



SARCS brings disc golf to Spiritwood



With the help of grant funding, Spiritwood's SAD SAAC Park is now home to a five-hole disc golf course.

By BEVRA FEE
Spiritwood Herald Reporter

The sport of disc golf has been gaining in popularity over recent years, a fact not unnoticed by the volunteer board of Spiritwood Area Recreation, Culture & Sport (SARCS).

Disc golf discussion has been hitting the board table for the past two years, so when an opportunity for grant funding to help establish the sport

in Spiritwood became available, Sue Kahl, SARCS's events & facility assistant, pursued the dollars. With a grant from 2023 Framework in Action (Sask Parks & Rec), five disc golf holes and four sets of discs were purchased and installed at SAD SAAC Park.

Disc golf is set up similar to a golf game, with a round being played on a course that typically consists of 6, 9, 12 or 18 "holes." Each course is unique, and different discs are utilized to ad-

vance through the game, much the same as different clubs are used for a regular golf game.

"There are rules on the back of each of the hole signs at our course, just to give beginners an idea how to play when they are getting started," comments Kahl. "Regular players have their own set of discs, but for those who are travelling through or who don't have discs, we have a few sets to lend out."

The discs are available through the Rec Centre with a small refundable deposit.

Once the course is fully established and seeing regular users, opportunity for expanding to 9 or 12 holes will be evaluated. With plenty of open green space at SAD SAAC Park on the north edge of Spiritwood, Kahl notes that there is potential for tournaments and a structured league if there is enough uptake and demand.

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Supports continue for local healthcare workers

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

As across-the-board staffing shortages strain Saskatchewan's healthcare system, the Parkland Physician Recruitment and Retention Committee is continuing to offer a suite of incentives to draw healthcare professionals to Shellbrook and ease the burden on Parkland Integrated Health Centre and the Shellbrook Primary Health Care Clinic.

The latest round of incentives, in the form of settling assistance cheques, was recently handed out by Shellbrook Mayor Amund Otterson, who welcomed four healthcare workers to the community on behalf of the committee.

Among the recipients was licensed practical nurse (LPN) Jenny Rabbitskin, continuing care aide Abdul Olanite, and registered nurse Hillary Brown, who each received settling assistance of \$3,000, and Parkland Integrated Health Centre's manager of health services Milan Mijatovic, who was given

\$6,000.

"The main objective is to provide a welcome to Shellbrook. It's settling assistance aimed at housing, commuting, and childcare," Mayor Otterson said, noting that the committee doesn't place any restrictions on what the funds can be used for.

"It's not a lot. But it's being used at the nursing and continuing care aide level to attract people, and it has worked," Otterson added, based on his conversations with some recipients.

For years, the Parkland Physician Recruitment and Retention Committee only offered financial incentives to attract and retain physicians, as persistent physician shortages made it hard for residents of Shellbrook and area to see a doctor when they needed one. These incentives included a three-year return of service agreement, to ensure some consistency in the local healthcare system.

Starting at the end of 2015, however, it was nursing positions that were proving most difficult to fill at Parkland Integrated Health Centre. And for much of 2016 and 2017, the health centre reduced the number of available acute care beds by as much as 50 per cent (down to 10 from 20) and faced frequent emergency room disruptions, even as the then-Prince Albert Parkland Health Region tried to fill staffing gaps with contract nurses.

This, and concerns brought forward by physicians, prompted the Parkland Physician Recruitment and Retention Committee to expand its purview and begin offering recruitment and retention incentives to RNs, LPNs, continuing care aides, and lab technicians. The first cheques for settling assistance and preceptorship bursaries (programs where medical students train under

licensed professionals) started going out in September of 2016.

"The nurses are fundamental; without them, you don't have an ER," Mayor Otterson said. "They're the heart and soul of that operation."

More recently, the Shellbrook & District Health Services Foundation added to the pool of incentives for local healthcare workers by funding a bursary for medical office assistant training. Mayor Otterson says this training is now required by CUPE, even for those who have been working at the clinic or the health centre for a long time.

"They can attract people to work, but they don't necessarily have the two-year

certificate. If they don't, they have to commit to taking the classes or they won't have a job in two years," Mayor Otterson said, noting that the courses are fairly expensive.

Looking at the current healthcare picture in Shellbrook, the roster of physicians at the Shellbrook Primary Health Care Clinic is holding steady at nine, with one physician set to leave at the end of August and another expected to arrive some time in September.

The clinic and health centre are also holding steady where medical office assistants are concerned, but Otterson says nurses remain a challenge.

"For nurses and continuing care aides, it's tight. We need more people there."



Shellbrook Mayor Amund Otterson presents a settling assistance cheque to continuing care aide Abdul Olanite.



Shellbrook Mayor Amund Otterson presents a settling assistance cheque to RN Hillary Brown.



Shellbrook Mayor Amund Otterson presents a settling assistance cheque to Milan Mijatovic, manager of health services at Parkland Integrated Health Centre.

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Shellbrook Mayor Amund Otterson presents a settling assistance cheque to LPN Jenny Rabbitskin.

