

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald

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www.shellbrookchronicle.com | www.spiritwoodherald.com

Jesse Tree, Shellbrook Food Bank provide Christmas meals



Emergency service, RCMP, and volunteer fire department members took part in the annual food drive pickups in Spiritwood.

By **BEVRA FEE**
Spiritwood Herald Reporter
& **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Spiritwood & Area

For the 28th year running, a group of community volunteers and the Sacred Heart Parish worked to canvass for donations toward Christmas hampers for the less fortunate. And for the second year, the Spiritwood Lions Club donated money to help with the charitable cause.

This year, 46 hampers were requested – a number that is up from last year – and the organizers strive to include everything required for a Christmas meal.

According to Christine Tkachuk, “We want to use donated food items to build into a Christmas meal, along with other items, with a gift and a book for each child.”

Cash donations help to buy items that are not typically donated, as those are primarily non-perishable items.

“We could not do this year after year without the support of Hujbers Market on Main, Spiritwood Pharmacy, Lake-

land Community Church, Martodam Family Retail, the RCMP, Spiritwood Volunteer Fire Department, SERM officers, Spiritwood Ambulance and our committee members,” reports Tkachuk.

While the committee of organizers undertake the advertising in the lead-up to the food drive, the businesses provide assistance with discounts and act as central drop-off sites.

The protective services canvass the town on a designated day to pickup donations house-to-house, with many residents setting out bags of food items in advance of the afternoon tour.

“This year, for the first time, we also had a Leoville food drive that was conducted by the youth group there, and the Simplot branch in Spiritwood won a food drive challenge among all their offices. The continued support from our community is phenomenal and we see every year how much our recipients appreciate the help at this time of year,” commented Tkachuk.

Shellbrook & Area

After distributing 44 Christmas hampers over the 2022 holiday season (a marked increase over the 35 hand-

ed out in 2021), Shellbrook and Area Ministerial Food Bank coordinator Linda Lundy started 2023 with the expectation that the need for the food bank would only increase throughout the year.

As families continued to be pushed to their financial limits by inflation and soaring food prices throughout 2023, Lundy’s intuition proved spot-on.

“Food bank usage throughout the year was way up,” she said. “I did 17 hampers for families in November. That’s probably the highest it’s ever been.”

This increase in food bank usage continued into the holiday season, when the local and area church community, and other community volunteers, gathered to pack up 47 Christmas food hampers, helping bring a bit of Christmas cheer to an estimated 200 people in the Shellbrook, Canwood, Parkside, and Leask area.

With the increased need in the area, the Shellbrook and Area Ministerial Food Bank has also seen its resources and finances stretched throughout 2023, but Lundy says the food bank remains viable thanks to strong com-

munity support.

“We had to do a lot of filling in with our own finances and resources, but overall, it was pretty good thanks to the communities. It’s not just Shellbrook; it’s Canwood, Leask, and Parkside. They’re wonderful,” she said, noting that local and area schools and businesses contributed as they have in past years.

Along with the trend of increased food bank usage, Lundy says there’s also been a changing trend in terms of the food bank’s clientele, as more families are finding themselves without the resources to meet their needs.

This, she adds, is why it’s so important for the Shellbrook and Area Ministerial Food Bank to remain viable, and for the community to continue supporting it.

“At one point, it was a lot of individuals, but it is now a lot of families. And they’re working people, but they still can’t cover their rent, utilities, and all the rest of it, and their food. Kids are going to school hungry,” she said, noting that a lot of food bank referrals come from local and area schools.

More photos on page 2

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Jesse Tree, Shellbrook Food Bank provide Christmas meals



Lion Bevra Fee presents a donation from Spiritwood Lions Club to Christine Tkachuk.



Food hampers assembled and ready for delivery in Spiritwood area.



A group of volunteers helped pack up and distribute 47 Christmas hampers for the Shellbrook and Area Ministerial Food Bank on Dec. 20.

Canwood community members go Christmas carolling

By DONNA LOVBERG

On Friday, Dec. 22, members of Zion Lutheran Church and Canwood Pentecostal church and other community members joined together for their annual Christmas carolling around the town. The highlight of the evening was singing to the community's beloved seniors at Whispering Pine Place.

A quick stop was made at the Canwood Park for some photos with all the beautiful lights, and then over 60 carollers went to the Elks Hall to have hot chocolate and cookies with other community folks that came to the hall to sing carols with all the kids and adults. The hot chocolate and cookies were made and served up by the Canwood Royal Purple Elks.

The community looks forward to an even bigger and better carolling next year.



Community members sing carols for the elders at Canwood's Whispering Pine Place.



Carollers stopped at the park to take in the beautiful Christmas lights.



The Canwood Royal Purple Elks served up hot chocolate and treats at the Elks Hall.

Team Thompson repeats as Super League champs

By BEVRA FEE
Spiritwood Herald Reporter

The Spiritwood Super League got underway at the beginning of November with five teams taking part in the competitive weekly games.

By the time Dec. 20 came around, the finalists had been decided and Team Thompson got their brooms out to sweep Team Fisher in a condensed and decisive final.

The championship came with a payout of \$250 for the first place winner, and \$220 for the second place winner. Each of the teams came away with a payout, along with a nominal payout for each round-robin win.

The win is the second consecutive for Team Thompson, with only a one-member variation from last year. The team's usual second, Dyllan Franson, was on the beach for this year's final, so Lacey Reddekopp capably took that position for the final week of play.



Team Thompson is once again Spiritwood's reigning Super League champion. Pictured, from left to right: Lacey Reddekopp, Devyn Thompson, Garrett Reddekopp, and Craig Thompson.

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RCMP news highlights

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Big River drug seizure

On Dec. 20, at about 3:30 p.m., officers from the Big River RCMP detachment performed a proactive traffic stop in the town. Though the vehicle failed to stop for police initially, it eventually parked at a local residence.

The officers' immediate investigation determined the driver of the vehicle had a suspended license and no vehicle registration. The driver also provided officers with a false name.

