

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald

VOL. 112 NO. 6 PMR #40007604

Thursday, February 8, 2024

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Pool project fundraisers haul in funds



From left to right: Amber Larson, Kelly Bourgeault, Stacy Tanchuk, Tricia Bell, and Kelly Hoare volunteered for cooking duty for the pancake breakfast fundraiser for the pool project.

By JORDAN TWISS

Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

With two successful fundraisers under its belt already in 2024, the Parkland Pool Project Steering Committee is just a little bit closer to realizing its goal of building a new pool for the community.

The committee organized and hosted its second-ever Twisted Sisters Music Bingo at the Shellbrook Community Hall on Friday, Jan. 26, raising about \$14,000 and bringing the total raised thus far close to the \$320,000 mark. Meanwhile, a pancake breakfast organized by the Town of Shellbrook this past Saturday, Feb. 3, cooked up more funds for the cause (as of Monday, the total raised wasn't yet finalized).

Crediting all this to the "amazing fundraising committee" and the outstanding support of the community, Parkland Pool Project Steering Committee chair Mark Klaassen says the committee is hoping to sit down with the Town of Shellbrook to discuss potential locations for the pool, with the hopes of nailing down that decision in the next month or so.

Since the committee was formed, it has been considering a handful of potential locations, including where the existing pool is, a little further north in Kin Park, the area by the Hidden Hills of Shellbrook Golf Course and Parkland Integrated Health Centre, and Centennial Park.

"The locations we have discussed, as were presented in the feasibility study, are what we will discuss further. I feel it is important to have the town's opinion involved, as they can offer some more information that may not have been found in the initial study — things like future planning and developments," Klaassen said.

"At this point nothing has been ruled out. We are going to explore each proposed location to ensure we have the best option."

In the meantime, Klaassen says details are being ironed out on other fundraising events, and the committee is waiting for more federal government grants to become available.

The Story So Far

According to a feasibility study conducted by aodbt architecture + interior design in 2022, the price tag for a new pool is

about \$4.6 million. That same study said the cost of repairing the existing pool, which was built in 1971, would be about \$2.6 million.

With the potential for issues with major items, like boilers, the pool tank, and piping, to shutdown the pool at any time, Klaassen has said \$2.6 million is a high price tag for a facility nearing the end of its lifespan.

Meanwhile, the quote provided by aodbt includes everything: the design, the pool, and the building containing the change-rooms, space for the lifeguards, and the mechanical room. Breaking down the numbers, Klaassen said the feasibility study pegged the cost of the new building was \$1.2 million, while the new pool was quoted around \$2.2 million, putting the costs in line with what other communities have paid to replace their swimming pools in recent years.

"We're going to need a building. Regardless of what we do, those costs are there," Klaassen said previously. "We're looking at making it bigger. The current change-rooms we have are too small. There aren't

enough stalls, there isn't enough room for the lifeguards. The mechanical room is pretty tight. The facility itself is just dated."

Klaassen says the loss of the pool would be economically devastating, not just for the community but for the whole region, including communities as far away as Big River, Blaine Lake, Spiritwood, and Glaslyn. This claim is certainly supported by the fact that more than 800 people registered for swimming lessons and swim programming in the summer of 2023.

Aside from the economic rationale to replace the existing pool, Klaassen says a new pool would also be a boon for the Shellbrook Silverfins, as the current pool doesn't meet Swim Saskatchewan's standards to host meets and competitions.

A replacement would also allow for some other key upgrades, including a zero-depth entry for little swimmers, spray features or a waterslide, and a 25-metre lane pool. And finally, eliminating current issues with the high water table would allow the pool to open up earlier in the season, meaning more space for lessons and programming.

LARGE SELECTION OF BATTERIES



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New Martodam Motors facility nearing completion

By **BEVRA FEE**
Spiritwood Herald
Reporter

The much-anticipated move from the former Martodam Motors building to the business' impressive new home on the north side of Highway 3 is set to take place in the very near future. Under construction since the summer of 2023, and requiring a test of patience waiting for the overhead doors, the new 19,000 square foot structure will house an expanded parts department, new offices, and expansive space for service bays.

Martodam Motors has been an automotive

and agriculture staple in Spiritwood since Len and Vivian Martodam opened the business shortly after moving to Spiritwood in 1961, beginning its life as a Ford dealership and service garage.

It then expanded to sell Ford, Mercury, New Holland, and Versatile tractors, as well as shortline equipment, under Lloyd Fisher and partners (first, William Volk and Clarence Billous starting in 1983, then Michael Cote and Patrick Booth from 1998 to 2010).

After 2010, the business was handed off to a second generation of Fishers, as Tyler Fisher

moved his family back to Spiritwood from Calgary to take over operations from Lloyd. Though, despite being retired, Lloyd is still a frequent presence in the shop, lending a hand or stopping in for a coffee and a visit.

And just as Martodam Motors' leadership has changed over the years, so, too, has its stock, with Ford tractors being dropped and Case IH equipment brought in to replace them.

With finishing touches being put on the agriculture shop portion of the business' new facility, operations could be moved to the new location by the end of February.



The new Martodam Motors facility, located on the north side of Highway 3, is almost ready for move-in day.