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Village of Canwood
PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

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Note: A sum for costs in an amount required by subsection 4(3) of *The Tax Enforcement Act* is included in the amount shown against each parcel.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY						
Lot	Block	Plan	Title No.	Total Arrears	Advertising Costs	Total Arrears and Costs
20	1	Y3516 Ext 0	136321961	\$ 1,593.27	\$ 35.00	\$ 1,628.27
8-9	3	Y3516 Ext 0	150280769	\$ 2,160.20	\$ 35.00	\$ 2,195.20
23	4	Y3516 Ext 0	151294598	\$ 1,708.19	\$ 35.00	\$ 1,743.19
21	6	AF702	123564797	\$ 1,384.17	\$ 35.00	\$ 1,419.17
11	7	CJ1418 Ext 0	117305478	\$ 1,449.70	\$ 35.00	\$ 1,484.70
8	9	CQ1619 Ext 0	149531609	\$ 1,065.22	\$ 35.00	\$ 1,100.22
2	11	CW2416 Ext 0	141036577	\$ 1,158.39	\$ 35.00	\$ 1,193.39
2A	14	102220153 Ext 0	148107775	\$ 1,161.41	\$ 35.00	\$ 1,196.41
03-04	H	75PA18126 Ext 0	142939457	\$ 1,592.98	\$ 35.00	\$ 1,627.98
J		CJ1418 Ext 0	135747344	\$ 1,249.14	\$ 35.00	\$ 1,284.14
10	14	101850786 Ext 0	155111992	\$ 1,707.07	\$ 35.00	\$ 1,742.07

Dated this 18th day of July, 2023.
Carmen Jean, Administrator

PUBLIC NOTICE
Rural Municipality of Big River No. 555

Public Notice is hereby given that the Council of the RM of Big River No. 555 intends to adopt a bylaw pursuant to Section 207 of the *Planning and Development Act*, 2007 to amend Bylaw No. 23-01-02 known as the Zoning Bylaw.

INTENT/ REASON
To correct typographical errors and to correct the development appeal fee.

PUBLIC INSPECTION
Any person may inspect the bylaw at the RM Office on any judicial day between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Copies are available upon request.

PUBLIC HEARING
Council will hold a public hearing on August 14th, 2023, in the Big River Community Centre at 606 First Street North, Big River, SK at 10:00 a.m. Council will also consider written comments received at the hearing or delivered to the undersigned at the municipal office before the hearing.

Issued at Big River this 20th day of July 2023.
Michael Yuzik
Chief Administrative Officer

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SCAN ME

Shellbrook Kinettes train new babysitters

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Shellbrook has no shortage of babysitters this summer, thanks to the Shellbrook Kinettes' annual Babysitting and Home Alone courses.

Planned by Kinettes Melissa Moe, Gayle Draper, and Tara Lenz, and instructed by Tracey Beaven (Babysitting) and Kelly Herndier (Home Alone), the courses were both held at WP Sandin High School on May 27, commencing at 9 a.m.

"The Kinettes Club offers this as a service as we feel it's important to support the community in as many ways as we can," Shellbrook Kinettes Kat Mackin-Smith said. "We think it is important that kids who are staying home alone are as prepared for emergencies as they can be. The course is designed to give kids the confidence they need to stay home."

In addition to the wisdom imparted by the Kinettes, kids registered in both courses also learned the basics of fire safety from first responder Al Dion, and received first aid instruction from registered nurse Lynne Farthing. Kids are also provided with first aid kits and babysitter/home alone kits that include games, crayons, books, toys, puzzles, and more.

While the information shared through the courses is important, kids looking to become babysitters are asked to put what they've learned into practice by completing a babysitting practicum and writing an exam.

This year's crop of hopefuls wrote their exams on June 14, and the results were largely positive, meaning Shellbrook now has more than 25 new babysitters and 25 Home Alone course graduates.

"The kids who attended all had a great sense of pride in completing their courses.

It gives them a sense of responsibility, and our hope is that translates into accountability when they are home alone or babysitting," Mackin-Smith said.

"We want our community to be safe and that includes ensuring our youth have the knowledge and basic skills to care for other children, and themselves."

RCMP news highlights

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

On Tuesday, July 11, at approximately 11:40 p.m., the Ahtahkakoop-Shellbrook RCMP Detachment received a report of a collision involving a pedestrian on Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation.

Officers and EMS immediately responded and located an injured adult male, who was later declared deceased by EMS at the scene. Through their initial investigation, officers determined the male was struck by a vehicle.

Though his name has not been released to the public, the male has been identified as a 25-year-old from Debden. His family has been notified.

Investigation into the circumstances of the collision continues and the Ahtahkakoop-Shellbrook RCMP Detachment asks anyone with information to con-

tact them at 306-780-5461. Information can also be submitted anonymously by contacting Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or www.saskcrimestoppers.com.

Witchekan Lake FN death

On Saturday, July 15, at approximately 5:41 p.m., the Spiritwood RCMP Detachment, along with local EMS, responded to a report of an assault of a 38-year-old male at a residence on Witchekan Lake First Nation.

The male was declared deceased on scene. Though his name has not been released to the public, his family has been notified and Victim Services has been engaged to provide support.

Due to the nature of the circumstances of the male victim's death, Saskatchewan RCMP Major Crimes was engaged and assumed command of the investigation. Based on preliminary

information gathered, the death was considered to be suspicious.

The Saskatchewan Coroners Service and the North Battleford RCMP Forensic Identification Section were called to assist and investigate further. An autopsy was ordered and was scheduled to take place on July 17, 2023.

Investigators continue to conduct witness interviews and gather information to develop a clear timeline of events and determine the circumstances surrounding the death.

Saskatchewan RCMP Major Crimes is requesting anyone with information in relation to this incident to report it to the Spiritwood RCMP by calling (306) 883-4210, or their local police of jurisdiction. Information can also be submitted anonymously by contacting Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or www.saskcrimestoppers.com.



First responder Al Dion shares the basics of fire and emergency safety during the Shellbrook Kinettes' Babysitting and Home Alone courses.

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‘Just transition’ looks increasingly unlikely

Fourteen years after Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper signed Canada onto a G20 commitment to wind down subsidies to the fossil fuel sector, the end may finally be in sight under current Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s Liberal government.

