

Spiritwood daycare planning for expansion



Spiritwood's Love and Laughter Daycare will soon be seeking new or expanded space, as provincial funding has allowed for the creation of 23 additional spaces for children. Pictured: employee Lubel Celia with Evelyn Nicoll.

By BEVRA FEE
Spiritwood Herald Reporter

The Love and Laughter Daycare in Spiritwood opened its doors a little over 10 years ago, providing much-needed government-regulated childcare spaces. Housed within Hartley Clark Elementary School, the daycare filled a pressing need for childcare in Spiritwood at the time, with 27 childcare spaces.

Love and Laughter Daycare is a non-profit organization under the governance of a volunteer board of directors, and now the demand for childcare in Spiritwood has once again grown.

Funded since 2013 for children, the daycare accommodates youth up to the age of 12 years. With 10 full-time and three part-time staff, childcare begins weekday mornings at 7:30 a.m.

"The early morning shifts are the hardest to staff, while the added af-

ter-school childcare is often met by high school students coming over when they are done their day," explains board member Alyssa Chalifour. "Staffing is one of our main issues, in addition to the 50 children on the waiting list - some of those are before and after school students under the age of 12."

In November, the Ministry of Education announced funding for many daycares in central Saskatchewan, and Spiritwood's Love and Laughter was among them. Funding for another 23 spaces was announced, with a commitment of \$230,000.

"We are now challenged with finding either extra space or a new space, and our planning committee is currently working on proposals to present to the board of directors for discussion and voting," commented Janessa Wasden, a Love and Laughter development committee member and board member.

"Our after-school program for Grade 1 and upward will be situated at River Elementary School in the near future, as soon as we solve staffing for it. We have some potential new sites in mind, but the research and costing exercise has us investigating all options and hopefully we can present our findings to the board in about a month," Wasden added.

Whether the organization opts to move to a larger space or create a new space, there will be additional fundraising required of the group and the community.

"The application for funding to expand was straightforward, and we began considering daycare expansion last April," says Chalifour. "But now we have a lot of work to do. Even if we secure an existing building, there is a process to follow to ensure it is compliant with code regulations for childcare. In ad-

dition to inevitable renovations, there will be yard work and fencing that has to be compliant also. As well, our existing daycare space needs money for upkeep."

When discussing the high level of need for childcare spaces in Spiritwood, Wasden outlined the pressures brought on by subsidized daycare.

"More families are leaving their children in daycare longer now. In addition to that, with a long waiting list parents are reluctant to give up their space when on maternity leave because they may not have a space available when they return to work - they would go to the bottom of the waiting list if they relinquish their childcare space."

Whatever the future holds for Love and Laughter Daycare, the board of directors will be carefully planning the steps with the best interest of children and parents in mind.



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Debden residents voice opposition to cannabis store

By **JORDAN TWISS**

Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Residents of Debden let their opposition to rezoning the village's downtown commercial district, to allow for a cannabis store on Main Street, be heard loud and clear last Thursday.

The concerns and objections were voiced as part of a public hearing — part of the legal process municipalities must follow before rezoning can be finalized — made necessary by Meagan and Aaron Palidwar, owners of Into the Weeds Cannabis, who are looking to expand into the community after successfully opening locations in Spiritwood last year and in Big River just this week.

In a presentation to residents and council for the Village of Debden, the pair noted that they had looked at properties along the highway, which wouldn't have required a rezoning, but found none of them appropriate for their needs. As such, they set their sights on the building located at 305 Main Street.

With safety concerns always top of mind when cannabis is being discussed, Meagan said the store would be required to adhere to stringent Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority (SLGA) regulations. These include storing all products in an industrial grade vault, fogging the windows so children can't see inside, installing a high-grade security system, equipping employees with panic buttons, ensuring employees receive CannaSell certification, and requiring customers to present identification before purchases.

Cannabis retailers must also keep detailed logs of sales, submit to monthly SLGA inspections at random times, and provide security camera footage whenever they're asked to.

With these strict regulations in place, Meagan and Aaron say they've yet to have a problem in Spiritwood, or at their Langenburg, Birch Hills, and Melfort Into the Weeds locations, all of which are located on Main Street or in major commercial districts.

The Palidwars' positive experiences in the retail cannabis industry did little to assuage the fears and concerns of residents, particularly when it came to the potential for youth to be harmed by having easier access to the product.

"I realize it's legal and people need access to it, but I don't think it needs to be that close to our school," said local teacher Angela Thiessen. "Our kids walk down that road every day. I don't think it's something they need to see."

By law, cannabis retail stores must be at least 150 metres away from schools. If it was located at 305 Main Street, the store would be 280 metres away from École Debden Public School.

For many attendees with concerns about the negative effects cannabis can have on youth and fears that children could accidentally consume it, this was still too close for comfort.



305 Main Street in Debden could be home to an Into the Weeds cannabis location, if council approves a request to have the property rezoned.

Others, meanwhile, expressed fears about the message a cannabis store sends about the community, and the types of people it will attract to Debden, noting the Main Street location's proximity to the bar and the fact that the store could be open from 8 a.m. to 3 a.m.

"I had a hard time finding some positives [about cannabis]. What is this bringing to our town? Will it increase the vagrancy, loitering, crime, etc.?" asked Pauline Tetreault.

"I do recognize that marijuana is legal and adults are free to make their own decisions. However, as councilors, you're tasked with ensuring that your decisions further your vision of this community as a place to raise families and conduct business," Cody Lockhart added. "A dispensary in Debden will negatively impact the community, and place a further strain on health and police services."

With existing cannabis stores in Shellbrook and Big River, some questioned the need for a store in Debden, while even those who had no opposition to the store contended it shouldn't be allowed on Main Street.

Speaking last, Denise Dumais highlighted concerns about the lack of serious punishments for violations of SLGA regulations (retailers are given five strikes before their licenses are revoked). Dumais closed out her speaking time by presenting a signed letter/petition to council, noting that it had been signed by between 150 and 200 people.

With the window for public feedback closed, the Palidwars were given an opportunity to respond to the concerns raised. Speaking to the positives of cannabis, Meagan said it saved her life after she was diagnosed with intercranial hypertension, a condition which can result in blindness and even death if not treated.

"I've used medical cannabis for years. It's helped

me tremendously, as well as many of our customers," she said, noting the customer base and the reasons for consuming cannabis fall under a wide umbrella.

