

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald



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Grand Ole Opry makes musical comeback

By NATASHA CABASE
Spiritwood Herald Reporter

After a three-year hiatus, the Spiritwood Grand Ole Opry finally returned to the stage to offer a live country music show.

Hosted at the Spiritwood Civic Centre on March 31 and April 1, the Opry featured a variety of talent. The performers were accompanied by the supporting band Misdeal, composed of Dennis Adams, Dean Kushneryk, Mick Gratias, and Boyd Faulconer.

During Friday night, everyone was welcomed by the Masters of Ceremonies, Tannis Franson and Pat Cross.

First on the stage was Emile Lamontagne, who sang "Happy Acres Two-Step" and "Centennial Waltz".

Emile was followed by Pastor Rick Martin, who lives in Spiritwood and presides over the Cowboy Church. He was nominated by the Saskatchewan Country Music Association as the Male Vocalist of the Year, Album of the Year and Fans Choice Entertainer of the Year. On Friday night, he sang "Uncloudy Day" and "Lonesome Fugitive".

The third performer was Jennifer Epp, who grew up playing piano and clarinet, and singing in various choirs. She also performed two songs that night, entitled "Whole Lot a Little" and "Heaven's Just a Sin Away".

Afterwards, Muriel Huskins performed "Coat of Many Colors" and "Young Love". She currently lives in Cold Lake, where she works at a women's shelter.

Next in line was Patrick Laughlin in his sixth appearance on the Grand Ole Opry stage. He sang the songs "Better Class of Losers" and "Going Through the Big D".

Following an intermission to allow the audience to buy snacks and 50/50 tickets, Marlene Rumak, who continues to play music with the band Country Reign, took the stage. She sang the songs "Cry, Cry, Cry" and "Storms Never Last".

Brenda Aumack then proceeded to sing "Blue Eyes Crying in the Rain" and "Shut up and Drive". She is originally from Spiritwood, but now resides in Shellbrook and has worked in the fields of dentistry and corrections.

The eighth performers were Cathy and Glenn Cherry, who both started singing while wintering in Arizona over the last 12 years. They sang "Dog River Blues" and "Except for Monday".

A pair of numbers from Sarah Scott followed afterwards, as she sang "Coal Miner's Daughter" and "You Ain't Woman Enough". She is a member of the Withekan Lake First Nation and a proud Cree Kookum (grandmother), currently raising five of her grandchildren along with being a full-time social worker.

Continued on page 8 & 9



Rick Martin performs at the Spiritwood Grand Ole Opry.

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Debden Roadrunners repeat as national champs

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

In 2022, the U20 Debden Roadrunners broomball team made history when it became the first women's team from Saskatchewan to win gold at Nationals.

Playing Nationals in their own backyard at Saskatoon's Merlis Belsher Place this past weekend, the Roadrunners made history yet again by becoming the first Saskatchewan women's broomball team to win back-to-back national championships.

"Winning last year in Cornwall, Ont. was special. The tournament was cancelled in 2020 and 2021, so we had to wait a long time to finally get to play and prove ourselves at Nationals," coach Dean Demers said.

"This year, we went in with a huge target on our backs being defending champs. We weren't a secret anymore. But the girls played so well every single game. There was no way they were going to be denied being back-to-back national champions."

Demers says he went into Nationals "one million per cent" certain his team was going to win, given how perfectly the team had been playing as a whole unit throughout the broomball season. This is no empty boast, given that the team had amassed an overall record of 25 wins and one tie through the regular season and Provincials.

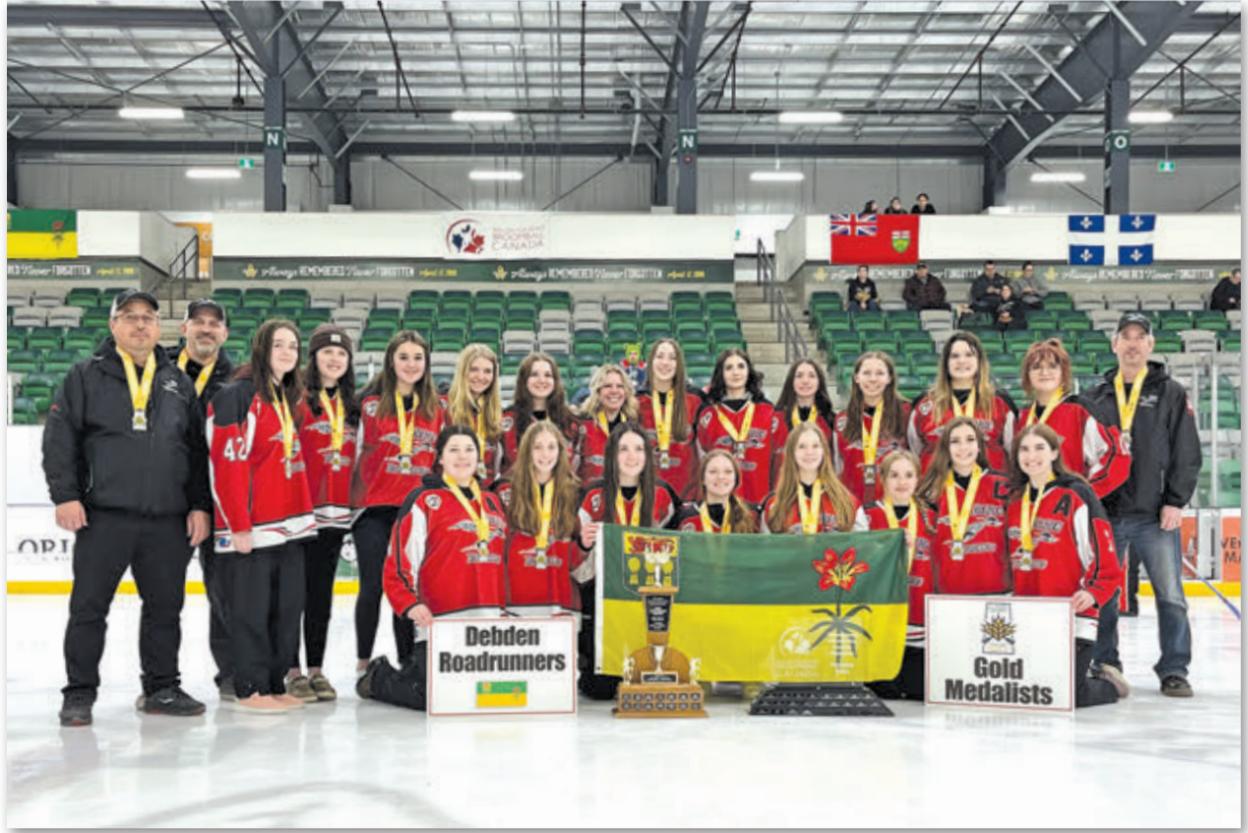
Playing in front of a supportive hometown-adjacent crowd over the course of the four-day Nationals competition, the Roadrunners continued this perfect play by sweeping Quebec 2 T-Miss and the Aberdeen Attackers by scores of 3-0 and 5-0, respectively on day one.

"The team was running so perfectly — the forwards, the defence, the goaltending, the powerplay," Demers said. "There's so much talent there, and they all came together and played our system perfectly. It was really beautiful to watch that."

As Nationals moved to day two, the Roadrunners continued full-steam ahead with a 6-0 win over Team Manitoba. But after going three games without surrendering a goal at Nationals, the team suffered its only loss of the season in a 1-0 game against Quebec 1 Blizzard.

Demers says all the credit for that game goes to Blizzard goaltender Malorie Bilodeau, who stopped everything the Roadrunners shot at her.

"It was just one of those games. She stole it," he



The Debden U20 Roadrunners are two-time national champions. Back row, left to right: Rocky Gaudry, Justin Duret, Ayla Peterson, Jasmine Lamotte, Marieka Thomas, Elizabeth Jean, Kara Thiessen, Ava Ledding, Brooklyn Amundson, Alyssa Kaspick, Shelby Woytiuk, Aidyn Duret, Presley Neufeldt, Grace Heisler, and Dean Demers. Front row, left to right: Faith Lamotte, Rhyann Amundson, Lucy Lockhart, Emry Price, Marissa Skavlebo, Kassie Wagman, Kenzie Demers, and Gracie Cyr.

said. "That was our only loss of the whole year, but we bounced back from that no problem."

Starting early on day three of Nationals, the Roadrunners squeaked out a 4-3 win over Ontario 2 Twisted Sisters, and then earned redemption against Quebec 1 Blizzard by topping them 6-1 in the A semi-final to punch their ticket to the gold medal game.

There, facing off against Ontario 1 Eastern Thunder, the Roadrunners jumped out to a quick 2-0 lead in the first period, thanks to goals from Kenzie Demers and Jasmine Lamotte. Faith Lamotte and Marissa Skavlebo assisted on the first goal, and Elizabeth Jean and Aidyn Duret earned helpers on the second.

Kenzie Demers all but put the game out of reach in the second period, scoring her second of the game with assists from Kassie Wagman and Rhyann Amundson to give the Roadrunners a 3-0 lead.

The Eastern Thunder rumbled back with a goal, but it was already too late to stop the Roadrunners from claiming their second consecutive Nationals gold medals.

Following Nationals, the team's season record from start to finish is 31 wins, 1 loss, and 1 tie.

"We knew if we played our game, there was no way we could lose," coach Demers said. "That final game was such an unreal moment. It was so loud there. There was such tremendous support all week."

"The girls put in an incredible amount of work these past four months to prepare for this tournament. They worked really hard for what they got all

year long, and it all paid off in the end," he added, attributing much of the team's success to the way the girls came together on and off the ice.

With another successful season in the books, and the possibility of a three-peat next year, coach Demers says he expects his team to come out just as hungry for gold at Nationals in 2024.

"Before this week, and especially when the final game was played on Saturday, the girls wanted it real bad," he said. "Looking ahead to next year, we do lose three of our players who age out, but we're still going to have the majority of the team come back, and I think they're going to want it just as bad again."

U20 Boys

Also on the ice over the weekend was Debden's U20 Speedballs male broomball team, which was hoping to improve upon the B-side silver medal it won at Nationals in 2022.

This year's tournament brought a mixed bag for the Speedballs in the preliminary round, as they opened with a 6-0 loss to Ontario 1 Panther before topping Quebec 1 Frost 1-0. Day two brought a pair of losses — a 2-0 defeat to defending champion Quebec Blitz, and a 5-1 loss to Ontario 2 Jr. Moose.