If he hasn’t done so by the time you have this week’s newspaper in your hands, then Mr. Trudeau’s environment minister, Steven Guilbeault, will soon be unveiling his policy outlining the circumstances under which federal investments can still flow to Canadian oil and gas companies.

Per Mr. Guilbeault’s own words from a meeting of global environment ministers in Belgium last week, Canada will no longer support “subsidies that give that sector an advantage in comparison to other sectors, and subsidies that help the production of fossil fuels.”

Going forward, this means new domestic oil and gas projects will only receive federal funding if they can be reconciled with Canada’s climate commitments.

However, Mr. Guilbeault says tax credits and federal funding that helps companies lower their emissions will still be on the table, including the government’s tax credit for companies that invest in carbon capture and storage technology.

The domestic subsidy policy comes just one year after the federal government announced the end of subsidies for international fossil fuel projects, except in cases where they are “consistent with the goal to limit global warming to as close to 1.5 C as possible and don’t delay the transition to renewable alternatives.”

The question, of course, is what counts as a subsidy?

On this, there’s no clear answer.

The Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers says the oil and gas sector doesn’t receive any federal subsidies for production, and Canadians don’t benefit from any subsidies on consumption, because tax measures and tax incentives are not subsidies.

Meanwhile, organizations from the International Institute for Sustainable Development to the International Monetary Fund peg subsidies to the oil and gas sector at anywhere between



JORDAN TWISS
~
News Editor

\$1.9 billion and \$81 billion based on their own criteria for what constitutes a subsidy.

In 2018, Canada and Argentina launched a peer review of each other’s fossil fuel subsidies, in a bid to get a better and somewhat independent take on what is in place. As is so often the case with governments, this review was to be done in 2020 but still isn’t complete three years later.

If consensus on what constitutes a subsidy is difficult to find, opinion on Mr. Guilbeault’s comments and policy is even more so. And, unsurprisingly, Premier Scott Moe has been one of the most vocal critics.

“If it wasn’t clear before, it is now. The Trudeau government doesn’t want to just reduce emissions in our energy sector, they want to completely shut down our energy sector,” he said on Twitter in response to Mr. Guilbeault’s expressed desire to phase out “unabated fossil fuels” (meaning oil and gas projects that don’t use technology to capture emissions).

Equally unsurprising, is that Alberta Premier Danielle Smith agrees with Mr. Moe.

“Instead of seeking ways to sow investor uncertainty and reduce support for Canadian energy globally, the federal government should focus on partnering with Alberta and investing in our national energy sector to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, while simultaneously increasing energy production, jobs and economic growth for Canadians,” she said in a statement, adding that the province won’t recognize any federally imposed emissions reduction targets on its energy sector.

With Mr. Guilbeault’s policy still to come, and his government’s deadlines of achieving a net-zero electricity grid by 2035 and full carbon neutrality by 2050 fast approaching, the stage is set for deepening discord between Ottawa and the western provinces.

For its part, the federal government has promised workers in the oil and gas sector a “just transition,” which will ensure they are given avenues to retrain, further their education, or find new employment, rather than being kicked to the back of the unemployment line.

The trouble is, all recent analysis



suggests that Ottawa needs to get more aggressive if it wants to meet another of its first climate goals of reducing emissions to 40 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030.

Just last week, a report from S&P Global suggested Canada’s oil sands would have to cut production by up to 1.3 million barrels per day, and slash between 5,400 and 9,500 jobs, if Canada is to have any hope of reaching its 2030 goal.

In order to maintain current production levels, the analysis says, Canada will have to rely on carbon capture and storage and small modular nuclear reactors. In this scenario, Canada could realistically reach its 2030 emissions reduction target by 2040.

These findings lend credence to arguments made by Ms. Smith, Mr. Moe, and the Pathways Alliance, a collaboration between Canada’s largest oil sands producers, and they’re far from the only pieces of data to cast doubt on the federal government’s lofty climate ambitions.

Earlier this month, a report from the International Institute for Sustainable Development suggested federal and provincial governments are “ill-prepared” for a smooth transition from oil and gas to clean energy, raising red flags about the prospects of the federal government’s so-called “just transition.”

The report calls on all governments to take a more active role in minimizing the risk to workers, communities,

and regions that are dependent upon the oil and gas sector and will be adversely impacted by the global decline in demand for fossil fuels.

At the same time, another report published last week by the Public Policy Forum suggests Canada’s grid is nowhere near ready to meet the 2050 net-zero emissions goal.

To get there, the report argues, Canada will need to build more electricity generation infrastructure in the next 25 years than it has over the last century. And to do that, it will have to spend trillions of dollars.

Canadians already got a taste of just how expensive all this building will be, when the federal government served up (or, rather, was extorted into coughing up) more than \$30 billion in subsidies to convince automakers Stellantis and Volkswagen to build EV battery plants in Ontario.

In the years ahead, the work to shore up Canada’s grid to accommodate all these new EVs is certain to make that \$30 billion look like lunch money.

Nearly eight years into the federal government’s mission to get Canada to net-zero emissions, there should be a sense that the government has a clear road map to its destination, and it should already be well on its way.

Yet, in report after report, we see further evidence of a government with plenty of ambition but no sense of practicality.

A just transition? I wouldn’t hold my breath.

Shellbrook Chronicle

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

Spiritwood Herald

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Shellbrook Library hosts Lego, Scrabble days

By **LORRAINE THIBEAULT**
Assistant Librarian

On Tuesday, July 11, seven youngsters got together at the Shellbrook Library to create Lego boats that could float and sail. Wet fun was had by all, as boats were tested for floatability.