Meagan also said the business would contribute to the community by paying taxes and providing local employment opportunities, with Aaron adding that the business always supports the communities it's in by sponsoring local events or sports teams.

As to the question of hours of operation, Aaron said the company's general practice in small communities is to be open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., meaning the store wouldn't be open when the bar is likely to be at its busiest (limiting the ability for patrons to both drink and consume cannabis). He said he would encourage council to stipulate these hours of operation in the store's business licence.

Finally, in addressing concerns about the safety of children, Meagan noted the products come in secure packaging that's difficult to open. She also said Into the Weeds doesn't offer online ordering with shipping, and instead requires online orders to be picked up in store, where identification can be verified.

Once again, these reassurances received a chilly reception from residents. And, with nothing further to discuss, the public hearing was brought to a close, leaving council to consider the feedback it received.

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Shellbrook raises \$15,823.75 for Telemiracle 48

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Though many in Saskatchewan are facing the cost of living crunch, they still reached deep into their wallets and hearts to support Telemiracle in a big way this past weekend. All told, the province raised \$6,112,717, all of which will stay in the province to do good in communities.

The fundraising total marks a sizeable increase over Telemiracle 47, which hauled in \$5,519,229. But, of course, the high watermark came at Telemiracle 46, which set a record of \$8,002,722 raised.

“TeleMiracle remains rooted in Saskatchewan and the generosity of Saskatchewan people really shined through once again this weekend,” said TeleMiracle 48 Chair Tyler Hall. “The best part is that all the money raised stays right here in Saskatchewan, to help their friends, neighbours, and communities.”

Just as it was another strong year for Telemiracle as a whole, it was also a good year of Telemiracle fundraising for the Shellbrook Kinsmen and Shellbrook Kinettes.

In a typical year, Shellbrook’s fundraising total ranges anywhere from \$10,000 to \$14,000. This year saw the fundraising total wind up well above the high end of this range.

For the fourth year in a row, the Kinsmen and Kinettes chose to hold an online auction as their primary fundraiser. Thanks to a slew of donations from businesses, community organizations, and individuals, there were 113 items up for grabs in this year’s auction, bringing in \$10,058 (just above the fundraising goal of \$10,000).

Elsewhere, cheque donations contributed \$2,570 to the cause, while WP Sandin High School donated \$811.75 with funds raised through grilled cheese sales, Shellbrook Elementary School popped up \$500 through popcorn sales, and cash and Helping Hands donations totalled \$331.

All told, this brings the community’s Telemiracle donations to \$15,823.75, an increase compared to last year’s total of \$14,474.

As always members of the Shellbrook Kinettes

made the trip to Telemiracle to present the community’s donations and work the phones over the course of the telethon. The group more than did its share, answering calls on-air from 7:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. on night one, then returning to work from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. on day two (and they kept working behind the scenes, too).

“It’s truly an electrifying experience to be on-stage answering phones. You are surrounded by volunteers who truly believe in this cause, and you get to experience first-hand how far Telemiracle’s reach is,” said Kinette Kat Mackin-Smith. “We answered calls from all over the province, and even from Manitoba and Alberta where the caller had some connection to Telemiracle.”

For Mackin-Smith, the importance of Telemiracle all boils down to the fact that the money stays in the province to serve the needs of people from as far north as Buffalo Narrows and as far south as Estevan.

“A person with medical needs beyond the financial scope of their family/caregiver shouldn’t suffer,” she said. “I think it’s a worthwhile cause for a myriad of reasons, but



The Shellbrook Kinettes made the trip to Regina to present the community’s Telemiracle donations, totalling \$15,823.75. Pictured, left to right: Kat Mackin-Smith (front), Tara Lenz, Amber Larson (front), Stephanie Caswell, Emmalynn Lamotte (front), Chezanne Shewchuk, and Tasha Cyr.

knowing that Telemiracle funds are deployed straight back into only Saskatchewan for its residents who need it most is amazing.”

The money raised throughout the year and during the Telemiracle telethon benefits the Kinsmen Foundation, which provides funding for Saskatchewan

residents requiring special needs equipment to maintain or improve their quality of life, as well as travel assistance to those needing to leave their community to access life-saving medical treatment.

Funding is also provided to institutions and health foundations to purchase specialized,

new, or innovative equipment to improve health care.

In the past, funds raised through Telemiracle have benefitted local families and causes.

In Shellbrook, the family of Landen Willoughby received a tandem bike for him in 2022, and the Woodland Bus Associa-

tion received \$19,578 in 2014 to assist with the purchase of a wheelchair accessible van.

Meanwhile, the Canwood Bus Association was a Telemiracle beneficiary in 2019, receiving \$20,000 to assist with the purchase and retrofit of its own wheelchair accessible van.

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Will desperate Liberals doom pharmacare?

Going by the latest polling numbers, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his Liberal federal government's odds of being re-elected with even a minority mandate are sitting squarely in "cross your fingers and toes and pray for a miracle" territory, perhaps even trending more towards "snowball's chance in hell."

According to Nanos Research ballot tracking, support for Pierre Poilievre's Conservative Party is sitting pretty at 40.6 per cent, a nearly 17-point lead over Mr. Trudeau and the Liberals.

To put that into truly dismal context, that means Mr. Trudeau is polling worse than the Liberal party of Michael Ignatieff was in the lead-up to the 2011 election, which saw the Liberals reduced to third party status by Jack Layton's resurgent NDP.

In a more scathing condemnation of Mr. Trudeau himself, 39 per cent of respondents said the best way for the Liberals to reverse their political fortunes would be to name a new leader, and only 3 per cent said they believe Mr. Trudeau should lead the Liberals into the next election.

Currently, all signs point to Mr. Trudeau going down with the ship (nobly, or selfishly, depending on how you look at it). And with an election likely not in the cards until 2025, Canadians have front row seats to watch the Liberals' gradual self-immolation.

As desperation sows panic among the federal government's ranks, it's increasingly gone from being proactive and prescriptive to being reactive and defensive. It's running around frantically, putting out little fires everywhere, but mostly just succeeding in starting more fires.

When polling numbers last fall showed an erosion of support in the maritime provinces – typically a Liberal stronghold – Mr. Trudeau's government tried to put that fire out by introducing a carbon tax exemption on home heating fuel (a heating source used almost exclusively on the east coast).