As a result of continued investigation, and a search of the vehicle, officers located and seized approximately 495 grams of cocaine, approximately 306 grams of methamphetamine, 111 LSD blotters, approximately 63 grams of an unknown substance investigators suspect to contain fentanyl, and other drug paraphernalia in the vehicle.

The driver of the vehicle, 40-year-old Wilson Coutts, and the passenger, 37-year-old Marcia McMahon, both from Big River, were arrested at the scene. Both of them are charged with one count of possession of cocaine for the purpose of trafficking, one count of possession of methamphetamine for the purpose of trafficking, one

count of possession for the purpose of trafficking, and one count of possession of the proceeds of crime, under \$5,000.

Additionally, Coutts was charged with one count of identity fraud and one count of resisting/obstructing a peace officer, and was hit with several traffic tickets. Meanwhile, McMahon was also arrested on an outstanding warrant from Big River RCMP for failing to attend court.

Coutts and McMahon made their first appearances in Prince Albert Provincial Court on Dec. 22.

Sask. Homicide Spotlight

To kick off the new year, the Saskatchewan RCMP is shining a spotlight on the homicides that occurred in the province in 2023, as well as the challenges detachments across the province face in terms of keeping dangerous offenders behind bars, and of protecting their communities with inadequate staffing and resources.

In a press release issued Wednesday, Jan. 3, the RCMP noted that there had been a 50 per cent increase in homicide victims "in the last five years," as the count in 2023 was 30, compared to 20 in 2019. While alarming at first, 2023's total was actually a sharp decrease from the 42 homicide victims in 2022 (the highest count since 2016).

Just as troubling to police, however, is the fact that 44 per cent of homicides in 2023 were committed by individuals who were out on conditions, bail, parole, or probation at the time the homicide was committed.

"It goes without saying that a homicide is worst case scenario – but when an individual commits a homicide while on bail or release conditions, it is extremely discouraging and frustrating for our investigators," said Officer in Charge of Major Crimes, Superintendent Joshua Graham, in a statement.

Graham added, "In 2023, our Major Crimes unit had five instances where two to three separate homicides occurred in less than 48 hours – these clusters of homicides are alarming but no longer an anomaly. Our Major Crimes investigators continue to do an outstanding job, despite not receiving any additional investigative resources since 2008 – their dedication, resiliency, and undeniable expertise is what contributes to solving 84 per cent of the homicides since 2015 with the ultimate goal of giving all victims' families closure and answers."

With detachments already stretched thin, the RCMP notes that officers are continuing to devote a lot of their limited resources and time to keeping tabs on prolific offenders. Indeed, officers across the province conducted 17,000 proactive conditions checks in 2023 and identified more than 15,800 violated court ordered conditions through these checks.

Despite the challenges it faces, the Saskatchewan RCMP says it's beginning 2024 on a hopeful note, due to recent changes to

the bail provisions set out in Canada's Criminal Code.

Unanimously approved by MPs, after the federal Liberals introduced it in May in the face of sustained pressure, Bill C-48 expands the use of reverse-onus provisions for certain offenders to include more firearms and weapons offences, and more circumstances in which the alleged crime involves intimate partner violence.

This means that, rather than Crown prosecutors having to convince the courts to keep an accused individual behind bars until their trial, the accused will now have to show why they should be released.

"I am hopeful the amended bail provisions are a step in the right direction – because at the end of the day, those individuals who are not interested in rehabilitation or changing their lifestyle, will continue to do harm to others and should not be released back into our communities," said Saskatchewan RCMP Commanding Officer Rhonda Blackmore in a statement.



Nikki Shayayne Daniels, 28, was featured in Saskatchewan Crimestoppers Wanted Wednesday for being unlawfully at large. She is described as five foot one, 110 pounds, and her last known location was Sturgeon Lake First Nation.



Drugs and paraphernalia seized during a Dec. 20 traffic stop in Big River.

Carbon tax home heating relief takes effect

Effective Jan. 1, both SaskEnergy and SaskPower have removed the federal carbon tax from home heating. This will result in savings for approximately 98 per cent of Saskatchewan families who were unfairly left out of the federal government's decision to exempt the carbon tax on home heating oil, the government of Saskatchewan says.

"Our government is ensuring fairness for Saskatchewan families by removing the federal carbon tax on natural gas and electric heat, just as the federal government has done for families in Atlantic Canada by removing the carbon tax on heating oil," Crown Investments Corporation Minister Dustin Duncan said in a statement.

"By extending carbon tax relief to Saskatchewan families who were left out in the cold by the federal government, our government is protecting Saskatchewan families' ability to afford to heat their homes this winter."

The removal of the federal carbon tax from SaskEnergy bills, is expected to save the average Saskatchewan family approximately \$400 in 2024.

Heating accounts for up to 60 per cent of power consumption during the winter months for customers who rely on electric heat, so SaskPower will eliminate the carbon tax on that heating by reducing the federal carbon tax rate rider on their bills by 60 per cent. This will benefit approximately 30,000 SaskPower customers, reducing their power bills by an average of \$21 per month through the winter.

Customers will still see a federal carbon tax charge on their January utility bills for natural gas or electricity used for heating that they used in the month of December. The federal carbon tax will be zero billed, appearing as both a charge and a reversal credit, on bills for usage on and after Jan. 1.

For SaskEnergy customers on an Equalized Payment Plan, equalized payment amounts will be adjusted beginning in February.

Customers who believe that they are incorrectly being charged the federal carbon tax can contact SaskEnergy at 1-800-567-8899 or www.saskenergy.com/customer-support, and SaskPower at 1-888-757-6937 or contactus@saskpower.com.

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New year demands new approach to crime

Despite everything 2023 threw at us, we've made it to another new year.

And now that we're through the turkey comas, the highs of gift giving and receiving, and the sometimes uncomfortable get-togethers with family members we love but don't always like, we can begin to look more clearly toward the year ahead, and reflect on where we are now, and where we'd like to be when 2024 comes to a close.

Certainly, the first week of the new year saw the Saskatchewan RCMP in a reflective mood.

In a press release issued last Wednesday, it noted Saskatchewan had seen a 50 per cent increase in homicide victims "in the last five years."

Now, before anyone gets too alarmed and begins to think Saskatchewan has become a hellscape of death and violence, some context would be helpful.

