

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald

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WP girl's volleyball team wins Sportsmanship award



WP Sandin High School's senior girl's volleyball team won the SHSAA Sportsmanship banner for its conduct at the 3A Provincials tournament. Back row, left to right: Coach Mark Klaassen, Taylor Henderson, Maddi Nelson, Ali Lamotte, Josee Schatkoske, Payten Keyowski, Leah Naumann, coach Lou-Anne Stefankiw, and coach Kelly Herndier. Front row: Adison Kyliuk, Abi Kyliuk, Brielle Empey-McVicker, Ava Ledding, Kailee Cameron, and Brooklyn Klaassen.

By JORDAN TWISS
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Though it didn't walk away from Provincials with gold medals or a championship banner, WP Sandin High School's senior girl's volleyball team has perhaps won something that is just as important.

On Friday, Dec. 15, Jeff Kitts, the assistant executive director of the Saskatchewan High School Athletics Association, made the long drive from Moose Jaw to Shellbrook to surprise the team with the prestigious 2023 SHSAA Sportsmanship banner, a highly respected honour that is presented to coaches and players who compete with respect for their opponents and officials.

"The gymnasiums that display these banners are in schools that strive to make sportsmanship, respect, and responsibility a daily habit and a part of their school culture," Kitts said. "The team is a reflection of the school and the entire student body."

Reflecting this idea, the blue Sportsmanship banner is an award for both the coaches and players who earn it, and for the entire school. A partnership between the SHSAA and SaskMilk since 1996, that Kitts says helps ensure high school athletics are available across the province, the Sportsmanship banner comes with the added prize of a donation of milk for all students in the school that receives it.

Dec. 15 marked the second time WP Sandin High School has been awarded the banner and the bonus prize, as the school's mixed curling team won the honour in 2018.

The banner is awarded after the Provincials tournament for every high school sport, and the winner is decided upon by committees, officials, and volunteers who observe the teams and pay attention to the conduct of the players, coaches, and even the spectators.

As Kitts explains, those in charge of making the decision about which team to award the Sportsmanship banner to

at the 3A girl's Provincials tournament in Indian Head were impressed with what they saw from the WP Sandin team.

"Over the course of Provincials in Indian Head, the girls played some very intense games," Kitts said.

"The focus and respect with which the team played remained consistent, and the demeanour of the team reflected the demeanour of the coaches. They continued to play the game in a respectful manner, regardless of the score, and participated in an enjoyable athletic experience for the opposition, fans, and officials."

These sentiments were echoed by SHSAA board member Dan Alspach, who said, "Shellbrook brought enthusiasm, great energy, and a sense of camaraderie to the 3A Girls Provincial Championship. It was very obvious they were grateful to be taking part in the competition, and they expressed that through respect of the opponents and the officials. Their school and community should be proud of how they represented Shellbrook, as they

were a great example of what the SHSAA Sportsmanship Award is all about."

Following Kitts' presentation, the mic was turned over to the team's head coach, Lou-Anne Stefankiw, who said the team started its season with a strong foundation by setting out three core values, which were being supportive, being accountable, and being forgiving.

These values, she says, and the players' commitment to embodying them, are what earned the team the Sportsmanship banner.

"This group, at the very beginning of the year, set out to be the best it could be," Stefankiw said. "We are growing really good humans through sport, through very solid values. I'm incredibly proud of this crew for upholding these values as we went through Provincials."

Stefankiw also acknowledged her assistant coaches, Kelly Herndier and Mark Klaassen, for the roles they played in helping the team develop as both players and people.

Find us on facebook.

Wishing everyone a safe & happy new year!

2024

Woodland Pharmacy

Main Street, Shellbrook

Ph: 306-747-2545

Shellbrook Pickleball Club hosts skills clinic

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

If someone told you they spent the day working on their dinking and kitchen resets, you'd likely respond with a look of bewilderment. But for members of the Shellbrook Pickleball Club these skills, and many others, were just part and parcel of an intensive seven-hour pickleball clinic held in WP Sandin High School's gymnasium on Saturday, Dec. 16.

The day-long clinic saw 12 pickleball players of ranging skill levels come out for fun, exercise, and skills demonstrations and instructions from high-level pickleball player Paul Clemens.

Clemens, 43, first discovered the sport of pickleball eight years ago while working out at his local YWCA. A lover of racket sports, Clemens decided to give it a try. And before too long, pickleball had become his go-to sport.

In the years since, Clemens has developed his skills to the point that he's ranked at one of the

highest skill levels in the game, and gone on to compete at Provincials in Saskatchewan, Canadian Nationals, the U.S. Open, and a handful of other tournaments in the States.

Most recently, he decided to branch out and share his knowledge with other pickleball enthusiasts by becoming a teacher through a program run by Steve Deakin, Canada's top-ranked pickleball player.

"We're covering a whole suite of pickleball skillsets," he said of the Shellbrook clinic. "I just hope they had fun. It's a lot of information, but if they can take away a few things to help them improve, that's my goal."

For Sally Jacobson, who helped introduce pickleball to Shellbrook a few years ago and now serves as president of the Shellbrook Pickleball Club, it was a no-brainer to bring Clemens out to the community for the clinic when he reached out and made the offer.

Jacobson says the members of the club have become more focused on player development, and after seeing

the format for the clinic, she believed it would provide a real benefit to the club's members.

"We have a few players now who are interested in tournaments," she said. "When you're playing in a small community, and you're playing against the same people all the time, you don't realize that there are so many different skill levels out there."

While those who participated in the clinic may have been exhausted after playing seven hours of pickleball, Jacobson says the clinic was excellent, as Clemens covered every aspect of the game, gave good instructions, and answered every question.

"We had people who had just started to play in the last year, and we had people who have been playing for five

or six years," she said. "[Clemens] did a fantastic job of working on everybody's needs. I know everybody left feeling it was worth spending seven hours there for."

Going forward, Jacobson says she hopes

the clinic's participants will continue to work on their skills development. More than that, though, she hopes they'll continue to have fun playing the game, regardless of whether they're playing it recreationally or look-

ing to compete at higher levels.

"Pickleball is such a fun game, not only from the social aspect, but physically as well," she said. "Such a broad range of age groups can play it and play it well."



Paul Clemens gives instructions during a pickleball clinic hosted by the Shellbrook Pickleball Club.



Players work on skills during a pickleball clinic hosted by the Shellbrook Pickleball Club.

Beau "Lac" Funeral Home hosts Christmas Candlelight Service

By **BEAU "LAC" FUNERAL HOME**

The heart-warming glow of candles was once again a symbol of remembrance at this year's annual Christmas Candlelight Service, sponsored by Beau "Lac" Funeral Home. The Service was held on Dec. 6 at St. Agatha's Roman Catholic Church in Shellbrook.

Local pastors came together once again to make the evening a special night of remembrance for families that have suffered a loss. Christmas time is not always a season of joy and celebration for everyone, and being able to come together for an evening of music and honouring loved ones by lighting a candle in their memory brings families together.



Pastors at Beau "Lac's" Candlelight Service, from left to right: Deacon Ron Johnson, Pastor Randall McLeod, Pastor Dave Bodvarson, Father Tuan Doan, Rev. Emmanuel Aristide, Pastor Bob Wrench, Pastor Lorne Valuck, and Deacon Bill Thibeault.

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NEW HOURS
MONDAY - SATURDAY: 11am - 7pm
SUNDAYS: 12pm - 6pm
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PICK OF THE WEEK
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*Kms and price in thousands. Taxes not included in price.

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. Deadline closes once the position is filled. 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.

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MON - FRI: 9AM TO 5PM
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SCAN ME

Canwood Public Library hosts Crafter's Choice

By **KARINA JOHNSON**
Branch Librarian

On Tuesday, Dec. 12, the ladies of Crafter's Choice met at Wapiti's Canwood Public Library to showcase their latest and current creative projects. Taking the wintertime to spend more hours on more personal endeavours, the crafters have made many unique pieces.