Naturally, this blatant political favouritism didn't sit well with the rest of Canadians, who also have to heat their homes to survive through winter, reigniting old debates about the purpose and effectiveness of the carbon tax,



JORDAN TWISS

~
News Editor

and prompting SaskEnergy to stop collecting and remitting the tax on natural gas and electric heat as of Jan. 1.

The federal government's effort to extinguish this new fire was somehow even more baffling. Rather than extending the carbon tax exemption to all Canadians in the interest of fairness, it instead attempted to "rebrand" the carbon tax.

But, in a true "lipstick on a pig" moment, it didn't actually change anything about how the carbon tax works. Instead, it just renamed the Climate Action Incentive to the Canada Carbon Rebate, to help Canadians better understand its function and purpose.

That the Liberal government could be so lazy with its policymaking, and also so condescending to Canadians who understand perfectly well how the carbon tax works, is beyond insulting.

After the carbon tax fiasco, it's hard not to see everything the Liberal government does through the lens of its desperation. Regrettably, that applies to the long-anticipated unveiling of its framework for a national pharmacare program.

Universal pharmacare was a promise originally made by the Liberal government during the 2019 election campaign (and even then, it was made in a desperate pitch to outflank the NDP on the left).

But like so many other Liberal promises, Mr. Trudeau's vow that all Canadians would have access to necessary medicines, a family doctor, and mental health services was swiftly forgotten once votes no longer needed to be won.

As a result, in a poll commissioned earlier this month by Heart & Stroke and the Canadian Cancer Society, 27 per cent of Canadians said they find it difficult to afford their prescriptions.

Meanwhile, more than six million Canadians are currently without a family doctor, and mental health services are just as hard to access.

What's striking about the abandoned pharmacare pledge is that the Liberals could have left it alone, in the hopes that voters would have forgotten it by the time the next federal election rolled around in 2023.

Instead, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021, the Liberals took a gamble on Canadian voters, hoping



their fear of the pandemic would lead to a renewed majority mandate.

But as was established earlier, Canadians aren't idiots. They saw the desperate power move for exactly what it was, and turned the election into a multi-million dollar waste of taxpayers' money by giving the Liberals the same minority mandate they already had.

After this chastening, the Liberals were forced to turn to Jagmeet Singh's NDP in 2022 to remain afloat through a confidence and supply agreement. In return for the NDP's support, all it had to do was dust off its national pharmacare promise.

Nearly two years on from the Liberal-NDP agreement, Mr. Singh can claim a handful of victories in forcing the Liberals' hand, including wins on the national dental care program, \$10 per day childcare, the doubling of the federal GST rebate, and improved sick leave and protections for striking or locked out workers.

Work, however, remains to be done on a promised Homebuyer's Bill of Rights, a Safe Long-Term Care Act, and, of course, the national pharmacare program, for which a framework for was supposed to be delivered by the end of 2023.

This too, it seems, is only being provided now as an act of desperation by the Liberals.

In early February, Mr. Singh signalled that a failure by the government to meet a March 1 deadline for delivering the pharmacare program's frame-

work would come with consequences, including the NDP's potential withdrawal from the confidence and supply agreement.

While it's unlikely the NDP would have gone so far as to force an election – given its less than solvent financial situation – its bluff seems to have worked well enough.

Over the last two weeks, the NDP has been pressing its advantage in negotiations with the Liberals to call for a more comprehensive pharmacare program that includes contraception and diabetes medications.

Now, with the agreement hammered out, these two items will be the focus in the short-term, before the long-term roll out of the universal single-payer program at some yet to be determined point in the future.

Of course, with any policy crafted by the Liberals, it's always wise to come in with low expectations, and even federal Health Minister Mark Holland seems to recognize this.

"It's not going to have all the answers, and we're not going to be in a position where we can take on massive costs," he said at a press conference earlier this month.

Though hardly a resounding endorsement of a policy that has been hammered out through months of discussions, this may be the most accurate and honest statement to come from a Liberal MP since 2015.

Desperation, after all, breeds terrible policy.

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Phone 306-747-2442 or Fax 306-747-3000

Editorial: chnews@sbchron.com
Advertising chads@sbchron.com

Jordan Twiss & Meghan Penney, Co-Publishers

Jordan Twiss, Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter
jordan@sbchron.com/chnews@sbchron.com

Bevra Fee, Spiritwood Herald Reporter
(306) 883-7058 or bevrafee@yahoo.ca

Meghan Penney, Advertising Sales & Composition/Pagination chads@sbchron.com

Karen Stene, Bookkeeping/Reception
accounting@sbchron.com

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.;

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Hoback bill takes aim at car thieves

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Prince Albert MP Randy Hoback says not a week goes by without him hearing about a constituent, friend, or neighbour who has fallen victim to car theft.

It's been this way for years, he says, and it only seems to be getting worse, because offenders are arrested and then allowed to walk right out and re-offend by a justice system that doesn't penalize them for their crimes.

"If you want to fill a town hall, hold a meeting on the topic of rural crime and you'll get a couple hundred people out there immediately," he said. "It's something people are really upset

with."

In an effort to combat this seeming rise in vehicle theft, Hoback recently introduced Private Member's Bill C-379, An Act to amend the Criminal Code (motor vehicle theft), in the House of Commons.

Calling it a "straightforward and common sense" piece of Legislation, Hoback says Bill C-379 seeks to implement tougher penalties for repeat car thieves across Canada by bringing in a mandatory minimum sentence of three years in jail for those who have stolen a motor vehicle three times.

Additionally, Bill C-379 will also provide primary consideration to whether or not the offence was committed for the benefit of, at the direction of, or in

association with a criminal organization.

"It's not going after the kid that makes a mistake and steals a truck for the first time or does something stupid. We're going after repeat offenders, the guys where this is their livelihood," Hoback said. "This is actually putting these guys in jail and adding consequences when they do the crime."

Having just been read into the record in the House of Commons, the bill has yet to be debated. Hoback expects this debate to happen in the last week of April or the first week of May, at which time it will be clear where each of the parties stands on the issue.

With the bill being so "simple and

straightforward," Hoback says he doesn't see where there's much to object to, and believes the bill has a good chance to pass.

"Every party recognizes there needs to be more done to fight auto theft. We're seeing a tremendous increase in auto thefts in eastern Canada, out west, and in Saskatchewan," he said. "This is something Canadians want to see some action on."

In the meantime, Hoback says other solutions to combat vehicle theft would be to put more police on the ground to deter criminals. He says there could also be amendments made to the bill to add harsher sentences for home invasions and carjackings.