The total number of homicide victims in Saskatchewan in 2023 was 30, which is indeed a 50 per cent increase compared to the 20 homicide victims in 2019 (the beginning of the five-year period referenced by the RCMP).

However, the 50 per cent increase actually happened in 2020, when the number of homicide victims jumped to 31 from 20. And there was another 30 per cent increase in the provincial homicide victim count in 2022, when there were 42 victims (compared to 33 in 2021).

So, yes, annual homicide victims have increased by 50 per cent compared to 2019. But 2023 saw fewer homicide victims than the three years before it – a move in the right direction.

Semantics aside, the Saskatchewan RCMP's true intent, perhaps, was to draw attention to a statistic that is alarming. Namely, the fact that 44 per cent of homicides in 2023 were committed by individuals who were out on conditions, bail, parole, or probation when the homicide was committed.

"It goes without saying that a homicide is worst case scenario – but when an individual commits a homicide while on bail or release conditions, it is extremely discouraging and frustrating for our investigators," said Officer in Charge of Major Crimes, Superintendent Joshua Graham, in a statement.



JORDAN TWISS
~
News Editor

The statement echoes a refrain that has been repeated ad nauseum by the RCMP for many years, and for very good reason. Police are understaffed, underfunded, and are hindered by a criminal justice system that spits out violent criminals with little more than a slap on the wrist.

Shellbrook and area residents learned the hard truth of this at a town hall-style meeting held in late October 2023, during which S/Sgt.

Ryan How, the RCMP's Crime Reduction Team/SERT North Region Manager, ran through a list of arrests made as a result of a multi-unit initiative undertaken by the RCMP in the region.

One offender had 36 previous criminal convictions and 27 outstanding charges, and had been released on electronic monitoring (which he escaped after just one day). Meanwhile, another offender, who was out on probation at the time of his arrest, had 75 previous criminal convictions and 17 pending criminal charges.

To give you an idea of the resources that go into dealing with prolific offenders, officers across the province conducted 17,000 proactive conditions checks in 2023 and identified more than 15,800 violated court ordered conditions through these checks.

That's 17,000 instances in which officers were dealing with an offender left at large by the criminal justice system, rather than spending time patrolling their communities.

The problem of prolific offenders was also something Saskatchewan RCMP commanding officer Rhonda Blackmore reflected on in a year-end interview with *paNOW*, along with other concerns like an increase in violence, gang-related activity, and illegal drugs – particularly in northern Saskatchewan.

Despite this, the Saskatchewan RCMP says it's beginning 2024 on a hopeful note, thanks to changes made to the bail provisions set out in Canada's Criminal Code as of Jan. 4.

Unanimously approved by MPs, after the federal Liberals introduced it in May in the face of sustained pressure, Bill C-48 expands the use of reverse-onus provisions for certain offenders to include more firearms and weapons offences, and more circum-



stances in which the alleged crime involves intimate partner violence.

This means that, rather than Crown prosecutors having to convince the courts to keep an accused individual behind bars until their trial, the accused will now have to show why they should be released.

Though only an incremental change to existing policy, the amendment to Bill C-48 has been labelled as both too much and not enough.

Those in the "too much" camp argue the federal government doesn't have any evidence to prove that making bail tougher to obtain will improve public safety.

Others, meanwhile, expressed concerns that making bail harder to obtain risks increasing the over-representation of Black and Indigenous people behind bars, along with people who have mental illnesses or who are otherwise disadvantaged and/or unable to afford legal counsel.

And others, still, view the amendment to Bill C-48 as a treatment for the symptoms of crime rather than the underlying illnesses that cause them – those being cycles of poverty, addiction, and mental illness.

Indeed, in 2022, a report commissioned by British Columbia's attorney general and public safety minister at the time highlighted the need for the province to invest in "non-police resources" to address "critical gaps in the continuum of care for people with mental health and substance use

needs who are involved with the criminal justice system."

It's an age-old philosophical debate. As old, perhaps, as the concept of justice itself.

On the one hand, we can take the zero-tolerance, tough-on-crime approach to offenders that was popular throughout the later decades of the 20th century and lock them away – a policy direction which, in the United States, created a taxpayer-funded correctional system worth untold billions of dollars (made by effectively turning inmates into modern-day slaves) while delivering negligible improvements to public safety.

Or, on the other hand, we can take a restorative or rehabilitative approach to offenders, look at crime not just as an isolated phenomenon, but as a reflection or byproduct of flaws or inequities in our society, and invest in resources to help those with the desire to better themselves to escape cycles of criminality.

As is the case with most complex issues, the correct course of action lies somewhere in the middle, striking the right balance between being punitive and being compassionate.

What we need, then, is a criminal justice system that is flexible and adaptive, capable of recognizing when offenders won't be deterred from crime, and when they can change.

Getting there will take time, and much trial and error, but there's no time like a new year to begin the work.

Shellbrook Chronicle

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Report from the Legislature

Looking back on 2023, Saskatchewan has seen incredible growth. Saskatchewan has built a strong foundation of a strong economy, strong communities, and strong families.

Saskatchewan's population is over 1.22 million people and growing faster than it has in more than a century. Our economy saw GDP growth of 6 per cent, ranking first in the nation. The province's unemployment rate is the second lowest in Canada, with an increase of 19,300 jobs compared to last year. Retail trade has increased by 3 per cent year-over-year as well.

A growing economy allows our government to invest in things that matter to Saskatchewan people. In 2023, our government invested a record \$3.7 billion in capital like schools, hospitals, highways, municipal and Crown infrastructure

As the new year begins, our government remains committed to helping Saskatchewan people with affordability challenges. We wanted to remind you of some affordability measures available to Saskatche-

wan residents this year.

Starting January 1, 2024, SaskEnergy removed the federal carbon tax from natural gas home heating and SaskPower removed it from electrical home heating. This will result in savings for approximately 98 per cent of Saskatchewan families. The federal government's decision to exempt the carbon tax on home heating oil last fall left Saskatchewan families out in the cold; that's why our government is protecting Saskatchewan families' ability to afford to heat their homes this winter.