With a 2-0 win over Team Manitoba on day three of Nationals, the Speedballs were able to make their way to one of the A semi-final games. There, they were relegated to bronze medal contention after a 4-1 defeat at the hands of Ontario 2 Jr. Moose.

The team ended the tournament just shy of bronze, falling 2-0 Ontario 1 Panther.

CORRECTION

VILLAGE OF LEASK NOTICE OF ASSESSMENT ROLL

Notice is hereby given that the assessment roll for the Village of Leask for the year 2023 has been prepared and is open to inspection in the office of the assessor from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday to Thursday from March 20, 2023 until April 24, 2023.

A bylaw pursuant to section 214 of *The Municipalities Act* has been passed and the assessment notices have been sent as required.

Any person who wishes to discuss the notice of assessment or potential appeal, may contact the assessor at the Village of Leask, Box 40, 15 Main Street, Leask, SK S0J 1M0. A notice of appeal, accompanied by a \$50.00 appeal fee, refundable if the appeal is successful, must be filed with the Secretary of Board of Revision, Mike Ligtermoet, Nor-Sask Board Services, 642 Agnew Street, P.A., SK S6V 2P1, 306-314-5418, by the 24th of April, 2023.

Dated at Leask, Saskatchewan this 20th day of March, 2023.

Yvette Hamel
Assessor

VILLAGE OF MEDSTEAD NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF ASSESSMENT ROLL

Notice is hereby given that the 2023 assessment roll for the Village of Medstead has been prepared and is open to inspection at the office of the Assessor from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. during normal business hours: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, April 1st to May 1st, 2023.

A bylaw pursuant to Section 214 of *The Municipalities Act* has been passed and the assessment notices have been sent as required.

Any person who wishes to discuss the notice of assessment or potential appeal may contact the Assessor at 306-342-4898 (Village of Medstead) or 1-800-667-5203 (SAMA).

Any person wishing to appeal an assessment is required to file a "Notice of Appeal" to the "Board of Revision" by May 1, 2023, along with the applicable \$100.00 fee with the Village Office by May 1, 2023, which will be returned if the appeal is successful.

Dated at Medstead, Saskatchewan this 30th day of March, 2023.

Lora Hundt, Assessor
Village of Medstead

CO-OP LAKE COUNTRY

VIRTUAL
ANNUAL MEMBER
INFORMATION MEETING

APRIL 19, 2023 @ 6:30 PM

All members planning to attend
must pre-register by
Sunday, April 16, 2023.

To register, scan the QR code
or visit our website at
www.lakecountryco-op.crs.



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!

THE CHUCK LABRASH & DARREL MARTIN MEMORIAL FISH FRY

FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2023
PARKSIDE IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

SITTINGS AT 4:30 PM, 5:45 PM & 7:00 PM
LIMITED TAKE OUT MEALS AVAILABLE

COST: \$25 PER ADULT | \$10 KIDS 6-12 YRS | KIDS 5 & UNDER EAT FREE
TICKETS: SHELLBROOK PHARMACY 306-747-3435 | PARKSIDE GENERAL STORE 306-747-2275

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RCMP news highlights

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

An investigation conducted by the Spiritwood RCMP Detachment and partner police agencies in March, resulted in the arrest of three individuals and the seizure of drugs, weapons, and ammunition.

On March 15, officers from the Spiritwood RCMP were called on to assist with an investigation at a residence on the Withekan Lake First Nation. There, officers observed three adult males known to be on warrants in the residence.

As a result of subsequent investigation, officers located and seized approximately 26 grams of methamphetamine, a semi-automatic firearm, a sawed-off firearm, approximately 150 rounds of ammunition, numerous knives, and trafficking paraphernalia, and arrested the three males on their outstanding warrants.

33-year-old Melvin Starblanket from Spiritwood, Sask. is charged with one count of failing to comply with release order condition. He was also arrested on an outstanding warrant from Prince Albert Police Service. He is scheduled to appear in court in Spiritwood on June 13.

35-year-old Eric Stevens from Regina is charged with one count of possession of a firearm while prohibited, five counts of failing to comply with release order condition, one count of unsafe storage of a firearm, two counts of unsafe storage of ammunition, three counts of possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose, and one count of possession of a firearm without a license. Stevens was also arrested on warrants from Regina Police Service. He was scheduled to appear in court in Spiritwood on March 28.

Finally, 22-year-old Leon Chamakese was arrested on warrants from Prince

Albert RCMP, Ahtahkakoop-Shellbrook RCMP, and the Regina Police Service.

An adult female at the residence, who has yet to be named by police, was also arrested during the investigation.

The investigation continues.

Ahtahkakoop-Shellbrook

The Saskatchewan RCMP's Warrant Enforcement and Suppression Team (WEST) has arrested a man on multiple warrants, following an investigation on the Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation.

In mid-March, WEST began actively investigating the whereabouts of 38-year-old Dustin Ratt, who was wanted on an outstanding warrant from the Prince Albert Police Service for escaping lawful custody.

As a result of continued investigation, RCMP WEST determined Ratt was at a residence on Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation on March 23. Officers approached the residence and observed Ratt fleeing in a truck.

Police say a tire deflation device was quickly set up by WEST. The truck drove over it and was disabled. Ratt fled on foot to a wooded area. RCMP WEST tracked him to a nearby residence, where he was arrested without incident.

Investigation following Ratt's arrest determined the truck he was driving had been reported as stolen in Shellbrook on



Some of the items seized during an investigation on the Withekan Lake First Nation.

March 22.

As a result of further investigation, Ratt is charged with one count of possession of the proceeds of crime over \$5,000, one count of flight from a peace officer, and one count of resisting/obstructing peace officer.

Ratt was also arrested on the outstanding warrant from Prince Albert Police Service. He made his first appearance in Prince Albert Provincial Court on March 24, 2023.

Ahtahkakoop RCMP, Big River RCMP and Saskatchewan RCMP's North Battleford Crime Reduction Team assisted in this investigation.

Big River

Police continue to seek any information on the whereabouts of 28-year-old Shequille "Shack" Gamble.

Gamble was first reported missing to the Big River RCMP Detachment on Nov. 15, 2022, after last being seen in Debden on Oct. 15.

The most recent update in the case came on Nov. 29, when police determined that Gamble had been on the Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation on Oct. 21, and in Debden on Oct. 22.

Gamble is described as approximately 6' tall and 215 lbs. He has brown eyes and brown hair. He has a scar on his left cheek and his top front tooth is missing. Shack was last seen wearing an army green jacket, black pants and black shoes.

Police believe Gamble may have been heading to Beardy's First Nation on foot, but he's also known to travel to Prince Albert, Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation and Big River First Nation.

Anyone who has seen Gamble, or who has information on his whereabouts, is

urged to contact the Big River RCMP Detachment at 306-469-2590. Information can also be submitted anonymously by contacting Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or www.saskcrimestoppers.com.



Nearly five months after he was reported missing, police are still looking for 28-year-old Shequille "Shack" Gamble.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the members of Innovation Credit Union will be held on Thursday, April 27, 2023.

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

Information on how to join this virtual meeting will be available by April 15, 2023 by visiting our website at www.innovationcu.ca.

Meeting agenda items include:

- Report on 2022 operations and presentation of financial statements (copies of financial statements will be available for examination on our website at www.innovationcu.ca or at any advice centre of Innovation Credit Union after April 15, 2023)
- Announcement of Elected Directors
- Appointment of Auditor
- Other Business



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› Let's get down to business.

Join us!

Support your credit union at the **Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, April 19, 2023.**

Register at affinitycu.ca

Every member counts.



Federal budget shows disconnect from reality

Much like spring in Saskatchewan, budget season is a time of great hope and opportunity.

We hope the government of the day will spend responsibly and balance its books.

We hope we won't be called upon to pay more in taxes to fund the government's grandeur.

Yet, we also hope important things like healthcare, education, social services, and infrastructure will be adequately funded to support our needs.

They're reasonable hopes. After all, we elect governments to represent us and act for our own benefit, and the benefit of as many people as possible.

But the trouble with spring in Saskatchewan, is that it's turbulent and unpredictable.

One day, the warm sun can chase the snow away, creating the illusion that summer is just around the corner. And the next day, old man winter can return with a vengeance and dump 10 centimetres of snow on us.

Saskatchewan's 2023-2024 provincial budget, tabled on March 22, wasn't quite as bad as a spring blizzard. It boasted a \$1 billion surplus, without any new taxes, and the government plans to use that surplus to pay down long-term provincial debt.

On the other hand, however, the budget wasn't exactly sunshine and rainbows. It offered only modest benefit increases for the province's most vulnerable, did very little to help most people in the short-term, and failed to offer immediate solutions to adequately address any of the province's most pressing challenges (like healthcare).

It was, in essence, a status quo budget, aimed at maintaining "growth that works for everyone."

If the Saskatchewan budget can be said to have not done enough, it could be argued that the 2023-2024 federal budget, delivered last Tuesday, managed to both do too little and too much all at once.

In true Trudeau government fashion, the latest federal budget attempts to impose the Liberals' reality on the real world, where ordinary rules and logic still apply.

To most reasonable people, a \$40 billion deficit would be evidence of a reckless, spendthrift government that



JORDAN TWISS
~
News Editor

is bankrupting future generations to fund its own ideological ends (in this case, its ambition to make Canada a global steward of environmentalism and a Shangri-La of equality).

To Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland, the \$40 billion shortfall projected in last Tuesday's budget (a \$10 billion increase compared to last fall's economic outlook) is a symbol of her government's prudence, fiscal restraint, and commitment to help Canadians through a once-in-a-lifetime affordability crisis.

So, what exactly do we get in return for the \$491 billion the federal government is planning to spend on our behalf?

Well, we know that about \$2.5 billion of the \$491 billion will fund the federal government's sparkly new "grocery rebate," which will provide the average Canadian family with kids a one-time payment of \$467. For single Canadians, the payout will be \$234.

In other words, we get enough money to pay for one or two grocery trips on the government's dime... which is actually our dime (or, more accurately, the dime of Canadians who haven't been born yet).

Meanwhile, even as inflation begins to cool off, grocery prices have risen by 10 per cent compared to last year. So, once the government rebate runs out, Canadians will still be left paying out the nose for groceries.

Unfortunately for Canadians, none of the rest of the \$491 billion in projected expenses will go to direct and immediate supports for those who are struggling with the cost of living. Unless, of course, you factor in the government's decision to cap the increase of the federal tax on alcohol at 2 per cent, rather than tie it to the inflation rate of 6 per cent.