Ranging from paintings to crochet, they shared the fruits of their labour as well as exchanging ideas for future works. Crafters featured a large patchwork quilt made by Christle Carey, along with crocheted Christmas tree ornaments made by Gerda Bruner.

Since Boxing Day lands on the fourth Tuesday of the month, the second gathering of Crafters Choice is canceled. But meetings will resume on the second Tuesday of January at Canwood's Library.



Lorean Nichol crochets while the group enjoys Christmas dainties and coffee, and discusses new crafting ideas.



Christle Carey uses every tiny bit of fabric to create a perfectly beautiful patchwork quilt.

Cops & courts news highlights

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

Spiritwood RCMP

The Spiritwood RCMP has taken a suspect into custody following a serious assault at Pelican Lake High School on the Pelican Lake First Nation.

According to police, the detachment received reports of the assault at approximately 12:35 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 14.

Officers immediately responded and located an injured teenage male, who has been taken to hospital with injuries described as serious in nature.

A second teenage male was taken into custody at the school.

So far, no charges have been laid and the investigation continues. As of Dec. 20, neither the suspect nor the victim had been named. Police said updates would be provided as they become available.

Anyone with information about this in-

cident should contact Spiritwood RCMP at 306-883-4210. Information can also be submitted anonymously by contacting Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or www.saskcrimestoppers.com.

Shellbrook RCMP

The Shellbrook RCMP detachment is advising the public to be on the lookout for a truck that was stolen from a rural farm near Holbein.

According to a Saskatchewan Crime Watch Advisory Network bulletin, the vehicle, a grey 2017 GMC Sierra HD with Saskatchewan license plate number 555 DYM, was stolen at approximately 3 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 15.

Anyone who locates the truck is urged not to approach and should instead call the Shellbrook RCMP detachment at 306-747-2606. Information about the truck theft can also be reported by calling 310-RCMP (7267) for immediate response, or anonymously by calling Crime Stop-

pers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

Driver sentenced in Crutwell crash

A woman who caused a multi-vehicle crash on Highway 3 has been sentenced to 18 months in jail.

Lisa Smith, 37, appeared in Prince Albert Provincial Court via video call from the Pine Grove Correctional Centre on Thursday, Dec. 14, to receive her sentence, having previously entered guilty pleas to dangerous driving causing bodily harm, failure to remain at the scene of an accident, obstruction, failing to report, and stealing a vehicle.

The accident in question occurred on June 28 near the Crutwell turnoff on Highway 3, and involved three vehicles, including one that was left flipped over on its roof.

RCMP confirmed two people were taken to hospital with what were described as non-life threatening injuries. But according to facts read in court by Crown Pro-

secutor Kristen Clark, both victims suffered broken wrists and a 66-year-old woman also complained of leg pain.

According to court documents, Smith had been driving her sister's vehicle, despite not having permission to take the keys, and, following the accident, she attempted to flee the scene. When arrested by police, she provided a false name.

According to witness reports presented by Clark throughout the proceedings, Smith was seen travelling at a high rate of speed, driving into oncoming traffic, and forcing vehicles off the road.

At the time of the crash, police initially believed Smith was impaired. However, subsequent tests by officers determined she was sober.

With credit for time served, Smith has

roughly 10 months left on her sentence. Following her release from custody, she'll be on probation for 12 months, which includes abiding by a curfew for the first six months and 75 hours of community service. She's also prohibited from driving for three years.

Trial dates set for sex assault trial

After multiple procedural delays, trial dates have been set for a man facing 12 counts of sexual assault.

Cecil Wolfe, 62, was formally charged with the offences throughout 2022, after being arrested by police in December of 2021. According to police, Wolfe was working under the pretext of being a traditional Cree healer, or medicine man, when he committed the offences against women from Loon Lake, Blaine Lake, Muskeg Lake Cree Nation, Saskatoon, and

the surrounding areas between 2013 and 2021.

At a pre-trial conference, held at the Court of King's Bench in Saskatoon, it was decided that Wolfe's trial will start Feb. 18, 2025 and run to March 28, 2025. As the Crown is proceeding by direct indictment, the case will be tried by judge and jury.

For the 12 charges against Wolfe, Crown prosecutor Lana Morelli is seeking a sentence of nine-and-a-half years.

Court proceedings began in 2022, with Wolfe pleading guilty to the 12 counts of sexual assault. However, in 2023, Wolfe replaced his lawyer and filed an application to erase his guilty pleas on the basis that he didn't understand and wasn't properly informed.

Wolfe's application was granted in September, effectively returning the trial to square one.

RM OF SPIRITWOOD NO. 496 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that the Council of the Rural Municipality of Spiritwood No. 496 is considering the alteration of the division boundaries within the RM of Spiritwood No. 496.

REASON

The reason for the alteration of the division boundaries within the RM of Spiritwood No. 496 is to provide an equitable representation of population & voters within each division as per the map below.

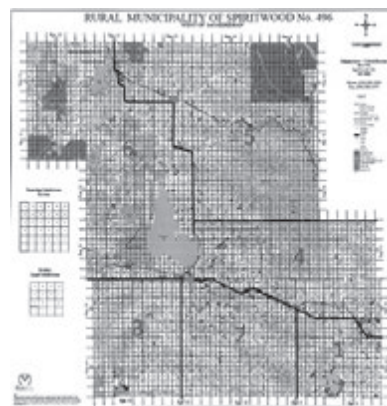
PUBLIC INSPECTION

Any person may request a copy of the proposed Division Boundary Alteration during regular office hours by calling or emailing the municipal office. Printed copies are available at cost of \$10.00.

PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 11:00 am in Council Chambers located at 218 Main Street in Spiritwood, SK to hear comments on the proposed division boundary alteration. Written comments or questions can also be submitted to the RM of Spiritwood No. 496 municipal office at Box 340, Spiritwood, SK, S0J 2M0 or emailed to rm496@sasktel.net.

Colette Bussiere
Chief Administrative Officer



VILLAGE OF SHELL LAKE

CURLING RINK FUNDING

- \$125,000
- \$115,000
- \$105,000
- \$95,000
- \$85,000
- \$75,000
- \$65,000
- \$55,000
- \$45,000
- \$35,000

Construction on the rebuild of the Shell Lake Curling Rink is progressing favourably! The weather has enabled workers to move seamlessly from framing to walls and roof. The engineer will be out for an inspection soon and then on to the next step.

If you feel you want to contribute, the Village is issuing income tax receipts for any donations over \$20.00. The goal is to raise funds for the operating costs.

If you want bang for your buck how about coming out to the *New Year's Eve bash?*

For **only \$25.00** you can support the cause and get 2024 off to a great start!!

2024 must be a year of real solutions to problems

In just a few more sleeps, 2024 will be upon us. A brand-new year, brimming with untold potential.

For some, the coming of a new year just means that the calendar will be turning to a new page, and most of us will spend the next month accidentally jotting 2023 instead of 2024 whenever we have to write the date.

For others, a new year is like a cosmic reset button, an opportunity to change, improve, and pursue the things we've devoted far too much energy to putting off.

As well as being promises to ourselves, new year's resolutions are expressions of hope, of a belief in new beginnings.

Some may scoff at such starry-eyed optimism, but all too often our lives are what we think.

When we focus on the clouds, our lives become nothing but storms. But when we focus on the single ray of sunshine feebly poking through the darkness, the rest of our lives become just a little bit brighter.

After the 2023 we had, we could all use a little more light and hope in our lives. And so, in 2024 we should all strive to be the light and the hope, both for ourselves and for others.

Before we begin a new year, however, let us first take stock of where we find ourselves as 2023 comes to close.

Unlike 2022, which ended on a better note than it began, 2023 ends with many of us worse off than we started.

Though the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine no longer dominated headlines throughout 2023, their social, political, and economic effects still linger – and now, we've added a resurgence of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to the mix.

