

Klein nominated for Willie O'Ree award

By JORDAN TWISS
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Though he never actually played a day in the NHL, Derek Klein could soon be named the winner of one of the organization's most prestigious community service-based awards.

After being nominated by a fellow member of his leadership team, the Big River First Nation CEO is one of three Canadian finalists for The Willie O'Ree Community Hero Award.

Named in honour of Canadian former NHLer Willie Eldon O'Ree, who was the first black player in the NHL, the award recognizes an individual who has "worked to make a positive impact on his or her culture, community, or society through hockey."

"I was humbled by it, and really appreciative that my team at the First Nation thought that much of me to nominate me for the award," Klein said, noting, however, that the award isn't just about him.

"It felt great that the First Nation was able to get its story out there, not just province-wide but Canada-wide. There's lots of good things going on in Big River in regards to hockey, athletics, education, and culture."

This hasn't always been the case in the community. Just a few years back, hockey registrations were declining, the local arena was close to being condemned, and the community was struggling to get children to go to school.

Klein knew something significant had to change, if the community was to have any hope of turning this around. And thus, his ambitious vision for what would become the new Chief John Keenatch High School and the adjoining Jim Neilson Sports Complex were born.

And like any journey worth taking, Klein's vision was 10 years of hard work in the making, only coming to fruition with the opening of both facilities last fall.

"We wanted to bring something together that would entice kids, not only for education, but for sports, culture, and recreation," he said, noting that the recreational and cultural activities for kids have been tied to school attendance to incentivize education for the community's nearly 800 children.

The incentive appears to be working, as school enrollment has increased by 100 students since the facilities opened.

"It's the reason why children want to come to school. It's a reason why children want to be on the reservation, because there's opportunity," Klein said.

Though named after former NHLer and late community member Jim Neilson, who played 17 years in the NHL, the Jim Neilson Sports Complex is much



Big River First Nation CEO Derek Klein could soon be named the winner of The Willie O'Ree Community Hero Award, one of the NHL's top community service-based honours.

more than just a hockey arena. There's artificial soccer turf, lacrosse turf, a ball field, and a pow wow arbour for cultural activities.

Where hockey was once on the decline in the community, the Big River First Nation's hockey program now boasts 200 players — enough for 12 minor hockey teams (seven boy's teams and five girl's teams). There are also about 400 kids enrolled in the daily skating program, and Klein says the ice will only be unavailable for about six weeks of the year during the summer, to allow for maintenance and cleaning.

Between the community's hockey, lacrosse, and soccer programs, and its

blossoming language and cultural song and dance offerings, Klein says people are beginning to return to the First Nation.

"We have more opportunity here than we do in some of the urban centres, where it's so expensive for equipment and it's tough for parents to get their kids [enrolled]," he said. "Here, as long as they get to the arena, if they don't have equipment, we have equipment for them."

The 10-year journey to get to this point wasn't easy, with funding for the high school and sports complex being the largest question mark.

With all the bells and whistles, the

modern facilities came in with a price tag of about \$45 million.

The provincial and federal governments both stepped up in big ways with funding. But perhaps the most important pillar of support came from far beyond the Big River First Nation's borders.

Through his 17 years in the NHL, Jim Neilson spent 13 seasons playing for the New York Rangers from 1962 to 1974. Though nearly 50 years have passed since Neilson last wore a Rangers jersey, his legacy lives on in a newly forged partnership between the team and the Big River First Nation.

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Main Street, Shellbrook

Shellbrook Mamas grow their village

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

More than a year after the group was founded by the Shellbrook Kinettes, the Shellbrook Mamas continue to prove the truth of the old adage “it takes a village to raise a child.”

Spearheaded by Kinette Kat Mackin-Smith, the Shellbrook Mamas group is comprised of two key pillars.

The first is a Facebook group, which now boasts 171 members and provides local mothers with a space to discuss, share stories, build a sense of community, and seek advice from fellow mothers and local supports like nurses, lactation specialists, and teachers.

The second is in-person gatherings for moms and babies, which offer opportunities for both groups to socialize. (While it’s just as important for moms to have communities of people who are in the same life stage as them, socialization and opportunities for play are critical for the healthy development of babies.)

“The biggest highlight of being part of this group for me has been the community building,” Mackin-Smith says of her own experience as a mom in the Shellbrook Mamas group.

“I have personally made some really amazing friends being part of this group. Not just ‘see them once a month at Mommy & Me friends,’ but text-or-call-every day friends that I can really lean on, and love spending time with.”

Since its beginning last January, Mackin-Smith says the Shellbrook Mamas are still going strong and picking up momentum, both online and in person.

The group has also benefited from broader community support, including grants from Affinity Credit Union and the Sask Lotteries grant through the Town of Shellbrook, using the funds to purchase additional gross motor skill items like gymnastics mats and steppingstones for obstacle courses, as well as crafting items, new books, and toys.

The online forum has become a hub for the sharing of Town of Shellbrook Recreation events and other community events, personal questions and advice, and childcare and babysitting requests, as well as a marketplace for items for children, and so much more.

In person, Mackin-Smith says the group is beginning to see a lot of turnover as moms return to work and their babies have grown into toddlers. Though these mothers still try to make it out with their toddlers when they can, this means there are plenty of new faces (both moms and babies) at the gatherings.

“There is still a great number of moms attending,” she says. “It is really cool to see the cycle of new moms and babies/kids joining us as families grow and change. The circle of life!”

Helping augment the group’s in-person gatherings, are a number of community partnerships the Shellbrook Mamas have formed, starting with their connection with the elders of Canwood’s Whispering Pine Place.

This partnership started out with just one trial meeting, but it has now turned into a monthly event at the special care home, with recreation coordinator Erica Archer and her team handling all the organization and setup so the moms can just show up and have fun.

“It’s a true part of their schedule now, and the seniors look forward to it greatly,” Mackin-Smith said.

“I particularly love going to Whispering Pine Place, as it’s actually the older gentlemen in that facility who are more able-bodied that seem to really enjoy it. They will lean right out of their chairs to push

around toys for the kids to chase, and really interact with the kids.”

This partnership has also paved the way for a similar monthly arrangement with the elders at Parkland Integrated Health Centre, giving the members of the group three guaranteed outings each month.

Elsewhere, the group has continued its partnership with PA Regional KidsFirst, and once the weather gets warm enough it will move its sessions back to Kin Park to allow for water fun and other “more messy” activities.

Even with all this going on, the group still has plans to do more as spring turns to summer, including hosting a baby crawl at Shellbrook’s Ballapalooza. It’s also hoping to host some mom-only events, focused on pampering and caring for their wellness, and is open to any suggestions from moms in the community.

Klein nominated for Willie O’Ree award

Continued from 1

“What a role model for the community,” Klein said of Neilson. “This was an opportunity to pay homage to him and what he’s done representing our First Nation.”

Upon hearing of the Jim Neilson Sports Complex’s grand opening, former NHLer and head of the New York Rangers Alumni organization, Adam Graves, reached out to the community and said, “Jim was one of ours. Is there anything the Rangers could do to have a partnership in this complex?”

Due to the partnership that was formed, the arena now has boy’s and girl’s dressing rooms that are replicas of the Rangers’ dressing rooms at Madison Square Garden, giving kids a taste of the big league.

Meanwhile, the Big River First Nation’s U15 girl’s hockey team got the opportunity to travel to New York to practice on the ice at Madison Square Garden and at the Rangers’ training facility, and take in a game between the Rangers and the Pittsburgh Penguins.

This youth hockey exchange will go beyond this year, as kids will travel from the Big River First Nation to take part in a hockey camp run by the Rangers. And the following year, kids from New York will come to Big River First Nation to immerse themselves in the community’s sports, recreation, and culture offerings.

Last, but certainly not least, the NHL’s Player’s Association came on-board and provided some equipment to the community, and the NHL Alumni organization has committed to offering a scholarship program.

Thanks to these vital partnerships, and the provincial and federal funding, the high school and the arena only cost the community just shy of \$2 million.

A small price to pay for building a bright future for the community.

“In 10 years, I could see us having maybe 20 to 25 teams of hockey, lacrosse, and soccer. It’s going to be a bustling community,” Klein said.

The winner of the 2023 Willie O’Ree Community Hero Award will be announced during the Stanley Cup Playoffs, and the award itself will be presented to the winner at the NHL Awards in Nashville on June 26.

In addition to the award, the winner will receive \$25,000 to donate to a charity of their choice. The two runners up will receive \$5,000 to donate to charity.

“My colleagues at the First Nation will decide what’s best, and where we can reach the most children with the money,” Klein said.

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Experience in machinery operation/maintenance, road maintenance and/or municipal water is a valuable asset. For a full job description and expected duties, please contact the Village Office at (306)724-2040 or villagedebden@sasktel.net.

Please submit resume with qualifications, references and expected rate of pay to:

Village of Debden
Box 400, Debden, Saskatchewan S0J 0S0

Council thanks all interested candidates, however only candidates chosen for interviews will be contacted.

Town of Blaine Lake
2023 Assessment Change Notices
Assessment roll for the Town of Blaine Lake for the year 2023 has been prepared and is open to inspection in the office of the assessor, from Wednesday, April 12th, 2023 to Friday, May 12th, 2023. The office is open Monday through Thursday, from 8:00am to 12:00pm, and 1:00pm to 4:00pm. As this is not a revaluation year, only assessment change notices were mailed out.
Appeals are to be mailed with the required fees to the Secretary of the Board of Revision, Western Municipal Consulting, PO Box 149, Meota, SK, S0M 1X0. You have 30 days from the date of this notice to appeal an assessment. Assessment Appeal fees are \$250.00.
If you have any questions regarding your assessment notice changes, please call SAMA at 1-800-667-7262.