Looking to its medium-term strategy, the Trudeau government intends to spend \$13 billion over five years on a plan to expand dental care to families earning less than \$90,000 a year (effectively doubling the cost of the program).

Though projected costs have yet to be laid out, it's also pledging to roll out a framework for a national pharmacare plan by the end of the year – this bit is a key pillar of the Liberals' supply and



confidence agreement with the NDP to keep its minority government in power.

In one of the few actually prudent moves in the federal budget, the government is also planning to crackdown on predatory lending by capping annual interest rates at 35 per cent (currently, loopholes allow for rates as high as 47 per cent).

Meanwhile, in a move that will help small businesses, Visa and Mastercard have committed to lower transaction fees by up to 27 per cent.

Beyond this, by far the biggest spend in last week's budget is an \$83 billion suite of tax credits to encourage investments in clean electricity, clean-tech manufacturing, and hydrogen to create a more sustainable Canadian economy. These new incentives join the government's existing carbon capture and storage tax credit, and are aimed at helping Canada stay competitive with the other major economic players like the United States, which rolled out a \$369 billion package of environmental incentives earlier this year.

If you, like most sane people, are thinking the federal government has lost all sense of fiscal responsibility, or are wondering what magical money tree it's planning to harvest in order to fund its largesse, fret not. Ms. Freeland has plan.

First, she expects to rake in an extra \$3 billion per year by increasing the minimum amount of tax the very rich must pay.

Next, she plans to forgo a \$1.8 billion expense to ease the chaos at Canadian airports by giving a 33 per cent boost to the Air Travel Security Charge Canadians pay on their plane tickets

Finally, over the next five years, she's planning to slash some \$15.4 billion in spending through "targeted reductions," including an effort to curb the use of "professional services" and management consultants and a reduction in travel expenses.

One assumes this means no more \$160,000 family vacations to Jamaica for Mr. Trudeau – but then again, you know what they say about assuming.

Despite this monumental sacrifice by Mr. Trudeau, the federal government has abandoned its prediction to balance the books by 2027-2028. Instead of a modest surplus of \$4.5 billion that year, the budget now projects the federal government will post a \$14-billion deficit.

Meanwhile, the national debt is now set to eclipse \$1.2 trillion dollars, and far too many ordinary Canadians are being made to choose between paying their rent or buying groceries.

In the midst of a once-in-a-lifetime affordability crisis, a government truly committed to helping Canadians would have offered more than its paltry "grocery rebate."

The latest federal budget doesn't only miss the bullseye; it misses the target by a country mile.

It's time for the federal government to join the rest of us in the real world.

Shellbrook Chronicle

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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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Report from the Legislature

This week, our government passed its 2023-24 Budget entitled "Growth That Works for Everyone." Growth that works for everyone means everyone in Saskatchewan being able to access the healthcare they need when and where they need it. Saskatchewan's overall health budget for 2023-24 is a record \$6.9 billion, up 6.7 per cent from last year. This record investment will grow the healthcare workforce and enhance programs and services patients need in communities across the province.

To grow the healthcare workforce, the budget includes a \$98.8 million investment in the Health Human Resources Action Plan. This plan was introduced in September of 2022 with a goal of adding 1,000 health care workers to our province's system.

This budget will fulfill our government's commitment to add 250 new full-time positions and enhance additional part-time positions to full-time. To date, nearly 100 of these positions have been filled. We are creating a new Registered Nurse travel pool program to help mitigate temporary human resource pressures in rural and remote areas. In addition, Saskatchewan is creating a Physician Assistant program for the first time.

Our government is expanding healthcare training programs



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through this budget to help meet the health human resources needs of our growing province. The budget will support the continuation of a 150-seat expansion and 550 new seats in other high-priority training programs. Training and licensing supports for internationally trained healthcare professionals will be funded as well.

The provincial budget also ensures incentive programs for healthcare workers will continue. Healthcare workers in high-priority positions in rural and remote areas may be eligible for up to \$50,000 with a three-year return-of-service agreement. Physicians in rural and remote areas are eligible for \$200,000 over five years as well. These investments will support the recruitment and retention of these positions.

In addition to adding more healthcare professionals to the province, our government is investing in the healthcare services patients need.

Mental health and addictions supports and services are a high-priority area for our government. That is why this year's budget includes a record \$518 million for this area, which equals 7.5 per cent of the total health care budget.

To support those struggling with addiction, funding will support the completion of 150 new addictions treatment spaces. Investments will also go to the Saskatchewan Health Authority's Opioid Stewardship Program and the Saskatoon Tribal Council's mobile services. In addition, the Provincial Drug Task Force will continue its overdose outreach support and the Police and Crisis Team (PACT) will expand to two more locations in Saskatchewan.

Several initiatives will support children and youth, such as an expansion of the counselling program offered by Family Services Saskatchewan. In partnership with the Ministry of Social Services, three new residential homes will support youth struggling with mental health and addictions. The SHA will hire a new navigator in northwest Saskatchewan, a consultant nurse for psychiatry at the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital, and a therapist for the Saskatoon Children's Centre for children who witness or experience abuse. We will also invest in the Prenatal Outreach Resource Team (PORT). A new program which

will provide grants to community-level peer support groups is funded through this budget as well.

With an investment of \$42.5 million, we will perform an additional 6,000 surgeries this year, for a record total of 103,000. This investment will reduce the surgical waitlist to its pre-pandemic level by March 2024, a year ahead of schedule. Funding will help address waitlists in cardiosciences and neurosciences, medical imaging, and endoscopy.

Seniors' care will be enhanced through a \$39 million investment into long-term care providers and new long-term care beds. We will also hire 75 new continuing care assistants, who provide vital care to seniors living in long-term care facilities. Further investments will be made for home care services and geriatric services.

To ensure facilities are well-equipped to provide enhanced services, our government has made a record \$337.6 million health care infrastructure investment. Work will continue on the Prince Albert Victoria Hospital redevelopment and Weyburn General Hospital replacement projects. Long-term care facility upgrades in Regina, Estevan, Grenfell, and La Ronge are also included. Developing plans will begin for the Rosthern Hospital, Battlefords District Care Centre, and



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St. Anthony's Hospital in Esterhazy to better serve these communities.

In addition, this budget will provide funding for the Regina Urgent Care Centre (UCC) and the Saskatoon UCC in partnership with the Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation. Once open, these facilities will be a more suitable option for treatment of ailments, injuries and mental health illnesses that are urgent but not life-threatening. This will alleviate pressure in emergency departments and improve access to care for patients.

This year's provincial budget provides the funding needed to strengthen and grow our healthcare system in communities across the province. With more healthcare workers, enhanced programs and services, and infrastructure investments,

our healthcare system will continue to serve our growing province.

Our Saskatchewan Party Caucus is mourning the loss of our friend and colleague Derek Meyers, MLA for Regina Walsh Acres. Derek passed away at the age of 45 after a battle with cancer.

Through all the challenges he faced, Derek remained one of the most upbeat and positive people you could ever meet.

Since his election in 2020, Derek has been a strong voice for his constituency and the city of Regina, a tireless advocate on behalf of everyone facing mental health challenges, and a vital part of our government caucus. Derek had an incredibly bright vision for Saskatchewan, and as our government moves forward with plans laid out in this year's Budget, we will carry his memory with us.

We were blessed to have known Derek. We have lost a bright, talented, personable MLA and a young father far too soon.

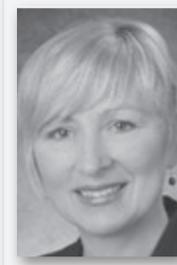
On behalf of our government and our province, I want to express my deepest sympathies to Derek's many friends, his partner Laurie, and his children Dayn, Sebastian, and Eisley.

The power of your voice

Early last year, I was contacted by several people who made me aware of funding gaps being experienced by many Saskatchewan Seniors needing private care homes.

As I investigated their concerns, it became clear that the Personal Care Home Benefit was woefully inadequate. The Benefit was subsidizing Senior's incomes to a maximum of \$2,000 per month. However, at that time, the average rate for a care home spot was \$2,800 per month. In addition, residents are also responsible for incidental personal care items and, often, transportation.

I discovered that because of the income shortfall, many Seniors



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saskrivers@sasktel.net

could not access the care they need.

The government failed to address that shortfall in its 2022-23 budget, so I wrote to the government and, in particular, the Minister of Social Services, to show how Seniors were falling through the cracks. I requested that the subsidy be increased to a maximum of \$3,000 per month to better reflect these inflationary times.

When I followed up with direct questions in the house, Minister Makowsky at first seemed unaware that there was a problem. As I continued to raise this concern in last fall's session, his response was that the ministry was now aware, and looking

at the issue. Finally, in this year's budget, the Personal Care Home Benefit was raised to \$2,400 per month. It's not what is needed, but it is an improvement.

So, what started as a few phone calls to my office from concerned Saskatchewan citizens, has now benefited Seniors across the province. I was privileged to bring their voice forward. Some had contacted their own MLAs and the minister. But clearly, they felt they weren't being heard and so called me as an Independent member.

MLAs need to be given an environment where they can fully represent the will of their constituents. My vision is to bring that kind of change to the legislature instead of tone-deaf complacency and dysfunction demonstrated by this government.



THIS SUPERGIRL HAS CHOSEN AS HER SUPERPOWER THE ABILITY TO STAY FOREVER YOUNG.

TODAY SHE WILL CELEBRATE THE 64TH ANNIVERSARY OF HER 6TH BIRTHDAY!

Happy Birthday Marj Bradley!

R.M. OF CANWOOD NO. 494 Employment Opportunity

The R.M. of Canwood No. 494 is now accepting applications for a **Truck Driver**.

Preference will be given to applicants who possess:

- A valid 1A Driver's License and clean driving record.
- Experience operating a gravel truck, end dump, and belly dump.
- Mechanical skills.
- Strong communication skills and the ability to work within a team as well as independently.

The successful applicant must be able to carry out assigned duties without supervision and shall answer to the Public Works Supervisor.

Interested candidates are invited to submit their resumes by **April 12th, 2023**, including driver abstract, qualifications, experience, and work-related references to:

R.M. of Canwood No. 494
Box 10, 641 Main Street
Canwood, Sask., S0J 0K0
Email: rm494@sasktel.net
Fax: 306-468-2666

WP Sandin students attend Model UN

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Students from WP Sandin High School got the opportunity to broaden their global horizons, when they participated in the 2023 Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA) in Prince Albert on Tuesday, March 28.

Joining students from Carlton Comprehensive High School, St. Mary's High School, and Martensville High School, the WP Sandin contingent of nine students acted as representatives of three United Nations countries.