Sask. teachers amp up job action

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Saskatchewan's educators are standing firm and putting more pressure on the Sask. Party government to bargain on class size and complexity. Over the weekend, the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation (STF) gave 48 hours notice of a second round of rotating one-day strikes on Wednesday, Feb. 7.

Teachers in the Prairie Spirit Teachers' Association were included in this round, affecting schools in Leask and Blaine Lake.

In addition to the second round of one-day strikes, the STF gave 48-hours notice on Monday morning that there would be a province-wide one-day withdrawal of noon hour supervision services on Thursday, Feb. 8 (today).

In a press release, the STF noted teachers often provide noon hour supervision of lunch time and student activities on a voluntary basis, but on Thursday they would leave the building during their schools' designated lunch break period.

Per the Education Act, 1995, it falls to school divisions to ensure students are adequately supervised at school. The STF said school divisions would be contacting parents and caregivers about any schedule changes tied to Thursday's job action.

"A decade of government funding cuts has meant parents in several school divisions are forced to pay out-of-pocket fees of \$100 or more for their kids to stay at school over the noon hour," said STF President Samantha Becotte in a statement. "School boards face the impossible task of balancing government funding shortfalls and the rising costs of services that students need. Students and families are caught in the middle, and I encourage every parent and caregiver in the province to let our government officials know how they feel about that."

In addition to demanding that the government negotiate on class size and complexity, the province's teachers are seeking an annual salary increase of 2 per cent over the next four years, plus a top up tied to the Consumer Pricing Index (CPI). They are also asking for things like greater autonomy for educators, and rights for supply teachers, including a minimum salary, paid sick leave, and the freedom to unionize, but Becotte says the government has re-

fused to negotiate on nine out of ten issues brought forward.

Thus far, Education Minister Jeremy Cockrill has held firm in the government's offer of a 7 per cent wage increase over the next three years, calling it "a fair deal" for teachers. He's also said issues like class size and complexity shouldn't be part of the bargaining process, and should instead be addressed by school divisions.

"We can't do that in a provincially bargained agreement because what that would essentially do is take the role of locally elected school boards, which we have 27 of across the province, and give that to union leadership," Cockrill said in a recent interview. "We're not prepared to do that. We're not prepared to take the local voice out of education."

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VILLAGE OF LEASK

NOTICE OF ABANDONMENT OF POLL

Whereas a poll is not required pursuant to *The Local Government Election Act 2015* for the office of:

Councillor: Village of Leask

I hereby give public notice that no voting for the said office will take place and that the following person is elected by acclamation:

Councillor: **ANDREW PARK**

Dated at Leask, Saskatchewan this 25th day of January, 2024.

Yvette Hamel
Returning Officer

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POSTER BY

January activities at the Shellbrook Library

By **LORRAINE THIBEAULT**
Assistant Librarian

Throughout the month of January, the Shellbrook Public Library was bustling with activity as children and adults participated in a variety of Family Literacy events. For children, there were Lego building challenges – fireworks, fossils & bones, and bugs & spiders. The 3-D fireworks were impressive. Kids learned a little about archaeological digs, eight-legged spiders, and six-legged insects.

Throughout January, entries were received for a limerick contest. Drop by the library to read a humorous limerick about a man who put a suppository in his ear instead of his hearing aid, and more serious limericks about the northern lights, winter, and the Shellbrook Library.

Mary Anne Kennedy led a group of adults in the Lost Art of Letter Writing on Tuesday, Jan. 9. Participants reviewed the history of letter writing, focusing on the changes that followed the increased use of computers for emailing and devices for texting. Participants had the opportunity to write letters or thank you cards in the “old style.”

Patrons created valentines on Wednesday, Jan. 10, for the Valentines for Vets (veterans) program run by Veteran’s Affairs. These valentines are distributed to veterans in nursing homes across Canada who may not normally receive expressions of caring.

Also on Jan. 10, the library focused on financial literacy as Ashley Rudolph, Jenna Bartelen, and Kashish Kashish from Scotiabank presented on Registered Retirement Savings Plans (RRSPs) and Tax-free Savings Accounts (TF-SAs).

On Jan. 13, the library was busy as many of the regular Saturday Paint-

ers came out to display their paintings. Their display has been up for a few weeks, so be sure to come to the library and see the talent of Shellbrook and surrounding area artists.

A scavenger hunt was held Jan. 26, 27, 30 and 31, as patrons tried out the role of the librarian by putting books in order as if they were being shelved, as well as searching for a book by an author with the same initials as theirs.

On Jan. 27, Storytime participants heard stories about families reading together. They made a Shellbrook Library Family Reading Tree, which showed the families who gather at the library each Friday for Storytime.

The final Family Literacy Month activity took place on Jan. 31, as families participated in “popcorn writing.” For this activity, one family mem-

ber started the story with the opening sentence. Another family member wrote the next sentence, and this continued until the end of the story. Drop into the library to see the stories.

The names of all those participating in the Family Literacy month activities were put in for draws. Marj Bradley



Raelynn put a unique spin on her spider.



Audrey, 8, built a ladybug farm during the Shellbrook Library’s bugs and spiders Lego challenge.

won a \$25 Indigo gift certificate for her participation in the limerick contest, Stephanie Hodgson’s family won a \$50 Indigo gift certificate for family participation, Samuel Schafer won a \$25 Indigo gift

certificate in the adult division, Elijah Klumpenower won a \$25 Indigo gift certificate for the five-and-over division, and Jaime and her daycare children won a book prize in the toddler division.