Economically, we continued to feel the keen sting of inflation throughout 2023. Fortunately, things began to cool off in the latter half of the year – and early indicators suggest this trend will continue into 2024 – but food price increases have yet to follow suit to the same extent, meaning all of us are paying more and getting fewer of our necessities.

Indeed, according to Food Banks Canada, food bank usage was at an all-time high in 2023. In March, 1,935,911 Canadians accessed food banks, an



JORDAN TWISS

~
News Editor

increase of 32 per cent compared with the same period in 2022, and 78.5 per cent compared with March 2019.

Seeing this, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's federal government devoted much of the year to trying to convince the country's major grocery chains to find ways to lower their prices for Canadians.

And, shockingly, its strong-arm tactics appear to have borne fruit, as all of them have committed to tackling rising food prices through discounts, price freezes, and price-matching campaigns.

Along the way, Mr. Trudeau's government was propped up in these and other efforts by Jagmeet Singh's NDP, which has all but abandoned its duty to put serious pressure on the Liberals to make good on promises to implement a national pharmacare program (even as Mr. Trudeau's approval rating dipped to an all-time low of 31 per cent in October, and three-quarters of Canadians say they want him to go).

On the opposite side of the aisle, Mr. Trudeau's government has been hounded incessantly by Pierre Poilievre's Conservatives, who have mastered the art of the buzzword with slogans like "Justinflation" and "Axe the tax," allowing them to hide the fact that they seemingly have no real solutions to offer Canadians.

Meanwhile, in Saskatchewan, Premier Scott Moe's Sask. Party has opted for a do-nothing approach, having washed its hands of all responsibility for the matter after it issued \$500 affordability cheques to Saskatchewan residents in late 2022.

After surging to a surplus on the strength of soaring oil and gas and potash revenues, the government certainly had the tools at its disposal to lend a helping hand.

But, citing the perennial volatility of resource revenues, it repeatedly rejected calls to use them – only to act surprised when a drop in those same resource revenues transformed its projected \$1 billion surplus into a \$250 million deficit.

The Sask. Party government also spent much of 2023 continuing its long-standing legacy of shortchanging K-12 education, refusing to negotiate in good faith with teachers and



address their concerns about growing class sizes and the increasingly complex needs of students.

Instead, its energy has been devoted to disparaging teachers with a costly advertising campaign, and waging a war against pronouns and sex education under the guise of standing up for "parental rights."

All the while, the province's healthcare system remains in almost the exact same precarious state it was in throughout 2022.

Despite the Sask. Party's boasting about its successes, the healthcare system remains on life support, grappling with across-the-board job vacancies in frontline positions, ER closures and ballooning ER wait times, and resurgent surgical and diagnostic imaging wait times.

Indeed, as of this summer, Saskatchewan ranked last among the provinces in the Canadian Institute for Health Information's report on wait times for hip and knee replacements (and the Saskatchewan Health Authority's data supports this ranking).

Thus far, its only solution beyond recruiting more healthcare workers has been to lean on its tried and true practice of leveraging the situation as an excuse to turn to the private sector.

Through separate arrangements with Alberta-based private care providers over the past couple of years, patients have been shipped out of province for hip and knee surgeries, and, most recently, for mammograms

– even though the Sask. Party government has years of data demonstrating that this practice never delivers any lasting wait time reductions.

Then, we have the environment and climate change portfolio, where the Sask. Party's only policy directive seems to be opposing anything the federal government suggests and delaying action for as long as it can.

Through all of the Sask. Party's blundering on these and other portfolios, the Sask. NDP, under leader Carla Beck, seems to finally be finding its footing after 16 years of being largely ignored as the official opposition. Still, it has a long road to travel before it can truly hold the government to account.

Affordability. Healthcare. Education. Climate change. These four items were easily the top priorities for many Canadians (and many Saskatchewan residents) throughout 2023.

And with so many issues and challenges left unaddressed and unsolved by both the federal and provincial governments, they're guaranteed to remain top priorities well into 2024.

Will 2024 be the year in which Mr. Trudeau and Mr. Moe put aside their political differences and choose to cooperate for the benefit of all Canadians?

Or will it perhaps be the year in which the Sask. Party government recognizes its mistakes and charts a course to fix them?

Only time will tell.

Shellbrook Chronicle

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Spiritwood Herald

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

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2024 - A year to unite

As we move into 2024, I have found that despite the many challenges Saskatchewan people have been forced to face, they are looking forward with hope.

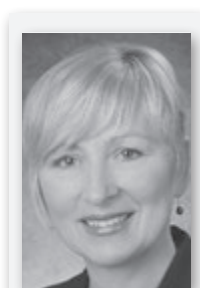
They are creating their own foundation for hope by drawing close to their neighbours, and building new friendships and support networks. They want to be able to plan for their children's and grandchildren's futures with certainty.

I am inspired by the resilience and fortitude displayed in the face of

object government failure on multiple fronts to stabilize and protect the services we need for a secure society.

In March 2023, my family welcomed the birth of my 10th grandchild, little Camilla Grace. This blessed event increased my resolve to unite with the people of Saskatchewan to right what is wrong.

There is much work to do. In the last year, a light has been shone into many areas, exposing dark things we didn't want to see. We've been



NADINE WILSON
MLA
~
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hit hard with cost of living increasing to the point where the middle

class is vanishing.

Instead of taking responsibility, the provincial government likes to blame federal policies. But it has been complicated by imposing federal government rules on us in exchange for federal handouts. For all the bluster in creating the Saskatchewan First Act, the reality is, the province is still marching in lockstep with the feds, even embracing the United Nations' inspired 'net zero' agenda at the expense of Saskatchewan people.

Do they not know that the people of this great province do not want an elitist agenda forced on us? Do they not understand that people are uniting in a call for a return to common sense in healthcare, education, agriculture, social programs, and our economy?

The missteps of the Scott Moe government have created conditions where people are more engaged in the workings of government than they have been in several generations.

This is good.

It means that this generation is answering the call to design the society they want for today and for the future. It means that they are no longer content for politicians to take their tax money without accountability in how it is used.

Because of the response of Saskatchewan people, together we can put off fear and take charge by uniting for our common values.

In 2024, let us move forward together with hope.

YOUR TWO CENTS

Escaping our Groundhog Day campaigning loop

Dear editor,
Are you familiar with the movie Groundhog Day? Phil Connors, the main character, realizes that he is trapped in a time loop. It feels like Canadians are stuck in a political version of Groundhog Day with our first-past-the-post (FPTP) electoral system.

FPTP's permanent campaign loop has become our political alarm clock, waking us up each day to the same hollow promises and slogans. This endless cycle interferes with effective governance. Our leaders are so busy perfecting their campaign smiles that they forget about the real issues – it's like they're stuck in a time loop, determined to look good to maintain or gain power.

How does permanent campaigning disrupt effective governance? It diverts those in power from long-term comprehensive inclusive policy planning to short-term narrow selfish electoral gains. It encourages politicians to prioritize im-

age over substance, neglect complex issues, and fosters a polarized environment. Politicians direct resources towards winning elections rather than securing social justice and environmental stewardship.

The solution? Let's break free from this political Groundhog Day with electoral reform, specifically through proportional representation (PR). It would inject vital variety into our political landscape, ensure that diverse voices are heard, and prevent the same old script from playing on repeat. It's time to ditch the permanent campaign loop of FPTP. Let's embrace the collaboration of PR that numerous democracies use to produce effective and visionary governance.

Support FairVote.ca, NationalCitizensAssembly.ca, and CharterChallenge.ca and ask your MP to vote for M-86 Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform.

Nancy Carswell
Shellbrook, Sask.

Sask. pharmacists granted new prescribing powers

Saskatchewan is expanding the list of health conditions for which pharmacists can see patients. The government says this is part of ongoing work to ensure that pharmacists, as highly educated healthcare professionals, are empowered to utilize all of their knowledge and skills for Saskatchewan patients.