"It's public speaking and gaining that confidence, but it's also allowing students to pursue their interest in global affairs and gain some understanding of what the United Nations' role is in peace and cooperation globally, which is so important for all of us to work towards," WP Sandin vice principal Tracy Bloomquist said of MUNA's value to students.

"It's also a non-sport competition, and we don't have a lot of those in our society. We're really looking at their

work ethic, and their ability to research and carry out their role for the day."

This year, Grade 11 students Ethan Klaassen and Brandon Dingwall drew China as their delegation, while Grade 12 students Megan Cameron and Adam Schatkoske represented Belarus, and Grade 12 student Mason Mamchur was joined by Grade 10 students Taylor Henderson and Kailee Cameron to form Kenya's delegation.

Because they were too young to serve as delegates, Navarra Mumm (Grade 8) and Brody Moe (Grade 6) were each attached to one of WP's delegate countries and assisted with research prior to the assembly in Prince Albert. Once the big day rolled around, however, they were called upon to serve as Pages — a vital function that required them to follow the discussions closely and pass correspondences between delegations.

Meanwhile, in their role as Model UN delegates, the students were required to prepare speeches, participate in discussion, and form political alliances with other delegates while debating

two resolutions throughout the day.

The first resolution, "A Framework for Promoting the Rule of Law Among Nations", saw the delegates trying to negotiate a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Ukraine. The second, "Protection of the Global Climate for Present and Future Generations", saw the delegates working toward solutions to combat climate change and create more sustainable economies.

"I've always been interested in global affairs. This was a way to explore that more and just have a bit of fun with it," Ethan Klaassen said of his interest in MUNA.

Having participated as China last year, Klaassen added that his previous experience meant he knew what to expect and could focus on refining things, rather than having to start from square one. This, perhaps, allowed him and fellow Chinese representative, Brandon Dingwall, to score a third-place finish on the day.

Of course, participating in MUNA isn't as simple as attending and making up what the country you're assigned to

would have to say about the issues being debated. There are clear and strict procedures and protocols to learn, and hours of research involved in figuring out and presenting a delegation's stance on the topic at hand.

"It's just looking at why they do things the way they do, and exploring that to a point where you can understand it from their perspective," Klaassen said.

"You've got to get your mindset into the point where it's like, 'I'm from this country. What do I want for it?'" Brandon Dingwall added. "You go look at everything, figure out what they would want, and you say that's what I want now."

While it's a lot of hard work, participating in MUNA is also an indispensable opportunity for learning. For Adam Schatkoske, the biggest lesson was in understanding how countries come together to make decisions to solve major global issues.

Meanwhile, Mason Mamchur says his biggest takeaway from the experience was about the importance of always being well-prepared.

Honeywood happenings

By **JUDY HARLEY**

Here we are. It felt like winter was never going to end, and now spring is just around the corner.

Honeywood's board of directors met in February and decided to Celebrate the Coming of Spring again this year with a Dinner/Auction fundraiser. We held the last one April 28, 2019, and if you were there you will remember the amazing food, the generosity of the communities, and the many laughs we enjoyed throughout the evening. What fun we had.

This year's event will be in the Parkside Heritage Centre (old school) on Sunday, April 23 at 5 p.m. Admittance is only \$25 each by advance ticket. Tickets can be purchased at the Shellbrook Scotia-

bank & at the Parkside Store. You can also email us at honeywoodn8@gmail.com to reserve your ticket.

If you would like to donate an item for our auction, you can drop off at the same places. This year we will have a few packages of tree/plant plugs to auction off. Honeywood is also adding a set of three plants that includes Bert Porter's unique Valentine Apple tree.

In other great news, Team Scotia members will be joining us for the Dinner/Auction to help us accomplish an entertaining and successful evening.

As in the past, we have applied to the Canada Summer Jobs to help us hire a student or two to work with us at the

nursery. We will not hear from that program until at least mid April. We are keeping our fingers crossed that we will be successful, as our summer students are an important asset in the maintenance of Honeywood.

Dale, our manager of the past few years, has chosen to come back to help us as a volunteer this year. We are therefore looking to hire someone to take his place. We will welcome the successful applicant at our Dinner/Auction.

When will the nursery be open to the public? That is always dependent on the weather (the date will of course be confirmed once we have the nursery ready for visitors).

In more great news, we will once again, have a

greenhouse full of annuals and bedding plants, thanks to our friend Malcolm Jenkins and his Prince Albert Canadian Tire store. The supply will be restocked weekly, so something new will be available every week. If you are looking for annuals and/or bedding plants for your gardens, please check us out first.

At our board meeting in February, the board of directors set the dates for this year's events. Unfortunately, we decided to cancel the Artists in Bloom June event. Because we are very dependent on volunteer help for our events, it is felt the June and July events are too close together and detract from each other. Our Lilies in Bloom event will run as usual in July, and A Touch of Autumn will be held in September.

Last year, we had donations from numerous people and businesses that allowed us to purchase 12 beautiful new picnic tables. The majority will be located in the main yard, with a few located at various points along the walking trails. We invite everyone to bring their families and friends to enjoy a picnic amidst the beautiful surroundings at Honeywood.

Thanks to the Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation's financial assistance last year, we were able to rebuild and make the old greenhouse an active and important functioning asset to the nursery once again. Maintaining the old buildings at Honeywood is always ongoing. The log house is in the final stages of a facelift and repairs. Our maintenance man, Mark, spent countless hours last summer filling holes and sealing the logs on the west and north sides of the house, and it looks amazing. Only the east side is left to complete,

then it will be good to go for a number of years.

Since we started holding a summer event at the nursery, we have used the 100 x 40 ft event tent as shelter from sun and rain. It takes a big crew and a lot of work to put up the tent and take it down for just a one-day event. We are looking into building a permanent structure to take its place. This would allow us to offer shelter for all our events plus have it available for weddings, family get togethers and anything else our friends and supporters would like to have at the nursery.

Of course, this shelter will require funds to get built, so we are looking at a number of options. One of them is to offer a tax receipt and a donor's recognition plaque on the back wall of the new building for anyone wishing to make a (value to be set) minimum donation to this project. We will explore other means, as well as looking into any grant money that might be available.

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 12:00 p.m. on April 11th, 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 rm497@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.

The Village of Debden invites applications for the Full-Time position of VILLAGE FOREMAN

The successful candidate will be responsible for the overall organization, day-to-day management, operations and maintenance of our Public Works and Utility Systems. The Foreman is expected to operate within approved policies, programs and budgets of the Village.

Requirements:

- Strong communication, organizational and record keeping skills;
- Self-motivated and be able to work independently;
- Must possess a valid Class 5 Drivers;
- Willing to obtain their Level 1 Water and Wastewater Certification (Grade 12 or equivalent will be required for this)

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
Closing Date: April 14, 2023 or when suitable applicant is selected.

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

PICK OF THE WEEK



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U.S. poised to threaten Canada's canola dominance

It is the nature of business that when something is doing well, everybody tends to jump in and eventually the market saturates and the good times level off to something where tighter margins are the rule.

That is particularly true in the business of farming.

When the prices of a particular crop move higher, it sends a signal that there is more demand than easily captured supply.

So naturally farmers move to supply that demand by increasing production.

Really, it's about as straight forward an example of supply and demand economics as there is.

So, it doesn't take a lot of economics understanding

to expect that there is significant interest in growing canola these days.

Through the years since its development, canola has often been referred to as 'The Cinderella Crop'. And over the last couple of years, the glass slipper has been shining more brightly than ever.

While the input costs on a canola crop are high, which heightens risk if something like lack of moisture pops up to reduce yields, the cash returns have been too large not to grow canola in most crop rotations – at least in areas where the crop can be grown successfully.

In Canada, producers planted 21 million acres of the oilseed in 2022, and the



CALVIN DANIELS

Canola Council has been pushing to see production increase, setting a goal of an average yield of 52 bu/ac to meet global market demand by 2025.

At present, if more canola has been 'wanted' by world markets, Canada has been the driving force in upping supplies to meet the added demand, since this country

is the primary growing region for canola.

For comparison, Australian farmers planted about 9 million acres in 2022, and growers in the U.S. harvested 2.2 million acres of canola last year.

But when prices are high and demand still appears to have room to grow, it's not only Canada where there are hopes to boost production.

A recent media report at www.producer.com noted, "Corteva Agriscience,

Bunge and Chevron U.S.A. Inc. have announced a collaboration to produce winter canola in the southern United States.

"Corteva believes there is potential to grow up to 10 million acres in that region within seven to nine years."

That is the sort of report that could be a game-changer in terms of canola production, and Canada's place in it.

Since canola's creation about 50 years ago, Canada has driven the canola bus,

and that has generally been of good benefit to Canadian growers and has led to significant industry infrastructure supporting Prairie economies.

But what happens 'when' – not 'if,' as research tends to succeed more often than not in the area of farm crops – the U.S. becomes a huge canola producer too?

The supply will take a huge jump and unless demand grows too, the glass slipper might have a crack or two starting to show.

Canwood groups donate to school

Submitted by DIANE JOHNSON

Representatives from the Canwood Elks Club and Canwood Minor Sports Association were pleased to make a donation of \$2,000 towards the purchase of new high jump mats for Canwood Public School.

This money was raised when Minor

Sports hosted the ball playoffs last summer at Canwood Regional Park. The Canwood Elks Club was in charge of the food booth, with the help of workers provided by Minor Sports.

The new mats have been purchased and are being appreciated and enjoyed by all the students.



Two Canwood organizations recently donated high jump mats to Canwood Public School. Pictured, from left to right: Courtney Hansen – secretary, Canwood Minor Sports, Sylvia Delisle – principal, Canwood Public School, and Richard Schwehr – Canwood Elks.

Shell Lake seniors celebrate birthdays, anniversaries

Submitted by DAVID JENSEN

On Monday March 27, 24 members of the Shell Lake Fifty Plus Club gathered to celebrated the birthdays and anniversaries for March and April. Considering that during the pandemic membership had dwindled to 22 members, it was great to see so many people out for the occasion.

When it became safer to gather, the club was determined to return to more usual activities. The club has resumed hosting its regular Kaiser Nights on Tuesday evenings. There has been a wonderful response from Shell Lake and from neighboring Spiritwood, including both seniors and those still

waiting to cross that prestigious threshold.

When it came time for the club's annual membership drive, the club was pleased to welcome its previous members plus an additional 30 members. During the cold winter months, club members have taken the opportunity to meet over lunch and get to know each other better.