Drohnen (left) and Samuel Schafer participated in making the storytime tree at the Jan. 27 story time.



Scotiabank employees stopped by the library on Jan. 10 to talk about financial literacy. Pictured, from left to right: Ashley Rudolph, attendee Deziree Stieb, Kashish Kashish, and Jenna Bartelen.



LAKE COUNTRY ELECTION RESULTS

We are pleased to announce the results of the Lake Country Co-op Shellbrook Delegate elections for the upcoming three-year term ending in 2027.

Elected candidate:
Cliff Skauge

A heartfelt thank you to all the members who actively participated in this year’s elections.

Call for Board of Director Nominations

The Elections Committee of Diamond North Credit Union is accepting nominations for the Board of Directors.

In 2024, there are four director positions available:

- Three 3-year terms
- One 2-year term

For more information please visit diamondnorthcu.com/nominations.

Nominations will be accepted **February 12 to March 8, 2024**. All nominations must be received by close of business on **Friday, March 8, 2024**.

Interested persons must attest to director qualification requirements.

If required, an election will be held March 25 to April 5, 2024. Date of Record is March 11, 2024.

For further information, please contact Wendy Krip at wendy.krip@diamondnorthcu.com



Island Forests Open House

Island Forests 2024-25 Harvest and Silviculture Plan

The Ministry of Environment invites you to an open house to discuss its draft 2024-25 Harvest and Silviculture Plan for the Island Forests – the Canwood, Nisbet, Fort à la Corne, and Torch River provincial forests. The plan provides details on potential harvesting areas that will guide annual operating plans.

The public is invited to meet representatives from the Ministry of Environment’s Forest Service and forest companies. Traditional knowledge and local information on the potential impact of this proposed project are welcomed and valued.

Monday, February 12 – Prince Albert

6:30 p.m., University of Saskatchewan Prince Albert Campus, Atrium, 1061 Central Avenue

Tuesday, February 13 – Melfort

6:30 p.m., Kerry Vickar Centre, 206 Bemister Avenue East

Wednesday, February 14 – Choiceland

6:30 p.m., Seniors Centre, 116 1st Avenue

For more information, please contact area forester Bryan Fraser, MA, RPF, 306-930-7966, bryan.fraser2@gov.sk.ca.

saskatchewan.ca/environment



Emergencies Act ruling highlights Act's problems

When the Public Order Emergency Commission's inquiry into the federal government's use of the Emergencies Act in response to the Freedom Convoy concluded last February with Justice Paul Rouleau's ruling (mostly in the government's favour), I suggested nothing would actually change.

At the end of the day, those who believed that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberal government made the correct decision would continue to believe the decision was just.

Similarly, those who participated in or supported the Freedom Convoy would continue to view the invocation of the Emergencies Act as a giant step toward tyranny, and dismiss Mr. Rouleau as a government shill.

It was inevitable. When feelings about a divisive issue are strong enough, the facts and evidence cease to matter, becoming tools to be manipulated so either side can convince itself it's on the "right side."

And lo and behold, this is exactly what happened. The bickering between both sides continued for a while, then faded to nothing once a new divisive issue rose to the fore.

Now, nearly a year after the end of the Emergencies Act inquiry, the can of worms has been re-opened by Federal Court Justice Richard Mosley's ruling that Mr. Trudeau's government did, in fact, violate protesters' Charter rights.

The ruling, handed down in late January, came in a case filed by the Canadian Civil Liberties Association and the Canadian Constitution Foundation, as well as two individuals who had their bank accounts frozen.

In his ruling, Mr. Mosley determined that, while the protests "reflected an unacceptable breakdown of public order, the invocation of the Emergencies Act does not bear the hallmarks of reasonableness – justification, transparency and intelligibility," and suggested there was "no national emergency" justifying the use of the act.

Mosley was also rightly critical of the aforementioned freezing of the bank accounts of participants and supporters under the guise of the act, determining the government violated protesters' freedom of expression and acted too broadly.

While those who supported the Freedom Convoy were quick to celebrate the



JORDAN TWISS
~
News Editor

ruling as an absolute vindication, there is one small, overlooked caveat in Mr. Mosley's ruling.

While he determined Mr. Trudeau's government made the wrong decision, he also said he could have arrived at the same conclusion it did about invoking the Emergencies Act, if he hadn't had the "benefit of hindsight and a more extensive record of the facts" to work with.

In other words, similar to the way Mr. Rouleau didn't let the federal government off the hook for the way it treated the Freedom Convoy protesters, Mr. Mosley didn't issue a universal rebuke of its actions.

What we're left with, then, is one ruling (mostly) in favour of either side of the debate from justices who were both Liberal appointees (and Mr. Mosley's ruling is going to be appealed by the federal government and may not stand).

If justices appointed by governments with the same ideology can't even agree, what are we to make of the matter? What are we to take away?

The first conclusion to draw is that there are serious issues with the vagueness of the language of the Emergencies Act, which only allows it to be invoked when "threats to the security of Canada rise to the level of a national emergency."