"This is a good first step," he said.

Shellbrook school tops SRSD priority list

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

More than nine years after it was first discussed at a public information meeting hosted by the Saskatchewan Rivers School Division (SRSD), the prospect of a new K-12 school being built in Shellbrook is no closer to becoming a reality.

Indeed, as the SRSD's director of education Neil Finch notes, the only thing that has changed is that the school is now at the top of the school division's capital project list (previously, it had been among the top three priorities for the division).

"At this point nothing new has come forward

in regards to a timeline," Finch said. "We prioritize our major capital projects and send them in. After that, it is up to the [Ministry of Education] as to which projects are approved across the province."

W.P. Sandin Public High School was built in 1961. Since then, it has been renovated multiple times, with the last major renovations coming 34 years ago, in 1985, followed by some work that was done on the roof of the gym in 2018. Most recently, in 2020, a larger roof repair project was undertaken at a cost of nearly \$300,000.

Shellbrook Elementary, meanwhile, was built in 1956 and last received major renovations in 1980, when the

gym was added on, and in 2001, when it received a facelift.

At 63 and 68 years of age, respectively, both facilities are considered by the SRPSD to have reached the end of their lifespan. Despite this, facilities that are newer than both of these schools have already been replaced by the province.

Previously, former SRSD director of education Robert Bratvold said one of the major hold ups was the fact that neither school currently has any health, safety or structural issues that would place them high on the Ministry of Education's priority list.

"Most of the issues are the kind you would expect as a building ages

(roof, building envelope, windows, insulation, electrical upgrades, HVAC system)," he said in 2019, noting that it will eventually reach a point when the cost and value of completing these repairs make it more appealing to the ministry to build a new facility.

When the idea for the project was first pitched in 2015, the SRSD expected it would take three to five years to receive government

approval and capital funding, depending on the province's available funds. After govern-

ment approval was received, the timeline for construction was two to three years.



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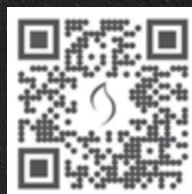
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Sask. must balance budget, tackle rising debt

By **GAGE HAUBRICH**
CTF Prairie Director

The government of Saskatchewan needs to present a balanced budget in 2024.

No excuses. No exceptions. Balanced or bust.

The government projected a \$1-billion surplus for 2023-24. After the latest fiscal update, that projection now sits at a \$250-million deficit.

The government originally planned to decrease the debt by about \$400 million to \$18.1 billion according to the budget, but now it's raising it to \$18.9 billion.

Those numbers aren't great, but they are not the worst either. Especially with our neighbours in Manitoba staring down a \$1.6-billion deficit, the

highest that province has ever seen outside of the COVID mess.

But it's still not all sunshine and roses in Saskatchewan. The government needs to take action to balance the budget now, so the government doesn't find itself in Manitoba's situation or, worse, Saskatchewan's own situation 30 years ago.

Bankruptcy doesn't happen overnight. As a Hemingway character said, you go bankrupt in two ways "gradually, then suddenly."

The province has already seen this effect before. In the 1990s, former premier Roy Romanow was forced to take drastic measures because of years of deficit spending by the provincial government that had in-

creased government debt to the highest levels in the country.

The government was in such dire straights that almost no one would lend it any more money and it was in danger of defaulting on its debt interest payments — essentially, going bankrupt.

What came next were spending cuts and tax hikes. Fifty-two hospitals were closed or converted and in the 1993 budget, the gas tax, provincial sales tax and business taxes were all hiked to deal with the situation.

Romanow says he still loses sleep over the decisions he had to make during that time. That's why the province needs to take ac-

tion while the problem is still growing gradually, so Saskatchewan isn't suddenly hit with financial disaster. Because Saskatchewan is no doubt in the gradual phase.

In 2014-15, government debt was about \$5.9 billion or \$5,300 per person (after adjusting for inflation). At the end of 2023-24, the debt is expected to be \$18.9 billion or \$15,500 per person. That's a 220 per cent increase in debt in about 10 years.

Debt interest payments are another problem the government needs to address. In 2014-15, the government was paying about \$340 million inflation-adjusted in interest on the debt. This year its going

to be \$640 million. That's \$522 per person. What could you have done with \$522 more in your pocket?

With interest rates remaining high, any new debt the government takes on is going to add more pain with even higher interest payments. What happens if the price of oil or potash takes a dive? What if a drought hits next year's harvest even harder?

These scenarios would mean horrors for the public purse. If the government can't balance a budget during regular times, there is a snowball's chance it can do it in a bad time.

Accumulating debt is a snowball effect. Every year the government adds to the debt, that means more

money spent on interest payments and not on services. The government needs to stop it before it starts rolling down the hill and becomes Saskatchewan in 1993.

The government has the benefit of hindsight in the next budget, so it can't sit on its hands and let the situation deteriorate further.

Finance Minister Donna Harpauer recently announced she will not be running in the next election. What better way to cement her legacy than to introduce a balanced budget as her last?

Come March, to safeguard the province's future, the Saskatchewan budget needs to be balanced and the debt needs to go down.

Spiritwood Library celebrates Valentine's Day

By **HEATHER GATZKE**
Spiritwood Librarian

Spiritwood kids were happy on Valentine's Day, with an early dismissal from school plus a cookie decorating and craft session for them to join in for some fun at the

Spiritwood Public Library.

Each child was given a large sugar cookie and a small one. The large cookie was sent home and the small cookie they could eat that afternoon.

From there, they had a variety of icing and decorations to use, with

lots and lots of sprinkles.

"Life is better with sprinkles," was the main quote of the afternoon.

The craft was a headband with springy wiggly hearts. Also available were Valentine's Day themed colouring pages. Everyone enjoyed their afternoon.



Valentine's Day headband crafts encouraged kids to be creative.



Kids got to decorate a large and a small sugar cookie (one to take home, and one to eat).

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Hours: Negotiable
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Start Date: Negotiable

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Applications must be received at the municipal office by 3:00 pm, March 15th, 2024. If you have questions, please contact our office at 306-747-2178.

The RM of Shellbrook No. 493 wishes to thank all applicants for their interest, but only those selected for an interview will be contacted. For further information contact the RM office at 306-747-2178. The successful candidate must be bondable and pass a criminal check.