Once the boats could float, sails were made and boats were sailed down a short water path using a fan for wind. All participants were successful in floating and sailing their boats, but there were a few 'sinkings' on the journey, and boats were redesigned prior to their success.

Many towels were used as boats were rescued, and several sails got soaked. New sails were made.

It was an enjoyable afternoon with lots of laughs as boats sunk and lots of cheers as boats sailed down the water path.

Stay tuned for a report on our next Lego Club challenge – building houses

on stilts.

On Thursday, July 13, three local adults met at the Shellbrook Library for some friendly games of Scrabble.

Despite Scrabble being a competitive activity, Laurel, Deb and Carla helped each other to form words to earn the most points they could with the seven Scrabble chips they had at each turn.



One of many creative boats designed during the challenge.



Jeremiah works on the sail for his boat.



Kambry sorts through Lego pieces to find the perfect materials for her boat.



Addisyn and Kambry had fun building boats for a Lego challenge hosted by the Shellbrook Public Library.



Deb, Laurel, and Carla play a friendly game of Scrabble at the Shellbrook Public Library.

Big River, Spiritwood to improve school zone safety

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The towns of Big River and Spiritwood are improving school zone safety in their communities, with the help of Provincial Traffic Safety Fund Grants provided by SGI.

In Big River, administrator Noreen Olsen says the municipal council has been focused on improving pedestrian safety by creating accessibility onto existing sidewalks and installing more sidewalks, as well as by installing speed display signs at a few locations, over the last few years.

With the \$40,000 it received through the Provincial Traffic Safety Fund Grant program, the town plans to expand this focus to T.D. Michel Elementary School, the community's pre-kindergarten to Grade 6 school.

"[The school is] located on Main Street, and the arena, ball diamonds, Community Centre, and Regional Park are all located on the other side of the school along 1st Street. Both of these areas are used a lot by children all year long," Olsen said of the rationale for the project.

Olsen says the town applied to the SGI Provincial Traffic Safety Fund to install approximately 365 meters of sidewalk along 1st Street, extending from the alley between 3rd, and 4th Avenue North to 8th Avenue North.

"This is one of the routes with high pedestrian traffic and within the ele-

mentary school zone," Olsen said.

With the full cost of the project estimated at \$206,000 the town's plan is to start the sidewalk installation this summer, beginning at 3rd Avenue North along 1st Street, and complete as much sidewalk as it can with the approved grant funding. The hope is to apply for more grant funding next year to complete the project all the way to 8th Avenue as planned.

Over the last few years, Olsen says other pedestrian safety improvements have included speed display signs within the school zones on Main Street and 1st Street. Though these additions have helped reduce speeding violations, both streets remain busy and pedestrian safety continues to be a concern.

Olsen also notes that the town has benefited from Traffic Safety Fund money previously, using it for the speed display signs in the school zones, as well as on the highway entering the community. Grants also partially funded the installation of a sidewalk along Highway 55 as it passes through the core of the town.

Meanwhile, in an attempt to slow down drivers passing through school zones, the Town of Spiritwood will be looking to install speed bumps in those areas with the \$4,326 from the Provincial Traffic Safety Fund Grant program.

A total of 114 projects in 106 Saskatchewan communities were ap-

proved for Provincial Traffic Safety Fund Grants. Communities will receive grants ranging from \$1,024 to \$80,824 for a total of nearly \$1.72 million, the highest total since the program began in 2019.

In other provincial funding news, the Rural Municipalities of Shellbrook and Blaine Lake were both recipients of funding through the Rural Integrated Roads for Growth program.

In the R.M. of Shellbrook, administrator Duane Storey says the \$275,000 provided by the province will be used to upgrade two portions of Oil Surface 693 north of Holbein. The first section just north of Holbein, Storey says, runs between two sloughs and gets pretty rough, while the second section, located 4 kms from the hamlet, heaves

really badly in the winter.

Storey says the project likely won't be completed until next summer, with half the cost being covered by the Rural Integrated Roads for Growth program and the remainder coming out of Canada Community Building Fund (formerly Gas Tax Fund) money.

Meanwhile, the R.M. of Blaine Lake, received \$163,716 for an undisclosed bridge and culvert project. The municipality said, however, that it may not use the money and the project may not go ahead if it's deemed to be unnecessary.



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SaskTel expands rural 5G coverage

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Over the past few months, SaskTel has expanded its 5G network to more than 50 cell sites serving rural, resort, and First Nations communities as well as several major highways, including Big River First Nation, Blaine Lake, Canwood, Witchehan Lake First Nation, and Highway 378 north-east of Rabbit Lake.

“Our government recognizes how important it is for the people of Saskatchewan to have access to fast and reliable wireless connectivity,” said Don Morgan, Minister Responsible for SaskTel, in a statement. “As SaskTel continues to make strong progress with their 5G expansion program, I am pleased to know that thousands of families across our province can take advantage of

the tremendous opportunities and benefits made possible by this exciting new technology.”

Currently, SaskTel’s 5G network can deliver data speeds of up to 1.2 Gigabits per second (Gbps). As it matures, SaskTel says the network will provide significantly faster speeds. Other future benefits of 5G, SaskTel says, will include massive network capacity and ultra-low latency, all of which will enable new use cases for emerging wireless technologies that will be the foundation that next-generation innovations will be built upon.

“As Saskatchewan’s homegrown communications leader, we are firmly committed to delivering cutting-edge communications technologies and solutions to all of our customers, regardless of address,” said Chad Olson, SaskTel Chief Technology Officer.

Olson adds that SaskTel will spend \$160 million this year to accelerate the rollout of its 5G network and deploy 5G on approximately 260 cell sites across Saskatchewan.