Customers will see a federal carbon tax charge on January's utility bills for natural gas or electricity used for

heating in the month of December. For usage after January 1, 2024, the federal carbon tax will appear as both a charge and a reversal credit.

If you believe you are incorrectly being charged the federal carbon tax, you can contact SaskEnergy at 1-800-567-8899 or www.saskenergy.com/customer-support, and SaskPower at 1-888-757-6939 or contactus@sk.saskpower.com.

While we continue to call on the federal government to remove the carbon tax on everything for everyone, Saskatchewan now has measures in place to ensure affordability for families to heat their homes this winter.

Saskatchewan's plan for electricity generation to 2035 and beyond was also announced in 2023. The plan commits to achieving net-zero by 2050 with an energy mix that ensures reliable base load power and affordable rates for customers and includes using existing natural gas plant assets to the end of life and working toward small modular reactors, while continuing to expand intermittent pow-

er sources, such as wind and solar. Our government's plan will ensure that electrical generation in Saskatchewan is reliable, affordable, sustainable and achievable.

Also helping with affordability this year are Saskatchewan's low personal taxes and indexation. A family of four with an annual income of \$75,000 will save \$322 in 2024 as a result of indexing personal income tax. Indexation protects against bracket creep, which are the automatic increases in tax caused by inflation.

A family of four in Saskatchewan now pays no income tax on their first \$59,475 of income. When our government took office in 2007, a family of four started paying income tax at \$26,150 of income. Reductions our government introduced have more than doubled the tax-free threshold.

Saskatchewan has among the lowest personal taxes in the country. Since 2007, our government's personal income tax exemptions have removed more than 112,000 people from the province's income tax roll.

Families in Saskatche-



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strategy will create 500 new addictions treatment spaces.

The 2023 budget also provides targeted affordability measures to those who need it most. Saskatchewan Income Supports and Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability were both increased by six per cent, while the Seniors Income Plan benefit was increased by nine per cent. Monthly personal care home benefits increased by 20 per cent and community-based organizations received an increase of three per cent in annual funding.

Every budget includes \$2 billion in affordability measures for Saskatchewan people. These programs, when combined with affordable housing, comparably low utility rates, indexation and low personal taxes demonstrate our government's commitment to helping keep life affordable for Saskatchewan people.

Together with the people of Saskatchewan, our government looks forward to another year of building and protecting our province. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to my constituency office.

Hartley Clark students carol in Spiritwood

By BEVRA FEE
Spiritwood Herald Reporter

As classes wound down in the days ahead of the Christmas break, the students and staff of Hartley Clark Elementary made their rounds in Spiritwood to bring some holiday spirit to businesses and visitors to town.

With stops at various businesses and parks, the impressive group spent the afternoon of Dec. 20 singing for all to

hear.

"We started out at the Lodge, where we spent about half an hour, and then we moved down Main Street for another half hour," stated school Principal Stacy Hill.

"The carols were ones that the students had practiced for the Christmas concert held the night prior, so the students knew them quite well! Debbie Simon helped us out with her musical expertise."



Students from Hartley Clark Elementary School carol in front of the town office in Spiritwood on Dec. 20.

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Elks lose one, Raiders win home-opener

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

Having ended 2023 on a three-game win streak, capped off by a 3-0 shut-out against the Hague Royals on Dec. 22, the Shellbrook Senior Elks entered 2024 looking to continue their winning ways.

Returning to action at the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre on Saturday, Jan. 6, they faced a tough opponent in the Rosthern Wheatkings, and were ultimately undone by their struggle to stay out of the penalty box at crucial moments.

Indeed, in a one-goal

first period, the power play was the determining factor, allowing Ben Zultok to put the Wheatkings up 1-0 on assists from Michael Epp and Kyle Schmidt.

In the second period, the power play was both a blessing and a curse for the Wheatkings. When they got careless early on, Nathaniel Martin was able to tie the game at 1-1 on an assist from Brendon Beaulac. But later on in the period, Brayden Anderson scored on the power play with assists from Zultok and Schmidt.

Less than two minutes later, another Wheatkings power play went to waste,

as Matthew Flodell scored a shorthanded goal on assists from Cole Duperrault and Rylan Moe. And, shortly after, Jody Blais gave the Elks their first lead of the game on assists from Parker Turner and Ethan Skauge.

The lead lasted only a minute before Zultok scored for the Wheatkings, on assists from Ethan Regnier and Anderson, knotting the game at 3-3.

The teams played the remainder of the second period to a draw. But early on in the third period, the Wheatkings' power play struck again on back-to-back goals by Brett Wyman and Schmidt, giving Rosthern a 5-3 lead. Tysen Smith assisted on the first goal, with Anderson and Zultok earning assists on the second.

Just minutes later, Zultok extended Rosthern's lead to 6-3 with his hat trick goal, assisted by Regnier and Anderson, but Martin struck for the Elks just 17 seconds later, on an assist from Matthew Kutnikoff, to close the gap to 6-4.

Duperrault scored just over a minute later, on an assist from Flodell, leaving the Elks down by one with 12 minutes left on the clock. Despite their best efforts the Elks couldn't

find the back of the net, ending the game with a tough 6-5 loss.

With the defeat, the Elks now sit at 6-5-0-1 on the season.

The team's next home game isn't until Sunday, Jan. 21, when they host the Hanley Huskies at 2:30 p.m.

Raiders (5) vs Stars (3)

In their second season in the Saskatchewan Prairie Hockey League, Blaine Lake-area team the Redberry Raiders spent all of 2023 on the road, making their Jan. 5 match-up against the Glaslyn North Stars in Blaine Lake their official home opener.

The Raiders didn't disappoint in front of their hometown crowd, besting the Stars by a margin of 5-3 to claim their second win of the season.

Matthew Dagenais, Simon Gentes, and Connor Pushee led the offensive charge for the Raiders, tallying a goal and an assist apiece, while Zach Banda and Louis Gardiner each contributed a single goal. Colin Buban, Adam Horner, Colby Lavallee, Caden Pushee and Dallyn Saam rounded out the Raiders' scorecard with single assists.