The Town of Shellbrook is hosting a meeting on Thursday, April 27th, 2023 @ 7:00 pm at the Shellbrook Theatre.
Discussion topics include but are not limited to: 2023 Budget and where we are at with our risk mitigation plan, west side concept plan, water update and a CSO program update.

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Spiritwood seniors keeping active

By NATASHA CABASE
Spiritwood Herald Reporter

The Spiritwood Seniors held their Senior Bonspiel on March 20 and 21, with eight teams competing.

There were two teams from Debden and the other six teams were made up of players from Shell Lake and Spiritwood drawn at random.

There was some great curling and fellowship throughout the two days. The first event was won by the Dave Jensen team, featuring Edna Koetse as third, Armand Smith as second and Corrie Rush-Battersby as lead. The second event was won by Guy Cyr's team from Debden, while the third event was won by Louis Marion's team.

During the two days, the lunch counter was busy serving homemade soups, sandwiches, and pie. The soup and pies were donated by people from Shell Lake and Spiritwood.

Monday night, the curlers were treated to a delicious turkey supper, complete with mashed potatoes, carrots, Caesar salad, gravy, and desserts.

Each morning, the curlers were welcomed to have muffins and coffee. The muffins were donated by Hujber's Market on Main and the coffee was provided by Louis Marion.

The seniors are hopeful to have the same event next year.

Elsewhere, the seniors were also busy at the Senior's Hall with cribbage, kaiser, and bingo throughout February and March.

Some of the winners were as follows:

For Cribbage held on Feb. 3 – 1st Louis Marion, 2nd Cheryl Smith, 3rd Bruce Rogers, 50/50 Helen Conacher, no 24 hand.

Cribbage on Feb. 10 – 1st Olive Christopherson 2nd (tie) Bruce Rogers & Cheryl Smith, 50/50 Eleanor Pallo, no 24 hand.

Cribbage on Feb. 17 – 1st Bernice Tiring, 2nd Rose Moore, 3rd Dot Gaboury, 1st 24 hand Eleanor Pallo, 50/50 Rose Moore.

Cribbage on Feb. 24 – 1st Phil Marion, 2nd Alma Latus, 3rd Linda Newton, 1st 24 hand Phil Marion, 50/50 Rosanne Smith.

Kaiser on Feb. 19 – Men 1st Maurice Bourassa, 2nd Roger Lafond, Ladies 1st Rosanne Smith, 2nd Sandra Lang, 50/50 Sandra Lang.

Cribbage on March 3 – 1st Armand Smith, 2nd Linda Newton, 3rd Cheryl Smith, 50/50 Armand Smith no 24

hand.

Cribbage on March 10 – 1st Joyce Willick, 2nd Louis Marion, 3rd Irene Mario, 1st 24 hand Bernice Tiring, 50/50 Cheryl Smith.

Cribbage on March 24 – 1st Dot Gaboury, 2nd Paulette Lafond, 3rd Bernice Tiring, 1st 24 hand Don Christopherson, 50/50 Phil Marion.

Cribbage on March 31 – 1st (tie) Pat Lutz and Armand Smith, 2nd Joyce Willick, 1st 24 hand Andy Zarry, 50/50 John Del Frari.

Kaiser on March 19 – Men 1st Phil Marion, 2nd Armand Smith, Ladies 1st Ann Marie Laventure, 2nd Aline Marion, 50/50 Lucy Larrivee.

Some of the Bingo winners are as follows: Rose Moore, Alma Latus, Sal Tipton, Sally Salisbury, Dot Gaboury, Roberta Wasden, Betty Duhaime, Cheryl Smith, John Del Frari, Bernice Tiring, Isabell Muldrum, and Armand Smith.



Winners of the Spiritwood Senior Bonspiel, from left to right: Corrie Rush-Battersby, Armand Smith, Edna Koetse, and Dave Jensen.



The third event was won by the Louis Marion team.

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General maintenance workers are required for the 2023 summer season at Meeting Lake Regional Park. Duties required may include front gate, grounds work, house keeping, painting, and other tasks as assigned. All workers from previous years must reapply if interested. Full time and part time positions are available. Summer students are encouraged to apply. Please email resume to: meetinglakerp@sasktel.net before May 1, 2023

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LIGHT OF CHRIST Catholic Schools

Pre-Kindergarten & Kindergarten Registration

Light of Christ Catholic School Division and Living Sky School Division are accepting students into the Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Programs for the 2023-24 school year. Students must meet the following criteria:

Kindergarten: Children who are five years old as of December 31, 2023.

Pre-Kindergarten: Children must be 3 or 4 years of age at the time of application. Please see the LOCCSD website (www.loccsd.ca) or the LSKYSD website (www.lskysd.ca) for further Pre-K criteria.

Please contact your local school for registration details.

Light of Christ Catholic Schools

Rivier - Spiritwood (Pre-K - Joint LOCCSD/LSKYSD Program & K) 306-883-2382

Living Sky Schools

Hartley Clark - Spiritwood (K) 306-883-2183

Leoville Central (Pre-K & K) 306-984-2241

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Emergency services in need of urgent care

We'd all like to think we could count on having an ambulance and space in the ER available, if ever we found ourselves unexpectedly in the midst of a health-related crisis.

Time, after all, is a crucial factor in medical emergencies. For things like heart attacks, a prompt EMS response can often make the difference between recovery and death.

Unfortunately, if you live in Shellbrook, or a more rural area that isn't close to an ambulance depot, you'll likely have to wait at least 30 minutes for an ambulance to reach you so paramedics can begin providing emergency care.

And, if you don't live in a community with emergency services, or if your local health facility's ER is experiencing a service disruption, you have no choice but to wait even longer.

This, however, is premised upon two assumptions.

First, that there will actually be an ambulance available to respond to your medical emergency.

And second, that the ER at whatever health facility or hospital you're taken to won't be over capacity.

According to statistics revealed in a Freedom of Information request filed by the Saskatchewan NDP, the first assumption didn't hold true in more than 200 instances through the first six weeks of 2023.

In early February, retired registered nurse Sharon Chartier became one of these statistics, after she woke up feeling weak and believed she was experiencing symptoms of a heart attack.

Upon calling 911, Ms. Chartier was told no ambulance was available to pick her up.

"I laid on the floor in case I went unconscious or my heart stopped, and I didn't know what to do," Ms. Chartier told CBC News.

"I phoned my two sons because I didn't know if I was having a heart attack. I said my possible final goodbyes to my sons, and I laid there for over an hour."

Eventually, an ambulance did arrive to pick up Ms. Chartier and take her to Saskatoon City Hospital. But upon arriving there, she was informed the hospital's ER had no room to accommodate her, and she was made to wait



JORDAN
TWISS
~
News Editor

in the ambulance for another hour until space became available.

In the only razor-thin sliver of silver lining in this case, it was determined that Ms. Chartier wasn't experiencing a heart attack, and she was able to be treated and return home.

But if she had been suffering a heart attack, her story could have had a very different – and very tragic – ending.

If Ms. Chartier's experience was an outlier, it could perhaps be forgiven. No system, no matter how well-managed it is, will ever be perfect, and there will always be rare or extreme cases.

However, more than 200 other people in this province had experiences similar to Ms. Chartier's in just the first six weeks of this year, and there's no evidence to suggest the situation has improved much in the weeks since.

To view a more vivid picture of just how dire the situation is, one need only take a peek at the daily logs of EMS supervisors in Regina.

The documents (again, made public only because of a Freedom of Information request filed by the Sask. NDP), offer a frightening look at often understaffed EMS teams that constantly have more calls than they can respond to, overcapacity hospitals treating patients in hallways, and patient offload times stretching as long as 12 hours.

"Both ER's handing out [offload delay]'s like cheap suits; Imperial, Cupar and Milestone doing city calls trying to help," reads one entry from Jan. 30.

"Brutally busy night. Just relentless for the crews. Delayed responses; Pasqua ER backed up. They did what they could to get us back out the door. Down a bunch of nurses," reads another from Feb. 5.

As the logs illustrate, it's not just a matter of small, isolated problems. The healthcare system is a large and complex network, and problems in one area impact other areas, which in turn impact other areas.

A shortage of nurses means fewer hands to do more work, which leads to employees burning out or quitting. And when these staffing issues inevitably reach a critical tipping point, we get ER closures and other service disruptions.

Schadenfreude

pleasure derived from another's misfortune



All the while, our hospitals and health centres aren't any less overcrowded, leaving paramedics with nowhere to drop off their patients (and not enough nurses and doctors to treat them). And as ambulances idle in loading docks for hours at a time, more calls for service keep coming in, and no one is available to respond to those emergencies.

You might expect working conditions like these in some backwater town in an impoverished nation.

In Saskatchewan's capital city, and in a province rich with natural resource revenues, they're inexcusable – both for patients and for frontline healthcare workers.

Simply put, the status quo is unacceptable and untenable.

Without urgent intervention, it's only a matter of time before the entire healthcare system buckles under the pressure.

Though he acknowledges the challenges and gaps in ambulance services in the province, Saskatchewan Health Minister Paul Merriman says the \$8.8 million the Sask. Party government earmarked in the 2023-2024 budget to stabilize services in rural and remote areas, and provide additional support for contracted EMS operators, will solve the problem.

"I want to reassure the people of Saskatchewan that if they do need to call 911, they do need an ambulance... we will be able to get there as soon as possible, get them into emergency, get

them triaged, and get them through our healthcare system," Mr. Merriman said.