Taking Carbon Tax off Home Heating Drops Inflation to Under 2%

Removing the federal carbon tax from home heating helped reduce Saskatchewan's inflation rate to 1.9 per cent, down from 2.7 per cent in December, according to the latest Consumer Price Index report. This provides a clear example of what the federal government needs to do if it wants to drive down the cost of living for Canadian families.

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

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

Autonomous equipment inevitable in ag sector

There are of course a number of visions for the future of farming, none of the visions likely to be completely right, but if you wanted one aspect that will be part of that future it is autonomous technology.

One increasing barrier to farming is finding staff. The modern tractor, or combine, or sprayer is a technological marvel with amazing

capacity to collect data and cover ground. Sit in a modern combine cab and it reminds more of a spaceship than the tractors of my youth.

Overlay that with the investment in a large piece of equipment, and a four-wheel drive tractor, or new combine will chew through near \$1 million, and you still need a highly skilled operator.

That translates into a



CALVIN DANIELS

situation of finding qualified operators and then affording those qualified

operators with the requisite skills, which is a challenge.

So, producers must be watching the emergence of autonomous technology.

The idea of an operator-less tractor isn't new, but as with any emerging technology gains are being made quickly. The autonomous tractor of five years ago will be a 'Model T-equivalent' to what rolls out a mere decade from now.

The ability of sensor technology to grow, allowing for ever greater uses for autonomous units, will open the door to broader on-farm usage.

Initially the greatest usage may come from high value, high inten-

sive farms, such as those growing vegetables. But a tractor that can pull a cultivator over a field essentially 24-hours a day without an on-board operator has to intrigue big acre grain farmers.

Of course, the autonomous units might also be powered by non-fossil fuels, which, depending on one's view, will be an added bonus or a waste of effort.

That said, the political push from fossil fuels is real, so that will be an overlay of a "complementary technology" on autonomous units.

Unless our world regresses – and you might create a doom and gloom vision out of a more virulent COVID-like bug, or the threat of a third

world war with the likes of Vladimir Putin out there – farming will most certainly continue to become more technological.

Of course, evolving tech has always been at the heart of farming – the horse to steam tractor to diesels to the autonomous electrics of today an obvious example.

New technology has always allowed farmers to cover more acres, raise better crops, and deal more effectively with weeds and pests, and one should expect that will continue.

And one should expect the autonomous power unit – they will be more than a tractor – will be at the vanguard of the next generation of tech.

U13 Elks fall to Hawks in game 1

By JORDAN TWISS
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The U13 C Shellbrook Elks have had a relatively easy ride through Provincials, cruising past the Carrot River Loggers and the Kelvington Wheat Kings in the first two rounds of the playoffs.

Looking to keep that momentum going in round three, the Elks welcomed the Watrous Hawks to Shellbrook on for game one of their best of three series on Saturday, Feb. 24. There, the team met its match, struggling to score with their usual ease while the Hawks racked up the goals to claim a 7-2 victory.

Having narrowly slipped past the Eston Ramblers in their first Provincials outing, the Hawks left nothing to chance against the Elks, taking a commanding 4-0 lead in the first period.

Rylan Crittenden started the scoring early for the Hawks, drawing first blood with an assist from Tyson McLaren just past the five-minute mark of the opening frame.

After a lull in the offense, the Hawks fired off two more goals in the span of less than a minute, starting with a goal from Daxon Hoppenreys, assisted by Crittenden, and followed by an unas-

sisted goal from Orion Quirk.

With the help of a late penalty by the Elks, the Hawks rounded out their scorecard with their fourth goal of the first period from Jude Bartko. Colton Oakes and McLaren assisted on the goal.

Down 4-0 with lots of hockey left to play, the Elks sought a means to claw their way back into the game, and got it midway through the second period on an unassisted goal from Camdyn Ashby.

That goal would stand as the only goal of the second period, and the Elks would be the next team score, as Dawson Danberg closed the gap to 4-2 on an assist from Ashby.

This, however, was as close as the Elks would get for the remainder of the game, as the Hawks rediscovered their offense and rattled off three goals to earn their decisive victory.

Oakes kicked off the scoring, tallying on assists from Hoppenreys and Crittenden. Then, later in the frame, Crittenden and Hoppenreys both scored unassisted goals of their own.

The Elks now need wins in games 2 and 3 to keep their Provincials run alive. Those games will be played in Watrous on Saturday, March 2.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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

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

BLAINE LAKE: Wapiti Library - Wednesday 1pm - 6pm; Thursday 1pm - 6pm; Friday 1pm - 6pm; Saturday 10am - 3pm. 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 11am - 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: Spiritwood Spirited Players present Dis-Order in the Court by Pat Cook @ Spiritwood Civic Centre! Performance only: Thurs., Feb. 29 – Doors Open 6:30pm; Performance 7pm. \$10 @ door (kids under 10 free). Dinner Theatre: Fri. & Sat., Mar. 1 & 2 – Doors Open 6pm; Supper 7pm; Performance to follow. \$50 - Purchase in Advance. For dinner theatre tickets: Visit Martodam Family Retail (118 Main St., Spiritwood) or Contact Cari @ 306-883-7882.

SHELLBROOK: Fundraiser for Norm Farthing who's currently battling cancer. DRAW for Mac Tool Macimizer 88" 17 Drawer & Power Drawer Work Station w/ M88 27 Line Work Surface. Tickets \$100 – Available at Triple S Transport (56 Main St., Shellbrook). Draw Date: March 2, 2024

SPIRITWOOD: SARCS (Spiritwood Area Recreation, Culture and Sport Inc.) is now accepting requests for the "Saskatchewan Lotteries Community Grant"! Non-Profit Community Sport, Culture and Recreation Programs – Programs running from: April 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025. Deadline to apply: Must be received by March 18, 2024. Email spr@sasktel.net or call (306) 883-2176 to receive Funding Request Form.

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Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald

Will wearing green be lucky for McEwen?

It's (nearly) the month for St. Patrick's Day, so perhaps wearing Saskatchewan green and the luck of the Irish will mean a Brier championship for Mike O'McEwen.

He's changed provinces regularly, so why can't he change his name, too? — from McEwen to O'McEwen, just to heighten his chances of expanding his luck quotient to win the biggest prize in Canadian men's curling.