Under this new expanded scope of practice, pharmacists will now be able to prescribe medications to treat nausea and vomiting in pregnancy and recurrent genital herpes for both men and women.

"Pharmacists prescribing in specific circumstances provides patients with improved access to health care services," Health Minister Everett Hindley said in a statement. "Pharmacists are valuable members of our health care team and these expansions allow them to maximize the use of their skill set for Saskatchewan patients."

Pharmacists are required to take training and meet competency requirements as established by the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals and follow mandatory prescribing guidelines.

"It's exciting to see a growing list of minor ailments for which pharmacists can prescribe medications," Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals registrar Jeana Wen-

del said in a statement. "It's a big step in keeping the public safe while easing pressures on the health system."

Saskatchewan pharmacists were first granted the authority to prescribe for four minor ailments in 2011. Since that time, the list has expanded to 30 conditions, including the two new conditions. The full list of conditions is available at <https://saskpharm.ca/site/forthepublic/healthcareservices?nav=sidebar>

saskpharm.ca/site/forthepublic/healthcareservices?nav=sidebar

There are approximately 1,220 practicing pharmacists in more than 425 licensed community pharmacies in Saskatchewan. Since 2007, that is an increase of nearly 340, or 38 per cent, more pharmacists across Saskatchewan communities delivering care.

When social media blocks your access to the news, turn to your local newspaper.

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MLA for Meadow Lake
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Hon. Scott Moe, Premier
MLA for Rosthern-Shellbrook
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Have a safe and Happy New Year!

Shellbrook Curling Club trains new RockStars

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

Throughout November and December, the Shellbrook Curling Club has been ensuring a bright future for itself by training the next generation of RockStars through its revamped youth curling program.

Launched by Curling Canada for this curling season, the RockStars Program is targeted at kids aged 12 and under and aims to teach them the fundamentals of the

game across five skill categories: technical, tactical, physical, mental, and social.

Though not too different from what the Shellbrook Curling Club has offered in prior years, program instructor Gayle Draper says she appreciates that this new program offers a little more structure.

“Curling Canada tried to structure it very similarly to how Skate Canada has its CanSkate program,” she said.

“You can evaluate the kids, and at the end of

the day they get a baggage tag with a progression chart on it that they can build on. And as they take the second session or do it again next year, they can earn more stars on this baggage tag.”

This newly structured program has been well received, with more than 30 kids coming out to take part in the club’s eight-week program. Draper has been pleasantly surprised by this turnout, as the program has typically had about a dozen kids enrolled in past years.

With some parent helpers on the ice to assist in running the program, Draper says the hour-long sessions have seen the kids learn all the basics they need to play the sport, from getting their balance while sliding, to all the little pieces needed to deliver a rock properly, to how scoring works in the sport.

Interspersed with these skill-based lessons have been fun activities to keep the program more kid-oriented.

Draper says it’s been amazing to see how quickly the kids have picked up the skills, given that most of them



The eight-week curling program also saw kids participate in fun activities and games.

have never set foot on a curling sheet before — a testament to how accessible the sport is.

“It’s a sport you can play at any age. If you learn the basics of curling at a very young age, and you get the grasp of it, it’s something you can pick [back] up 20 years down the road,” she said, noting that the club has members in its afternoon league who are well into their 80s.

By making curling more accessible to kids through its RockStars Program, and to adults through regular fun nights, sponsor nights, and bonspiels, Draper says the Shellbrook Curling Club is hoping to break the stigma that the sport is boring, and shine a spotlight on the fun aspects of recreational (rather than competitive) curling.

She hopes this will be enough to turn at least some of the young RockStars into future or life-long curlers.

“[I hope] that they get to know enough of the fundamentals of curling, even if they don’t come back for a second session, that they could pick it up later on in life and feel comfortable being out there,” she said. “A lot of people don’t want to come out later on in life if they’ve never done it before, because they think they’re not good enough to do it.”

While the RockStars Program finished for the year on Tuesday, Dec. 19, the kids will have another chance to take to the sheets on Jan. 9, 2024, when they wrap up the program with some showcase games.

Similar to how skating and dancing have year-end shows, Draper says this will offer an opportunity for parents, grandparents, and anyone else who may be interested, to come out and watch.

“The kids are pretty proud of what they’ve learned,” she said.



Kids practice sliding technique during the Shellbrook Curling Club’s youth RockStars Program. Photos courtesy of the Shellbrook Curling Club

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 12 pm - 5 pm

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 - Tuesday 11:30am - 4:30pm; 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 2pm - 6pm; Friday 1:30pm - 5pm. 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 2pm - 8pm; Wednesday 2pm - 8pm; Thursday 12pm - 6pm; Friday 10 am - 5pm (Story Time 10:30am - 11:30am); Saturday 10am - 4pm.

SPIRITWOOD: Witchekan Wildlife Federation Inc. Annual Banquet & Awards Night – Saturday, January 20, 2024, Spiritwood Civic Centre. Cocktails 5pm; Supper 6pm. Adults \$30; 12 & Under \$15; Preschool Free. For tickets call: Lyla 306-841-8284; Pearl & Eric 306-883-2835; Al 306-883-9231. Photo Contest – Categories include: Scenery, Hunting, Fishing & Wildlife. Pictures must be printed on 8x10 Kodak paper & can be submitted the day of banquet.

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December winners drawn at Spiritwood Library



The Spiritwood Public Library’s Dessert of the Month December grand prize winner was Linda Seibel. She got to take home all kinds of yummy treats made by the Library Board members.

By **HEATHER GATZKE, Librarian**



The Spiritwood Public Library’s Winter Fun Basket winners were drawn on Friday, Dec. 15. Deborah Steinhilber won the children’s basket.



The Spiritwood Public Library’s Winter Fun Basket winners were drawn on Friday, Dec. 15. Perry Robinson won the adult basket.

Sask. farmers on right track with emissions

Saskatchewan farmers should feel justifiably proud of the results of a recent study, which analyzed the carbon footprint of five key crops and found emissions in the province are considerably lower than other leading producers.

The Global Institute for Food Security released the results of its study recently, and as a result it has been suggested Saskatchewan's sustainable farming practices are the reason for the low emissions.

That is the most encouraging aspect of the

results.

If farm practices are at the centre of the better results, it stands to reason the practices can be copied and duplicated, at least largely, which can help other agriculture areas achieve better results.

But there are bigger questions that the study doesn't exactly answer, at least in a clear and definitive way.

To start with, are the changes we are seeing as the result of human-caused emissions, or is this a long-time change running its



CALVIN DANIELS

course?

Of course, either way we need to figure out ways to adapt to the changes — particularly with farming, as that is where our food comes from. But knowing for sure it's something we are

doing makes a difference. It is almost assured human activity is at that the very least a negative contributor to the situation, but how do we convince the many naysayers?

And among the sources of emissions, exactly how much of the blame can be applied to agriculture?

It has to at least be asked if farming is being painted a villain because sectors such as air traffic or coal burning sourced energy have PR departments with deeper pockets.

It is critical we know where to invest most

wisely in changing processes to affect the most positive change for our dollars spent.

Then, there is another question that must be asked: even if farming is a contributor, can we expect the sector to bear the cost of change, and still be as effective in terms of production, in a world where the mouths needing fed continues to climb?