There's little reason to doubt that first responders, nurses, and doctors are doing their best to provide their patients with the quality, timely care they deserve. The effort of frontline healthcare workers has never really been in question.

What the people of this province need to know is how the Sask. Party government intends to fill in service gaps and reduce offload times and ER congestion.

Funding helps, of course, but what are its actual plans and goals for this funding?

Or rather, what does "stabilizing services in rural and remote areas, and providing additional support for contracted EMS operators look like?

And what metrics does the Sask. Party have in place to measure its success or failure at accomplishing these aims?

Emergency services in Saskatchewan (and the people who provide them) require urgent care, and the time for action was yesterday.

But if the Sask. Party government can't answer these important questions – if all it can do is point to the taxpayer dollars it's spent, and wash its hands of any further responsibility for the matter – there's little reason to believe it can provide any meaningful solutions to the problems our healthcare system is confronted with.

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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Report from the Legislature

With the recent warm spring temperatures, agricultural producers will be in the field before long. Last year, Saskatchewan producers harvested a crop of nearly 35 million tonnes. The province posted its third consecutive year of record agricultural exports totaling \$18.4 billion. To promote growth in the agriculture sector, our government invested \$548.2 million in agriculture, an increase of 19 per cent, in the 2023-24 Provincial Budget.

To ensure this growth continues into the future, our government is investing in the new Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP) with the federal government. Throughout the five-year agreement, over \$89 million annually will be invested in strategic programming for farmers, ranchers and agri-businesses, which represents a 25 per cent increase over the previous agree-

ment.

Sustainable CAP puts a continued focus on agricultural research and increased support for water development. The programs will drive outcomes across five priority areas: building sector capacity, growth and competitiveness; climate change and environment; resiliency and public trust; market development and trade; and science, research, and innovation. These investments will continue to strengthen the

competitiveness, innovation and resiliency of Saskatchewan's agriculture sector for years to come.

Supported by this year's budget, the industry is well-positioned to continue to take on the challenges inherent to agriculture and build on its success. To help our agriculture producers manage risks, our budget includes \$408 million for the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC). This year's average Crop Insurance coverage will reach a record high of \$446 per acre, due to increased commodity prices and yield coverage.

SCIC's maximum Unseeded Acreage coverage levels have also increased this year, helping to offset costs associated with summer fallow acres too wet to seed. AgriStability, which provides further coverage against uncontrollable events like rising input costs or falling commod-

ity prices, will increase from 70 to 80 per cent. This makes AgriStability coverage more responsive when an operation experiences a large margin decline and provides additional compensation to address the financial shortfall.

Livestock Price Insurance and the Wildlife Damage Compensation and Prevention Program are also offered through the SCIC to help mitigate risk for Saskatchewan producers.

To further support

Saskatchewan agriculture, our government is urging the federal Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) to reconsider its decision to ban lambda-cyhalothrin, a pesticide used to control grasshoppers and flea beetles. We know that without access to effective pesticides, Saskatchewan's agriculture sector is at an extreme disadvantage, and we want to ensure producers have all the resources they need.

Supported by this year's budget, the ag-

riculture industry is well-positioned to continue taking on challenges and building on successes. This budget will help farmers, ranchers and agri-business remain competitive and operate sustainably while producing safe, high-quality food. That's growth that works for everyone. To learn more about the 2023-24 Provincial Budget, please visit Saskatchewan.ca.

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CSO Spotlight: No need for speed

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

With the spring thaw in full effect, Town of Shellbrook Community Safety Officer (CSO) Craig Young is keeping his eyes on the road, and says there are lots of little things drivers need to rectify and be more aware of while they're behind the wheel.

"Although things are getting better with the stop sign infractions, stop signs are still a bit of an issue. There's still a lot of that going on, especially out on Main Street and Highway 3 or coming off of Highway 55," he said.

"It's very important you come to a complete stop, because traffic is doing at least 80 km/h," he added, noting it's dangerous for drivers to

not come to a full stop to get their bearings and take note of any on-coming traffic.

At the same time that he's cautioning drivers not to be in a rush at stop signs, he's also issuing a reminder that the 80 km/h zone on Highway 3 passing through Shellbrook needs to be respected. Since beginning as CSO, he's seen no shortage of drivers travelling at a significantly higher speed, with the highest being 120 km/h.

As of this year, drivers caught doing 40 km/h above the posted speed limit are subject to a \$570 fine. In a construction zone, that fine jumps to \$1,008.

"People need to slow down," Young said, noting that there's a missing 80 km/h speed limit sign as you come off Highway 55 onto

Highway 3 and head westbound.

"Anywhere in the province, if you don't see a speed sign, it's 80 km/h. Also, when you're leaving an 80 km/h zone, you shouldn't be speeding up to the next speed sign level until you get to that sign."

Keeping the focus on vehicles, Young is also reminding drivers that they are required by law to carry their registration in their vehicles (even if it's just an online print out).

He's also encouraging drivers to respect the rules of the road when it comes to pedestrians' right-of-way.

"I have seen people — and children as well — waiting at the corner to cross the street, and people are blowing right through the intersection," he said. "That's a violation."

Spiritwood Library hosts kids for tiny art

By **NATASHA CABASE**
Spiritwood Herald Reporter

The Spiritwood Public Library hosted a kid's event called "A Tiny Art Afternoon" on March 22 from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Children from Kindergarten to Grade 6 were invited to come create a tiny painting. The library had eight children show up and

create wonderful pieces of art. Each child was given a brush, tiny pots of paint, and a tiny canvas set on a little wooden easel. The only instruction was to be creative and they all did a wonderful job.

The art was scheduled to be displayed at the library for a few weeks, and everyone was invited to come see the display.



Eight children took part in the Spiritwood Public Library's "A Tiny Art Afternoon", creating mini paintings.



The eight tiny masterpieces were to be displayed at the Spiritwood Library for a couple weeks.

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Toll-free number: 1-866-457-2377
Email address: ag.info@gov.sk.ca

Could yaks find a niche on the prairies?

One reason Canadian Prairie farmers have always managed to survive – at least as a collective – is their willingness to try new things. While there are times the sector is criticized for not taking on new production technologies quickly enough, the barrier is often cost as opposed to a general reluctance to adapt to something new. You can go back to the emergence of zero till seeding as an example. While the benefits might have been realized by research data, producers had press drills

already, so there was a big cost associated with the changeover to the new tech. It's a similar consideration with autonomous machinery. It may well be easy to see the benefits – for example, reducing some pressures on finding trained operators for current equipment – but again producers have an equipment fleet and replacing it is a big cost. By contrast, a new crop might come along – for example the hype over lupins dating back to the 1990s. The markets never quite developed and interest waned

rather quickly, but farmers could dedicate some acres to trying the crop with less input than some first generation machinery which makes a technological step forward. It's the same on the live-



stock side, where through my years – first growing up on a farm and then covering the sector as a journalist for more than three decades – producers have been willing to try a massive range of critters. Through the years there has been big interest in ostrich and emu, elk, bison and fallow deer, red wattle and wild pigs, Boer goats, llamas, alpacas and now yaks. Most of the 'next hot thing' fizzled away rather quickly – red wattle hogs and ostrich and fallow deer are some examples. But others matured into at least continuing niche markets, led by bison and Boer goats. So, what about yaks? Who knows? A report at www.producer.com noted interest in forming an association which would of course promote the animals, so that would be a start. But of course, it ultimately comes down to creating a market and ensuring supply (hurdles that are often too high for new farm products to scale). Of course, yaks aren't

exactly a new animal to domestication like bison and elk were. They have been farmed in other countries for years, so that too is a positive. As is having a registry to help monitor genetics – yak breeders can register with IYAK, the international yak association, and USYAK. It's not likely yak will ever be a major ag sector in Canada, but could they be the next longstanding niche sector like bison? Time will tell, but it is certain producers in Canada will be trying to make yak work here.

Sask., New Brunswick partner on SMRs

By JORDAN TWISS
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The governments of Saskatchewan and New Brunswick have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to enhance cooperation on the development of small modular reactor (SMR) technologies in both provinces. The MOU provides the ability for the two provinces and their utility Crowns, SaskPower and New Brunswick Power, to formally share experiences, knowledge, and successes on deployment plans, supply chain development, Indigenous relations, labour market development, regulations, and other areas.

"Saskatchewan and New Brunswick have established a strong working relationship on SMR development over the years," Saskatchewan Crown Investments Corporation Minister Don Morgan said in a statement. "This renewed partnership will bring mutual benefits to both provinces by capturing opportunities stemming from the work on nuclear energy development across Canada and internationally. Together, we can accelerate the progress of decarbonizing power grids and industrial facilities using SMR technologies."

New Brunswick plays a leading role in Canada for Generation 4 advanced SMR development. The government says this technology can be beneficial to Saskatchewan while the province explores industrial decarbonization. In December 2019, Ontario, New Brunswick, and Saskatchewan signed an inter-provincial MOU to work together to advance SMRs in Canada, with Alberta also joining the MOU in April 2021. Through this work, participating provinces released a strategic plan in March 2022 outlining the path forward on the development of SMRs.

The plan was outlined in the joint A Strategic Plan for the Deployment of Small Modular Reactors report, which highlighted five key

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

Prior to this report, the provinces' power utilities also completed an SMR Feasibility Study, which determined that "SMR development would support domestic energy needs, curb greenhouse gas emissions, and position Canada as a global leader in clean technologies and the fight against climate change." SMRs are scalable nuclear reactors that typically produce up to 300 megawatts. A single 300-megawatt SMR could generate enough clean electricity each year to power 300,000 homes. Advanced SMRs can offer a source of both clean electricity and heat energy (co-generation) for clean fuel production such as hydrogen for residential applications and heavy transport, ammonia, and synthetic fuels for transportation, as well as for heavy industry such as chemical, cement, steel, aluminum, mining, desalination, and oil sands. Meanwhile, micro (off-grid) SMRs can be used to displace diesel generation used in mining in remote areas, and heat and electricity generation in northern remote communities.