No skip has ever represented three different provinces in the Brier, until McEwen this year, so maybe third time will be lucky. He won the Manitoba title four times, and represented Manitoba, his home province, on three other occasions as a wildcard entry. Last year, he joined forces with an Ontario rink featuring Ryan Fry, Joey Hart and Brent Laing, and they won that province, losing in a 3 vs. 4 Page playoff game at the Brier. But when Laing, Fry and Hart went their separate ways at the end of the season, McEwen was a loose free agent, looking for a strong team that

needed an experienced and proven skip.

It didn't take long for that curling marriage to happen. Colton Flasch of Saskatchewan has long been a contender on the men's curling circuit, but he lost his third, Catlin Schneider, following the 2022-23 season. The dichotomy was perfect — McEwen available; Flasch with one missing piece. Flasch moved down to play third and the team clicked almost immediately.

Wearing green for the first time in his life, McEwen led his team of Flasch and the Marsh twins, Dan and Kevin, to the Saskatchewan championship, running off seven straight wins to earn a spot in the 2024 Brier which, as fate would have it, is being played in Regina starting March 1. The pressure will be ramped up threefold: Playing in front of a home crowd; being a first-year skip with the Flasch squad; and trying to break a long Brier drought for teams from Saskatchewan. The most recent Brier title for the Wheat Province came in



BRUCE PENTON

1980, 44 years ago, when Rick Folk was the winner.

While McEwen representing Saskatchewan may be the feel-good story of the week, Canada's best curlers won't be coming to Regina to play secondary roles. Five-time (and defending) champ Brad Gushue of Newfoundland will be among the favourites, as will last year's runner-up, Brendan Bottcher of Alberta. Perennial contenders Matt Dunstone, Kevin Koe, and Reid Carruthers (whose rink is skipped by Northern Ontario veteran Brad Jacobs), will also have strong opportunities to win.

In the round-robin,

Regina fans' eyes will be focusing on the B.C.-Saskatchewan matchup because the former Flasch third, Schneider, moved to B.C. and won his new province's championship.

Ideally, B.C. vs. Saskatchewan would be a terrific Brier final, too, with McEwen trying to write a fairytale finish to his vagabond curling tale.

• Comedy writer Torben Rolfsen of Vancouver: "The Blue Jays are trying to cash in on mascots popularity. They signed Justin Turner, the baseball player that mostly closely resembles Gritty and Youppi!"

• Headline on Page 1 of the San Francisco Chronicle the day after the 49ers fell 25-22 to Kansas City in the Super Bowl: "LOSS VEGAS"

• Greg Cote of the Miami Herald, on the shooting in Kansas City during the Chiefs' Super Bowl victory parade: "What if Patrick Mahomes had been hit in the spray of bullets? Would that have gotten America's attention? Because nothing else has

as our national plague of gun violence and mass shootings goes on and on."

• Cote again, after Patrick Mahomes' outstanding play in the Super Bowl led the Chiefs to victory: "The G.O.A.T. corral has a new member."

• Mike Bianchi of the Orlando Sentinel: "A 16-ounce can of beer at the big game in Vegas cost \$18.90. The only people who can afford those kinds of prices are Taylor Swift, LIV golfers and Georgia football recruits."

• From Bianchi's column in the Sentinel: "Best pre-Super Bowl Sunday meme: 'I hear Taylor Swift's boyfriend will be attending the Usher concert this weekend.'"

• Headline at Canadian parody website The Beaver: "Saskatchewan residents furious over local sports network's decision to air Super Bowl instead of 2013 Grey Cup replay."

• Comedy writer Alex Kaseberg: "At one point 200 million people watched the Super Bowl.

Imagine how many it would have been if they weren't airing a curling game at the same time?"

• Jim Trotter of The Athletic, after the Waste Management Open in Phoenix turned into a drunken debacle: "The Waste Management now resembles the Wasted Management."

• Another one from Kaseberg: "Sarah Thomas was the first ever female ref in a Super Bowl. That explains why that one player was called for Unsatisfactory Feelings Sharing."

• Comedy guy Torben Rolfsen of Vancouver: "The Vegas Golden Knights ended the Edmonton Oilers winning streak at 16 games, which is usually around when casino security steps in."

• Headline at the onion.com: "Chiefs Pour Vat Of Hot Fryer Grease Over Andy Reid"

• Another onion.com offering: "Chiefs Walk Six Miles To Game After Bus Driver Refuses To Pay \$125 For Stadium Parking"

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Senior Elks top Bruins in Provincials

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

With their league playoffs having come to a premature end, the Shellbrook Elks senior hockey club is looking to the Senior D Provincials for its only remaining chance at hockey glory in 2024. Kicking things off on Saturday night, the Elks welcomed the Delisle Bruins to a jam-packed Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre for game one of their best of three series.

From the opening face off, the Elks and the Bruins

played a gritty and fast-paced game, competing like bitter rivals rather than teams that were meeting for the first time in the hockey season.

The hard hitting eventually proved costly for the Bruins, giving the Elks a power play and allowing them to take an early lead on a blast from Dallas Galloway that just barely slipped through the pads of Bruins goalie Carter Woodside. Parker Turner earned the only assist on the play.

As the teams settled back into their rhythm, and tempers began to boil over on the ice, the Elks got the bet-

ter of most of the first period exchanges, eventually going up 2-0 on a goal that slowly bounced into the back of the Delisle goal. Devin Dicus earned credit for the goal, with Galloway providing the lone assist.

Though they didn't score again, the rest of the period mostly belonged to the Elks. But then, with time quickly winding down, a slip by an Elks defenceman allowed Clayton McKenzie to scoop up a loose puck and rifle a shot home, closing the gap to 2-1.

As the game remained gritty and fast-paced through the second period, it was the Bruins who took control of the action, preventing the Elks from posing any threat. But, although they bent, the Elks refused to break, even when they had to weather two minutes of constant pressure on a 5-on-3 penalty kill.

The Elks eventually found their skates again in the dying minutes of the frame, generating a few scoring opportunities and keeping the score locked at 2-1 going into the third period.

With the game still very much in contention, tensions only amped up on the ice

through the final 20 minutes. The Bruins continued to apply pressure all the while, finally catching a break when Jordan Hudson blasted a top shelf one timer off an offensive zone face off. Brant Wiebe earned the only assist on the play.

With overtime looking more and more likely as time wound down in the period, a Bruins turnover proved to be just the thing the Elks needed, allowing Ethan Beaulac to fire a wrist shot home and put the Elks up 3-2. Cole Duperreault and Galloway assisted on the play.