As for the North Stars, who feature some talent from the former Spirit-

wood Timberwolves, Ty Anderson was the top scorer, netting two goals and one assist, while Calvin Koczka tallied a goal and an assist. Also scoring were Tyler Gamble and Carson McNabb, who each earned an assist.

The following night, the Raiders welcomed the Neilburg Monarchs to the Blaine Lake Arena, losing by a margin of 5-3 to put their record for the season at 2-7.

The Raiders will have home ice advantage for most of January. Their next game is Friday, Jan. 12, against the Battleford Beaver Blues. Puck drop for the game is at 8 p.m.

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



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.

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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.

Associates host appreciation supper

By **JOHN ROTH**
The Associates



The Associates hosted a year-end appreciation supper on Dec. 16 to celebrate members and volunteers.

The Associates' last jam for 2023 was held on Nov. 18, and after a year-end tally of the club's expenses there was a sum of \$400 remaining that will be put toward charities in 2024.

On Dec. 16, all those involved with the Associates, and those who had donated their time and talent toward the club, were invited to a turkey and ham supper hosted by Sherry and Randy Heyden, along with Elaine and Harold Norbury.

The supper was hosted to show appreciation for all the jammers and helpers, and a good time was had by all.

Rent for the Pioneer Centre was donated by Irene and John Roth.

See you all in 2024 jamming again!

JUNIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

2024 JUNIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR SCHOLARSHIP

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

SaskPower **swna**

For over the past four decades The Saskatchewan Weekly Newspapers Association, in partnership with SaskPower and the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, have recognized the youth of Saskatchewan through the Junior Citizen of the Year Award.

These prestigious awards are given to youth who:

- Have a positive lifestyle
- Have had the ability to overcome life's challenges
- Have a strong sense of caring and responsibility
- Are dedicated to community and school
- Inspire others
- Are between the ages of 8 to 18

This year four deserving youth will receive a **\$3000 bursary**, provided by SaskPower, to use towards their post-secondary education. Someone you nominate could be one of them.

Visit www.swna.com for further information and nomination forms
Nominations close March 31, 2024

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Saskatchewan's Economy Continues to Thrive

Saskatchewan's population is over 1.22 million people and growing faster than it has in more than a century. Our economy saw GDP growth of 6.0 per cent, ranking first in the nation. The province's unemployment rate is currently 5.1 per cent, the second lowest in Canada, with an increase of 19,300 jobs compared to last year.

Retail trade has increased by 3.0 per cent year-over-year as well.

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

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

New year brings optimism, challenges

When a new year dawns upon us it should be a time of some optimism, if only because it is a clean slate on the calendar.

That is probably especially true for farmers.

While this year the scant snow this winter might be concerning, there are months of winter yet where snow may fall to provide early spring moisture to start crops, so there still has to be optimism for a good year ahead.

And livestock producers will be wanting snow for pastures, but also not lamenting the warm winter to-date that will

have been easy on the cattle, sheep, horses, and other outdoor stock.

Of course, farmers are used to keeping an ear to the radio following the weather forecast, and an eye on the skies, since weather forecasts are often off by a country mile. Weather is both a partner and a nemesis to farmers, the line between the two often a matter of how much it might rain, or how hot the temperature gets at what time of year.

While producers are aware that the success of a crop depends on the whims of Mother Nature, their own success is of-



CALVIN DANIELS

ten reliant on the whims of politicians, and they are far more fickle than nature ever is.

Certainly, the politics of the world is the great question mark hanging over everything in 2024 – and that most certainly includes agriculture. Vladimir Putin is the

largest wild card – you might tag him as the dangerous joker in the deck. The invasion of Ukraine remains a hotspot politically, and should he succeed in taking Ukraine, there's a likelihood that his success would embolden him to invade other countries and that is a frightful thing to consider.

The situation in Israel is little better.

And with the United States and China at odds, the stability of peace is being tested for sure.

But those are only

some of the big picture issues that could change the prospects of farm prices headed into this new year.

Often, though, little tweaks by governments also ripple back to the farm.

A decision in Argentina to increase export taxes on soybean meal and oil rather than cut them, as newly elected president Javier Milei had promised, certainly alters the playing field in terms of world trade for those commodities.

Closer to home, carbon taxes and rules regard-

ing emissions, and the related red tape likely to emerge as a result of them, have become something of a bugaboo in all things and continue to hang over the farm sector.

And the core question of whether emissions trump food production or vice versa has yet to be fully answered.

So, like any year, there are uncertainties ahead. But through the years, crops have been planted and harvested and the business of farming continued, as it certainly will in 2024 as well.

Shellbrook Library hosts Christmas-themed events

By LORRAINE THIBEAULT
Assistant Librarian

During the month of December, the Shellbrook Public Library hosted a variety of events. Lego Club featured Christmas creations such as ornaments, gingerbread houses, trees,



Lorette Palm was the winner of two trays of goodies in the Shellbrook Library's monthly draw.

Santa, and elves... all made out of Lego blocks. Lego Club allows participating youth to follow basic instructions and to be creative.

On Dec. 20, the library drew a name for its Goodies of the Month draw. Lorette Palm was the lucky winner of two trays of goodies. The baking was provided by Isabelle Dalpe. In the new year, the Dessert of the Month will be changed to a fundraiser for the Library.

Shellbrook Library patron families enjoyed building and decorating gingerbread houses as part of a take-home library activity. Eight families worked together at home to create their own version of a gingerbread house.

The Shellbrook Library encourages families to participate in family activities, reading instructions, analyzing problems, and devising solutions while having fun.

Debi Naber sent in photos of her family after completing their house. She commented: "The kids really enjoyed making the gingerbread house together! Some of them were getting pretty creative."



The Naber children, Milo, Dawson, Natasha, and Bennett, had fun building their gingerbread houses.

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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 - 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 10am - 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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Winners in '24: Ravens, L.A Kings, Dodgers and Riders

Almost certainly guaranteed to happen in 2024 (emphasis on the 'almost'):

January — Canada's best hope on the men's side of the Australian Open tennis draw is Felix Auger-Aliassime, the 29th seed, but he's unlikely to win. The closest a Canuck will come to a title is on the women's side, where both Leylah Annie Fernandez and Bianca Andreescu are ranked in the top 45.