It has been wonderful for all, but one particular group has taken things to heart, coming up with theme days such as wearing St. Patrick's Green, Hawaiian Wreath Day, Flowers in Your Hair Day, and Bow Tie Day.

The resurgence of the Club is Heart warming.



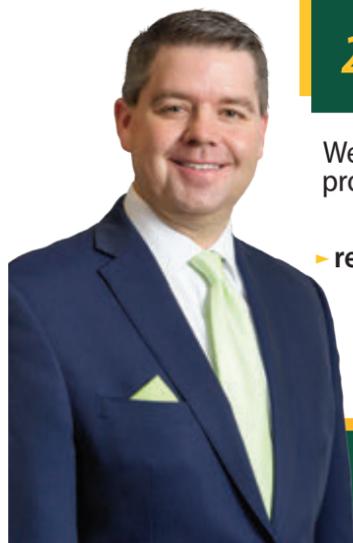
The Shell Lake 50 Plus Club's March/April birthday and anniversary celebrations. Back row: Brenda and Percy Waterhouse. Front row, left to right: Shirley Lamontagne, Gladys Simonar, and Barb Lutz. Missing: Wendy and Gary Panchuk, Marilyn McGown, and Gloria Skene.

2023-24 Saskatchewan Budget *Growth That Works For Everyone*

We are making record investments in our health care system to grow our workforce and strengthen the programs and services patients need in communities across our province. This year's investment of \$7.1 million overall will:

- ▶ recruit 250 full-time health care professionals and expand part-time positions across the province
- ▶ add 550 training seats in 18 health training programs
- ▶ fund 6,000 more surgeries, for a total of 103,000 this year

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

Grand Ole Opry makes musical comeback

Continued from 1

The 10th presenter was Bryan Heigh, who was on his third appearance on the Grand Ole Opry stage. He sang "Let the Cowboy Dance" and "Old Man and His Horn".

Finishing off the Friday night, Warren Schira performed the songs "Tulsa Time" and "Your Heart or Mine".

Saturday night came with more people in the crowd, as approximately 425 people came to watch the show.

John Roth, who was born and raised in Spiritwood and hasn't let age affect his ability to play, opened the show with "Blue Violet Waltz" and "Prairie Mountain Rag".

Another talented performer, Gilles Francoeur, followed on stage and was able to showcase the songs "Northland", which was written by Spiritwood Lions Club member Sonja Nielsen, and "Too Old to Die Young".

Up third on Saturday night was Nancy Caffet, who resides in Spiritwood. She performed the songs "Never Wanted to be that Girl" and "What Part of No".

Afterwards, Tara Welsh, a graduate from University of Saskatchewan currently in her 12th year of teaching in Hafford, performed "Today I Started Loving You Again" and "Blame it on Your Heart".

Later, Harlan Smith, who was glad to be singing on the stage that night, performed the songs "Ain't Livin Long Like

This" and his own rendition of "Blame it on Your Heart".

After the break, Patty Heisler, whose passion has always been music, came up on stage and performed the songs "Had a Dream" and "Help me Make it Through the Night".

She was followed by Heather Mann, who currently lives in Martensville with her lovely family and brings the joy of music to hundreds of students as she teaches elementary music in Martensville. That night, she was able to give the crowd joy as well, as she sang the songs "Snowbird" and "Something More".

Before proceeding to the eighth performer, the 50/50 winner was announced and the lucky winner was Vince Szabo.

Will Ballantayne, a traditional country and blue grass artist from Unity, took the stage next, performing "Forever and Ever Amen" and "Halfway Home Café".

Next in line was Jennifer Bamba, who was a country girl back in the Philippines and currently works at the senior lodge in Spiritwood. She sang the songs "Stand by Your Man" and "Living on Love".

The 10th performer of the night was Jeff Hujber, who is a co-owner of Hujber's Market on Main. Jeff sang the songs "Burning Love" and "Down on the Corner".

Finally, the last performer of the night is one of the Misdeal's Dennis Adams, who performed two numbers that got the crowd grooving to the music.



Emile Lamontagne.



Jennifer Epp.



Muriel Huskins.



Patrick Laughlin.



Marlene Rumak.



Brenda Aumack.



Cathy and Glenn Cherry.



Bryan Heigh.

R.M. OF SPIRITWOOD NO. 496 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Public Notice is hereby given that the Council of the Rural Municipality of Spiritwood No. 496 intends to alter the Zoning Bylaw, referred to as Bylaw. No. 4/2015.

INTENT OF ZONING BYLAW ALTERATIONS

The changes are summarized below.

Section 2: "Definitions"

- Added new definitions: "Conservation Management Areas, Grain Storage Yard, Market Garden, Storage Compound, Storage Facility.
- Revise "Building Floor Area" definition to reflect current definition of "Building Floor Area".

Section 3: "Administration and Interpretation"

Subsection 3.4: "Development Not Requiring a Permit"

- Revised to add agriculture operations where permitted, remove sea cans, where permitted and combine all developments not requiring a permit under one section.

Subsection 3.21: "Bylaw Compliance"

- Add clause that all permits issued shall be subject to the condition that the permit may be revoked at any time, if the use has not met the regulations and standards contained in the Bylaw, or the special conditions applied by Council at the time of approval.

Section 4: "General Regulations"

Subsection 4.18: "Frontage and Access"

- Add clause to regulate seasonal residential development where no all weather graded road exists.

Subsection 4.25: "Shipping containers (Sea Cans)"

- Add clauses to regulate use of shipping containers (sea cans) where permitted.

Section 5: "Discretionary Use Standards for Development"

- Revise the discretionary use standards for residential care homes, accessory agriculture residence and bed & breakfast home, vacation farms and animal kennels for clarity, interpretation & implementation.
- Revise the storage and servicing of vehicles & equipment in off-site commercial operations to include other commercial operations for clarity, interpretation and implementation.

Section 7: Agriculture Resource District

Subsection 7.1: "Permitted Uses"

- Revise the list of permitted uses for clarity, interpretation and implementation

Subsection 7.2: "Discretionary Uses"

- Revise the list of discretionary uses for clarity, interpretation and implementation

Subsection 7.4: "Subdivision and Site Regulations"

- Reduce the maximum site size for discretionary uses from 35 acres to 20 acres.

Subsection 7.6: "Supplemental Development Standards-Agriculture Use"

- Remove clauses 7.6.2 & 7.6.3 regulating the minimum site size for agriculture use.
- Revise site size for agriculture use provided that no resulting parcel of land is less than 40 acres.
- Revise standards for site size for an Intensive Livestock Operation.

Subsection 7.9

- Delete clause 7.6.9 which removes the time period of 2 years for aggregate extraction permits.

Section 10: Hamlet District"

Subsection 10.4 "Subdivision and Site Regulations"

- Reduce the minimum floor area of principal buildings to 300 sq. ft. to allow for tiny homes in Hamlets.

AFFECTED LANDS

All lands within the corporate limits of the Rural Municipality of Spiritwood No. 496 may hereby affected by the revisions. Please check the full version of the updated documents available for viewing at the RM Office.

REASON FOR ZONING BYLAW ALTERATIONS

The reason for the Zoning Bylaw alterations is to clarify regulations throughout the Zoning Bylaw to improve interpretation and implementation.

PUBLIC INSPECTION

Any person may inspect the bylaw at the RM of Spiritwood No. 496 office between 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. excluding statutory holidays. Copies are available at a cost.

PUBLIC HEARING

Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, May 9th, 2023 at 1:15 pm in the RM office located at 218 Main Street in the Town of Spiritwood to hear any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed bylaw amendment. Council will also consider written comments received by the undersigned by Thursday, May 4th, 2023.

Issued this 23rd day of March 2023

Colette Bussiere, CAO

RM of Spiritwood No. 496

Grand Ole Opry makes musical comeback



Warren Schira.



John Roth.



Gilles Francoeur.



Nancy Caffet.



Tara Welsh.



Harlan Smith.



Patty Heisler.



Heather Mann.



Will Ballantyne.



Jennifer Bamba.



Jeff Hujber.



Dennis Adams.

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.

CANWOOD: Canwood & District Health Services Co-operative Annual Meeting, Wednesday, April 12, 2023, 7 pm, Seniors Room - Elks Hall. Coffee & Dainties will be served. For more information, contact Sandi @ 306-961-5217.

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Feds table 2023-2024 budget

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland tabled the Liberal government's 2023-2024 budget last Tuesday, calling it a fiscally restrained approach to helping Canadians confront a once-in-a-lifetime affordability crisis.

The 250-page document pegs the federal deficit at \$40.1 billion for 2023-2024, almost \$10 billion higher than expected in last fall's economic update. The country's debt-to-GDP ratio, which compares what a country owes to what it produces, is also ticking slightly upward to 43.5 per cent this fiscal year, but is projected to trend downward for the next four years, reaching 39.9 per cent in 2027-2028.

Though the deficit is also expected to shrink over this same period, as the government looks to slash \$15.4 billion in un-

necessary expenses and find new revenue sources, the 2023-2024 budget abandons projections of a surplus by 2027-2028 and is instead projecting a \$14 billion deficit. No projection has been given for when Ottawa's books will return to balance.

Here are some of the budget highlights. The Tax-Free Home Savings Account, a key pillar of the 2022-2023 budget and the federal government's affordable housing strategy, comes into effect this year. The accounts will give first-time home buyers the chance to save up to \$40,000. Contributions will be tax-deductible and withdrawals to buy a first home will not be taxed. The program is expected to provide \$725 million in support over five years.

Beyond this, there's little to help address Canada's housing supply and affordability crunch, aside from a \$4 billion transfer to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to implement a co-developed Urban,

Rural, and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy.

This year's budget headline grabber has been the government's so-called "grocery rebate", which will put a one-time payment of \$467 into the pockets of the average Canadian family of four, and \$234 into the pockets of single Canadians. The program is an extended version of the existing GST rebate cheque program, which gives cash payouts to refund GST payments incurred by low-income Canadians, and is expected help as many as 11 million Canadians at a cost of about \$2.5 billion.

Aside from this, however, the budget's \$491 billion in projected expenses contain little else to directly or immediately address the impact of inflation on Canadians.

Rather than hold the line on the current excise tax on alcohol and spirits paid by brewers and distillers (and passed on to customers), which was set to increase by 6 per cent to keep pace with inflation, the government is capping the increase at 2 per cent.

The government is also planning to crack down on predatory lending by capping annual interest rates at 35 per cent (currently, loopholes allow for rates as high as 47 per cent). And in a move aimed at helping small businesses, Visa and Mastercard have committed to lower transaction fees by up to 27 per cent.