RM OF SPIRITWOOD
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The R.M. of Spiritwood No. 496 is accepting applications for a Seasonal Full-Time Heavy Equipment Operator/Labourer position to begin approximately May 15th, 2023, and ending October 31st, 2023, depending on weather, and or as mutually agreed.

The duties and responsibilities of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- the operation of municipal equipment such as a grader, mower, excavator, scraper &/or tractor for the maintenance of municipal roads;
- general service, maintenance and minor repair of municipal equipment;
- ensuring the equipment is operated in a safe manner;
- manual labour as required for sign installation, culvert maintenance, general shop and yard maintenance;
- other duties as directed by the Foreman from time to time.

Skills and Abilities

- have skills & knowledge in the maintenance & operation of heavy equipment;
- check, lubricate, fuel and clean equipment;
- perform pre-operational checks on equipment;
- be able to work well unsupervised and be a team player;
- be safety minded;
- have good interpersonal skills;
- have strong communication, organization & documentation skills;
- must keep work area clean and safe

Applicants must:

- have a Powered Mobile Equipment (PME) certificate or willing to achieve;
- have WHMIS or be willing to achieve;
- possess a valid Class 5 drivers license;
- be able to lift up to 45kg/100 lbs.;
- be willing to be supervised and take direction from the municipal foreman.

A competitive salary will be offered in accordance with qualifications and experience. The Municipality also offers a comprehensive benefits package and pension plan.

Interested individuals should submit their resume to include qualifications, work experience & three work related references by 4:00 p.m., April 28th, 2023 to the RM of Spiritwood No. 496 at Box 340, Spiritwood, SK. S0J 2M0 or by fax to 306-883-2557 or via email to rm496@sasktel.net.

The RM of Spiritwood No. 496 thanks all applicants for their interest, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Annual
General
Meeting

Tuesday
April 25

Join us virtually, or in person in Delisle!
For more information, including
registration links and proposed Bylaw
changes, please use the QR code
below or visit pccu.ca.

Notice to Membership of
Proposed Bylaw Changes

Please be advised that a resolution to rescind and replace the Bylaws of the Credit Union will be presented to members for approval at the Annual General Meeting. Notable changes to the Bylaws include reduction of the number of Directors elected from two to one in two of the Districts, and an increase in the number of Directors elected at large from two to four.

Mistawasis Nêhiyawak launches mobile app

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Mistawasis Nêhiyawak is tapping into modern technology to help community members stay connected with each other and up to date on everything that’s happening within the community.

Last week, the First Nation announced the launch of the Mistawasis Nêhiyawak app. Available for both Android and iOS devices, the app will provide updates on different things like community events, job postings, and more.

Band Councillor Colby Daniels, who spearheaded the initiative, says the app could also be used in emergency situations — for instance, if the community ever experienced a serious incident like the stabbing attacks on the James Smith Cree Nation last September.

“We’d be able to send out some notification if there was an emergency,” he said.

Brainstorming for the app began in December, and the development moved along quickly to allow for the app to launch near the end of March. Though he doesn’t consider himself a tech expert, Daniels says he immediately saw the value of the app.

“I thought it would be a great tool in our tool chest,”

he said. “[Nowadays] you turn around if you forget your cellphone because your whole day is there and everyone is connected, so I just wanted to build on a really good foundation that we already have in the community.”

Mistawasis Nêhiyawak’s leadership is hoping all of the roughly 3,000 members they have nationwide will download the app.

“If they have some ideas in how we can build and expand, I’m all for that,” Daniels said. “I like having those conversations.”

The Mistawasis Nêhiyawak app runs on Commu-

nikit, a unique mobile app platform designed specifically for Indigenous communities and organizations to communicate with their members, staff, and the public across Canada and around the world.

The app is the latest development from Mistawasis Nêhiyawak, which first saw success using an app to revitalize language in school.

In 2018 Mistawasis Nêhiyawak language teacher Denise Desjardins incorporated language learning tools into the learning apps used at Chief Mistawasis School. Those efforts were formally recognized, with Desjardins winning a Prime Minister’s Award for Teaching Excellence in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

“In the past, we have had success using apps with our youth. We hope this gets them excited to engage at our events and teaching within the Nation,” said Chief Darryl Watson. “The app will help us build relationships, and celebrate our culture and traditions.”

Other First Nations have also turned to apps to better serve their communities. In 2021, for instance, Big River First Nation introduced a mental health and addictions app called TryCycle.

Developed by TryCycle Data Solutions in consultation with the Big River First Nation, and supported by the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN), the Saskatchewan First Nations Veterans Association (SFNVA), and Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), the app was a project 12 years in the making and was adopted by more than a dozen First Nations.

TryCycle’s decade-long development required a lot of back-and-forth discussion and consultation, always with the aim of making the First Nations influence a central part of the app. Key pieces of this are in the app’s incorporation of traditional medicine and healing practices, alongside existing medical services and supports, and its availability in both the Cree and English languages — important because many members of the Big River First Nation only speak Cree.

After registering with healthcare providers and logging in to the app, TryCycle users were able to perform 90-second check-ins, answer questions about their mental health or addictions status, and engage with healthcare providers, who could encourage them to seek in-person treatment if they feel the matter is urgent.



TOWN OF SHELLBROOK

The Town of Shellbrook has an exciting opportunity for a group of people from the farming community to assist with fundraising for the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre. We are looking for someone to organize and coordinate local volunteers to give back to the community by preparing the “Field of Dreams” for the upcoming planting season. The volunteers will be required to prepare, plant, fertilize and harvest the crop. We will cover the cost of the inputs. The funds collected from the Field of Dreams assist us in capital projects and purchases at the facility.

The Town took over the management of the rink July 1st, 2019. Since that time, the funds raised from fundraising activities such as the Field of Dreams and the collection of sign advertising have gone towards some of the following projects:

2023 budget

- Completion of West Change Room and HVAC system – \$49,000
- Employee washroom – \$2,000
- Hand railings in rink – \$15,000
- Curling Rink ice scraper – \$16,000
- On-demand hot water system, including installation – \$24,100
- Apron on east side to redirect water – \$15,000
- Apron on south side to redirect water – \$15,000
- Roof over Ice-resurfacing storage room – \$10,000

2022

- West Change Room and HVAC system – \$10,200 – completion of this will be in 2023
- Laser level for ice-resurfacer – \$23,100

2021

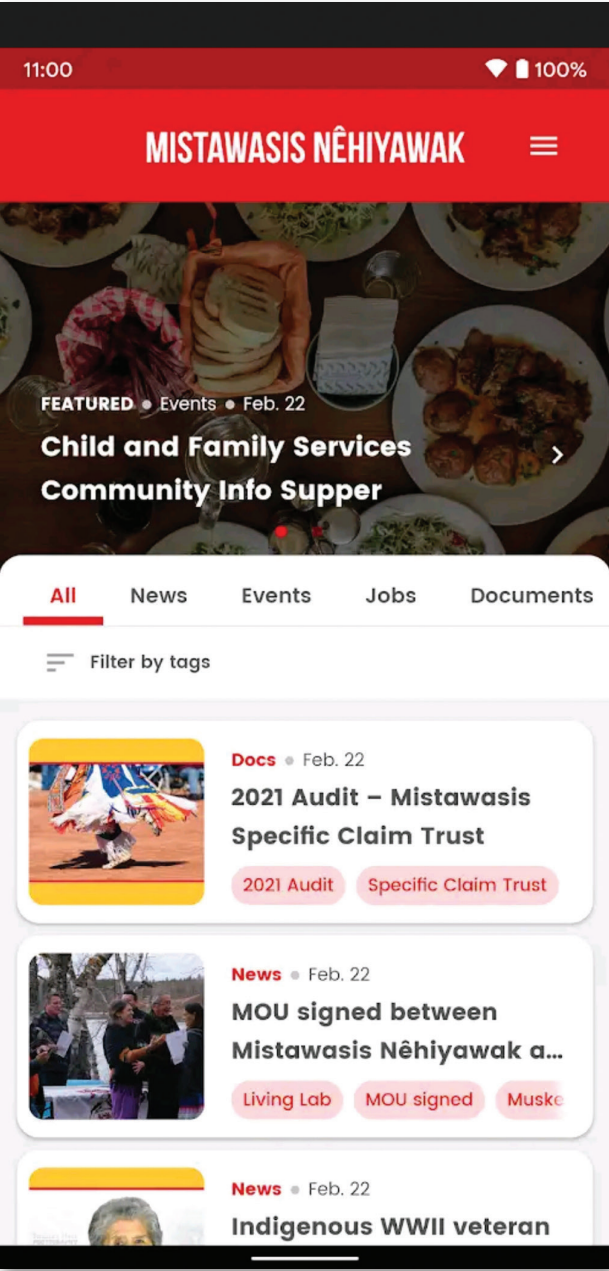
- Dehumidifier – \$52,500
- Hand railings in rink – \$10,000
- Rink seating – \$8,000

2020

- Rink Lighting – \$15,800
- Curling Rink addition – \$12,720

The Town of Shellbrook would like to personally thank each of you that have undertaken this generous fundraising event for the past many years. Without your contributions of time, equipment, and generosity we would not have been able to undertake many of the listed upgrades to our facility. These local farmers have been providing this service for many more years than what is listed above, their hard work and dedication has allowed for many other projects to be completed than what is listed above, these are just some recent highlights. For that we shout out a very special **“Thank you”** to these amazing volunteers!