A national emergency, in the act's context, is any emergency that exceeds a province's capacity to deal with it, and can't be remedied by any other law. Meanwhile, a threat to the security of Canada (according to the CSIS Act, from which the Emergencies Act borrows language) is the "threat or use of acts of serious violence against persons or property for the purpose of achieving a political, religious or ideological objective."

While I'm no legal expert, even I can see that the grey area in the act's language is wide enough to drive a Freedom Convoy truck through. And, when given an inch, governments of all political stripes will inevitably take a mile.

For the rulings by Messrs. Rouleau and Mosley to have any meaning, any value to Canadians, they must prompt a meaningful discussion and amendment of the Emergencies Act to remove any vagueness or room for broad interpretation.

While governments should possess powers to act in emergencies, this power shouldn't come easily, or allow them to trample Canadians' Charter rights.



Education: the elephant in the room

As an MLA, I have promised to put people over politics. I have made it my mission to find out what people are concerned about and what their ideas are to provide solutions.

Recently, education issues have increasingly become a topic of great concern to parents, teachers, and other professionals. In my 16 years as an MLA, I have never seen this level of alarmism, from all political sides, about student outcomes.

Employers and post-secondary tell me that when new high school graduates apply, they must be assisted with elementary level reading, writing, and math. Parents tell me that they feel alienated from the school system and are worried about their children's progress and sometimes their safety. Teachers tell me they don't have the resources to educate for success in today's complex classrooms.

Without disclosing specifics, I will provide a few examples.

- Parents in Saskatchewan Rivers petitioned school officials for a meeting to discuss school incidents that had harmed a number of students. Over 100 parents attended. They were not allowed to speak about the incidents



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due to privacy rules. At the end of the meeting neither the school officials or RCMP could assure those parents that their children would be safer going forward. At least one family pulled their children from that school to be educated elsewhere, "because nothing was done and nothing changed."

- In another school, a student who had been put into alternate education was often directed to sit by herself with a chromebook during class. Her instructor told her parents that she would never be more than a shelf stocker, never a cashier. When the Saskatchewan government closed schools for COVID, her parents decided not to waste the time and began homeschooling. Today, this young lady has achieved Grade 11 Algebra and much more.

- A single mother discovered that despite her two children moving into junior high school, neither could read, write, or do math at even grade 1 levels. She spent over \$12,000 on private tutoring in 2023 to bring them up to grade 4, still years behind the outcomes that she should rightfully expect from our public education system.

Continued on page 5

Shellbrook Chronicle

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

Spiritwood Herald

Serving the Communities of Spiritwood, Shell Lake, Leoville, Chitek Lake, Mildred, Rabbit Lake, Medstead, Mayfair, Bapaume, Belbutte, Glaslyn

Publications Mail Registration #07621

Published Every Thursday Morning

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Friday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. & 1 to 4 p.m.;
Advertising Deadline: Fridays at 4:00 p.m.
Websites: www.shellbrookchronicle.com
www.spiritwoodherald.com

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

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Report from the Legislature

Our government remains committed to investing in the programs and services that matter most to Saskatchewan people. These investments help to build and protect our province, ensuring it remains one of the best places to live, work, and raise a family.

The new Saskatchewan Employment Incentive (SEI) program has officially launched, helping to make life more affordable for Saskatchewan families. Working parents who earn between \$500 and \$2,200 per month may be eligible for the maximum monthly SEI benefit ranging from \$400 to \$600, depending on the number of children they have.

The SEI will provide a monthly financial benefit, supplementary health benefits, access to discount bus passes where available, connections to employment supports through the Ministry of Immigration and Career



HON. SCOTT MOE,
PREMIER

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Training, and access to the Saskatchewan Housing Benefit through the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation. Applications are open online at www.Saskatchewan.ca/employment-incentive.

The minimum age for purchase of tobacco and vapour products has increased to 19, effective February 1, 2024. This is an important step in protecting youth from the dangers of tobacco and va-

pour products.

Under the new Action Plan for Mental Health and Addictions, our government is focused on getting more people the treatment they need to overcome addictions and live healthy, safe lives in recovery. As part of the transition to a Recovery-Oriented System of Care, changes are being made to how the health care system responds to illicit drug use issues.

The provision of pipes for smoking methamphetamine, crack cocaine, and other illicit drugs will be discontinued. The practice of providing materials with instructions on how to use illicit drugs will also be discontinued. No third-party organization will be permitted to use funding provided by the Ministry of Health or the Saskatchewan Health Authority for these purposes.

Providing taxpayer-funded pipes for smoking illicit drugs and instructions for

how to use them sends the wrong message to people who we want to help. Instead, the message coming from the healthcare system should be that there is hope for recovery, and there is help available through treatment.

Consistent with public safety priorities, the Take Home Naloxone program will continue to provide free naloxone kits. These are available at over 400 locations throughout the province, with more locations to come.

Test strips for fentanyl and benzodiazepine contamination will also continue to be available to assist law enforcement and the healthcare system with monitoring drug toxicity, as well as help users better understand the risks associated with illicit drugs. The use of drug checking infrared spectrometers will also continue for the same purpose.

Needle exchanges will be required to operate on an exchange basis to strike a balance with public safety priorities. The intent of needle exchanges is to get back used



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needles that can be littered in communities or be otherwise improperly disposed of, and to reduce the spread of bloodborne illnesses like HIV or hepatitis C.