With rural connectivity always top of mind in the province — especially for those in the agriculture sector — SaskTel says 5G will help “bridge the digital divide” and connect residents and businesses to the world “faster than ever before.” SaskTel says 5G will also support technological advancements in remote healthcare, online learning, agriculture, transportation, and other services and industries that are important to the economic prosperity and overall quality of life in rural Saskatchewan.

The continued expansion of its 5G and fibre networks are a direct result of SaskTel’s commitment to invest more than \$1.6

billion of capital across Saskatchewan over the next five years. These investments will ensure Saskatchewan remains one of the most well-connected regions in the country.

At the end of 2022-2023, SaskTel’s 5G network already covered 50 per cent of Saskatchewan’s population. By the end of 2023-2024, SaskTel expects 5G service will be available in all nine major urban centres, along major highways, and in rural or resort areas.

In the coming years, SaskTel plans to expand its 5G 3500MHz coverage, which is a mid-band spectrum that will improve SaskTel’s 5G network by delivering additional speed and capacity, to more urban and rural communities.

For more information about SaskTel’s 5G network, visit www.sasktel.com/5g.

How to attract hummingbirds

By **PATRICIA HANBIDGE**

Hummingbirds are truly remarkable and fascinating creatures. The smallest hummingbird is the Bee Hummingbird of Cuba and the Rufous Hummingbird has the longest avian migration in the world. They need to eat every 10 or 15 minutes and visit between 1000 and 2000 flowers each day.

The boreal forest is a supreme natural habitat for these little lovelies. In the spring the hummingbirds can enjoy native columbine, lobelia, horsemint, beard-tongue while as we move into summer and early fall available is the red lily, blanket flower, phlox, milkweed, harebell and monarda. We won’t venture into the less attractive but still

necessary plants we call weeds. Let’s not forget the native woody species like the crab apple, chokecherry, Saskatoon berry, honeysuckle and dogwood. Also of course are the trees like poplar, ash, oak and birch when they are flowering in the spring.

For those of us who live outside of the forest fringe, we need to entice these birds during their migration to our gardens with bright, tubular flowers and if we choose to fill a feeder or two that is a good idea as well. Mix 1-part sugar with 4-parts hot water and stir until the sugar is completely dissolved. Let the mixture cool prior to putting it in the feeders. Do not add red dye. Fill the feeders with the mixture and change them often ensuring you

clean them thoroughly to prevent mold growth. A solution of one-part white vinegar to four parts of water is a great solution for ensuring the feeder is cleaned properly. If the feeder has dirt stuck in it — add a few grains of rice and shake the vinegar solution vigorously and the grains will act as an abrasive. Rinse the feeder a number of times to ensure all traces of the cleaning solution have been removed. Feeders help ensure that hummingbirds have enough food to thrive. 90% of the diet of a hummingbird is made up of sugary nectar and in order to achieve this, hummingbirds have long bills and grooved tongues.

To attract hummingbirds, plant annuals in full sun areas like salvia, snap-

dragons, zinnia, nicotiana, petunias and geraniums. In shady areas, plant fuchsia, impatiens, begonia and morning glory. On the prairies, perennials like lupins, monarda, penstemon, columbine, foxglove, salvias and daylilies will keep these little critters happy as well as woody ornamentals like Ohio buckeye, lilacs and honeysuckles. Those of us who live in less severe zones can choose azalea, hibiscus, weigela, buddleia and butterfly bush. It is important to group similar plants together and ensure there is a steady supply of flowers for as long as possible during the growing season.

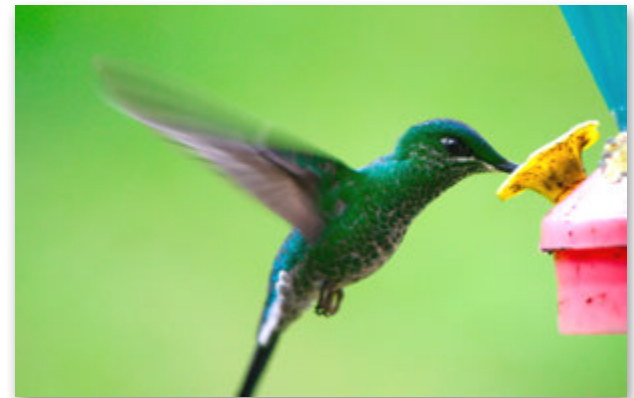
Other important things to include other than the flowers are areas that the hummingbirds can perch, the presence of insects and access to water. Having plenty of safe places for hummingbirds to rest and sleep is necessary. They do need

protein in their diet and have the ability to snatch small insects in the air with specialized aerial maneuvers. Minimize the use of pesticides to ensure the total environment that hummingbirds need is present. Spiders and other insects are important as young hummingbirds are almost exclusively fed insects. Hummingbirds like to bathe often and can be seen bathing in the pools of droplets that collect on leaves. Provide a constant source of water from a drip fountain

attachment or a fine misting device. In my yard there is a waterfall made of limestone rocks forming tiny pools for hummingbirds to happily bathe in.

Hope you are enjoying our summer season with the added joy of watching hummingbirds.

Hanbidge is the Lead Horticulturist with Orchid Horticulture. Find us at www.orchidhort.com; by email at info@orchidhort.com; on facebook @orchidhort and on instagram at #orchidhort.



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H.C. Service with Rev.
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306-468-2525

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Sat., 7:30 p.m. - Mass.
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Few understand the meaning of food security

Recently I spent some time in a garden talking about beans, and as we wound down the actual interview, we ended up sitting on a couple of lawn chairs in the shade of a bin.