If you are interested in spearheading and undertaking this project please contact Kelly Hoare at the Town office **prior to April 28, 2023**, by calling (306)747-4900 or emailing cao@townofshellbrook.ca. If no one comes forward, we will look at renting out this land. If you are interested in renting the available land, approximately 150 acres, please also contact me.



The Mistawasis Nêhiyawak app will keep community members updated on happenings in their community.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

RM OF SHELLBROOK NO. 493
RM MAINTENANCE SHOP JANITORIAL

The Rural Municipality of Shellbrook No. 493 is currently looking for a Janitorial Contractor to clean the RM Shop located at 702 2nd Avenue East in Shellbrook, Sk. Cleaning will be done once a week and include washroom, lunchroom, boardroom and cleaning products are supplied.

Tenders will be accepted until April 30th, 2023. To view please contact Administrator Duane Storey @ 306-747-2158. Tenders can be dropped off at the Municipal Office, 71 Main Street, Shellbrook or e-mailed to admin.493@sasktel.net.

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Growth That Works For Everyone

New Investments in Policing Build Upon Success

The 2023-24 Provincial Budget includes over \$1 billion in investments in public safety and the justice system. This year’s budget builds on past investments to advance programs and services in policing and corrections. This has resulted in removing dangerous drugs, guns, and ammunition as well as making human trafficking interventions. While there is more work to do, we are seeing progress in making our province safer for everyone.

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

Minutes of Spiritwood Town Council meetings

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

The regular meeting of the Council of the Town of Spiritwood was held in the Council Chambers at the Spiritwood Town Office, 212 Main Street, on March 14, 2023, at 7 p.m.

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

Absent were Councillor Jim Bedi and Councillor Brad Nemish.

A quorum being present, Mayor Von Holwede called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Pretli: That the agenda be adopted as presented. Carried

Wingerter: That the minutes of the regular meeting on Feb. 28, 2023, be approved as presented. Carried

Delegation: Spiritwood RCMP - Sgt. Andrews - 7:20 p.m.

Sergeant Andrews entered the council meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Sergeant Andrews discussed annual performance plan priorities for the Town of Spiritwood.

Sergeant Andrews left the council meeting at 7:38 p.m.

Wingerter: That the correspondence be filed as presented. Carried

Wingerter: That the Accounts for Ratification, Payment #1223 to 1231 in the amount of \$9,500 be approved as presented. Carried

Wingerter: That the Accounts for Approval, Cheque No. 32489 to 32518 and Payment #1232 to 1235 in the amount of \$100,392.23 be approved as presented. Carried

Wingerter: That the reports be filed as presented. Carried

Fast Genetics - Flooring Replacement Request: Councillor Bryan Wingerter declared a conflict and there was not quorum, so this item was not addressed at this meeting.

Offer to Purchase - Lots UC & UD: Councillor Ragnar Latus declared a conflict and there was not quorum, so this item was not addressed at this meeting.

Wingerter: That we do not participate in the CSO Program being offered in an MOU agreement with the Town of Shellbrook. Carried

Wingerter: That we approve Lottery License #01-2023 for the Grand Ole Opry for a Local Authority Raffle under \$2,500. Carried

Pretli: That we approve Lottery License #02-2023 for the Cross Country Quilters for a Local Authority Raffle under \$2,500. Carried

Latus: That this meeting be adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

March 28

The regular meeting of the Council of the Town of Spiritwood was held in the Council Chambers at the Spiritwood Town Office, 212 Main Street, on March 28, 2023, at 7 p.m.

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

Absent was Councillor Jim Bedi.

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

Pretli: That the agenda be adopted as presented. Carried

Pretli: That the minutes of the regular meeting on March 14, 2023, be approved as presented. Carried

Nemish: That the correspondence be filed as presented. Carried

Wingerter: That the Accounts for Ratification, Cheque No. 32519 to 32524 in the amount of \$12,546.90 be approved as presented. Carried

Wingerter: That the Accounts for Approval, Cheque No. 32525 to 32534, and payment #1236 to 1237 in the amount of \$15,372.63 be approved as presented. Carried

Wingerter: That the Bank Reconciliation for the month of February 2023 be approved as presented. Carried

Nemish: That the Financial Statement for the month of February 2023 be approved as presented. Carried

Latus: That the reports be filed as presented. Carried

Councillor Bryan Wingerter declared a conflict and left the council meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Pretli: That we approve the quote of \$1,806.79 as presented from Timber Spirit Supply to replace the existing carpet flooring with VCT tile in the storage room at the Fast Genetics Office Building. Carried

Councillor Bryan Wingerter re-entered the council meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Councillor Ragnar Latus declared a conflict and left the council meeting at 7:31 p.m.

That we postpone this item (Offer to Purchase - Lots UC & UD) until next meeting and have each party come speak to council about their proposed plans. Carried

Councillor Ragnar Latus re-entered the council meeting at 7:47 p.m.

Wingerter: That we amend resolution no. 2023-0014 (about SUMA Convention registration) by removing George Pretli and replace Jim Bedi with Ragnar Latus. Carried

Wingerter: That the original motion be substituted with the following motion;

That the Town of Spiritwood appoints Western Municipal Consulting Ltd. to manage the Board of Revision process for the term of Jan. 1, 2023 through to Dec. 31, 2023; remuneration as set out in Western Municipal Consulting Ltd. fee schedule, with the following to serve as Members of the Board of Revision: Tim Lafreniere, Mike Waschuk, Gordon Parkinson, Dave Thompson, Wayne Adams, Jeff Hutton, Dave Gurnsey, Murray Dean, and Stew Demmans. The Chair shall be responsible for naming no fewer than three (3) members for the hearing of any matter. Where the Chair does not include themselves among the appointees, the members appointed for a hearing shall determine the chair of that hearing from among their numbers.; And,

That the Town of Spiritwood appoints Marlene Hassard with Western Municipal Consulting Ltd. as Secre-

tary to the Board of Revision for the term of January 1, 2023, through to December 31, 2023; remuneration as set out in Western Municipal Consulting Ltd. fee schedule. If Marlene Hassard is unable to perform secretarial functions for reasons which may include scheduling difficulties the secretary may appoint a delegate to perform administrative functions and may appoint a recording secretary for the purpose of any hearing.

Also, that the Town of Spiritwood appoints Western Municipal Consulting Ltd. to manage the Development Appeals Board process for the term of January 1, 2023 through to December 31, 2023; remuneration as set out in Western Municipal Consulting Ltd. fee schedule, with the following to serve as Members of the Development Appeals Board: Tim Lafreniere, Mike Waschuk, Gordon Parkinson, Dave Thompson, Wayne Adams, Jeff Hutton, Barry Clark, Dave Gurnsey, Murray Dean, Pam Malach, Stew Demmans, and Stu Hayward. The Chair shall be responsible for naming no fewer than three (3) members for the hearing of any matter. Where the Chair does not include themselves among the appointees, the members appointed for a hearing shall determine the chair of that hearing from among their numbers.; And,

That the Town of Spiritwood appoints Claudette McGuire with Western Municipal Consulting Ltd. as Secretary to the Development Appeals Board for the term of January 1, 2023 through to December 31, 2023;

remuneration as set out in Western Municipal Consulting Ltd. fee schedule. If Claudette McGuire is unable to perform secretarial functions for reasons which may include scheduling difficulties the secretary may appoint a delegate to perform administrative functions and may appoint a recording secretary for the purposes of any hearing. Carried

Wingerter: That Council support the application for the SGI Provincial Traffic Safety Fund Grant Program with a traffic safety project of Speed Reduction Initiative for the purchase of 24 speed bumps and associated signage. Carried

Wingerter: That we approve Building & Development Permit #03-2023SW to construct a new house on Lot 20 Block 33 Plan 101855077, with the condition of approval of compliance to the Town of Spiritwood Zoning Bylaw, and the building permit pending authorization from the Building Inspector. Carried

Wingerter: That we approve Building & Development Permit #04-2023SW to construct a new deck at 950 Highway No. 3, with the condition of approval of compliance to the Town of Spiritwood Zoning Bylaw, and the building permit pending authorization from the Building Inspector. Carried

Wingerter: That we approve the proposed rate changes for Policy No. 13 Waste Management as presented. Carried

Latus: That this meeting be adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SPIRITWOOD: Wapiti Regional Library - Tuesday 9 am - 5 pm; Wednesday 9 am - 5 pm; Friday 9 am - 5 pm
LEOVILLE: Wapiti Regional Library - Wednesday 10 am - 4 pm; Thursday 10 am - 3 pm
SHELL LAKE: Wapiti Regional Library - Tuesday 12:30 pm - 4 pm; Wednesday 12:30 pm - 4 pm

BLAINE LAKE: Wapiti Library - Wednesday 11 am - 6 pm; Friday 11 am - 5 pm; Saturday 10 am - 4 pm. Contact us for more info 306-497-3130, www.wapitilibrary.ca.
BIG RIVER: Wapiti Library - Wednesday 11:30 am - 4:30 pm; Thursday 11:30 am - 4:30 pm. Phone # 306-469-2152
CANWOOD: Canwood Branch of Wapiti Regional Library. Tuesday 10 am - 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 - Thursday 2 pm - 7 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 - 6 pm; Thursday 12 pm - 6 pm; Friday 10 am - 5 pm (Story Time 11 am - 12 pm); Saturday 10 am - 4 pm.
SHELLBROOK: Shellbrook Minor Hockey Annual General Meeting - Wednesday, May 10, 2023, 7 pm @ Shellbrook Senior's Centre. Everyone's invited to share concerns or ideas. New board members welcome!
PARKSIDE: Sunday, April 23, 2023 – Celebrate the Coming of Spring!! Honeywood Heritage Nursery Inc. Spring Fundraising Event – Supper & Live Auction – Parkside Heritage Centre, 5 pm. Advance tickets: \$25 From: Shellbrook – Woodland Pharmacy & Scotiabank; Parkside General Store. Email: honeywoodn8@gmail.com

TRIPLE YOUR ADVERTISING

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

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CHECK IT OUT!

