tending to the cows, pigs, chickens and turkeys. She was a busy woman who worked hard, but she always took time to sit down to play a game of cards or cut some paper dolls to color. She was very resourceful; it seems there was nothing she couldn't make - sewing clothes for children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, crafts, paper tole, ceramics, cross stitch and quilting. We have all been blessed with these precious creations from her. Esther was a hostess and cook – on the farm there were always extra people at the table and often many would spend the night. She never batted an eye or complained, just went to work creating an amazing meal.

Esther and Garnett moved off the farm to the small acreage just outside of Shell Lake in 1974. Here they had way more free time and started to enjoy travelling and camping. They travelled both within Canada and internationally with family and friends.

When the care of the yard and home was becoming too much they then moved into the Villa in Shell Lake. Many of the great grandchildren will remember visiting great grandma and great grandpa, running through the halls at the Villa, meeting all the other people in the building.

Many of the grandchildren and great grandchildren were blessed with grandma babysitting - spending time playing cards and crafting as well as teaching them to drink coffee.

In late 1999 Grandpa's health started to decline, and he needed to move into a care home. In July of 2000 she gave her last kiss to Garnett. Esther continued to live in the Villa with support from her children for as long as she could. In 2018 after suffering a broken hip she settled into her new home in Parkland Integrated Health. The family set the room with all her special things making it just like home for her. Even a fridge to hold those important snacks she loved to share.

Mom's love was an unconditional kind that says, no matter how bad you mess up, I've got you. If you were ever in a pinch, the person you would want in your corner would definitely be Mom, because she always had a solution.

Some things learned from or remembered about Mom:

Don't wear your clothes out washing them.

Expiration dates are only a suggestion, it's probably still good.

Shut those lights off!!

Cut open or add water to shampoo, lotion, dish soap and toothpaste tubes so you didn't waste any.

She loved music, up until she left us she was able to play music. For years she played the mandolin. Recently Darcy brought her a piano and she would play to those who visited. You could count on hearing You are My Sunshine and Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree when you visited.

Those wishing may make donations to the Scandia Cemetery in memory of Esther Strate as tokens of remembrance.

The family would like to extend a thank you Mark Muir and the Beau "Lac" Funeral Home & Crematorium for their kindness and help. Also, a very special thank you to the staff of Parkland Integrated Health Care for the kindness and love they gave mom in her last years!

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, R. Mark Muir, Funeral Director, Spiritwood, SK, 306-883-3500.

GOOD NEWS

Making disciples of all nations

By PASTOR RANDALL MCLEOD

Immanuel Lutheran, Parkside

We, who are in Christ, are called specifically to make disciples of all nations. Just how are we to do that?

The text for this week gives us a clue as to one good way to do that. Before I get into that, I would first like to review a couple of other relevant passages. Firstly, let's look Matthew 5:45 "He (God) makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust."

Rationally, let's look at it this way: since we are all sinners (there is none righteous, no not one), if God was only

willing to bless the righteous, none of us could ever be blessed. Why do bad things happen to good people? There are no good people! Bad things happen to all people, and so do good things. Christ Jesus came to save sinners (bad people... like me).

Further, I have not seen any example of where Jesus required a confession of faith before He healed, delivered, or resurrected anyone. He pours out His grace freely. God does not desire that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. That is the bottom line. Jesus' sacrifice was sufficient once and for all. He may be the only way to be saved, but as many as will receive Him,

He welcomes. The only disclaimers He makes are that His true followers must commit to the relationship and be willing to be discipled (i.e. changed).

So, today's text comes from the Gospel of John, chapter 42 verses 41 and 42. Here we see Andrew coming under the conviction that Jesus is the Messiah and the first thing He does is run to get his brother and tell him of this "Good News". That is precisely what Jesus tells disciples of all nations...".

Some think a sandwich board and a street corner is the best way, some think a pulpit, some think a YouTube channel. The Billy Graham organization started a project called "Operation Andrew". The principle there was to gather in friends and relatives, and the best way to do that was to enlarge your friendship base.