February — It's never wrong to pick the National Football League's best quarterback as the reason his team wins the Super Bowl, so Lamar Jackson will lead the Baltimore Ravens to this year's SB57 (LVII) title in Las Vegas.

March — Yes, there will be Madness on U.S. college basketball courts and no, a 16-seeded team will not beat a No. 1 this year.

April — The NHL regular season will come to a close and, astonishingly, both Sid the Kid and the Great 8, Alex Ovech-

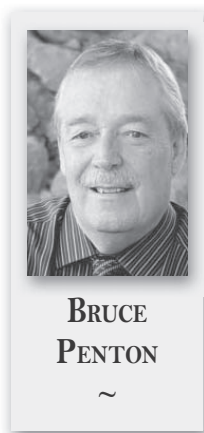
kin, will be on the play-off sidelines.

May — With Mookie Betts batting in front of him, and Freddie Freeman following him in the batting order, Shohei Ohtani will have hit so many home runs for the Dodgers after 50 games that they'll remove the 'Hollywood' sign atop Mt. Lee and replace it with a gigantic picture of the Japanese phenom.

June — Sadly, hockey season will come to an end with the Leafs failing once again to break their 56-year non-Cup curse. The L.A. Kings will beat the Boston Bruins in the Stanley Cup final.

July — In a pre-tournament promotion, Nick Taylor will be given 100 tries to replicate his historic 72-foot putt that won him the Canadian Open last year and he'll finally sink it after try No. 87.

August — Canadian swimming star Summer McIntosh, who will turn 18 on Aug. 18, will dominate the women's events at the Paris Olympics, coming home with more medals than any other



BRUCE PENTON

Canadian swimmer other than Penny Oleksiak, who won seven in the 2016 and 2020 Games.

September — What's in that Red Bull engine? With Max Verstappen winning 19 out of 22 races in 2023, there was about as much drama in a Formula 1 race as wondering whether the sun will rise each morning. Steps will be taken to reduce his team's dominance, because fans will yawn and start tuning out.

October — Even though winning 127 games is no guarantee of a World Series title, the Los Angeles Dodgers will breeze to the 2024 championship, proving that money may not buy

happiness, but it will buy championships.

November — B.C. Place will be the site of the Grey Cup game Nov. 17, but the home team won't be playing. Saskatchewan and its new head coach, Cory Mace, will nip the Alouettes in an overtime thriller.

December — Connor McDavid, Connor Bedard and Connor Hellebuyck will make headlines in the NHL, as will Kyle Connor, who wishes to be known as Connor Kyle to improve his chances of on-ice success.

• Comedy guy Steve Burgess of Vancouver: "Apparently it wasn't just about the \$700 million. (Shohei) Ohtani was unhappy when the Jays explained their plan to always yank him in the fourth inning."

• Hockey broadcaster John Shannon in pre-game chat when Connor Bedard met Connor McDavid in Edmonton for the first meeting between the two NHL superstars: "It's 97 vs. 98 in a city made famous by 99."

• Comedy writer Alex

Kaseberg: "The third-string QB of the Giants, Tommy DeVito, who they call Tommy Cutlets, pulled an upset of the Packers. Remember how Peyton Manning used to yell 'Omaha' at the line of scrimmage? Tommy Cutlets yells 'Badaboom badabing.'"

• Headline at fark.com, after the L.A. Chargers lost 63-21 to Las Vegas Raiders on Thursday Night Football in December and both coach and GM got fired: "Brandon Staley was so bad at his job last night he got his boss fired, too."

• Steve Simmons: "Is Easton Stick a starting quarterback with the Los Angeles Chargers or is it in my garage, beside my frozen hockey bag?"

• Headline in the Beavertron, after free-agent Shohei Ohtani shunned the Blue Jays and signed with the Dodgers: "Inspiring: This man isn't locked into a long, expensive contract with Rogers."

• Comedy writer Alex Kaseberg: "There was an earthquake in Southern California. It was pretty strong; at their practice

it actually shook an L.A. Charger into the end zone."

• Headline at fark.com: "The Dodgers have spent \$1 billion on two players this offseason. Look for \$60 beers and \$40 hot-dogs at the ballpark this year."

• Vancouver comedy guy Torben Rolfsen, after Sweden defeated Canada 2-0 at the world junior hockey championship: "I thought the national anthem of Sweden was Dancing Queen."

• RJ Currie of sports-deke.com: "North Pole police have finally cleared Santa's head elf of charges of careless use of a firearm. Authorities admit mistakes were made after finding a cartridge in a pear tree."

• fark.com headline after Amari Cooper caught a team-record 236 yards passing against the Houston Texans: "Texans placed Jimmie Ward on the IR, presumably from all the burns he received trying to cover Amari Cooper."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

U18 Elks start new year with two wins

By JORDAN TWISS

Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

In the lead-up to the holiday season, the Parkland U18 AA Elks appeared to be trending in the winning direction.

After a tough 2-0 loss to the Humboldt Broncos on Dec. 8, the team topped the West Central Wheat Kings 5-3 and played the Saskatoon Screaming Eagles to a 3-3 draw, before ending 2023 with redemption against the Broncos in the form of a 2-1 win.

As the Elks took the ice over the first weekend of the new year, they continued their winning ways, besting the North West Stars on home ice and the North East Wolfpack on the road in Melfort in a pair of come-from-behind victories.

Elks (5) vs Stars (3)

In front of their hometown crowd at the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre on Friday, Jan. 5, the Elks got off to a slow start against the visiting North West Stars, surrendering the first goal just past the midway point of the period. Noah Bernier scored for the Stars, with assists from Austin Sittler and Jaxton Sayers.

The Elks retaliated shortly after on a goal from Kendon Skalicky, assisted by Lane Keyowski, but carelessness on a late power play allowed Kade Lehman to tally unassisted, giving the Stars a 2-1 after 20 minutes.

In a second period with little in the way of offensive highlights, despite both teams firing 20 shots apiece on goal, it

was the Stars who scored the lone goal. Jaymisun Pelchat netted the goal, with assists from Konnor Ahenakew-Sapp and Nate Poole, putting the Stars up 3-1 going into the third period.