As often happens in such cases, the conversation soon wandered to other topics, which at least had ancillary connections to beans, even if not exactly material for the article I was working on.

One topic that did pop up was the idea of what exactly food security is.

Most are likely to suggest it comes down to

earning enough money to buy the food the family requires. But in the conversation that day in the shade, we questioned if that wasn't missing the point of being food secure.

You can have a wheel barrel full of cash and if you arrive at the grocery store and the shelves are empty, the money won't feed the family.

Certainly in North America, people go hungry because of money shortages, and grocery stores are typically well-stocked, but that is not the case in other countries, and may not always



CALVIN DANIELS

be the case here either.

We have all heard of food shortages in stores in other countries over the years — the former Soviet Union as an example — and the disruptions from COVID-19 certainly hinted we could easily see food distribu-

tion impacted here too.

So, food security is much more about taking some direct control of food production. That can mean buying from local producers rather than relying on a system getting food to a store shelf from a few thousand miles away.

It also means growing more of our own food.

Sadly, the idea of a backyard garden is disappearing as we seemingly believe it is better to mow grass, and then complain about the cost of groceries.

What is perhaps more concerning is that as

gardens become rarer, we lose not just the personal food supply, but the knowledge of growing food — things such as how planting marigolds in the potato patch can control potato beetles.

If you handed many today a bucket of cucumbers, would they have the knowledge to make pickles? Yes, there is the tool called Google, but will it be there in the future? Will it be free?

Then, when the modern family has potatoes and beans and peas and turnips, where are they stored?

How many homes have

cold storage for root veggies?

How have we evolved to the point an apartment may come with basically a luxury item like a dishwasher, but not with a deep freeze for food?

Then, of course, comes the question of food preparation. Are we teaching skills such as processing a whole chicken into something tasty on the table? Or are we creating a future where it's delivery or microwave only?

In the end, it's pretty obvious food security is increasingly a mirage for most.

Crop Report: July 11 to 17

Another warm week has helped crops maintain the rapid rate of development seen throughout the year. The warm weather has also helped many producers progress through their haying operations and 71 per cent of the province's first cut of hay has been baled or silaged. Provincially, producers are estimating hay yield at 1.08 tons/acre. This is comparable with the five-year average of 1.06 tons/acre and just behind the 10-year average of 1.17 tons/acre.

Pockets of moisture moved through the province this past week. The most rain received this week was reported near Old Wives, with 33 mm being reported. Trace amounts of moisture were reported across much of the province, while some areas received no rain. The warm weather caused another decrease in topsoil moisture this week. Cropland topsoil moisture is 15 per cent adequate, 57 per cent short and 28 per cent very short. Hay and pastureland topsoil moisture is 12 per cent adequate, 50 per cent short and 38 per cent very short. The drought conditions in the southwest and west-central regions were not abated by the trace amounts of moisture or localized thundershowers.

Sixty-one per cent of fall cereals are at normal stages of development for this time of year, while 35 per cent are ahead. Fifty-five per cent of spring cereals are at normal stages of development, while 37 per cent are ahead of normal stages of development. Oilseeds are 58 per cent are at normal stages while 33 per cent are ahead of normal stages. Pulses have advanced slightly this week and are now 35 per cent ahead of normal stages of development for this time of year, while 61 per cent are at normal stages of development.

Haying has progressed quickly this week, with only 13 per cent of the first cut of hay still standing, 16 per cent is cut and 71 per cent is baled or silaged. Hay quality ranges from fair to excellent, with the majority of hay rated as good quality. Producers are estimating hay yields are comparable with the five-year average and are also estimating silage yield at 3.13 tons/acre. Few producers are expecting a second cut of hay this year and some are expressing concerns of feed shortages this winter. If producers are concerned about water quality for their livestock, they are encouraged to bring water samples into their regional office for testing.

Crop damage this past week is mostly due to dry conditions and grasshoppers and there are also a few reports of disease. Producers are encouraged to look at their economic thresholds while scouting for grasshoppers.

Dry conditions can be stressful for producers and they are reminded to take safety precautions in all the work they do. The Farm Stress Line is avail-

able to provide support to producers toll free at 1-800-667-4442. For producers dealing with dry conditions, additional resources are available through the ministry website or by contacting their regional office.

A complete, printable version of the Crop Report is available online: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/crop-report>

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

LEOVILLE: Wapiti Regional Library - Wednesday 10am - 4pm; Thursday 10am - 3pm

SHELL LAKE: Wapiti Regional Library - Tuesday 11am - 4pm; Wednesday 12pm - 5pm

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

BIG RIVER: Wapiti Library - Wednesday 11:30am - 4:30pm; Thursday 11:30am - 4:30pm. Phone # 306-469-2152

CANWOOD: Canwood Branch of Wapiti Regional Library. Tuesday 10am - 3:30pm; Thursday 3:30pm - 8pm; Friday 1:30pm - 4:30pm. Kids Club is Fridays 3:30pm - 4:30pm, Crafter's Choice is the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month.

DEBDEN: Wapiti Library hours: Tuesday 10am - 4pm; Wednesday 1pm - 7pm. Librarian: Aline Hannon

LEASK: Wapiti Library & Legacy Gallery Hours - Tuesday 9am - 2pm; Wednesday 3pm - 6pm; Friday 1pm - 5pm

MARCELIN: Wapiti Library - Thursday 2pm - 7pm; Saturday 9am - 2pm. 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 2pm - 6pm; Tuesday 12pm - 8pm; Wednesday 2pm - 6pm; Thursday 12pm - 6pm; Friday 10 am - 5pm (Story Time 11am - 12pm); Saturday 10am - 4pm.