We can do that be simply being a friend, to our family, our neighbours, our enemies, and everyone we meet. Just be a friend! Pour out God's grace and goodness to everyone we meet. No need to use the bible as a club, just be the good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37 all of His followers to do: "Go and make $\;\;$ - it's a good story, you can Google it, I checked).

> By the way, when you do that, and when they ask about your faith, they will listen to your answer. Trust me, they already know you are a Christian.

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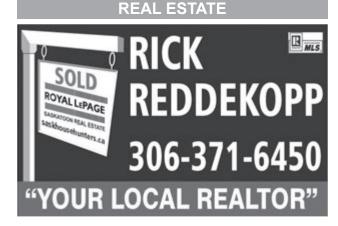
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TAX ENFORCEMENT LIST TOWN OF BIG RIVER PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

Notice is hereby given under The Tax Enforcement Act that unless the arrears and costs appearing opposite the land and title number described in the following list are fully paid before the 28th day of May, 2023, the treasurer will proceed to register an interest based on a tax lien in the Land Titles Registry in accordance with Section 10 of the Tax Enforcement Act. Lot 1 Blk 2 PL AA4863 \$5,271.41

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\$1,029.44 Lot 1 Blk 12 PL 64B09845 \$1,845.49 Lot 3 Blk I PL 83B08394 \$2,350.86

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January, 2023 Noreen Olsen, Administrator

Dated this 26th day of

EMPLOYMENT **OPPORTUNITY**

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Winter survival in the garden

Trees being so visible in the landscape are also the most exposed. I am always amazed by trees in the landscape but especially on the coldest days of winter. Days that are so cold that cars won't run and the human factor hardly strays outside. Those days of – 40°C with a windchill that makes the temperatures outside deadly.

By PATRICIA HANBIDGE

The fact that trees survive the winter to again grow in spring is really kind of miraculous! However, they must have adaptations in order to survive the cold of winter, and also the severe drying conditions. Unlike animals (and humans) they cannot change their geographical location and they certainly can't put on or grow a winter coat. They meet winter head on, without any clothes on at all. They therefore must rely on physiological and structural adaptations in order to survive.

In summer, the height of trees is advantageous as there is nothing in nature that competes for sunlight at that level. However, in the winter that same height is a liability as tissues become extremely exposed to the weather. In order to survive, the trees need to use a variety of strategies.

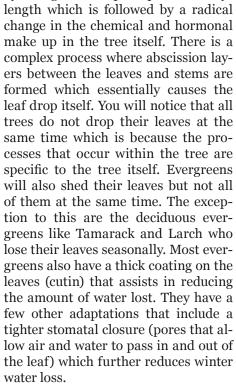
Trees will either shed their leaves or in the case of evergreens will adapt strategies for leaf retention. The leaves are a major source of water loss and would be difficult to protect in winter conditions. Deciduous trees will therefore drop their leaves to aid in winter survival. This leaf drop is stimulated by changes in the photoperiod or daywater loss.

Trees that are able to survive the winter have acclimatized to the climate. This cellular process helps to exploit the physical properties of water which aids in survival through the winter. However, each species and in fact each individual specimen will have a killing temperature. Within the cell itself there are changes that can slightly reduce the freezing point by changing the solute concentrations within the cell. This concentration change within the cell further helps with survival by causing the area outside the cell (which has a higher concentration of water) to freeze first which in turn releases a small amount of heat energy which also aids in individual cell survival.

For deciduous trees, the biomass above ground is relatively water tight as stems and buds lose very little water. However, for evergreens, even in winter there is water loss through the leaf tissues. On sunny days the sun shining on the leaves can increase the temperature significantly enough to be above the ambient air temperature. As a result, metabolic rates rise; the internal vapour pressure increases and even with all the protective measures will cause the net loss of water and desiccation of the leaf tissue. Hence, the importance of ensuring that evergreens go into winter in a well hydrated state.

So, the next day that is bitterly cold, take a moment to think about the trees that surround you and the wonders of nature and its adaptations that allows survival outside without any clothes on!

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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