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www.spiritwoodherald.com

OBITUARIES

Jack Boechler



Jack Boechler was born December 25, 1942, Prince Albert, SK and passed away March 25, 2023, North Battleford, SK at the age of 80 years. Jack is lovingly remembered by: his wife: **Carol** (née Booth), his children and grandchildren: **Daphne** (Keith) Boyer of Saskatoon, SK and family: Kaitlyn Boyer, Lance Boyer (Elliott), **Vincent** (Christine) Boechler of Saskatoon, SK and family: Jennifer (Scott) Maitland, Andrew (Hailey), Gregory

(Shyanne), Megan (Dave), **Vicki** (Jamie) of Spiritwood, SK and family: Bryanna Trach, Dylan Trach (Jasmin), Kayleen (Troy), **Nola** of Prince Albert, SK and her son: Lucas, his great grandchildren: Farrah, Kaidyn, Bruce, Grayson, Paisley, Adeline, Annabelle, Benjamin, and Bennett, his sister-in-law: Pat Boechler, his brothers-in-law: Don (Diane) Booth, Ken (Adele) Booth, Bret Johnston also numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends. He was predeceased by: His parents: Andrew and Margaret Boechler, his brother: Mark Boechler, his brother and sister-in-law: Les and Marlene Boechler, his parents-in-law: Herb and Julia Booth and his sister-in-law: Shirley Johnston (née Booth). A Funeral service to celebrate Jack's life was held on Thursday, April

6, 2023, at 2:00 pm at the Civic Centre, Spiritwood, SK with Delores Beaulac officiating. The eulogy was given by Wayne Belisle and an honor guard was formed by members of the Royal Canadian Legion. Honorary pallbearers are considered "All those who shared in Jack's life". The urn bearer was Jack's great grandson Kaidyn Blixrud. Jack's final resting place will be in the Mildred South Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the Mildred South Cemetery in memory of Jack Boechler as tokens of remembrance. 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 and Crematorium, R. Mark Muir Funeral Director, Spiritwood, SK (306) 883-3500.

Lindsey Clark



CLARK – Lindsey Lindsey Clark, age 37 years, passed away from this earthly life suddenly from a very brief illness on March 14, 2023 with her husband, Blaize and their 7 children by her side. Lindsey was loving, and dearly loved and is sorely missed by her family and friends. Her husband Blaize holds many cherished and fond mem-

ories of their marriage on November 7, 2006 and of the 16 years of growing and nurturing their family together. Lindsey's greatest desire was to serve God and love Jesus, and through many varying situations she never left her faith in Jesus and her commitment to God. "For whoever shall do the will of my Father which is in Heaven, the same is my brother, sister and mother" Matthew 12:50 Some of the songs that were sung at both the service and the graveside were: Standing on the Promises, There is Power in the Blood, Because He Lives, Jesus Use Me, Nothing but the Blood, What a Day that Will Be, Sweet Hour of Prayer, Rock of Ages, When the Roll is Called up

Yonder, I Need Thee Every Hour, How Great Thou Art. Many family and friends (some from afar) attended the funeral and celebration of Lindsey's life which was held on March 29, 2023 at 2 pm at Masset hall, BC and the burial was at Masset Cemetery. The occasion was a beautiful tribute to Lindsey's life. After the quaint cemetery burial, the hall was filled with friends and family for a time of sharing and fellowship. A very special lunch was provided and served by family members and many dear friends. The family extends a huge thank you for all who contributed in prayer spiritually, in financial contribution, in helping out and with letters, cards, emails, and hugs.

Norman & Elsie Howat



HOWAT, Norman E and Elsie M (née Andersson) It is with heartfelt sadness that we announce the passing of our parents, Norman and Elsie Howat. Even though Dad passed away on December 22, 2018, we wanted to wait until Mom passed to make this announcement. Elsie passed away April 9, 2023 after a tragic fall. The reason is that they were a special couple who lived for one another. They were Norman and Elsie. Norman was born to Thomas (TR) and Rhoda Howat in February 1930. Elsie was born to Karl (KF) and Stina Andersson in October 1929. They met as school children in Canwood, Saskatchewan and married in the summer of 1953. Norman was an active sportsman in his younger years playing baseball, hockey and golf. He was an en-

trepreneur who had many different occupations throughout his life. He owned a trucking company, a grocery store (C&H), a bakery, a John Deere dealership, a Shell bulk and gas station, and finally an insurance agency. Elsie worked for many years at the CIBC in Canwood and then became a full-time homemaker in 1959 when Dawn Marie arrived. In 1961 Tracy Ann was born and in 1968 Tamie arrived. Elsie never sat down. She was an amazing cook, baker, gardener, knitter, caregiver and friend. They loved to travel (by car/RV), camp and spend time with friends and family. Their friends in many ways became family. They nurtured and cared for their friends and developed deep connections with them, somehow adopting them. In 1975 John Deere

took the family to Prince Albert. In 1991 they moved back to Canwood to look after Elsie's father. In 1995 they made their final move to Calgary. Since Norman's passing Elsie actively enjoyed residing at the Lake Bonavista Retirement Village. They are survived by daughter Dawn Marie (Howard Betts), their children Carling, Evan (Amanda), their great grandson Issac, daughter Tracy Ann (Ralph Rott), daughter Tamie (Sean Sinclair) their daughter Emily, and Elsie's sister Sonja (Torben Nielsen) along with numerous nieces and nephews. They are predeceased by Norman's parents, Thomas (TR) and Rhoda Howat, brothers, Tommy and Willy, sisters Lillian, Annie and Rosemary, Elsie's parents, Karl (KF) and Stina Andersson, sister Lily and brother Rudy. At their request there will not be a service at this time. Interment will occur at a future date in the North Cemetery, Canwood, Saskatchewan. In lieu of flowers, please direct your donations to a charity of your choice. We wish to thank Dr. Friesen and the nursing staff on Units 74 and 56 at the Rockyview Hospital for the care given to Elsie during her last weeks of life.



HARRIS – Janet With heavy hearts the family of Janet Lynn Harris (Barkway) sadly announce her passing on April 8, 2023 surrounded by her family. Janet was born November 11, 1960, in Shellbrook, SK to Hazel and John Barkway. Janet is lovingly remembered by her husband of 45 years Calvin Harris; her daughter Janelle Harris (Blaise Donovan) and children Arland Clements (Lenore), Connor Donovan and Miranda Donovan; her daughter Camille Harrison (Kevin) and Hoss Dog; her siblings, twin sister Joan Barkway (Rick Peterson); Shirley Shewchuk (Derald); Garry Barkway (Belinda); Valerie Wilson (David); Calvin Barkway (Tammy); Connie Barkway (Jeff Charlebois); her sister in Law Cheryl Ermel; her mother in Law Opal Harris; her brothers in Law Carmen Harris (Rosalyn); Ralph Harris (Brenda); Boyd Harris (Carla Bartole); and Clarence Pilon; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews, aunts, uncles and dear friends. Janet was predeceased

by her son Wade Calvin Harris; her parents Bill and Hazel Barkway; her father-in-law Clarence Harris; her brother Larry Barkway; her brother-in-law Wendell Harris; and her sister-in-law Karen Pilon. Mom was born along with twin sister Joan Lee on Remembrance Day in 1960. The twins were the 4th and 5th of 8 children born to Bill and Hazel Barkway of Shellbrook, Sask. Mom had many wonderful memories of growing up in a big family, always having people around was one of her many joys. Mom and dad met in 1977 and were married in March of 1978 at just 18 years old. In September of '78 they welcomed their first-born son Wade, who mom is now reunited with. Daughters Janelle and Camille arrived in the following years. In 1998, mom was promoted to Nana and that instantly became her favourite job. Mom began her career in health care in 1982 and worked with many wonderful people over the years that remained dear friends even after she retired. Mom enjoyed spending summertime at Candle Lake with family. Swimming, camping, bike riding and building sandcastles with all the nieces and nephews. Never would she turn down a friendly game of cards or dice, as long as she was winning! Her yard was always an ongoing transformation and she left us a wonderful park full of flowers to enjoy. She was a 'Jill' of all trades and passed on the "I can do anything" attitude to

her daughters. Her artistic side came through in antler carving, jewellery making, quilting and cross stitch. She was never afraid to rip apart something in the house and renovate or refinish old furniture! Her faith and the church were an important part of her life serving on church council for many years. Moms favorite holiday was Christmas, it was never too early to start shopping for gifts! Christmas morning would be full of surprises that she had found throughout the year, antiques, candy, gadgets, and a few times she would throw something in that she thought was soooo funny! Other than presents she loved to bake and cook all kinds of treats for the holidays, tasting them all as they were made. We will fondly remember the coaching, life lessons, never ending advice, hand holding and strength she has given us. Mama, you brought so much joy to our lives. A Private Family Grave-side internment will follow at a later date. In lieu of flowers please direct memorial donations in memory of our mother to the Parkland Pool Project (Box 402 Shellbrook, SK. SoJ 2Eo). Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit www.beaulacfuneralhome.com Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home & Crematorium, Tammy Smart, Funeral Director, Shellbrook, SK. 306-747-2828.