SHELL LAKE AREA: 2023 Thickwood Hills Studio Trail – Saturday, August 12: 10am - 5pm, Sunday, August 13: 10am - 5pm. Introducing new studios & guest artists! Follow the blue moon signs on the 22nd annual self-drive tour of unique studios in the Shell Lake area. www.thickwoodhillsstudiotrail.com, facebook.com/thickwoodhillsstudiotrail

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Fresh faces take spotlight in world of sports

The world of sports continues to supply fans with fresh new faces, extraordinarily talented athletes who sometimes hit the headlines and then fade away, or hit the headlines and become legends.

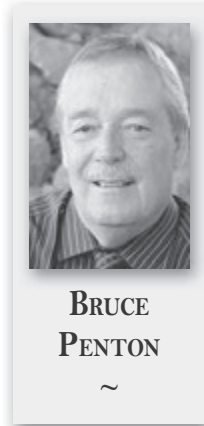
Every week, it seems, new names show up in the world of sports, and here are just a few of them:

— Elly De La Cruz is Major League Baseball's newest sensation, knocking even Shohei Ohtani from the headlines for a day or two. De La Cruz is a rookie sensation with the Cincinnati Reds who hit a home run in his second MLB game on June 7, hit for the cycle two weeks later, is one of the fastest players in baseball, plays defence like a demon, and just before the all-star break, he stole second, third, and home within a two-pitch sequence. He's this year's Ronald Acuna, Jr.

— Victor Wembanyama is the 7-foot-5 basketball star from France who was the No. 1 pick in the recent NBA draft,

going to the San Antonio Spurs. Introduced to North American competition by playing in the NBA's Summer League in Las Vegas, Wembanyama made headlines off the court when he and his security people and would-be autograph seeker Britney Spears got into a minor dust up in a crowded entrance to a Vegas casino. Wembanyama scored only nine points in his debut, but then hit for 27 in his second game to confirm that, yes, he's pretty good.

— Oliver Moore is not a household name like Connor Bedard, but Moore was also a first-round pick of the Chicago Blackhawks this year. He went 19th overall and was generally regarded as the best skater available in the draft. Moore and Bedard are buddies already, and while Moore will likely play another season or two at the University of Minnesota, the Moore-Bedard combo in Chicago could play out for years like the Toews-Kane duo did for



BRUCE
PENTON

a decade in the Windy City.

— Canadian golf fans love to root for Brooke Henderson, and with good reason, but there's a new 'it' player in the women's game — American Rose Zhang. The 20-year-old played at Stanford, winning two straight NCAA individual titles, captured the 2020 U.S. women's amateur, won her first event as a professional in June, and subsequently posted top-10s in her first two majors, the KPMG Women's PGA and the U.S. Open. The Zhang hype is well deserved.

— Is Summer Macintosh like a fish in human

form? We'll find out for certain at this month's world aquatic championships in Japan, as the Canadian swimmer is entered in four events — all of which she could win. The 16-year-old Toronto swimmer made a big splash on the world stage last year, winning two golds and two other medals at the world championships, and this year's event in Japan will be the final major gathering of the planet's best swimmers prior to next summer's Paris Olympics. It could also be Summer's Paris Olympics.

• Nick Canepa of The San Diego Union-Tribune, on Las Vegas being awarded the 2028 Final Four: "It wasn't long ago the NCAA would have gone to Ukraine, played outdoors and put images of Putin on players' singlets before placing their big deal in Southern Nevada."

• Golf journalist Geoff Shackelford, on the eve of the Senate hearing into the PGA Tour-PIF partnership: "As the

final men's major begins its descent toward greater Liverpool, the PGA Tour's de facto leadership will make a Senate committee case for turning the professional schedule over to some dude who likes to be called His Excellency. It's grim."

• Shackelford again, describing Yasir Al-Ramadhan, head of the Saudi Arabian PIF fund: "As soon as he starts talking, (he) makes most upright adults wanna dive head-first into a snake-filled pool full of Clorox."

• Thomas Carrieri on Twitter: "Barry Bonds was so dominant he once got internationally walked during a Home Run Derby."

• Eamon Lynch of Golfweek.com., on the difficulty PGA Tour players are having in understanding the Tour-Saudi Arabian PIF partnership: "Trust is a precious commodity in commerce, but in the present-day PGA Tour it's more scarce than snow in the Sahara."

• Scott Ostler of the

San Francisco Chronicle, after temperatures hit 110 degrees Fahrenheit in Las Vegas, the proposed new home for the Oakland A's: "If I played for the A's, I'd demand to play a position that would be in the shaded portion of the field."

• RJ Currie of sports-deke.com: "Right-handed Elks quarterback, Taylor Cornelius, completed a rarity July 13. While being sacked, he threw a TD pass with his left hand. Unfortunately, the catch and score was by a Hamilton Ti-Cat."

• Currie again: "Victor Wembanyama is actually seven feet, three inches, in height. Tall, but well short of all the surrounding hype."

• Headline at the on-ion.com: "Bears GM Focused On Drafting Players Who Can Help Justin Fields Up After Sack"

• fark.com headline after Vladimir Guerrero, Jr., won the Home Run Derby: "Like Vladdy, like Daddy."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

GOOD NEWS

THE LEGACY WE LEAVE IS IN OTHERS

By DAVE BODVARSON

Shellbrook Pentecostal Assembly

Marlene and I pastored in Rocanville for some 12 years. Our boys' formative years were in Rocanville. If pressed where they are from, they might answer Rocanville. That is not an easy question to answer for preacher kids.