That may well become the most difficult thing to balance, effecting emissions in a positive way, yet allowing fertilizers and other crop pro-

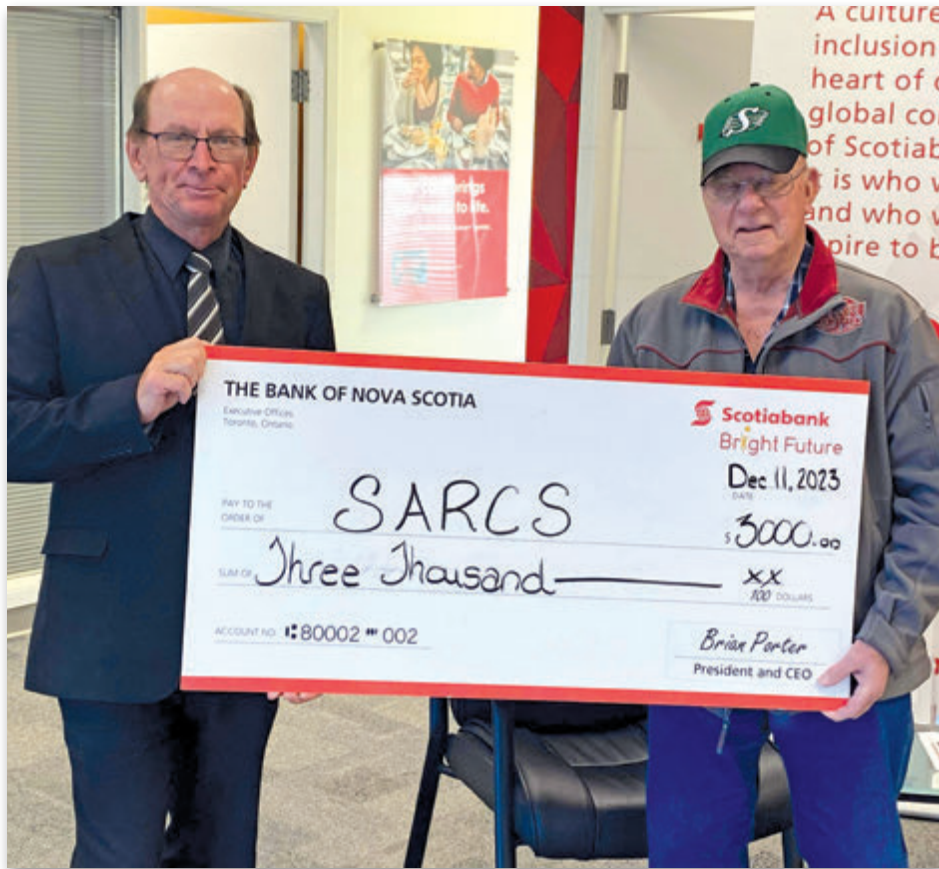
cesses to continue so the food produced remains enough to feed everyone.

Of course, if changes aren't made, the question becomes what will climate change — whatever its cause — do to farm production?

That is the proverbial other shoe to drop in terms of how we fare in the years ahead.

Kudos to Saskatchewan farmers for being at least on the right track. Let's hope what they have done well will be adopted more widely as we prepare for the impact of changes we know are coming.

Scotiabank donates to SARCS bull riding



Spiritwood Scotiabank matched ticket sales for October's Bull Riding competition up to a maximum of \$3,000. Spiritwood's Bull Riding event is an annual fundraiser that donates all profits to Spiritwood Area Recreation, Culture & Sport (SARCS) initiatives throughout the Rec Centre. Pictured: Ron Radke, Scotiabank manager, presents the \$3,000 donation to Ed Szasz for the Bull Riding committee.

By BEVRA FEE, Spiritwood Herald Reporter

Christmas cheer spread at Spiritwood Library



Regional KidsFirst came to Spiritwood Library on Dec. 8, spreading Christmas cheer. Chantelle Sprenger arrived with tons of fun activities for the kids to do, from decorating felt trees to painting, then sensory games with red and green rice, to quality play time with cars and roads with signs. Chantelle even had a special delivery of beautiful books from Santa for each child.

By HEATHER GATZKE, Librarian

What happens when you don't advertise?

Very little.

Sports humour review from 2023 (Part 1)

Part 1 of a review of some of the best quips and quotes from 2023 (January to June):

- Comedy writer Alex Kaseberg: "In the World Cup, France beat England 2-1. What I like about France is no trash-talking. Actually, they can't trash talk because, in soccer, you're not allowed to use your hands."

- Al Michaels on Thursday night Football, about Jets QB Mike White seeing a plethora of doctors to deal with an injury: "He saw every doctor except Zhivago and Julius Erving."

- PGA Tour player Mackenzie Hughes, on Twitter: "This has been a tough decision to make, but after talking with my family and friends, I've decided to retire. The game has just beaten me up too much over the years. One day I may come back, but for now it's time to say goodbye to fantasy football."

- Phil Mushnick of the New York Post: "To assign 'Hollerin' Kevin Harlan an NFL game on CBS or Westwood One Radio, is like listening to a bingo caller on a cruise ship loaded with hard-of-hearing seniors."

- Pierre LeBrun in The Athletic, on junior hockey star Connor Bedard: "He is the kind of prospect an NHL franchise should go all-out tank-a-palooza for."

- RJ Currie of sportsdeke.com: "Canadian Olympic figure skater Tessa Virtue has gotten engaged to Toronto Maple Leafs defenceman Morgan Rielly. I suggest a spring honeymoon — the Leafs usually aren't busy that time of year."

- Comedy writer Torben Rolfsen of Vancouver: "Switching over from the end of the World Juniors to the NHL games Thursday night...it was like watch-

ing the Moon Landing followed by a documentary on plumbing."

- Alex Kaseberg again: "Less than a week after team trainers saved the life of Damar Hamlin, the Packers' Quay Walker was ejected for shoving a Lions trainer aiding an injured player. It was the stupidest thing I have ever seen in the NFL and I saw the Chargers draft Ryan Leaf second overall."

- Another one from Kaseberg: "In Dallas' 31-14 win over Tampa Bay, Cowboys' kicker Brett Maher missed a record four extra points. It turns out Maher is a German word for shank."

- Jason Sobel of Sirius SX, on Twitter: "Patrick Reed threw a tee at Rory McIlroy, which might not sound like much, but this is essentially golf's version of a bench-clearing brawl."

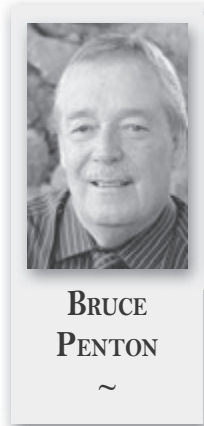
- RJ Currie again: "The Edmonton Oilers hung updates of their 20 total NHL division, conference and Cup banners at Rogers Place. Not to be outdone, the Winnipeg Jets installed new Plexiglas."

- More RJ Currie: "Tiger Woods recently told Golf Channel's Morning Drive if all the pieces fall into place, he still has a shot at Nicklaus's 18 majors. It was so inspiring, I mailed another marriage proposal to Anne Hathaway."

- Kaseberg again: "When asked who he liked more, the Eagles or the Chiefs, George Santos said, 'I've never heard of the band the Chiefs. But I used to play guitar for the Eagles.'"

- Broadcaster Colt Knost on the raucous 16th hole at the Waste Management Phoenix Open: "We've got a loaded leaderboard and a loaded gallery."

- Bryan Hayes of TSN, on Twitter: "Imagine being on



BRUCE
PENTON

the LIV Tour and watching Tiger, JT and Rory roll birdies on 18 at Riviera and thinking 'well, guess I got a big match against the Range Goats tomorrow.'"

- Vancouver comedy guy Steve Burgess, referencing the proliferation of gambling in the world of sports: "I am guessing we're a year or two away from teams being awarded the Super Bowl only if they cover the spread."

- Columnist Rob Vanstone in his farewell column in the Regina Leader-Post: "Be assured that dogs are much more popular than sports columnists. As a bonus, dogs can be housebroken."

- More from Kaseberg: "The frisbee dog at the halftime of the University of Louisville basketball game took a big No. 2 on the court. He got the idea from watching the Los Angeles Lakers play."

- Steve Simmons of Sunmedia, on the Winnipeg Jets' activity at the NHL's trade deadline: "The Jets went conservative and picked up Nino Niederreiter and Vladislav Namestnikov at the deadline. The team is no better on the ice but they are harder to spell."