OBITUARIES

~

Glenda Hyndman



HYNDMAN, GLENDA LOUISE

The family of Glenda Hyndman (née Bunn) sadly announce the passing of their dear wife,

mother, grandmother, friend, peacefully on Feb 2, 2023 after a brief bout of cancer.

Glenda Bunn was born April 23, 1950 in Flin Flon and spent her early years in the small community of Island Falls. As the school only went to Grade 8, she attended Luther College for her Grade 9 year, and then when the family moved to Flin Flon, she attended Hapnot Collegiate for her high school years.

She attended Saskatoon Business College and then began working for Dr. Schacter, ortho-

dontist. She married David Hyndman in October 1970, making him the luckiest guy on earth. They lived in Saskatoon until David finished university and was hired as a teacher in Spiritwood in August 1972.

Together they raised three children: Kelley (1973), Corey (1975), and Lindsay (1976), all of whom were born in Spiritwood.

While claiming to be quite shy, Glenda had an uncanny knack of being able to strike up a conversation with virtually anyone, instantly able to put

them at ease. There was an energy that followed her wherever she went, and any room brightened when she walked into it.

While basically a stay-at-home Mom, she worked part-time for several years as constituency secretary for family friend Colin Maxwell, MLA and later Provincial Cabinet Minister. Through this, she was invited to attend the luncheon with Queen Elizabeth during a Royal Visit to Saskatchewan and barbecues with the Provincial Premiers and with other members of

the Royal Family. She spent 27 years as manager of the Spiritwood Housing Authority. In her first few years, it would take her up to three days to collect the rent from her 28 seniors, spending time with each to check on their gardens or other projects. She endeared herself to her seniors and their families because of her compassion and her friendly manner.

Glenda was predeceased by her parents, Ruth and Roy Bunn, and her brother, Gregory Bunn, and a nephew, Richard Bunn.

She is survived by her loving husband, David, and her children Kelley, Corey, and Lindsay and their families, and by her sisters Deborah (Jamie) McIntyre and Kathy (Randy) Matzer, and by brothers-in-law Dennis (Pat) Hyndman and Ken (Sharon) Hyndman and their families.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory to the Idylwild Lodge Auxiliary in Spiritwood.

A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, April 29, at 2:00pm at the Spiritwood Civic Center.

GOOD NEWS

~

HE MAKES ALL THINGS NEW

By **RANDALL MCLEOD**
Immanuel Lutheran, Parkside

“Behold I make all things new.” This is a declaration made by Jesus himself. But how does He do that? How does He make all things new? Well, in several different ways. Firstly, He makes us new: Ephesians 4:23-24 “be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.” Jesus does not do renovations. Jesus does not do restorations. Jesus does not do rehabilitations. Jesus does do resurrections! We must die to self and live for Christ. All things new!

When we come to Christ, He, in fact, makes all things new. Second Corinthians 5:17 – “Therefore, if anyone is in

Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” He can do this because, through Christ, God has put aside the old deal, the old covenant, the one that He had with Israel, and has initiated a New Covenant, a whole new deal. Through the New Covenant, we are saved by Grace through Faith (in Christ) and not through perfect keeping of the law. (Which we can’t do anyway!)

So, regarding people, He makes all things new by creating a new creature, forgiven because of Christ’s sacrifice and driven by the Holy Spirit to want to do what pleases God, instead of what seems good and pleasant to us.

Next, God changes the world and makes it new. But He can only change the world by changing people, and He

can only change people by changing us individually, one at a time. That He has been diligently undertaking for the past two thousand years. Sometimes rapidly and sometimes more slowly, and those changed people have then changed the world around them. For the better, I might add. They have changed cultures, changed moral values, changed societies, changed economics, changed value systems, and overall fostered a humane culture of “Love God and Love your neighbour.”

And finally, at some point in the future, both Isaiah 65 and Revelation 21 tell us He will make the universe new as well. He will cause the formation of a New Heaven and a New Earth, as well as a New Heavenly Jerusalem. Then all the old, including the Heavens and the Earth, will pass away. It will be utterly destroyed. There are many things that still need to occur before that day, most of then highly unpleasant indeed, but that is for an-

other discussion.

For now, you can “take this to the bank” as it were. The message of Good Friday is that Jesus loves you enough to die for you. The message of Easter is that the resurrection is the sign seal and delivery that He is who He says He is and that He has the power and authority to do what He said He would do, including giving you a whole new you, and whole new start to a whole new life. That beats a bunny with chocolate eggs any day!

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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	IMMANUEL LUTHERAN Parkside 11 a.m. - Worship	UNITED CHURCH Big River Sundays 10 a.m. - Worship at Anglican Church Rev. Dave Whalley 306-747-2804
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH Parkside 10:30 a.m. Worship Pastor 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	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. Canon David Butorac 306-961-1634 Minister's Warden: 306-922-5159 H.C. Service with Rev. Butorac - 1 st Sunday of the month	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 11 a.m. St. Henry's - Leask Mass - Sunday 9 a.m. Mistawasis 1 st & 3 rd Sundays 1:30 p.m. Fr. Tuan Doan
PRESBYTERIAN Mistawasis Sunday worship 11:00 a.m. Rev. Katherine Bretzlaff	MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH Blaine Lake Gospel Chapel 109 Railway Ave. W. Blaine Lake 306-497-3316 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. Worship	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
	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	

PRAISE & WORSHIP

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

PARTNERS IN FAITH Lutheran/United/ Christchurch Anglican, 137-2nd St. W. Spiritwood Worship 1:30 p.m. Rev. Sarah Urano	LAKELAND COMMUNITY CHURCH (Corner of 1 st Ave. and 4 th St., Spiritwood) Sun., 11 am - Worship Service & Sunday School Pastor Michael Kluthe 306-883-2380	Gideons International of Canada Battlefords Camp Phone Art Martynes (306) 389-4633
UNITED /ANGLICAN Worship Services Glaslyn Time is on the sign Rev. Kun Kim Rev. Don Skinner	FIELDS OF HOPE (HOFFNUNGSFELDER) MENNONITE CHURCH Glenbush Worship - 11:00 am	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
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	BETHEL Medstead 1st Sunday, 10 am - Worship Pastor David Jensen 3rd Sunday - 10 am Worship Pastor David Jensen	BELBUTTE FULL GOSPEL 11 am Worship Service
COWBOY CHURCH Spiritwood Every Wednesday Night 7 pm Spiritwood Legion Hall Pastor Rick Martin	MENNONITE BRETHREN Glenbush 10:00 am - Sunday School Worship 10:50 am	PARTNERS IN WORSHIP Shell Lake Worship Services Sunday 9:00 a.m. Pastor Sarah Urano 306-841-7333

Records fall during Summer's great spring

In water-related parlance, let's just say it's unlikely that Toronto swimmer Summer McIntosh is a splash in the pan.

The 16-year-old swimming sensation made headlines around the world in late March by setting two women's world records within the space of five days at the Canadian swimming trials. It marked the first time a Canadian female swimmer had been No. 1 in the world in two long-course events since Elaine Tanner (Mighty Mouse, as you old-timers might recall) in 1967.

Swim watchers can hardly wait for the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, where the then-17-year-old McIntosh will compete against U.S. swim legend Katie Ledecky and Australia's Ariadne Titmus, the 2020 Olympic champion, in the 400-metre freestyle.

The 400 freestyle at the Canadian swimming trials was McIntosh's first world record — 3:56.08. Titmus was the previous record holder, at 3:56.40. Five days later, the Canadian teen stunned the swimming

world by setting a world record in the 400-metre individual medley (butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke, freestyle) with a time of 4:25.87. The former record, held by Hungary's Katinka Hosszú (4:26.36) had been untouched for seven years.

While swimming is not a high-profile sport in Canada, McIntosh was hardly an unknown name in the world's swimming community. She made a big splash at the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo, finishing fourth as a 14-year-old in the 400-metre freestyle. She began collecting medals galore in 2022, winning four at the world aquatics championship, and then six medals at the 2022 Commonwealth Games. But there were no world records until this year in Toronto and evidently, one wasn't enough for McIntosh.

So what's to come for the young swimming prodigy? The Paris Olympics next year will offer a chance for Summer's fame to expand even more around the world and Canadian media have until then



BRUCE
PENTON

to develop a nickname for our country's latest superstar, like Tanner's 'Mighty Mouse' moniker more than 50 years ago.

McIntosh, whose mother swam at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, still has a number of years of top competitive swimming ahead of her. A website called RealClearScience says female athletes in speed swimming events don't hit their peak until age 22.

That gives McIntosh six years to possibly become the most famous swimmer in the world. It's safe to say she's already got a good headstart on that mission.

• Eamon Lynch of golfweek.com. on Bubba Watson's statement that

there is no bad blood between PGA Tour and LIV players, that it was merely 'media mischief': "... ignoring the fact that LIV has been scattering subpoenas like confetti at one of Greg Norman's weddings."

• Paul Friesen of the Winnipeg Sun, on the gritty style of the Calgary Flames: "Playing Darryl Sutter's Flames is like trying to eat a cactus salad, with motor oil for dressing."

• Eamon Lynch again, on Brooks Koepka: "(He) fancies himself an NBA-style stud but finds himself in little-watched exhibition games with the Riyadh Globetrotters."

• Comedy guy Torben Rolfesen of Vancouver: "What have the (under-achieving) Angels been doing the last few years with (Shohei) Ohtani and (Mike) Trout? Connor McDavid and Leon Draisaitl can't even believe it."