Needing two goals to tie and three goals to win, the Elks managed to mount a comeback by rattling off four unanswered goals in the final frame to secure a 5-3 victory.

Colton Sommerfeld earned redemption for the Elks' power play, scoring early in the period on assists from Tyson Gagnon and Skalicky, and Corvan Stewart tied the game at 3-3 with helpers from Brendan Aug and Gagnon.

As the period wore on, Aiden Tait scored what would serve as the Elks' game-winning-goal, drawing assists from Stewart and Keyowski on the play. And two minutes later, Stewart added an insurance marker, with assists from Ashton Tanchuk and Keyowski.

Elks (6) vs Pack (5)

Travelling to Melfort for a Sunday afternoon game against the North East Wolfpack, the Elks struggled with penalties in the first period and quickly found themselves in a deep 4-0 deficit.

The troubles for the Elks started right out of the gate, as the Wolfpack struck in the first 30 seconds on an even-strength goal from Oliver Muir, assisted by Kieran Patterson.

It was the Wolfpack powerplay's turn next, as Brayden Church tallied on an assist from Patterson. Then, later in the period, Muir and Patterson combined for

another even strength goal, and Church closed out the period with his second power play goal of the game, assisted by Will Sochaski and Patterson.

Coming out for the second period needing a miracle to make a comeback, the Elks were gifted a string of power plays by the Wolfpack. The team took full advantage, scoring three power play goals over the course of two and a half minutes.

Nathan Probert kicked off the scoring for the Elks, with assists from Cohen Tait and Lane Keyowski, and Colton Sommerfeld followed up with a helper from Cohen Tait. Brady Hujber capped off the string of goals, with Cohen Tait earning another assist.

As the period wore on, Corvan Stewart scored at even strength, on assists from Aiden Tait and Kamden Shewchuk, to tie the game at 4-4. The tie was short-lived, however, as Patterson gave the Wolfpack a 5-4 lead on an unassisted goal to close out the period.

When the action moved to the third frame, Jesse Nyberg tied the score at 5-5 early, on an assist from Stewart.

Then, late in the period, the Elks' power play proved deadly once more, when Stewart netted the game-winning goal on assists from Sommerfeld and Keyowski.

With the pair of wins, the Elks now sit at 9-10-2-1 on the season.

The Elks have this weekend off, but will return to action in Shellbrook on Friday, Jan. 19, when they host the Warman Wildcats. Puck drop for the game is at 7:30 p.m.

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OBITUARIES

Denise Marie Fournier-Thompson

Denise Marie Fournier-Thompson

October 24, 1929 – December 21, 2023

Our hearts are broken as we say goodbye to a wonderfully strong and inde-

pendent woman after 94 years of life.

Denise Fournier was born to Serge and Florence Fournier in Marcelin, Saskatchewan in 1929. She was the oldest of eight children and enjoyed spending time with her siblings Annette, Isabelle, Aline, Andrew, Maurice, Marie and Emile.

Denise is survived by her daughter Trudy, grandchildren Julie (Andy), Wendy (Ryan), Wesley (Kim), Wyatt and Travis. Her great-grandchildren Justina, Teigan, Jacob, Madi, Kaleb, Riley, Charlie, and her great-great granddaughter

Dallas. She is also survived by her two youngest siblings Emile and Marie, along with many nieces, nephews and cousins.

In the early years of Denise's life, she spent a lot of time outside working with her father on the farm. She enjoyed wood-working and was very talented at this skill. She built many child-size tables and chairs for grandchildren and other young ones.

In the late 1940's, Denise left the family farm and moved to BC for work. There she met and later married Jim Thompson. They had one daughter named Trudy. Denise was

a devoted mother who made many sacrifices to provide the best she could for her daughter. She was a hard worker who spent many years working as a waitress and bartending in the service industry. In her later years, she worked in childcare and as a live-in caregiver for seniors.

Denise loved to travel. She often traveled with her sisters. Together they would tour different parts of the country. Sight-seeing was a cherished pastime for them. Some of her favorite destinations were Eastern Canada, Nashville, New York and visiting her youngest sister

living in Ohio. She collected postcards of her travels and had many happy memories and interesting things to share from her journeys.

Denise's hobbies included making jewelry and she would often fix jewelry for family & friends. She made the most amazing beaded fridge magnets in the shape of alligators, snowmen and owls. She was especially fond of owls and elephants. She also enjoyed playing cribbage, darts, shuffleboard and bingo. She would regularly go down early to set up the cards for bingo night in the lodge. Her friends and

family enjoyed meeting her at the lodge for bingo or card night.

Silvera Seniors Lodge was where she spent her final days. She was a resident there for over 10 years. The staff and other residents knew her well as she was very involved with many of the social activities that Silvera provided. We are very thankful to the staff at Silvera. They took such good care of the woman that we lovingly call Granny Denise. We were so blessed to have this woman in our lives, and she will be deeply missed by her family and friends.

Lorna Johnston (née: Isbister)

Lorna Kathleen Johnston was born near Mont Nebo, Saskatchewan on March 11, 1931 to parents

Annie (née: Sasakamoose) and John 'Jack' Isbister. She enjoyed being raised on a farm with siblings Ellen, Gertrude, Bernice, Melvina, John, Gilbert, Cecil, Colin 'Tony' and Kenneth. Tony was killed serving in WWII and an island in Northern Saskatchewan is named in his honor. She took her schooling in Mont Nebo and attended St. Luke's Anglican Church near Mont Nebo and later the Mistawasis Presbyterian Church. In 1948 she married Gordon Johnston. To that union she had fif-

teen children.

Lorna worked many jobs outside the home as well throughout the years and was always known for her excellent cooking and baking including many, many loaves of bread each week. Lorna and Gordon lived for several years in Edmonton, Alberta where they continued to raise their family while Gordon often worked away from home doing construction work. In the 1990's the family relocated back to Mistawasis where she continued to live until moving into Wheat-

land Lodge in Leask.