- Rolfsen again, on defenceman Jacob Chychrun being traded from Arizona to Ottawa: "He's truly experiencing climate change."

- Another Burgess offering, tweeting during the U.S. blowout win over Canada in the World Baseball Classic: "If the USA scores four more runs against Canada they get custody of Windsor and a formal apology for the War of 1812."

- Another one from Kaseberg: "People are really into their NCAA Tournament brackets or they're not. Today I told a woman I had Gonzaga in the Semis and she suggested I see a urologist."

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

- Mushnick again: "As the door in old Tigers Stadium read, 'Visitors Clubhouse, No Visitors.'"

- Mike Bianchi of the Orlando Sentinel, on the death of Willis Reed, who famously limped onto the court in the 1970 NBA final to lead the Knicks to the title: "Fifty years later in New York, Kyrie Irving missed an entire season because he wouldn't get jabbed with a needle."

- RJ Currie again: "Complaints from fans prompted the N.Y. Islanders to scrap their new goal horn. It's a shame too, because they got a good deal on it from the Ottawa Senators, who had rarely used it."

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

- RJ Currie again: "Ohio residents recently voted not to legalize marijuana. Not to worry Cleveland Browns fans: you've still got liquor."

- Another one from Kaseberg: "Regarded as the worst owner in sports, Dan Snider is selling the NFL's

Washington Commanders for \$6 billion (after buying the team for \$750 million). That will show him."

- RJ Currie again: "One of Google's computer-driven cars was pulled over in California for going too slow. The police christened it Danica Patrick."

- Golden Knights Twitter feed after Mark Stone's two goals led Vegas to a 5-2 win over Winnipeg Jets on April 20: "Nothing like getting Mark Stoned on 4/20."

- Bob Molinaro again: "The Oakland A's relocation in 2027 will give Las Vegas three major pro sports franchises. Finally, something for tourists to do in that town."

- From the parody website the Beaverton: "Calgary tackles housing crisis by spending \$867 million on new home for the Flames."

- Janice Hough of leftcoastsportsbabe.com: "How much worse do the Oakland A's have to look before Las Vegas says, 'Never mind, don't come, we're holding out for a major league baseball team?'"

- Bob Molinaro again, on Saturday, May 5: "With the Derby in Louisville and the coronation of King Charles in London, Saturday will be a big day for silly hats."

- Another one from Simmons: "Do you remember that (the Leafs' Brendan) Shanahan offered a front office position to Kelly McCrimmon when he was running the Brandon Wheat Kings? McCrimmon stayed in junior hockey and then left for Vegas, where he is currently GM. The Golden Knights have won eight playoff rounds in McCrimmon's time in Vegas. The Leafs have won eight in the past 24 years."

- RJ Currie again: "Have you seen the life-size bronze

statue of Shaquille O'Neal outside of Staples Center? It's just like Shaq, only it's lighter and more mobile."

- Former pro hockey player Rich Preston, recalling his days with the Houston Aeros of the World Hockey Association when he played on a line with Gordie and Marty Howe: "Terry Ruskowski said: 'That's not a bad line, but it needs a nickname. They came up with, 'Howe, Howe and Who!'"

- Bob Molinaro again: "Victor Wembanyama, the Eiffel Tower of hoops, could be held back at first by his spindly frame. The NBA's presumptive No. 1 draft pick from France is built like a baguette. He'll be better served when he's closer to a loaf of rye."

- One more from Rolfsen: "Remember when 'Fear the Beard' meant James Harden, instead of an Alek Manonah start?"

- Golf journalist Shane Bacon, lamenting the recent focus on off-course instead of on-course news: "The focus has been on wallets instead of wedges."

- Jerry Tarde of golf digest.com, simplifying the PGA-Saudi golf merger: "Marry me or I will kill you" was the proposition the PGA Tour commissioner faced. In the geopolitical world, it's the same deal Putin proposed to Ukraine and China to Taiwan."

- Ron Green, Jr., of golfpost.com, on the 80-yard 15th hole at the Los Angeles Country Club: "That's shorter than Terrell Hatton's temper."

- Mike Bianchi again: "Putting Lord Stanley's Cup in Vegas is like hanging the Mona Lisa in Room 123 of the Motel 6 in Ocala."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

GOOD NEWS

BEST OF INTENTIONS

By **RANDALL MCLEOD**
Immanuel Lutheran, Parkside

Here it is (almost) January again, a whole new year, a time to improve our lives, a time for "New Year's Resolutions" (DUN - DUN - DUNNNN). You know, those promises that we make to ourselves, with the very best of intentions, that we seldom, if ever, keep. Yeah, those things, like annual gym memberships that don't get used after February, and weight loss promises that turn into weight gain and so on.

But, as I recall, the road to somewhere very unpleasant is paved with

good intentions. Our good intentions, as often as not, go completely unfulfilled. So, what's the difference between a goal and a dream? A goal has applied effort, a dream remains in our minds. Want to learn to play a guitar? Practice, practice, practice. It's not so much the magnitude of effort as it is the consistency.

Ok, but this is a pastoral column, not a motivational one. What does all that stuff have to do with my faith life? Good question, thanks for asking. It is precisely the same with our faith life, good intentions are only a hope and a wish, not a reality. Realization of them

requires action, consistent action.

Let's take a quick look at ancient Israel, shall we? Here we see a people delivered from slavery in Egypt through a series of 10 miracles and 10 plagues that dethroned the gods of Egypt and left the Hebrews untouched. Then, they saw their deliverance through the parting of the waters of the Red Sea. Yet, when Moses, and later Joshua, challenged them to serve only the One True God, with only the best of intentions, they resolved to serve him only.

And just how long did that last? Only until the first difficulties and stresses arrived. How does that happen? How can we see God do all those good things and still turn tail and run when the going gets tough? That is the very nature of sinful humanity. We may want to do what is good and right, but

we don't, we can't, we want comfort and ease, good intentions consistently fail us, just the same as they did the people of Israel.

How then can we live a solid faith life? Jesus put it this way: "You must be born again." We need the power of the Holy Spirit to walk out our "good intentions". It requires obedience to the Holy Spirit's prompting. God tells us that obedience is better than all sacrifice, and it is. He, through His Holy Spirit, will give us the appropriate good intentions and then motivate us to carry them out. I think that's a pretty good deal.

So, Happy New Year one and all. This year, maybe ask God to identify what your good intentions ought to be, and then trust Him to give you both the want and the will to carry them out.

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Ode to the poinsettia - Part III

By **PATRICIA HANBIDGE**

Poinsettias are truly the "Christmas Plant". Last week's column detailed how to keep your poinsettia in good shape throughout this holiday season. This week I would like to concentrate on how to keep that poinsettia thriving in its entire holiday splendor for many years to come. As you remember from last week poinsettias are native to Mexico and in their native surroundings are a large, leggy shrub. Therefore, if you intend to keep your poinsettia for years to come then you will be nurturing a shrub for the future in spite of the selection and breeding that has made them more compact.

Once it is beginning to green up outside it is time for gardeners to decide the fate of that likely still rather attractive poinsettia that is rather reminiscent of Christmas past. Some of us will undoubtedly just ignore it and eventually compost it; others prefer to convince it to reflower again for the next Christmas season.

In the spring of the year, it is time to cut back your poinsettia to about 15cm. This will encourage new growth. It is also a good idea to repot the plant into a pot that is slightly larger than the previous one. Place it in a very sunny location. Continue to water but let the media dry out almost completely between watering.