If Rocanville is known for anything, it certainly would be for potash and for oil. One must also recognize that this southeast Saskatchewan town also is known for its history and people. When I lived there, I heard about Ernie Symons, who started the Symons Oil Can Factory. It quite amazing that the Symons Oil Can Factory produced over 1 million cans.

All the time we lived in Rocanville, I never took the time to stand by the 23-foot metal can that was erected in

1973. The huge oil can was erected 50 years after Ernie Symons started his successful factory.

The strength of the community is its people. We can leave a lot of things behind or a little, but our legacy is really what we leave deposited in the hearts that we have invested in. It is a wonderful thing when we can deposit faith and optimism into those who cross our paths.

John Maxwell sure made a powerful statement when he wrote, "If you are successful, it becomes possible for you to leave inheritance for others. But if you desire to create a legacy, then you need to leave something in others."

It has also been said "If you wish to enrich days, plant flowers; if you wish to enrich years, plant trees, if you wish to enrich eternity, plant ideals in the lives of others."

I have always appreciated the Scriptures in John 4. Jesus goes through Samaria and sits by Jacob's well. What is so remarkable is Jacob's well had lasted for some 1,700 years. Digging a well in Jacob's day was no small undertaking. So, Jacob's legacy was perseverance, having a spirit that wouldn't quit. Great thing to pass unto others.

A chapel speaker in Bible college was approached at the close of the service

by a woman from the audience who told him with deep emotion, "I owe my life to you."

He had forgotten her, but she reminded him that he had prayed for her in the hospital.

She said, "I was steadily sinking... but something in your prayer gave me a lift of a new hope...it was at that moment the tide turned and I started back on the road to recovery."

What a legacy.



Fifty years after it was erected in honour of Ernie Symons, the 23-foot Symons oil can monument still stands in Rocanville, Sask.

Photo Courtesy of Jimmy Emerson, DVM/flickr

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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Minutes of an RM of Canwood meeting

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

A regular meeting of the Council of the Rural Municipality of Canwood No. 494 was held in the Municipal Council Chambers, at 641 Main Street, Canwood, Sask., on May 24, 2023, commencing at 9:10 a.m.

Present: Reeve Lyndon Pease, Administrator Lorna Benson and the following Councillors for their respective divisions: #1 Ralph Korody, #2 Gerald Muller, #4 Mario Boisvert, #5 Kevin Olson, and #6 Cody Lockhart.

Absent: #3 Gordon Andrews
Delegations:
9:30 a.m.: Dwight Diehl, Public Works Supervisor, Municipal Operations Update

11 a.m.: Public Hearing - Road Closure

11:45 a.m.: Councillor Indemnity

Boisvert: That the minutes of the April 18, 2023, Regular Council Meeting be approved. Carried

Lockhart: That the Statement of Financial Activities for the month of April 2023 for the R.M. General Account be approved as presented. Carried

Lockhart: That we approve the payments as listed on the attached account listing for a total of \$124,315.56, Council Direct Deposits for April and Payroll Direct Deposits for 2023 Pay Periods 8, 9 & 10. Carried

Lockhart: That in the matter of the unpermitted development located on the NE 01-50-07 W3, respecting the matter of the appeal made by the Robins, we

acknowledge the decision of the Planning Appeals Committee of the Saskatchewan Municipal Board to dismiss the Robins' appeal and uphold the Board's decision. Carried

Public Works Supervisor Dwight Diehl attended the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Muller: That we hire William Hamilton, Shellbrook, Sask., for the seasonal truck driver position, with a start date to be determined. Carried

Pease: In the matter of the Beaver Control Program Funding and further to Resolutions No. 9 and 10 of April 18, 2023, Council Meeting Minutes, we acknowledge that the program dates are Feb. 16, 2023, to Feb. 15, 2024. Carried

Lockhart: That we instruct the Chief Administrative Officer to make application to the Rural Integrated Road for Growth Program (RIRG) under the Road Construction and Bridge and Large Diameter Culvert Initiative for the conversion of the Wreford Bridge located at NNW 14-50-06 W3 to large diameter culverts. Carried

Muller: That we instruct the Chief Administrative Officer to make application to the Rural Integrated Road for Growth Program (RIRG) under the Road Construction and Bridge and Large Diameter Culvert Initiative for the replacement of the large diameter culverts located at south Victoire.

Korody: That we acknowledge the Rural Integrated Roads for Growth, Clearing the Path Primary Weight Corridor Incremen-

tal Maintenance Grant Funding Agreement and agree to enter into a revised agreement with the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities effective April 24, 2024. Carried

Muller: That we approve the Approach Construction Application at Block 24, Plan 102074497 Ext o Bouchard Subdivision, Filion Lake. Carried

Lockhart: That we approve the Human Resources Report of April 25, 2023. Carried

Public Works Supervisor Dwight Diehl left the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

Councillor Muller removed himself from the meeting at 11 a.m.

Pease: That we recess the Municipal Council Meeting at 11 a.m. to convene the Public Hearing to consider the matter of permanently closing the road allowance, lying within the NE 36-49-07 W3, including Plan 73B03384 Ext 2, Ext 3 and Ext 6 and all those portions of the original road allowance lying within the NW 36-49-07 W3, being Plan 73B03384 Ext 2 except for Plan 73B03384 Ext 1. Carried

Lockhart: That as the Public Hearing has been adjourned, we now reconvene the Municipal Council Meeting at 11:06 a.m. Carried

Muller: That it be acknowledged in these minutes that the Chief Administrative Officer provided the following to Council: The Municipalities Act: Division 6-9, Part 7-8, and part of Part 9 Bylaw No. 2022-07: Code of Ethics for Members of Council Committee Listing. Carried

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