To further support people struggling with addictions and other at-risk individuals in the community, new Community Wellness Buses are planned for 2024 with a mandate to provide primary healthcare services, assistance with accessing services and supports, and referrals for other services that they may need.

Our government continues

to move forward on adding 500 addictions spaces, as announced in the fall of 2023. So far, a total of 168 treatment spaces have been announced across the province. Work is also underway to implement a central intake system to make treatment more easily accessible to people when they need it.

In addition, the province recently launched a new Provincial Drug Alert System. The goal of drug alerts is to increase awareness of the dangers associated with illicit drugs and the presence of other toxic substances that further increase the risk of overdose and death. Anyone can sign up to receive drug alerts by visiting www.Saskatchewan.ca/drug-alerts or text JOIN to 1-833-35-B-SAFE (352-7233).

With these investments and programs in place, we will continue working to build and protect our great province. If you have questions, concerns, or comments, please don't hesitate to contact my constituency office.

Education: the elephant in the room

Continued from 4

So how can this happen when we have an army of talented educators whose passion is to mentor every child to succeed to their potential?

The answer lies mostly in the phrase 'classroom complexity', a politically correct way of saying that today's classrooms host a multitude of dynamics the education system was never set up to handle.

It's the elephant in the room.

It began with the noblest of intention; new policies to integrate students with special needs into public school classrooms with their age groups. Education Assistants were brought in to meet the change. In most cases, this approach was a benefit to the make-up and culture of our classrooms and society in general. However, for reasons unknown to me, the number of students with profound needs has increased and their needs seem to have become much more complex over the years. Our education system has not evolved with these changing circumstances.

One EA I spoke with said that her assigned student this year is not capable of academic achievement. Her role is to sit with him in class through the day, try to keep him calm, and feed and diaper him when needed.

Another EA related how she goes home in tears everyday, because her assigned student physically attacks her and others in their elementary school.

I have also heard of a school's computer room being closed and repurposed as a 'quiet room' to calm students with behavioural outbursts.

I would ask you for a moment, to imagine yourself as a student in today's classroom. What would you be thinking? How would you feel? What would your reaction(s) be over the long term?

The unintended consequence of the current model is that learners are unable to concentrate and must deal with disruptions in their classes daily. Resources are being denied to them. Teachers are doing their

best to try to impart knowledge while dealing with frequent, sometimes traumatic, interruptions. Students often come to resent this environment, as they realize that their academic career is being hindered and will affect their future goals.

I believe we need to have an honest and frank conversation about how to reform Saskatchewan's education model. The one we have is failing almost everyone in some form. We need a different approach to managing students with complex needs.

I believe suggestions for solutions will come from the front line, the exhausted teachers who see the reality and potentially know what needs to change. Those teachers tell me that they have no way to influence the current system because it is a taboo topic or for fear of retaliation on several fronts. Some have taken early retirement because they see no way to make a difference anymore.

As one teacher told me, "The education systems' priorities have changed without societal consent. We can no longer provide adequate/quality timeshare for every student to reach their potential".

That is why I am providing a confidential online survey, for teachers and parents to express their viewpoint and especially, what they believe are needed solutions. All interested parties are welcome to participate.

I have repeatedly raised the issue of student outcomes in the Legislative Assembly and will continue to do so until this government is willing to address it. It is not necessarily a money problem, but a management problem.

We are a province rich in resources and people, yet we cannot produce employable graduates. We can and MUST do better.

Please let me know your thoughts through the online survey or call my office at 306-763-0615 or email saskdrivers@sasktel.net. Any identifying information will be kept strictly confidential.

Find the education survey here: <https://nadinewilson.ca/education-survey>

Was the *FURNACE* in your business installed during the

DIAL-UP Era?

Commercial rebates are available on eligible high-efficiency natural gas equipment.

Contact your local Network Member or visit saskenergy.com to learn more.

TJ's Pizza, Chester's Chicken open in Spiritwood

By **BEVRA FEE**
Spiritwood Herald
Reporter

With the final pieces of the “new” Lake Country Co-op C-Store building in place, Spiritwood’s TJ’s Pizza and Chester’s Chicken chains officially opened for business as of Monday, Feb. 5.

The parking lot outside of TJ’s Pizza and Ches-

ter’s Chicken was noticeably more crowded as the noon hour drew near, and manager Matthew Sheppard reported that traffic into the pick-up area had been steady since opening time, with customers coming in to pick up offerings ranging from pizza by the pie or the slice, to pasta, salads, chicken, and breadsticks (wedges).

Sheppard notes that the business is still staffing up, but they have nine employees on hand from TJ’s operations elsewhere to get things up and running.

Lake Country Co-op initially announced plans to bring the two restaurant chains to Spiritwood in the summer of 2023.

“Spiritwood was seen as a good location for these additions because we heard the need from our members,” said Brittney Rosenberg, Lake Country Co-op’s director of marketing and community relations, at the time of the announcement. “As well, [the community] is a junction point to surrounding lakes and communities.”

Rosenberg says Lake Country Co-op’s initial plan was to have a quick service restaurant at the C-store when it was built in 2021. However, these plans failed to come to

fruition. Despite the delay, Rosenberg was confident the new TJ’s Pizza and Chester’s Chicken franchises would be right at home in Spiritwood.