Once June rolls around you can increase the watering and place the plant outside in a sheltered location. In the same fashion that you would harden off your bedding plants, gradually acclimatize your poinsettia to withstand a few hours of direct sunlight each day. At this time, I like to dig a hole in a suitable location in the garden and completely bury the pot. Fertilize the plant with 20-20-20 about every two weeks and watch that poinsettia grow. What you will see is the production of thick, healthy branches with very green leaves. To encourage a bushier plant, pinch back the top centimeter of

the growing shoots every three or four weeks to encourage branching. In a milder climate your poinsettia would grow into a very attractive shrub. Leave the plant outside until the nights begin to cool off. Bring the poinsettia back indoors before the nighttime temperatures reach 10 C (50 F), as they are quite subject to chilling injury.

Again, place your poinsettia in a very bright indoor location. If the plant has grown substantially, and you wish to maintain that size it will have to be repotted. If you wish it to be a smaller festive plant, trim back the plant to about 4 leaves per stem.

In order to entice your poinsettia to rebloom for the Christmas season it must receive bright daytime light and totally dark nights. Flowering is "photoperiodically" induced in the poinsettia. What this means is that it requires a certain day or more correctly night length in order to convince it to flower. To get a poinsettia to flower it needs long nights (greater than twelve hours) and short days.

Starting about mid-September, place the plant into a completely dark location at 5 PM each and every night. It is important that it remains in total darkness until 8am each morning. At that time bring the plant back out into a bright location. This schedule must be continued for a period of about 75 days. Very short periods of light during the "nighttime" can ruin the whole process and necessitate it beginning all over again.

So, if you are the type of gardener who likes to achieve more difficult tasks - I urge you to try to reflower your poinsettia. You will likely find it a rather satisfying process - not without challenges but definitely worth the process! All the best to you and yours throughout the holiday season.

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.

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.
Pastor Josh
1-780-690-2100

PRESBYTERIAN

Mistawasis
Sunday worship
11:00 a.m.
Rev. Stewart Foster

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 - 2nd 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

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN

Parkside
11 a.m. - Worship

UNITED CHURCH

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

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Debden
Sun. Mass - 9:30 a.m.
Fr. Mariusz Zajac
Big River - Sacred Heart
Sun., 11:30 a.m. - Mass
Whitefish
Sun., 2:30 p.m. - Mass.
Victoire
Sat., 7:30 p.m. - Mass.
Fr. Mariusz Zajac
St. Agatha's - Shellbrook
Mass - Sunday 9 a.m.
St. Henry's - Leask
Mass - Sunday 11 a.m.
Mistawasis
1st & 3rd Sundays 1:30 p.m.
Fr. Tuan Doan

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

407-2nd Ave E, Shellbrook
Sat., 9:45 a.m. - Sabbath
School
Sat., 11:00 am - Worship
Pastor Myshan Irving
306-747-3398

PRAISE & WORSHIP

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

PARTNERS IN FAITH

Lutheran/United/
Christchurch Anglican,
137-2nd St. W.
Spiritwood
Worship 11:00 a.m.
Rev. Sarah Urano

UNITED /ANGLICAN

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

CATHOLIC SUNDAY

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

COWBOY CHURCH

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

LAKELAND COMMUNITY CHURCH

(Corner of 1st Ave. and 4th
St., Spiritwood)
Sun., 11 am - Worship
Service & Sunday School
Pastor Michael Kluthe
306-883-2380

FIELDS OF HOPE (HOFFNUNGSFELDER) MENNONITE CHURCH

Glenbush
Worship - 11:00 am

BETHEL

Medstead
2nd Sunday, 10 am -
Worship
Pastor David Jensen
4th Sunday, 10 am -
Worship
Pastor David Jensen

MENNONITE BRETHREN

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

Gideons International of Canada

Battlefords Camp
Phone Art Martynes
(306) 389-4633

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

407 - 2nd Ave .E,
Shellbrook
Sat., 9:45 am -
Sabbath School
Sat., 11:00 am - Worship
Broadcast on
VOAR 92.1 FM
Pastor Liviu Tilihoi
306-747-3398

BELBUTTE FULL GOSPEL

11 am Worship Service

PARTNERS IN WORSHIP

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

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Minutes of an RM of Spiritwood meeting

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

The Regular Meeting of the Council of the Rural Municipality of Spiritwood No. 496 was held on Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2023.

In attendance were, Reeve Shirley Dauvin, Division 1 Larry Vaagen, Division 2 Dale Wasden, Division 3 Terry Wingerter, Division 5 Heather Warkentin, Division 6 Bevra Fee, Administrator Colette Bussiere, and Foreman Darcy Laventure.

Absent was, Division 4 Dennis Laventure.

A quorum being present the meeting was called to order at 8:05 a.m. by Reeve, Shirley Dauvin.

Councillor Bevra Fee acknowledged a conflict in the matter of the request for office rental space.

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

Foreman Darcy Laventure left the council meeting at 9:35 a.m.

Wingerter: That Ian Wasden's salary be increased to \$25 per hour and be retroactive to Sept. 1, 2023. Carried

Wasden: That the minutes of the Sept. 12, 2023, Regular Meeting of Council be approved as presented. Carried

Fee: That the closure & sale of Twp Rd 525, located between SSW 34-52-12-W3 & NNW 27-52-12-W3 be withdrawn as the RM cannot satisfy access to the following lands: SE 34-54-12-W3, NE 27-52-12-W3, NW 35-52-12-W3, and NW 26-52-12-W3. Carried

Wingerter: That the Administrator's report having been read now be filed and that the municipal office be closed on Nov. 13,

2023, in lieu of Remembrance Day and Nov. 21, 2023, for staff training. Carried

Delegates Aran McCallen and Kristen Dube joined the council meeting at 11:01 a.m. to discuss the road access to Par A Plan 101926212 located on S 1/2 01-49-08-W3.

Wingerter: That we enter into an agreement with Aran McCallen for the upgrading of the road accessing Par A Plan 101926212 located on S 1/2 01-49-08-W3. Carried

Delegates Aran McCallum & Kristen Dube left the council meeting at 11:22 a.m.

Delegate Clarke Gossen, representing Thickwood Hills Snowmobile Club, attended council meeting at 11:23 a.m. to discuss snowmobile trails.

Delegate Clarke Gossen left the council meeting at 11:38 a.m.

Warkentin: That the bank reconciliation for the month ending September 30, 2023, be accepted as presented. Carried

Vaagen: That the "List of Accounts" as listed on the attached Schedule "A" forming part of these minutes be passed for payment: Cheque No. 14404-14444 (\$176,584.10), Payroll File No. 430, 432, 433 & 434 (\$57,442.21), EFT No. 2023-0051-0067 (\$148,291.17). Carried

Wingerter: That the Statement of Financial Activities for the month ending Sept. 30, 2023, be approved as presented. Carried

Warkentin: That the discretionary use application for a commercial kitchen located on NW 07-51-10-W3 be approved. Carried

Warkentin: That the discretionary use application for a tire repair & sales shop & for the retail sale of groceries & Costco

surplus on land described as NE 24-49-12-W3 be approved, subject to the condition that building inspections are completed to ensure compliance with the National Building Code for commercial use, and that the discretionary use application for the sale of fuel from NE 24-49-12-W3 be refused. Carried

Councillor Bevra Fee declared a conflict of interest and left council chambers at 1:13 p.m.

Warkentin: That we enter into a lease agreement with Bevra Fee for the 2024 calendar year. The lessee shall be responsible for their own internet, phone & custodial services. Carried

Councillor Bevra Fee returned to council chambers at 1:16 p.m.