Though few details were released in the budget, the government is also looking to eliminate what it calls "junk fees", by working with the provinces and regulators on things like cellphone roaming fees, ticket fees, and excessive baggage fees.

At the same time, it's increasing the Air Travel Security Charge, a fee charged on every plane ticket, by nearly 33 per cent to help address the chaos travellers experienced at airports in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. That will bring the added fee on a one-way ticket within Canada to \$9.94, on a flight to the U.S. to \$16.89, and on a trip overseas to \$34.42.

Elsewhere, the budget promises to levy a two per cent tax on stock buybacks, to hike the "alternative minimum tax" to make the wealthier pay more, and to tax dividends received by financial institutions — three initiatives that are projected to raise \$11.6 billion over the next five years.

Building on the 2022-2023 budget's in-

roduction of a national dental care plan, the budget promises \$13-billion over the next five years to expand dental care to families earning less than \$90,000 a year. Though not mentioned in the budget, the federal government is also supposed to release a strategy for a national pharmacare program as part of its supply and confidence agreement with the NDP.

In other health-related items, the largest piece of this year's budget is the healthcare funding agreement reached earlier this year by Ottawa and the provinces and territories. It increases federal healthcare funding by \$196.1 billion over the next 10 years, provides \$46.2 billion in new funding, and also includes individualized deals with the provinces and territories to address their unique needs.

For Saskatchewan, the deal amounts to a one-time \$61-million investment to address immediate needs like emergency room and surgical wait times, and an additional \$111 million annually to the province's \$6.9 billion healthcare budget.

As for mental health and addictions, the budget promises \$158.4 million over three years to launch the 988 suicide prevention phone hotline, and \$359.2 million over five years to support a renewed Canadian Drugs and Substance Strategy, which includes new money to help prevent substance abuse and streamline the establishment of new supervised consumption sites.

Under the education umbrella, post-secondary students will see increases to financial assistance and measures to help them pay off their debt. This includes a 40 per cent increase to student grants, boosting the Canada Student Loan limit to \$300 weekly (from \$210), and waiving the requirement for mature students (classified as aged 22 years or older) to undergo credit screening to qualify for grants and loans for the first time.

Last but certainly not least, the 2023-2024 budget earmarks \$83 billion over the next decade for incentives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including tax credits for investments in clean electricity, clean-tech manufacturing, and hydrogen. These new incentives, which are intended to position Canada as a rival to the United States, join a suite of similar carbon capture and storage and clean-tech investments credits that were introduced in last year's budget.

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Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald

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. Canon David Butorac
306-961-1634
Minister's Warden:
306-922-5159
H.C. Service with Rev.
Butorac - 1st Sunday of the
month

MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH

Blaine Lake Gospel Chapel
109 Railway Ave. W.
Blaine Lake
306-497-3316
Sunday, 10:30 a.m.
Worship

EVANGELICAL FREE

Big River
11:00 a.m. - Worship
Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.
Summer: 10:30 a.m. - 12
306-469-2258
Youth Nite: Fridays
Mont Nebo
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 11 a.m.
St. Henry's - Leask
Mass - Sunday 9 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

PRAISE & WORSHIP

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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 Riek Martin

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

FIELDS OF HOPE (HOFFNUNGSFELDER)

MENNONITE CHURCH

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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

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Sat., 11:00 am - Worship

Broadcast on
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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

Blue Jays poised for contention

It was a pretty good offseason for the Toronto Blue Jays, who have their eyes set on improvement from 2022's 92-win season — the third-highest win total in baseball's American League behind the Yankees and Houston.

Even though last season ended abruptly for the Jays in a wildcard playoff loss to Seattle Mariners, the 2022 season gave fans hope that the team was on the rise. As the Jays' 47th season gets under way, the roster looks to be improved and fans across Canada can legitimately expect the Jays to not only contend for the American League East crown, but to perhaps win their first World Series since 1993.

While the Jays belted 200 home runs last year, third-highest total in the American League, their pitching was inconsistent. The 2021 breakthrough of right-handed pitcher Alek Manoah (9-2) was a bright spot and when he followed up with a 16-7 record in 2022, it solidified his role as the team ace.

But because a team

can never have enough pitching, the Jays signed free-agent right-hander Chris Bassitt to strengthen their staff. Bassitt will earn \$63 million over the next three years and join Manoah, Kevin Gausman, Jose Berrios, Yusei Kikuchi and Hyun Jin Ryu in one of the potentially strongest rotations in MLB.

The bullpen got an overhaul, too, with the addition of reliever Erik Swanson from the Mariners, who was 3-2 last year with a 1.68 earned-run average, 70 strikeouts and only 10 walks. His arrival came with a price, however — the loss of slugging all-star outfielder Teoscar Hernandez, who slugged 25 home runs in 2022. So what will offset the loss of all that power that was sent to Seattle? How about the addition of slugging outfielder Daulton Varsho, who crushed 27 home runs for Arizona last year. To acquire Varsho, the Jays gave up Lourdes Gurriel, Jr., and a prospect. Gurriel's offensive production dropped off



BRUCE
PENTON

substantially last season, as he hit only five home runs after swatting 21 the season before.

Overall, the Jays have championship potential. Bassitt's addition to the pitching staff makes it an MLB top-10 rotation, and offensively, with Varsho added to the batting order loaded with Vladimir Guerrero, Jr. George Springer, Bo Bichette and Matt Chapman, runs will be plentiful. Toronto also picked up acrobatic outfielder Kevin Kiermier, formerly of Tampa Bay, and longtime San Francisco Giant Brandon Belt, who will likely find himself in a DH role.

One other change Jays' fans will notice is in the broadcast booth. Veteran colour man Pat Taber was dumped by Sportsnet, a move that annoyed veteran play-by-play man Buck Martinez, who plans to return for the 2023 season. Dan Shulman will work all 81 of the Blue Jays' home games, and 25 or 30 on the road. Shulman, a Canadian, told ESPN he will no longer do radio games for the American network.

• Mike Bianchi of the Orlando Sentinel, on Twitter: "Did you see where the average price of a new car is almost \$50,000? Or as they say in the SEC: 'About the same amount as the NIL (Name, Image, Likeness) deal for Texas A&M's third-team long snapper.'"

• Radio sportscaster Mike Golic, Jr.: "I wonder if the influx of cash going to college football players will lead to better quality tattoos."

• Fark.com headline: "The war between (Knicks', Rangers' owner) James Dolan and the

State of New York escalates, as Dolan sues the state liquor board for threatening to take away the only thing that makes Knicks' and Rangers' games bearable."

• Legendary U.S. college basketball coach Lou Carnesecca, 98, asked how new St. John's University coach Rick Pitino's scandal-scarred professional and personal history lines up with the Catholic school's stated values: 'It's very simple. That's why we have confessions.'"

• Comedy writer Alex Kaseberg: "The Netflix golf documentary 'Full Swing' chronicled the human-rights-violating Saudi Arabia's new 'LIV Tour.' The LIV Tour is expected to be competitive unless ISIS opens a tour that pays more."

• Comedy writer Brad Dickson of Omaha: "I had a nightmare Creighton wins the NCAA Championship game and the next morning the big local sports story is: 'Husker Football Begins Third Week of Spring Practice.'"

• Columnist Mike Bi-

anchi again on the NBA Magic's poor season and its hopes for drafting highly touted Victor Wembanyama this summer: "And now it's time to 'Wither for Wembanyama!'"

• Bianchi again: "Now that Japan has beaten the United States in the World Baseball Classic, may I propose we challenge them to a rematch in the World Football Classic?"

• Headline at fark.com, after the Falcons' defensive tackle Eddie Goldman 'unretired': "Retired NFL player comes back after realizing having a regular job really sucks."

• fark.com again: "Packers send out season ticket invoices while still unsure if they will be fielding the Ashwaubenon High School JV team next season."

• Found in Phil Mushnick's New York Post column: "As the door in old Tigers Stadium read, 'Visitors Clubhouse, No Visitors.'"

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Sask. eyes healthcare wait time solutions

By JORDAN TWISS

Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

As Saskatchewan continues to grapple with shortages of family physicians and frontline healthcare workers, the Sask. Party government has introduced new legislation to fill the gaps in care with licensed physician assistants.

Physician assistants are health professionals who have taken additional advanced training at one of the recognized programs in Canada. They practice medicine under the supervision of a licensed physician, often within a multidisciplinary health team.

Across Canada, physician assistants are mostly used in primary care, long-term care, emergency medicine, cancer care, general internal medicine, and surgical specialties. Some of their key duties include conducting patient examinations, prescribing medications, and ordering and interpreting tests.

The government says the introduction of this new role will add more skilled professionals to the provincial health system to help address the demand for health human resources and provide a team-based approach to healthcare.

The Medical Profession Amendment Act, 2023, which was introduced last week in the Saskatchewan legislature, will regulate physician assistants under the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan and establish the scope of practice for the new profession.

"Licensing and integrating physician assistants into our healthcare teams

will help meet the healthcare needs of Saskatchewan people," Health Minister Paul Merriman said in a statement. "We are making key investments in 2023-24 to recruit, train, incentivize, and retain more healthcare workers, including physicians, nurses, and other health professionals."

The government says the anticipated benefits to Saskatchewan patients include reductions in wait times, improvements in patient discharge rates, and a continued decrease in length of hospital stays. Physician assistants will also reduce resident and physician workload, allowing healthcare professionals the ability to see more patients in a timely manner.

The Medical Profession Amendment Act, 2023 supports a \$1.3 million investment in the 2023-24 provincial budget to create 12 physician assistant positions across the healthcare system for the first time.

This initiative is part of the Government of Saskatchewan's nearly \$100 million investment to support the Health Human Resource Action Plan and continue to recruit, train, incentivize and retain more nurses, doctors, laboratory technicians and other healthcare workers.

Leading up to the introduction of The Medical Profession Amendment Act, 2023, the Ministry of Health says it consulted with key stakeholders, including the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan Medical Association, and the Canadian Association of Physician Assistants.

Speaking to reporters following the introduction of the legislation last week, NDP Healthcare Critic Vicki Mowat said a system of team-based healthcare is what physicians in the province have long been calling for.

"That could include physician assistants, in can also include nurse practitioners, it can include all members of the healthcare team," she said.

She adds, however, that important questions remain about how the legislation will be put into operation in the province.

"Who are these folks that are physician assistants? Where are they coming from? Because we don't train physician assistants in this province. What does the licensing look like?" she asked.

The legislation will come into force upon proclamation.