Lorna often enjoyed road trips, far or near and sometimes just enjoyed getting in the car to go for a drive. Her travels took her to Montana, Las Vegas, New Mexico and several locations within Canada. Many of her trips took her to Prince Albert where she took in Bingo games with family and friends. She enjoyed card games, yahtzee and nature shows on tv. But most of her enjoyment was preparing meals for large family gatherings where everyone was always welcome. Lorna enjoyed shopping and buying many things, but seldom for herself. She was one of the most giving people one would know and she never expected anything in return. Lorna was honored

to be chosen Mother of the Year in 2007 by Mistawasis Nēhiyawak.

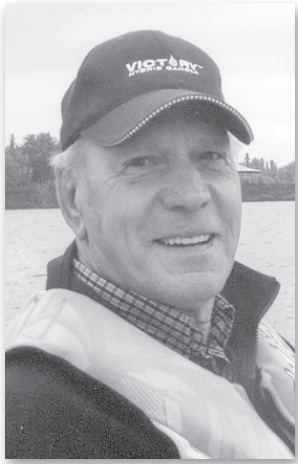
Lorna is predeceased by her parents Annie & Jack; her husband Gordon; all of her siblings and their spouses; her daughters, Pauline, Karen, Wanda, Cora, Daryl Lea, Shirley, Myrna, Sharon and Marie; her sons, Owen and Lionel; grandchildren Kyle, Christian, Owen and Darylea; many aunts, uncles and cousins.

Lorna leaves to mourn her children; Myrle (Wendy), Delores (Mel) Werchola, Dean (Loretta), and Michael; her grandchild and chosen daughter Andrea; the grandchildren she had a part in raising; Kim, Carmen, Lori, and Gail; sister-in-laws, Lorna

Isbister, Verna Ledoux and Louise Fraser; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

At Lorna's request there will be no wake or funeral service. Her ashes will be laid to rest at Mistawasis Memorial Presbyterian Cemetery on a later date.

The family would like to thank all the staff and residents at Wheatland Lodge who have been like family over the past two years and ten months. Also thanks to her family doctors of many years, Dr. Ryan and Dr. Cornelison and to the staff of Shellbrook Pharmacy. Arrangements in care of MacKenzie Chapel & Crematorium. Brian & Bev Stobbs, Mark Gyoerick, Jordyn Jacobson - Mel Curle. 306.763.8488

Armand Louis Lepage

Armand Louis Lepage, November 1, 1937, to December 17, 2023, late of Debden Saskatchewan.

Armand was born to Philippe and Rita Lepage on November 1, 1937. He was the first born of 8 children, brother to Lionel, Raymond, Roland, Camille, Therese, Carmen, and Lucille.

Armand resided in the Debden area his whole life, alongside his devoted wife Jackie. Together they raised 4 children: Sylvie, Michelle, Philip, and Adrien. And later welcomed 8 beautiful grandchildren: Cade, Mykenzie, Annika, Owen, Rheis, Rhett, Maxime, and Josie.

Armand was very proud of his family and was a stable mentor, always willing to share words of wisdom and support. He was a great comfort; reassuring, encouraging, and always with an added dose of good humour.

Armand was well known in our community as a good neighbor and friend, and someone who was always willing to lend a hand. He loved the soil and he provided for his family in his years as a farmer, and later in his retirement by sharing the bounty from his beautiful gardens. Mom and dad planted 56 gardens together. Dad was an avid reader and could often be found reading and rocking, his favorite way to relax. He had an unwavering faith and trust in our Lord and was a wonderful guide and teacher of his values and beliefs, living by example a peaceful life filled with the love of simple pleasures, and his wife Jackie always lovingly by his side.

Dad passed away December 17, 2023, at the age of 86, with mom at his

side. He will be so missed. He is predeceased by his grandson Cade, and his brother Camille.

A Funeral Mass in honor and memory of Armand was held on December 23, 2023, at 11:00am at St. Jean Baptiste RC Church in Debden. Interment will be held at a later date in the Debden Parish Cemetery.

Music ministry was provided by Gilles Francoeur, Rita Couture, Monica Svendsen, Cyndi Aarrestad and Layton Ferster.

Honorary pallbearers were considered "All those who shared in Armand's life".

The Urn bearer was Mykenzie Sprackman.

A time of luncheon and fellowship was held immediately following the Funeral Mass.

Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit www.beaulac-funeralhome.com Beau "Lac" Funeral Home and Crematorium have been entrusted with the funeral arrangements, R. Mark Muir, Director (306)883-3500.



SERZISKO - Elke

It is with heavy hearts that the family of Elke Alwine Serzisko late of Canwood, SK announce her passing on January 2, 2024 at the age of 81 years.

Elke is lovingly survived by, her husband of 63 years: Heinz Serzisko of Canwood, SK; her children and grandchildren:

Silke (Scott) Anderson

Elke Serzisko

of Big River, SK, and their family: James (Kendall) Anderson of Big River, SK, Jaqueline Anderson (Ian Kerr) of Lashburn, SK, Tony (Tammy) Serzisko of Big River, SK;

Sven Serzisko of Buckcreek, AB;

Michael (Sherry-Lynn) Serzisko of Drayton Valley, AB and family: Kohan Serzisko of Drayton Valley, AB, Crystal (Karl) Wilson of Drayton Valley, AB.

Her great grandchildren:

Eric Serzisko, Devon Serzisko, Aspen Serzisko, Olivia Anderson, Bo Anderson, Logan Wilson, and Johnathan Kerr

Her sister: Doris Sylvester in Koenigsbrunn, Germany. Elke is predeceased by her mother and father: Berta Klünder and Alvin Novak; her grandparents:

Anna (née Hinz) and Karl Klünder.

There will be a Funeral Service for Elke held on Friday, January 12, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. from the Canwood Pentecostal Church with Pastor Bob Wrench officiating. Elke will be laid to rest in the Canwood South Cemetery.

In lieu of tributes, memorial donations may be made in memory of Elke to either the Canwood Pentecostal Church or to the Canwood South Cemetery.

Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit www.beaulac-funeralhome.com

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home & Crematorium, Tammy Smart, Funeral Director, Shellbrook, SK. 306-747-2828.