Down by a goal with nothing

to lose, the Bruins pulled their goalie in favour of an extra skater, hoping to overwhelm the Elks and force overtime. The gambit failed to pay off as Braidon Turner fired a puck into the empty Bruins goal, and Dicus added a second empty netter to clinch a 5-2 win for the Elks. Parker Turner and Nathaniel Martin earned assists on the first goal, with Jody Blais providing the lone assist on the second.

With the win, the Elks head to Delisle for game 2 on Friday night. If necessary, game 3 will be played in Delisle on Sunday.



Elks goaltender Todd Bazley shuts down a Bruins breakaway with a strong poke check.



Elks forward Parker Turner races for a loose puck in front of the Delisle goal.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the estate of Dennis Peter Joseph Proulx, late of Shell Lake, Saskatchewan, deceased. All claims against the above estate, duly verified by statutory declaration and with particulars and valuation of security held, if any, must be sent to the undersigned before the 15th day of April, 2024:
NOVUS LAW GROUP
Barristers & Solicitors
1200 Central Avenue
Prince Albert, SK S6V 4V8
Attention: Bill Cannon
Solicitors for the Estate 2-10

**BUYING?
SELLING?
CLASSIFIEDS WORK!
306-747-2442**

LIVESTOCK FOR SALE

BLACK ANGUS BULLS FOR SALE
- by Private Treaty.
A good selection of responsibly bred and fed 2 year olds, ready to work for you. Also developing a pen of yearling bulls for those interested for later use. The bull bloodlines are: Diversity and Four Seasons. These bulls are reasonably priced. Please call Christopher at West Cowan Apiaries 306-469-4970 or 306-469-7902 (cell) to set up an appointment for viewing. 18-26
BIG VALLEY CHAROLAIS - Charolais yearling bulls, moderate framed with ease of calving. Located at Mayfair, SK. Call Ervin (c) 306-549-7485 (h) 306-246-4673 8-14


BLACK AND RED ANGUS Yearling and two-year-old Bulls on moderate growing ration. Adrian Edwards, Valleyhills Angus - Glaslyn, SK. PH: 306-441-0946. 21-26

HORSESHOE E CHAROLAIS Annual Bull Sale - At the Ranch, near Kenaston, SK. Saturday, March 9th, 2:00 PM. Selling 50 yearling bulls and 20 two year olds. Semen tested. Call Layne or Paula Evans (306)252-2246. Layne (306)561-7147 Catalogue, videos, and online bidding will be on DLMS.ca 6-10

**CLASSIFIEDS WORK!
306-747-2442**

**ZERO IN ON NEW EMPLOYEES
CLASSIFIEDS WORK!
306-747-2442**

MEMORIALS

In Loving Memory of
REYNOLD BERNARD SOMMERFELD
December 7, 1928 - March 5, 2015

Our dear husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather

Our Angel up in Heaven, We wanted you to know, We feel you watching over us, Everywhere we go. We wish you were here with us, But that can never be, Memories of you are in our hearts, That only we can see.

Our Angel up in Heaven, We hope you understand, That we would give anything, If we could hold your hand. We'd hold you oh so tightly, And never let you go, And all the love inside of us, To you we'd surely show.

Until we meet again. Sadly missed and forever loved, Lucy and Family

SEED FOR SALE

GROWER DIRECT; smooth brome, meadow brome, alfalfa, timothy, clovers, Cicer Milkvetch, Sainfoil, custom blending available, delivery available. 306-342-4290 or 306-342-7695 Glaslyn, SK, Darrel Siklenka. 16-24

COMING EVENTS

The Cameo Snowmobile Rally has been cancelled for this year. Thanks for your past patronage and hope to see you again next year!
- The Cameo Community Club

It's Easy to place a classified!
Phone 306-747-2442
Fax: 306-747-3000
Email: chads@sbchron.com

IN MEMORY
MAY BE PUT IN THE CHRONICLE & HERALD FOR **\$25.00*** (30 WORDS)
20¢ PER ADDITIONAL WORD
PHOTO - \$10.00
Shellbrook Chronicle Spiritwood Herald
PHONE: **306-747-2442**
FAX: **306-747-3000**
EMAIL: **CHADS@SBCHRON.COM**

PRAISE & WORSHIP

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

LUTHERAN CHURCH
Zion - Canwood
Sunday School,
Worship Sunday, 9 a.m. (in-person only)
St. John's - Shellbrook
Sunday School,
Worship Sunday, 11 a.m. (in-person and online via Facebook live)
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

UNITED CHURCH
Big River
Sundays
11 a.m.. - Worship at Anglican Church
Rev. Dave Whalley
306-747-2804
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
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
PRESBYTERIAN
Mistawasis
Sunday worship
11:00 a.m.
Rev. Stewart Foster
CATHOLIC CHURCH
Debden
Sun. Mass - 9:30 a.m.
Fr. Mariusz Zajac
Big River - Sacred Heart
Sun., 11:30 a.m. - Mass
Whitefish
Sun., 2:30 p.m. - Mass.
Victoire
Sat., 7:30 p.m. - Mass.
Fr. Mariusz Zajac
St. Agatha's - Shellbrook
Mass - Sunday 11 a.m.
St. Henry's - Leask
Mass - Sunday 9 a.m.
Mistawasis
1st & 3rd Sundays 1:30 p.m.
Fr. Tuan Doan
SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST
407-2nd Ave E, Shellbrook
Sat., 9:45 a.m. - Sabbath School
Sat., 11:00 am - Worship
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 Rick 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

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

ADVERTISING DEADLINE IS FRIDAY 4 P.M.

OBITUARIES



Joanne Helen McGown



McGOWN, Joanne Helen (née Ashworth) September 30, 1946 - February 17, 2024

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Joanne on Saturday, February 17, 2024 at the age of 77 years after a long hard

battle with heart disease. Joanne was predeceased by her parents Mabel and Joseph Ashworth; sister Jean McCullough; and brothers-in-law Brian and Kenny McGown. She is survived by her husband of 46 years Larry; daughter Janaya Stevenson (husband Wayne and sons Owen and Myles); son Gavin (wife Brandi and daughters Alivia and Violet); sister Dorothy Schettler (Emery); brother-in-law Larry McCullough (Evelyn); sisters-in-law Marilyn and Yvette McGown; as well as many nieces, nephews and cousins. Joanne was a Registered Nurse and worked in Regina for her entire career.