Wasden: That Bylaw No. 2023-3, being a Bylaw to Establish Planning and Development Fees be read a first time. (Editor's note: the bylaw was unanimously given three readings and enacted)

Wasden: That Bylaw No. 2023-4, being a Bylaw to Amend the Zoning District Map in Bylaw No. 4-2015, known as the Zoning Bylaw be read a first time. Carried

Vaagen: That the request to clear trees, brush & debris from the right of way which provides access to SW 09-49-08-W3 for the purpose of allowing large farm equipment be approved as per the road allowance brushing policy & approach development policy. Carried

Wingerter: That council consents to the leveling of the depressions caused by tree stump removal within the Environmental Reserve (ER), fronting Lot 8 Blk 1 in The Cove. The applicant is solely responsible for all cost, design, safety, and workmanship

aspects associated with this consent and all work must be completed in accordance with the Water Security Agency's Aquatic Habitat Protection Permit. Carried

Wingerter: That we purchase the Munisoft Customer Portal software which will allow property owners the ability to log into their accounts online to view their tax notices, assessment notices, invoices, custom letters, etc. Carried

Wasden: That the Council for the RM of Spiritwood No. 496 has no objections to SaskPower's Service Order No. 20388906, to rebuild approximately 39 km of power line North of Shell Lake, SK. Carried

Warkentin: That the Council for the RM of Spiritwood No. 496 has no objections to SaskPower's Service Order No. 20404552 to service NW 07-51-10-W3. Carried

Wasden: That we purchase two (2) traffic counters/classifiers, accessory supplies and software licensing from International Road Dynamics at a cost of four thousand, five hundred and forty five dollars (\$4,545.00) plus applicable taxes. Carried

Vaagen: That we enter into an agreement with South Shore Waterworks Inc. for the installation of a waterline within the road allowance to service Lots 1-10 Blk 1 & Lot 1-5 Blk 2 in South Shore Ridge Estates. All costs, liability, repairs & maintenance shall be the responsibility of South Shore Waterworks Inc. Carried

Fee: That we accept the Town of Spiritwood's proposal to waive the 2023 fire protection services levy, in lieu of transfer of ownership of the Town of Spiritwood's

share of fire fighting equipment & the Town of Spiritwood fire truck to the Rural Municipality of Spiritwood. Carried

Wingerter: That we consent to the placement of clay fill within the lot boundary of Lot 11 Blk 4 in Spruce Bay, in accordance with the Water Security Agency's (WSA) regulations & the Aquatic Habitat Protection Permit. Carried

Fee: That Council for the RM of Spiritwood No. 496 objects to the transfer of the W 1/2 29-54-13-W3 & E 1/2 32-54-13-W3. The transfer of W 1/2 29-54-13-W3 & E 1/2 32-54-13-W3 to TLE status will land lock the following occupied lease lands: N 1/2 19-54-13-W3, Section 30-54-13-W3, Section 31-54-13-W3, and W 1/2 32-54-13-W3.

The RM is not proposing any future road widening and is not aware of any easements or unregistered roads that affect this selection.

It is Council's desire to enter into a MOU with Pelican Lake First Nation for the purpose of dealing with road infrastructure and jurisdictional authority over roads in the area. Carried

Wingerter: That the council meeting be closed to the public at 2:04 pm under the authority of Part III of The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, to go in camera to discuss Human Resources. Carried

CAO Colette Bussiere left council chambers at 2:04 p.m.

CAO Colette Bussiere returned to council chambers at 2:16 p.m. The regular meeting of council was out of camera and resumed at 2:16 p.m.

Wasden: That the meeting be adjourned.

Minutes of a Village of Leask council meeting

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

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Council of the Village of Leask held at the Leask Community Hall on Oct. 18, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

Present were Acting Mayor Zach Waldner, Councillors Valerie Priestley, Charles Smith, and Eugene Verbonac, and administrator Yvette Hamel.

The acting mayor called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Verbonac: That the additions to the agenda be approved as presented: 1. Tender for Culvert, 2. Tender for House, 3. Hair Salon Lease - Ria Martens, 4. Snow Blower, 5. ISC, 6. Rink. Carried

Priestley: That the agenda be approved. Carried

Smith: That the Minutes of Sept. 20, 2023, Regular Council meeting be approved as corrected. Carried

Verbonac: That the Village of Leask accept the Maintenance report as presented. Carried

Priestley: That the Village of Leask accept the Water Treatment and Lab Testing reports as presented. Carried

Priestley: That the Village of Leask approve the attached list of Accounts Payable, being: cheques 10097-10102 & on-line payments 23247-23273 totalling \$32,623.44; cheques 10103-10105 being council indemnities totalling \$1,147.00; cheques 10106-10116 totalling \$15,051.09; cheques 10117-

10119 totalling \$1,417.64, and cheque 10120 being Council indemnity totalling \$190.00, be approved as presented. Carried

5:36 p.m. Due to pecuniary interest, Acting Mayor Waldner left the meeting.

Priestley: That the Village of Leask approved cheque 010121 totalling \$710.40 to Leask Mechanical for repairs and maintenance to car wash approved as presented. Carried

5:40 pm Acting Mayor Waldner returned to meeting.

Priestley: That the Village of Leask accept the September 2023 bank reconciliation as presented. Carried

Smith: That the Village of Leask move that the properties which are in arrears for less than half of the 2022 taxes are exempt from tax enforcement at this time. Carried

Priestley: That the Village of Leask be authorized to proceed under The Tax Enforcement Act to acquire title for the following described lands (list omitted). Carried

Verbonac: That the Village of Leask accept the Leask Community Hardware Store report as presented by Yvette Hamel. Carried

Priestley: That the Village of Leask reimburse \$250 damage deposit for the Oct. 7, 2023, Leask Community Hall rental. Carried

Priestley: That the Village of Leask lease the Beauty Salon to Ria Martens as per contract of \$350.00 a month with a \$350.00 damage deposit, starting Nov. 1, 2023. Contract to be revisited in one year. Carried

Priestley: That the Village of Leask Administrator contact Meryl Nagy for first right of refusal to contract for snow removal on sidewalks at the Affinity Credit Union, Hardware Store, Village office, Clinic, Woodland Pharmacy. Village Shop and North and East sidewalks of Community Hall. Carried

Priestley: That the Village of Leask extend tender closing date to Nov. 15, 2023, for replacement of two culverts and tender for restoration of lot 9, parcel "A" Plan 63PA00509 due to insufficient allotted time of advertising as the tenders were in the Shellbrook Chronicle Oct. 12, 2023, with closing date Oct. 18, 2023. Carried

Smith: That the correspondence having been supplied to council for information be approved as presented. Carried

Smith: That the Village of offer \$400.00 per lot, for the un-serviced Lot 16 Block 8 PA 16878 & un-serviced Lot 17 Block 8 PA 16878, further fees incurred regarding transfers be paid by proprietor. Carried (3 for, 1 against)

Priestley: That the Village of Leask participate in Christmas Activities in conjunction with Leask Community School and on Dec. 14, 2023, by providing Santa, Christmas Carols, children's treat bags, serve coffee, tea, and hot chocolate at the Leask Community Hall, further the Christmas light Contest to be judged on Dec. 14, 2023, first prize being \$50.00 gift card, second and third prizes being \$25.00 gift cards purchased

from Leask Mart. Carried

Verbonac: That the Village of Leask accept the Shellbrook & District Health Services Foundation report as presented by Councillor Valerie Priestley. Carried

Priestley: That the Village Administrator send letters to Patty Couture, Director of Primary Care NE, Dr. I Saidu, Physician in Shellbrook and Family Medicine Division Lead for NE 1-4, and Parkland Physician Recruitment and Retention Committee, requesting Dr. Aghedo to see patients at the Leask Clinic. Carried

Priestley: That the Village of Leask would subsidize the MOA salary for the Clinic, if it would mean Doctor services in Village of Leask Community. Carried

Priestley: That the Village of Leask approve Administrators report as presented. Carried

Verbonac: 8:17 p.m. That the Village of Leask Council move to in camera. Carried

Smith: 8:53 p.m. That the Village of Leask Council return from in camera. Carried

Priestley: That the Village of Council reimburse account 281-0020 December 2022-April 2023 as the house was unoccupied due to fire damages. Carried

Priestley: That the Village of Leask advertise for an office assistant to work two days a week starting January 2024, moreover for coverage while Administrator is absent. Carried

Verbonac: That this meeting be adjourned at 8:55 p.m.