• Kaseberg again: 'At the Masters, there were feuds between Phil Mickelson and Freddie Couples, Rory McIlroy and Patrick Reed and the PGA players versus the new LIV Tour. When

did golf turn into 'The Real Housewives of Augusta, Georgia?'"

• Comedy writer Brad Dickson of Omaha, prior to the NCAA men's basketball final: "If San Diego State wins I'll bet the powers that be follow the lead of the Chargers and Clippers and move the entire university to Los Angeles."

• Mike Bianchi of the Orlando Sentinel: "Before Jim Nantz broadcast his last Final Four in his hometown of Houston Monday, the city named a street after him — 'Hello Friends Boulevard.' In related news, NFL Draft guru Mel Kiper Jr.'s hometown is considering naming a street after him as well — 'Tremendous Upside Avenue.'"

• Columnist Gregg Drinnan of Kamloops, on the Connor Bedard frenzy "Oh for the days of 'Wild' Bill Hunter, Ben Hatskin, Scotty Munro et al. They would have turned this Regina-Saskatoon series into a best-of-nine by now. Maybe even best-of-11."

• Comedy writer Gary Bachman: "There were no injuries when three

trees fell into the gallery during the Masters tournament. Instead of 'FORE,' a golfer yelled 'TIMBER!'"

• Scott Ostler of the San Francisco Chronicle, on criticism against First Lady Dr. Jill Biden for suggesting women's NCAA basketball runner-up Iowa should be extended an invitation to the White House: "Dr. Biden is clueless to sports traditions. It's like me telling my mechanic how to fix my transmission."

• Headline at fark.com: "Entire Mavericks team forgets which basket it's defending, team owner goes into Cuban whistle crisis mode."

• Columnist Phil Mushnick of the New York Post: "Not that we're surprised but attention-starved Paige Spiranac, playing out of Cleavage Valley, is now seen in TV commercials selling a sports betting operation as she operates on a golf course. It's symptomatic of the marketing belief that boobs attract boobs."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Minutes of an R.M. of Leask meeting

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

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Council of the Rural Municipality of Leask No. 464 held in the Leask Community Hall on Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2023.

Council Meeting was called to order by Reeve Craig Hamilton at 9:02 a.m.

Present were Reeve Craig Hamilton, Administrator Donna Goertzen and the following Council members: Keith Junk - Division No. 1, Real Diehl - Division No. 2, Gordon Stieb - Division No. 3, Joan Sanftleben - Division 4, Matthew McNeice - Division 5, and Clarke Gossen - Division No. 6.

Delegations: Jim & John Loran @ 9:15 a.m., Alana Gunsch @ 9:35 a.m., Redberry Lake Biosphere Region @ 10 a.m., Woodlands on Iroquois @ 10 a.m., Superintendent of Public Works @ 11 a.m.

McNeice: That permission be given to add items to the agenda. Carried

Diehl: That the minutes of the Jan. 18, 2023, Regular Meeting of Council be approved. Carried

Stieb: That the minutes of the Jan. 24, 2023, Special Council

Meeting be approved as presented. Carried

Diehl: That Administrator's Report be accepted as presented. Carried

Stieb: That Superintendent of Public Works Report be accepted as presented. Carried

McNeice: That we approve payments as listed on the attached List of Accounts for Approval for the total of \$106,357.88 and Payroll/Indemnity for the total of \$19,945.37. Carried

Diehl: That we acknowledge receipt of the Bank Reconciliation for January 2023. Carried

Stieb: That we approve the Statement of Financial Activities for January 2023. Carried

Diehl: That Council Indemnity be approved for payment as presented. Carried

McNeice: That tender for Indoor Caretaking be awarded to Ruby Lalonde for \$600 per month plus PST. Carried

Diehl: That Municipal Office Basement be designated as the office for Superintendent of Public Works; and further that the Rec. Organization find a new storage location. Carried

Stieb: That permission be granted to Administrator Goertzen and Public Work's Assistant to attend Enhanced Municipal

Admin. Workshop on March 23, 2023, in Prince Albert. Carried

McNeice: That Councillors Matthew McNeice and Real Diehl be appointed as Voting Delegates for the Annual SARM Annual Convention and Trade Show; March 14-16 in Saskatoon. Carried

Diehl: That Council send Letter of Support to Sturgeon Lake First Nation Community for proposed Community Recreation Facility in support of their grant application to the Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Program. Carried

Stieb: That Council acknowledge the 2023 Weed Plan as presented. Carried

McNeice: That Council provide permission to Administration to add outstanding fire invoice to Roll # 787 200. Carried

Diehl: That R.M. of Leask No. 464 allocate their population for the Sask Lotteries Grant 2023 as follows: Village of Parkside: 129, Leask Sports Centre: 367, Leask Library: 101, Village of Marcelin: 79, Marcelin Library: 101, Town of Shellbrook: 80. Carried.

Stieb: That R.M. of Leask No. 464 Council agree to split the remaining funds of the District #33 Rat Program.

Stieb: That Council acknowledge additional funds required to install one-way plows on the grader. Carried

McNeice: That Council authorize Administrator Goertzen to obtain an Affinity Credit Card for Municipal Office purchases with a limit of \$5,000. Carried

Stieb: That Administrator Goertzen be appointed the 2023 Saskatchewan Municipal Hail Insurance delegate. Carried

McNeice: That Council provide permission for Reeve Hamilton and Administrator Goertzen to sign Letter of Engagement with Jensen Stromberg on behalf of the municipality. Carried

Diehl: That File #20387468, 3 phase line install be acknowledged; and provide permission to Administrator to sign on behalf of the municipality. Carried

Stieb: That Engineering Project #11822500 and 20385614 Power line construction be acknowledged and provide permission to Administrator to sign on behalf of the municipality. Carried

Stieb: That Employment ads be posted for 2023 Seasonal employees and Full-time Seasonal Grader Operator. Carried

Reeve Hamilton declared a Conflict of interest and left the

room at 4:18 p.m.

Deputy Reeve Stieb assumed the chair.

McNeice: That we move in-camera session citing The Local Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, Section 14(1) (e) and 16 (1)(b). Time being 4:18 p.m. Carried

Present: Councillors Junk, Diehl, Stieb, Sanftleben, McNeice, Gossen and Administrator Goertzen.

McNeice: That we move out of camera session at 4:30p.m. Carried

Reeve Hamilton returned to the room at 4:30 p.m.

A conflict of Interest was declared by Reeve Hamilton, Councillors Diehl, Sanftleben, Stieb, McNeice, and Gossen.

Stieb: That Council enter into an agreement with Marcy Johnson Consulting and appoint her as contractor for Code of Ethics Investigator. Carried

McNeice: That Council engage Marcy Johnson Consulting to review COE Complaints COE-02-11-22, COE-02-12-23, and COE-02-13-23. Carried

McNeice: That Correspondence be accepted as presented. Carried

Stieb: That Meeting be adjourned at 4:39p.m. Carried

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Fruit for the summer

By PATRICIA HANBIDGE

Using your garden as part of how you stock your larder is always a great idea! We may not be able to grow mangoes or bananas in Saskatchewan, but we can grow some pretty great and unique fruits!

The latest fruit that you just have to grow is the haskap. This is not a new fruit as it has been grown for ages in Siberia. They are a member of the honeysuckle family but have been bred for fruit production. The berries themselves are oblong and turquoise in colour with a flavor somewhere between a Saskatoon, a black currant and a blueberry. They are very hardy and have no real disease problems. However, you need to grow more than one variety to ensure fruit set. It is also a challenge to pick them before the birds do and yet still have them fully ripe and ready for harvest.

The fruit itself is ready just before the strawberries are ready to harvest, giving a great head start of the harvesting of fruit. There are a few cultivars that seem to bear more fruit with a better taste. My favourites are Ber-

ry Smart™ Blue and Berry Smart™ Belle.

Rhubarb is also a very versatile edible vegetable for early in the year. It is a great source of vitamin C and iron and is wonderful as juice or used in your favourite dessert crumble. The best rhubarb to grow in my opinion is the red varieties so try ‘Canada Red’ for a hardy, productive cultivar. Share your rhubarb dishes with friends from warmer climes and amaze them with this great vegetable!

Strawberries that are grown in your garden are exquisite! The regular strawberries purchased in your local grocery store are a poor substitute for the “real” thing! They are easy to grow but it is best if you plant them as roots rather than seeds once the soil has warmed in the spring. I always grow some strawberries as annuals and yes – in containers. As I do not really plant much in the ground anymore, I can still enjoy strawberries all summer long without being on my hands and knees!

For homeowners it is best to grow “day neutral” strawberries as this type of strawberry will give you a crop to harvest throughout the sum-

mer and even into the fall. They are termed day neutral as they will produce regardless of the length of day which means a longer picking season. Alternatively, June-bearing strawberries will give you a flush of production once in summer with no long-term picking needed. June-bearers are typically the largest size of fruit and are thus popular with commercial growers. They will produce for a few weeks and for the remainder of the season be just vegetative with no fruit. One other type of strawberry is the everbearer. Cultivars like ‘Earliglow’ are everbearing and will produce two crops each season. So, choose the type of picking you would like and then choose the cultivar

that suits your picking schedule. A good day neutral to grow is Tristar while a good June-bearer is Kent.

I love to pick fruit from my garden and enjoy providing an alternative food source for my family that is home-grown. It is just wonderful to go out into the garden and pick high-quality fruit that is pesticide free and tastes wonderful!

Watch for more articles on fruit we can easily grow here that is not only hardy but also easy to grow!

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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