“These franchises were a good fit for the market in Spiritwood because who doesn’t love chick-

en and pizza!?” she said. “We went with two quick serve food franchises, so our members and customers have a great selection for all their lunch and dinner cravings.”

Lake Country Co-op says the addition of the two new restaurants was seen as a means to meet

the changing needs and preferences of Co-op members and the community at large, and will help the Spiritwood C-Store become a one-stop destination for both food and fuel.

With files from Jordan Twiss, Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter



Cars were lined up outside the restaurants on opening day.



Matthew Sheppard (right) is heading up operations as manager of the Spiritwood C-Store’s new TJ’s Pizza and Chester’s Chicken chains, which opened on Feb. 5.

VILLAGE OF DEBDEN PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that the Council for the Village of Debden intends to adopt a bylaw under *The Planning and Development Act, 2007* to amend Bylaw 2/2023, known as the Zoning Bylaw.

Proposed Bylaw 1/2024:

Intent

The proposed Bylaw 1/2024 will amend Section 5.10 Cannabis Retail Stores, subsection (1) and (2) and amend Section 7.3 C-1-Village Commercial District, Table 7-3 C1 Village Commercial District Development Standards.

Affected Land

The affected land is all land dedicated as C-1 Commercial District along Main Street and along 1st Avenue East and West as shown on the map.

Reason

The reason for the amendment is to encourage commercial development and to provide for the opening of a Cannabis Retail business in this district.

Public Inspection

Any person may inspect the bylaw at the Debden Village Office Tuesday through Thursday from 10:00 am-3:00 pm. Copies are available at a cost.

Public Hearing

Council will hold a public hearing on February 22, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at the Village of Debden Council Chamber to hear any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed bylaw. Council will also consider written comments received at the hearing (or delivered to the undersigned at the Village Office before the hearing.)

Issued at Village of Debden this January 15, 2024.
Tamara Couture, Administrator



Company selected for Victoria Hospital build

The Government of Saskatchewan has announced that PCL Construction Management Inc. has been awarded the design build agreement for the Prince Albert Victoria Hospital project. The value of the construction contract is \$898 million and is inclusive of the Design and Early Works agreement awarded through a public procurement to PCL in December 2022.

The Victoria Hospital agreement includes design and construction of a new acute care tower connected to, and directly north of the existing facility. The new tower features a heliport on the roof, an expanded emer-

gency department, larger operating rooms, pediatrics, maternity, NICU, new medical imaging, and a First Nations and Métis Cultural space, among other key services. Overall capacity at Victoria Hospital, between the new tower and existing facility, will increase 40 per cent, from 173 to 242 beds.

“The Victoria Hospital project is a significant investment in Prince Albert and surrounding area and will go a long way to accommodate the growing needs of the northern communities it serves,” Health Minister Everett Hindley said in a statement. “I want to personally express my sincere gratitude to Boreal Healthcare Foundation for their continued efforts and support to help make this project a reality.”

The Boreal Healthcare Foundation’s valuable philanthropic partner-

ship on this project will have a lasting impact on the wellbeing of the community. Its significant contribution toward the furniture, fixtures, and equipment needs for the hospital will elevate the care provided by staff and physicians, resulting in better patient outcomes. The addition of MRI and a second CT scanner will improve access and allow for highly complex diagnostics to occur closer to home for residents in northern communities.

“It is so exciting to see this much needed project for Prince Albert and all of Saskatchewan moving forward, I want to specifically thank the Prince Albert Grand Council for their partnership in getting us to where we are today,” MLA for Prince Albert Northcote Alana Ross said in a statement. “This new hospital will be in the heart of the community I represent and it brings me pride to know that our government is making the investments needed for Prince Albert and the North to grow.”

The Prince Albert Grand Council (PAGC) is working with the Government of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) on designing the cultural space that will be central to the new main entrance. PCL will

engage with local and Indigenous vendors to deliver services for the construction.

“Residents in Prince Albert and throughout the North will benefit from enhanced care that is available closer to home, made possible by the expansion of the Prince Albert Victoria Hospital,” Saskatchewan Health Authority Chief Executive Officer Andrew Will said in a statement. “This important project provides the opportunity for the SHA to deliver expanded services for Northern residents in key areas, including intensive care, medical imaging, adult mental health treatment, and children’s and maternal services.”

PCL and the SHA will work to ensure minimal disruption to staff and visitors to the hospital during construction and renovation phases. Patient care is not expected to be impacted.

The design build agreement includes an option to retain services for phased future renovations to the existing facility.

Site preparation/early works included construction of a new parking lot, which will be paved this spring. Construction on the new tower is expected to begin in spring 2024, with anticipated completion in 2028.



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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Email:
chads@sbchron.com

Maintaining wetlands helps us all

In the past I have written about the importance of wetlands although I also acknowledge that farmers probably should not be expected to carry the cost of preserving such areas.

While it might not seem like it, wetlands, and it's the same for areas of bush, have a cost to maintain. They are, after all, natural areas and Mother Nature does her thing, and the areas survive nicely.

But the farmers hold deed to such areas, and with some work they could be growing wheat or canola.

Even if the land is not ideal for crop production, when canola is floating near the \$20 a bushel mark farmers see a reason to drain sloughs and cut down bush.