She made many trips to Spiritwood to help Larry with farming and being with family and friends. Joanne has touched the lives of many people and will be dearly missed. A Celebration of Life was held on Thursday, February 22, 2024 at Regina Funeral Home and Cemetery. Donations in memory of Joanne may be made to the Heart & Stoke Foundation, 1200-2300 Yonge Street, Box 2414 Toronto, ON M4P 1E4. Family and friends are invited to leave tributes at www.reginafuneralhome.ca. Arrangements entrusted to Regina Funeral Home and Cemetery (306) 789-8850.

Sidney Swenson



Sidney K. Swenson 3 Oct 1935 - 20 Feb 2024

Sid passed away peacefully after a brief illness at the age of 88 years, in Edmonton.

He will be lovingly remembered by his two daughters, Shelley (Rick) Becker and Terri (Don) Tymchak; four grandchildren, David Becker, Stacie Becker, Samantha (Jordan) Kiesman and Ami Tymchak, and two great-grandsons, Lane and Bryn. He is also survived by brother-in-law, Grant Conlin of Saskatoon, sister-in-law,

Irene Scott of Medicine Hat, and numerous nieces, nephews, and friends.

He was predeceased by his beloved wife, Alice; parents, Samuel & Catherine Swenson; sisters, Debby Swenson and Alvina Conlin; in-laws, Ben & Anne Lofstrom, and Art Scott.

Sid was born in Canwood, SK and grew up on the family farm in Nestledown. He started in the pipeline business in 1954 with Banister Pipelines when a line was being put in near Prince Albert. He showed up at the work site everyday with lunch bag in hand, hoping to get hired and finally on the fourth day he was. Sid quickly worked his way up from labourer to Project Manager. Flat out, hair straight back for the next 50 years; his experiences took him all over Canada on a variety of lines from the NWT to Ontario and back to Norman Wells. He was very fortunate to have had a job he

loved and made lifetime friends along the way. Throughout his career, Sid was widely known for his speed down the highway, driving from one end of the pipeline to the other. In Ontario, the OPP nicknamed him the Silver Bullet.

He enjoyed spending time with family, especially his grandchildren and in later years loved watching his two little great grandsons, "the boys", run around and play. They become the light in his life and he always looked forward to their visits every Sunday.

In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to the University Hospital Foundation (givetouhf.ca), or a charity of your choice.

At a later time, private interment will take place at Glenwood Funeral Home & Cemetery, Sherwood Park, AB, alongside wife, Alice.

To share a condolence, please visit: www.glenwoodmemorial.com

Highway Hotline rolls out plow tracking

Saskatchewan drivers now have a new Highway Hotline feature to help them plan safe winter travel. Track My Plow allows drivers to see the path of snowplows as they provide snow and ice control on Saskatchewan highways.

"For more than 50 years, Saskatchewan's Highway Hotline has been helping drivers make informed decisions about their safety," Highways Minister Lori Carr said in a statement. "Track My Plow gives them yet another piece of information that will help them plan their travel and get to what they love."

The new feature is a pilot project on the Highway Hotline's website and smartphone app. Anyone can click on a plow and see that vehicle's last two hours of winter road maintenance. When combined with descriptions of road conditions and a review of public forecasts, drivers can make informed decisions about winter travel.

This feature is now being released on most of our snowplows. The

ministry will monitor the progress of the feature, and public response to it.

The Highway Hotline at <https://hotline.gov.sk.ca/> is Saskatchewan's provincial road information service. It gives drivers real-time updates about road conditions, incidents, closures and construction. It receives millions of visits each year.

More than 50 cameras are connected to the Hotline's online map, allowing drivers and pilots to see highway and weather conditions at various points along our highway network and at northern airports.

Citizens can also access the Hotline by downloading an app for their mobile phones at the Google Play and Apple App stores. They can receive audio reports of road conditions by dialing 511.

To see how-to-use the Track My Plow feature for handheld and desktop computers, visit:

https://youtu.be/_j4JDzNo_tQ and <https://youtu.be/kVvVnGOEL-YA>.

JUNIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

2024 JUNIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR SCHOLARSHIP

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

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

GOOD NEWS



SEEK GOD AND YOU SHALL FIND HIM

By RANDALL MCLEOD
Immanuel Lutheran, Parkside

"But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ." (2 Corinthians 3:14)

People love to say things like: "If God is good, why does the world have so much evil?", and "How can this be wrong if God made me this way?" Why is it, do you think, that we love to take credit for the good things in our lives and then blame God for the hard things, the bad things, the uncomfortable thing?. These types of attitudes display a deep misunderstanding of the biblical narrative and of the world in general.

The bible teaches us that God made a perfect world, He declared it "very good", and then we, us humans, we messed it up. We messed it up with sin and pride and selfishness. In fact, we messed it up so bad that, of the first two brothers ever born, one killed the other. And then, to make it even worse, not so very far down the road after that, the whole world was so wicked and corrupt it needed a "do over" (Noah's flood).

Now, if there is no God, where do we find a standard for good and evil anyway? Mother nature is absolutely amoral. She don't care if we kill each other. You know, she is all about survival of the fittest. She wants to kill you with heat, and cold, and storms, and earthquakes, and tooth and claw. She

is merciless! In her world, a helpless creature is not something to be helped, it's something to be eaten.

No, it is we humans, made in the image of God, who have God's moral values written in our hearts, who value things like: Don't kill, don't steal, don't lie, don't fool with someone else's spouse.

God is not the author of evil, but he is the author of justice. So, keep in mind, when you insist that evil be judged, quickly and harshly; are you willing for God to begin with you? We all violate God's rules, we all deserve judgement, but God is patient, He is not wanting any of us to perish. He wants us to see our own failings and to turn to Him for mercy.

The warning we get from Him though was summed up so well by C.S. Lewis when he said: "In the end, either we will say to God 'Your will be done', or He will say to us 'Your will be done'." His way has a good outcome, ours does not!

Receiving God's mercy is not hard, if you really, really want it, if you really, really see your need for it...It's there for you. This is God's solemn promise: "those who seek me diligently will find me." (Proverbs 8:17)

This weeks' lessons teach us that we are spiritually blind because of our sin, but as we saw above; If you are diligently seeking truth, ask God, and He will reveal the truth to you. Seek after Him with every fiber of your being and you will find Him!

ADVERTISING DEADLINE IS FRIDAY 4 P.M.