At the same time that it's hoping to add physician assistants to the province's healthcare roster, the Sask. Party government is also looking to recruit and retain more physicians in rural Saskatchewan.

To this end, it's boosting the Rural Physician Incentive Program to offer up to \$200,000 over five years.

The change to the program took effect on April 1, and marks a more than 400 per cent increase over the program's current maximum total of \$47,000 over four years.

Eligibility for the incentive is also expanding beyond new graduates, and will now include physicians practicing in rural and northern communities who have been assessed through the Saskatchewan International Physician

Practice Assessment Program (SIPPA).

Finally in a bid to reduce surgical wait times to pre-pandemic levels by March 2024, the province has committed to spend up to \$6 million to transfer Saskatchewan residents out of province for hip and knee surgeries through an agreement with Calgary-based private healthcare centre Canadian Surgical Solutions.

While the province will pay for the actual surgery, patients will have to pay to get themselves to Calgary and for their accommodations. Health Minister Paul Merriman says the out-of-province surgical partnership began at the end of March and will accommodate a total of 240 surgeries at a rate of up to 20 procedures per month.

Eligible patients who have been waiting the longest will be contacted directly by the Saskatchewan Health Authority for a screening process and to confirm interest in the program. To safely undergo these procedures outside of a hospital setting, patients must be assessed as low risk.

In a statement, CUPE Local 5430, Saskatchewan's largest health-care union, criticized the move as a shift toward further privatization of the province's healthcare system.

"Contracting out surgeries is not a silver bullet for wait times. It is a costly scheme with little evidence it will reduce overall wait times," said Bashir Jalloh, president of CUPE 5430. "If the Sask. Party government can afford to ship people out of province for surgeries, they can afford to invest in public solutions."

OBITUARIES

Norman Gilbert Colley



(Joanne) Colley, Gail (Doug) Franson, his grandchildren and great grandchildren: Kelly (Kari) Millar - Jaret, Baillie, and Leia, Scott (Brittani) Colley - Harper and Hennessy, Shirley (Sheridan) Lehoullier - Saydee, Surree, Sayge, and Kolt, Shane (Pascale) Colley - Dominic and Jax and Dyllan Franson (Taylor), his sisters: Louise Haubold and Dorothy Hamm and his sister-in-law: Vivian Colley also numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

He is predeceased by: his infant son on November 3, 1959, his grandson: Derryk Franson, his parents:

Nelson and Mary Colley, his brother: Nelson "George" Colley, his brothers-in-law: Eric Haubold and Roy Hamm and his parents-in-law: Adrian and Mary Heyden.

A funeral service was held on Monday, March 20, 2023, at 2:00 pm in the Medstead Community Hall, Medstead, SK with Pastor Rick Martin officiating. The eulogy was given by Shirley Lehoullier, the music was provided by Pastor Rick Martin and Patty Heisler.

Honorary pallbearers are considered "All those who shared in Norman's life."

The active pallbearers were Kelly Millar,

Shirley Lehoullier, Dyllan Franson, Scott Colley, Shane Colley and Doug Franson.

Norman's final resting place is in the Medstead Lutheran Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to the Medstead Lutheran Cemetery in memory of Norman Colley 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.

Patricia (Pat) Headrick



Jacobs.

She is survived by her husband Garry; son Scott; daughter Shannon (Jody); sisters Gail (Dick) and Morna; grandchildren Cameron (Brie), Jessica and Alyssa; and many nieces, nephews, cousins and family members.

To name a few, Pat loved her family and friends, golf, travel, camping and all of nature's creations. Her six grand-puppies were also very special to her.

A celebration of Pat's life will be held at a later date. Donations in memory of Pat in lieu of flowers may be made to the Vasculitis Foundation Canada (www.vasculitis.ca) for the research of microscopic polyangitis (MPA).

It is with great sadness we announce the passing of Patricia (Pat) Headrick, 75 years, of Sherwood Park, Alberta, who passed away on March 25, 2023 in the University of Alberta Hospital surrounded by family. Born in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, she was a daughter of the late Ernie and Inez

Reginald Miners



crossings around Shellbrook during the 1955-1956 winter. He worked for Frank Harsney the following spring where he met our mother, Margaret. Reg was employed with Potts Construction for the next twelve years. This job took him to many locations building railway beds, landscaping, working at dams and highways until 1968. In the spring of 1968 Reg and Margaret bought cattle and went farming at the Harsney farm. Reg took out logs and built a pig barn as well as growing the cattle herd. Not being one for travel Reg was more comfortable visiting at coffee row or an auction sale.

After Margaret passed away in 2003, he spent a lot more time fishing. He also could be found playing cards at the seniors center or attending the live music sessions at Arnies Grill.

Reg kept chickens and sold eggs until 2014. He made many, many trips to the forest for firewood in later years with grandson Kyle. After a hospital stay in 2019, Reg moved to the Parkland Integrated Health Centre in Shellbrook into the Long-Term Care. There he enjoyed activities

arranged by recreation staff especially bus trips into the country. Reg passed away February 10, 2023, with family by his side.

Reg is lovingly remembered by his children: **Ken** (Meriam) Miners of Shellbrook, SK and son: Kyle Miners; **Karen** (Neil) Lukan of Middle Lake, SK and family: Marcus (Heather) LeComte and family, Krystal (Chris) Stadnyk and family; **Arlene** (Cameron) Scott of Prince Albert, SK and family: Connor (Adeline) Scott and family, and Mackenzie Scott; as well as 5 great grandchildren; his brother-in-law: David Kingsland; his sisters-in-law: Irene Reilly and Mary Palfy; and numerous nephews, nieces, other relatives, and friends.

Reg was predeceased by his wife: Margaret Miners; his son: Kevin Miners; his grandson: Matthew Le Comte; his parents: Reginald George and Mariah Miners (née Adsett); his siblings: Ruth (George) Nelson, Edna (Robert) Fines, Evelyn (Ernest) Vandale, Doris Gariepy, Nora Cook, and Florence Miners; his mother and father-in-law: Frank and

Magdalene Harsney; his brothers and sisters-in-law: Elvena (Stan) Zawada, Matilda (Larry) Niedzielski, Gordon Reilly, Bob Palfy, and Frank Harsney Jr. (Helen).

There was Memorial Service held for Reg on Friday, March 24, 2023, at 2:00 pm from the St. Andrew's Anglican Church in Shellbrook, SK with Reverend Wendell Brock officiating. Karen, Ken, and Arlene shared memories of their father Reg, while special music was shared by Wilf & Irene Savisky and Adeline Scott.

Reg will be laid to rest in the Prince Albert Memorial Gardens at a later date.

In lieu of tributes, memorial donations may be made in memory of Reg to the Shellbrook & Districts Health Services Foundation - Long Term Care / Recreation Dept.

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.

GOOD NEWS

ONE NEVER KNOWS

By DAVE BODVARSON
Shellbrook Pentecostal Assembly

I have lived through some winters. Growing up in the North, it seemed once winter came, it set in. Things may have changed since. I think because of that, my favourite time of year is spring.

In a spiritual sense, you may be going through a "winter season." For those who are, you may find the following testimony encouraging.

I read of a grandmother during a family reunion, who woke everyone one at 2 a.m. issuing orders to get empty pop bottles, corks, and paper. "I've received a message from God," she said. "People must hear His word."

She wrote verses on the paper, while the grandchildren bottled and corked them. Then, everyone deposited over 200 bottles into ocean.

People actually contacted this grandmother and thanked her for the Scriptures throughout the years. She died in November 1974. The next month, the last letter arrived it said;

"Dear Mrs. Gause,

I'm writing this letter by candlelight. We no longer have electricity on the farm. My husband was killed in the fall when the tractor overturned. He left 11 young children and myself behind. The bank is foreclosing, there's one loaf of bread left, there's snow on the ground. Christmas is two weeks away. I prayed for forgiveness before I went to drown myself. The river has been frozen over for weeks, so I didn't think it would take long. When I broke the ice, a Coke bottle floated up. I opened it, and with tears and trembling hands, I read about hope. Ecclesiastes 9:4 'But for him who is joined to all the living there is hope...' Hebrews 7:19 and 6:18; and John 3:3 were also referenced. I came home, read my Bible, and am thanking God. Please pray for us, but we're going to make it now." - signed "A farm in Ohio."

Someone said "How did that bottle get from Cocoa Beach, Florida, to a River in Ohio? God's angelic bottle patrol."

One never knows what can happen. Just keep casting seeds of God's Word. It may be just the thing to lift your spirit as you work through your winter season.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the estate of Reginald Miners, late of Shellbrook, Saskatchewan, deceased. All claims against the above estate, duly verified by statutory declaration and with particulars and valuation of security held, if any, must be sent to the undersigned before June 1, 2023.
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Minutes of a Shell Lake council meeting

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

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Council of the Village of Shell Lake in the Province of Saskatchewan held on Monday, Feb. 13, 2023, at 9 a.m. in the Village Council Chambers.

Present: Mayor Anita Weiers, Councillor Greg Ardagh, Councillor Joe Delisle, Councillor Al Sulymka, Councillor Dillan Simonar, and Tara Bueckert, Administrator.

A quorum was present and Mayor Anita Weiers called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Delisle: That the agenda be accepted with the following additions: Erickson Property, Lease Agreement, Windows. Carried

Sulymka: That the minutes of the Jan. 16, 2023, meeting be adopted as presented. Carried

Ardagh: That the special minutes of the Jan. 25, 2023, meeting be adopted as presented. Carried

Sulymka: That the Village will pay the \$500 to rewrite test providing JM stays for one (1) year. If not, then he reimburses. Carried

Delisle: That Council approve the presented Bank Statement for the month of January as presented. Carried

Delisle: That Council approve the presented Financial Statement Summary for month of January as presented. Carried

Simonar: That Council approve the list of accounts presented cheque number 6472-6492 and the manual online payment in the amount of \$33,073.19. Carried

Sulymka: That the verbal Maintenance, Administrator, Mayor, and

Water reports be filed as presented. Carried

Correspondence: Paras Patel, no to opening a second Cannabis Store.

Sulymka: That the correspondence be filed.

Simonar: The Council of the Village of Shell Lake confirms the municipality now meets the following eligibility requirements to receive the Municipal Revenue Sharing Grant: Submission of the 2021 Audited Financial Statement to the Ministry of Government Relations.