There is also the matter of pure convenience. As machinery has gotten ever larger, manoeuvring around natural areas can be an issue, especially when staff with more limited hours in the trac-

tor seat are at the helm. A quarter section cleared corner-to-corner is just easier to manage.

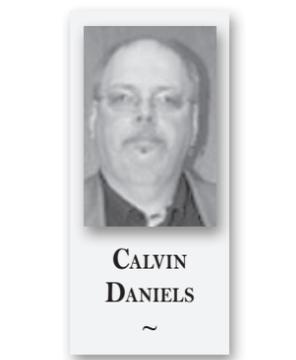
And one might even suggest that when a slough goes, so do the ducks and geese stopping in and eating crop.

So, for a farmer there is a pull to eliminate natural areas.

But there are notable reasons to keep them too, as the Provincial Association of Resort Communities of Saskatchewan has pointed out in a series of recent Facebook posts.

For example, the first post noted wetlands are home to a wonderful and interesting diversity of species.

"In the spring, wetlands are brimming with waterfowl, blackbirds and shorebirds as they nest and raise their young in the safety of reeds, grasses and stones. Not only is it a sanctuary for migratory and year-round birds, there are also fish species, frogs, turtles, muskrats, minks and



CALVIN DANIELS

beavers that are long-term residents. With deer mice and ground squirrels living in the grasses adjacent to wetlands and fish swimming in open water, this ecosystem is a favourite of osprey, eagles and hawks. But, let's not forget about the itty bitty creatures that wiggle in wetland waters. Aquatic invertebrates, such as dragonfly nymphs and snails form the base of the wetland food chain and are equally as fascinating as other wetland life."

That is interesting, and one can appreciate wild species are valued by many and worth helping to thrive.

But should that respon-

sibility be on the individual farmer?

It would seem there is a role for the public to play here.

It might be in tax breaks at the municipal level, or annual 'natural habitat preservation grants' from senior government or even organizations such as Ducks Unlimited. The source of funding is less important than the fact such support would help farmers maintain natural habitat while still generating some income from their land.

And it's not like the public wouldn't benefit from the investment either.

As the posts pointed out "wetlands are the kidneys of the planet!" as they "have the ability to remove pollutants from water, thanks to their luscious vegetation. Cattails, for example, aren't just good for entertainment with seedy fluff that explodes in the wind. These iconic wetland plants are able to

capture excess phosphorus and nitrogen, thereby preventing harmful algal blooms."

In addition, wetlands are masters at carbon sequestration.

"This process sucks in carbon and stores it in wetland soil. Unlike when a sibling hogs all the crayons, we are happy that wetlands hog carbons because it helps to regulate the climate. But, not all wetlands are equally skilled at holding onto carbon. Peatlands, including fens and bogs, collect 'peat' or partially decomposed plants and

other organic matter (aka a whack ton of carbon). When peatlands are drained for agriculture, forestry or peat harvesting, carbon and nitrogen are released as greenhouse gases in the form of carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide. Approximately 25 per cent of the world's peatland are in Canada alone, with the Hudson Bay Lowlands as one of the worlds largest peatland systems."

So, wetlands are important, which means collectively we need to assure they are maintained.

EMERALD LAKE REGIONAL PARK
Call for Letters of Interest for Board Members

The Village of Leask invites ratepayers and patrons of Emerald Lake Regional Park wishing to make a positive contribution to the Park, to submit a letter of interest, outlining their experience and noting if appointed their potential contribution to the board.

Village of Leask will be appointing two members for two year terms. Letters of Interest may be sent to: Village of Leask, Box 40, Leask, SK, S0J 1M0, Email: admin@leask.ca.

Deadline for submissions: **February 19th, 2024.**



Willing to share weather and crop progress in your area? Scan the QR code to volunteer for our crop reporter service.



Agriculture — An Industry To Celebrate

On February 13, 2024, Canada's Agriculture Day, take time to recognize the hardworking, dedicated individuals who contribute to our agriculture industry. Show gratitude for those who produce food for people in Saskatchewan and across the globe. #CdnAgDay

The Ministry of Agriculture has 10 regional offices around the province. Contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre (AKC) to connect with a specialist to learn about our programs and services.

Toll-free number: 1-866-457-2377
Email address: ag.info@gov.sk.ca

saskatchewan.ca/agriculture



Elks stumble, Stars end season strong

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

There was plenty of action in both the Twin Rivers Hockey League (TRHL) and the Saskatchewan Prairie Hockey League (SPHL), as the Shellbrook Elks senior hockey club began its playoff journey against the Willow Cree Chiefs, and the Glaslyn North Stars finished their regular season with games against the Radisson Wheatkings and the Perdue Pirates.

Elks (3) vs Chiefs (6)
Facing the top team in the conference (and the league) in

round one of the TRHL playoffs, the Shellbrook Elks knew they had to bring their A-game against the Willow Cree Chiefs. The trouble was, the Chiefs brought their A-game as well, rattling off four unanswered goals throughout the first period.

The Elks held strong through the first eight minutes of the first period, until Taryn McKenzie drew first blood for the Chiefs on assists from Bryson Monych and Greg Cameron Jr.

Later on in the period, penalty troubles did the Elks no favours, allowing Darwin Morin to put the Chiefs up 2-0

on assists from Talon Thomas and Kirk Bear. Bear would then make it 3-0 on the power play just a couple minutes later, drawing assists from Lucas Seesequasis and Riley Albert on the play.