And, That we authorize the Administrator to send a letter to the Ministry of Government Relations acknowledging the municipality now meets all eligibility requirements to receive their Municipal revenue Sharing Grant. Carried

Ardagh: That we pay \$40 to C. Morris for taking dog to the SPCA in Prince Albert. Carried

Simonar: That under the Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act, Council appoints BuildTECH Consulting & Inspections Inc. as the 2023 Building Officials for the Village of Shell Lake. Carried

Delisle: That the 2021 Draft Financial Statement be approved and that no subsequent events have occurred that would affect these statements and no unrecorded contingencies have been identified. Carried

Sulymka: That we invest \$90,000.00 from sewer savings into a redeemable account, and that we invest \$100,00.00 from high interest into a redeemable account, and that we invest \$50,000 from hauled lagoon into a redeemable account. Carried

Sulymka: That we sell Lot 7 Block 11 Plan # 102254374 for \$20,000. Carried

Sulymka: That we sell Lots 1 to 4, Block 11, Plan # for a price of \$17,500. Carried

Simonar: That we designate houses only be built on Lots 1 to 4, Block 11, Plan # and Lot 7 Block 11 Plan # 102254374. Carried

Ardagh: That we replace two windows on the South side of office building and that we replace the two basement windows. Carried

Sulymka: That we raise the garbage rate to \$140. Carried

Delegation: RCMP attended the meeting from 11:03 a.m. to 11:31 a.m.

Weiers: That the meeting be adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

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Minutes of an RM of Shellbrook meeting

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

Minutes of a regular meeting of Council of the Rural Municipality of Shellbrook No. 493 held on Friday, Feb. 10, 2022, in the Municipal Office Council Chambers at Shellbrook, Sask.

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

Delegations:

10 a.m.: Justin Muirhead road allowance concerns.

11 a.m.: Foreman Bill Aug update on municipal activities.

Reeve Oleksyn called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m.

Ferster: That the following items be added to the Agenda: North Central Transportation Planning Committee. Carried

Skauge: That the Agenda be adopted as amended. Carried

Skauge: That the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council on Jan. 6, 2023, be amended as follows: Motion O11.01.23 - Change Beaver Control limits from 20 to 25 Beaver at \$25 per Beaver. Carried

Strube: That the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Coun-

cil on Jan. 6, 2023, be approved as amended. Carried

Joelson: That the Statement of Financial Activities for the month of January 2023 be approved, as presented. Carried

Skauge: That the bank reconciliation for the month of December 2022 be approved as presented. Carried

Ferster: That the accounts payable dated Feb. 1, 2023, as attached hereto and forming part of these Minutes, being regular cheque numbers 13248 to 13310 in the amount of \$218,607.16 and payroll cheque numbers 14429 to 14444 in the amount of \$35,493.03 be approved. Carried

Ten Bos: That the Administrators Report for the month February 2023 be accepted as presented. Carried

Skauge: That with the approval of the Town of Shellbrook, that the Yellow Ford F-600 Tanker Truck be sent to auction. Carried

Strube: That the recommendation from District 33 Rat Board Treasurer to disperse the remaining \$7,106.19 in the Rat Board bank account equally between the 5 municipalities and close the account. Carried

Joelson: That the request from the Town of Shellbrook to share the cost of a push button crosswalk at the junction of Highway 55 and 3 be de-

nied. Carried

Ferster: That Motion 322.11.22 adopting Bylaw 2022-05, being a Bylaw to amend Bylaw No. 04-2019 A Bylaw Respecting Buildings be rescinded due to references to former legislation The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act which is no longer in force. Carried

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

Ferster: That a monthly allowance of \$50 be given to Assistant Foreman Todd Lande for the use of his personal cellular phone for municipal business. Carried

Ferster: That the motor in the Terex Scraper be replaced with an exchange from Korpan Tractor. Carried

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

Skauge: That Bylaw 2023-01, being a Bylaw to amend Bylaw No. 04-2019 A Bylaw Respecting Buildings, be given first reading. Carried (*Editor's note: the bylaw was unanimously given three readings at the meeting.*)

Skauge: That Bylaw 2023-01, being a Bylaw to amend Bylaw No. 04-2019 A Bylaw Respecting Buildings as annexed hereto and forming a part of these minutes be read a

third time. Further this Bylaw be now adopted, sealed and signed by Reeve and Administrator. Carried

Ferster: That the Council of the RM of Shellbrook No. 493 agrees to approve the proposed subdivision application for subdivision LS 9 SEC-24-50-03-W3, and will forward a response to the Community Planning Branch, Ministry of Government Relations as follows;

1. No: there are no land uses in the vicinity that would be incompatible with the intended use of the proposed site.
2. No: there are no facilities that could be affected by the proposed development.
3. No: there are no further requirements of the applicant. Carried

Hamel: That Division 1 Councilor Cliff Skauge replace Division 2 Councilor Phil Hamel as Rural Municipality of Shellbrook No. 493 representative on The Prince Albert Rural Water Utility Board. Carried

Ten Bos: That the following Inventory lists dated Dec. 31, 2022, be approved for the 2022 Audit: Culverts: \$5,569.05, Pest Control products: \$2,560.70, Gravel: \$522,699.77. Carried

Joelson: That a letter of support be sent to help aid in The

Sturgeon Lake First Nations GICB Grant application for a new Community Recreation Center. Carried

Skauge: That the municipality has no interests that would be affected by SaskEnergy's proposed natural gas line on NW-15-49-03-W3. Carried

Skauge: That invoice 15068 from Wapiti Regional Library in the amount of \$14,005.28 for the first installment of the 2023 Grant be approved. Carried

Joelson: That, the time being 1:57 p.m., Council close a portion of this meeting to the public to go in camera under the authority of Part III of The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, to discuss Human Resources issues, the public gallery be vacated and those present for this closed session be Reeve Doug Oleksyn, Deputy Reeve Derwin Joelson and Councillors Cliff Skauge, Phil Hamel, Christine Strube, Jay Ferster, and Ivan Ten Bos. Carried

Skauge: That, the time being 2:18 p.m., Council go out of camera and invite Administrator Duane Storey and the public back into the Council Meeting. Carried

Skauge: That the Correspondence be received and filed. Carried

Joelson: That the meeting be adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Spring flowering perennials – Part II

By SARA WILLIAMS

If you want early spring bloom and you garden in the shade, three species of primroses (*Primula*) and five species of Solomon's seal (*Polygonatum*) have proven rock hardy on the Canadian prairies. Try them!

Primroses (*Primula* spp.)

It's hard to imagine a prairie spring without primroses. There are over four hundred species but only a handful flourish in our northern gardens. The genus name is from the Latin *primus*, meaning first, referring to its early spring flowers. All primroses do best in shade in evenly moist but well-drained soil well amended with organic matter. Among the hardy and long-lived species that have graced prairie gardens for years are *Primula auricula*, *P. cortusoides* and *P. veris*.

The dusty miller primrose (*P. auricula*) gets its common name from the white farina or flour-like substance that is found on its foliage that looks like the apron of a miller. *Auricula* means resembling an ear; the leaves were said to resemble a bear's ear.

Native to the Carpathian Mountains and Austrian Alps, *auricula* primroses reached their peak of popularity in England during the Queen Victoria's reign. They were the prima donna of parlour or conservatory plants, hundreds of new varieties were developed, and they were exhibited at shows with keen competition.

About 30 cm (1 ft) in height, the foliage is formed in a rosette of thick, grey-green, evergreen, basal leaves that are

rounded to oval, with or without farina. The species has yellow flowers, but the colour range has been expanded to include blue, purple, pink, red, wine, and salmon, often with a contrasting white or yellow central "eye."

Although one of the most sun-tolerant of the primroses, they are best suited to a shade garden, stream-side plantings, or a shaded portion of a rock garden. Divide them in spring immediately after flowering.

The Siberian or cortusa primrose (*P. cortusoides*) has delicate umbels of pink flowers on stems of 15 to 25 cm (6-10 in.). The crinkled, light green foliage lends it a delicate appearance, but it is hardy and long-lived. Native to the forests of the Ural and Altai mountains, it has been cultivated in England since 1794. It can be propagated by careful division. It also self-seeds (but with restraint).

The English cowslip (*P. veris*) is native to the meadows of Europe, including England, as well as those of Asia. *Veris* means of spring, when it blooms. The common name is more earthy and reflects the fact that it was often found emerging from cow dung in meadows. Only 20 to 25 cm (8-10 in.) high, the upright stems of the species produce lemon yellow, nodding blooms in one-sided, many-flowered umbels. The oval to oblong leaves are light green.

Solomon's seal (*Polygonatum* spp.)

The common name, derived

from the circular sunken scars left on the rootstock after the leaf stalks die—is said to resemble the signet ring worn by King Solomon. An alternative explanation, offered by Gerard in his *Herbal*, suggests that the dried powdered roots sealed wounds and healed bruises. *Polygonatum*, is from the Greek polys, meaning many, and gony, meaning knee, describing the jointed rhizomes of the roots. Although sometimes slow to establish, these are long-lived, low-maintenance plants.

Ranging in height from 20 cm up to 2 m (8 in.-6 ft), with graceful, unbranched, arching stems, the pendulous, one-sided, creamy-greenish flowers develop from the leaf nodes. Dark, blue-black berries follow.

They do best in shade in evenly moist soil well amended with organic matter. Place them in a shaded border or woodland garden. Increase by spring division after flowering, including at least one bud per division.



Dusty Miller primrose (*Primula auricula*). Photo Credit: Sara Williams

Small Solomon's seal (*P. biflorum*) is native to eastern and central North America, 60 to 90 cm (24-36 in.) in height, with greenish-white flowers, usually in pairs.

Giant Solomon's seal (*P. biflorum* var. *commutatum*) is also native to North America, including Manitoba. The tallest of our Solomon's seals, the stems range from 60 cm (2 ft) to 2 m (over 6 ft) with large, greenish flowers.

Dwarf Solomon's seal (*P. humile*), only 10 to 20 cm (4-8 in.) in height, produces solitary, greenish-white flowers and is excellent as a ground cover. It is native to Japan and Korea.

Garden Solomon's seal (*P. x hybridum*) is about 90 cm (3 ft) high with flowers in groups of four.

Common Solomon's seal (*P. odoratum*) is native to the deciduous woodlands of Europe and Asia. The pendulous, white flowers, greenish at their apex, are usually in groups of three to five on distinctly angled, arching stems of about 60 cm (2 ft).

Sara Williams is the author and coauthor of many books including *Creating the Prairie Xeriscape*, *Gardening Naturally with Hugh Skinner* and, with Bob Bors, the recently published *Growing Fruit in Northern Gardens*. She continues to give workshops on a wide range of gardening topics throughout the prairies.

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