Capping off the first period scorecard, Seesequasis added a goal of his own to push the score to 4-0, earning assists for Gabe Gardipy and Jordan Greyeyes.

The Elks finally showed up in the second period, striking first on a goal from Matthew Flodell, assisted by Matthew Kutnikoff and Cole Duperreault. The Chiefs had an answer, though, as Bear connected with Morin to restore the Chiefs' four-goal lead.

The teams went on to play an evenly matched middle of the period, until a power play worked in the Elks' favour, allowing Ethan Beaulac to score on assists from Duperreault and Flodell. And the Elks would have the last word in the period, closing the gap to 5-3 on a goal from Duperreault, assisted by Tavis Gallo-way and Flodell.

Facing a more manageable goal deficit to start the third

period, the Elks just couldn't find the back of the net. And in the end, Morin tacked on an empty netter, assisted by Trent Campbell and Bear, to give the Chiefs a 6-3 win.

With the loss, it's do or die for the Elks in game two, which is set for Sunday, Feb. 11 at 3:30 p.m.

Stars (16) vs Kings (0)

With a playoff spot already secured, the Glaslyn North Stars were just looking to end their SPHL regular season on a high note with a road game against the Radisson Wheatkings on Friday night. The team got all it could have asked for and more, delivering a 16-0 spanking to the Wheatkings with the help of an all-hands-on-deck performance.

Regan Yew led the way for the Stars, scoring five goals and two assists. Meanwhile William Desjarlais tallied two goals and five assists, Ty Anderson scored two goals and two assists, Jaxon Penner notched two goals and one assist, Kyle Fiddler and Calvin Koczka had one goal and three assists each, and Tyler Gamble scored one goal and two assists.

Colton Poulin and Linkin Schwenk rounded out the goals with one each, and, in the assists column, Wade Davies, Darren Delainey, and Robin Yew all had two, and Lynden Carey and Andrew Hicks earned one apiece.

Stars (4) vs Pirates (1)

Closing out the season on home ice the following night, the Stars put in a more restrained performance against the Perdue Pirates, besting them by a modest score of 4-1.

Jaxon Penner was the top scorer for the Stars in the win, scoring two goals and an assist, while Carson McNabb earned a goal and an assist, and Colton Poulin scored a single goal. On the assists side, Darren Delainey earned two, and Jeff Caffet and Bohdi Dougan had one each.

The two wins left the Stars with a 9-7 record to close out the regular season, good enough for fifth place in the standings, and a showdown against the fourth-place Battleford Beaver Blues in the opening round of the playoffs.

Dates for the best-of-three series have yet to be finalized.

Parkside Community Club makes donations



From left to right: Parkside Community Club members Jory Segberg and Jamie Skarpinsky present a \$500 cheque to Canwood Community School principal Sylvia Delisle and JP mentor Carly Williams. The donation will support the school's snack program. The club made similar donations to WP Sandin High School and Shellbrook Elementary School's snack programs prior to the new year.



Parkside Community Club members Jory Segberg (left) and Jamie Skarpinsky (middle right) present a \$5,000 cheque to Canwood Regional Park representatives Grant Person and Bob Thompson (right). The funds will support upcoming plans to build a spray park.

Photos courtesy of Kelsey Segberg

Spiritwood RCMP seek missing man

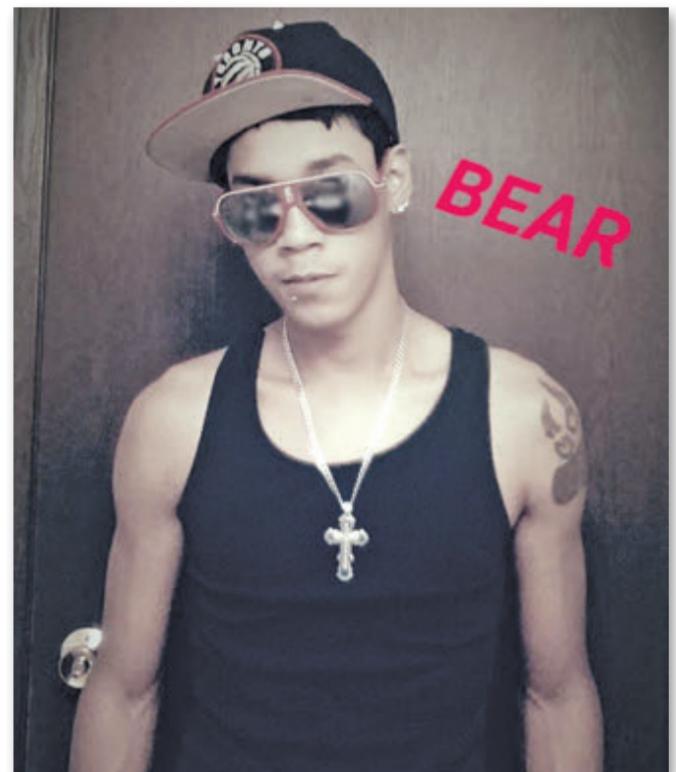
By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

On Feb. 2, 2024, the Spiritwood RCMP Detachment received a report of a missing 30-year-old male, Kebo Bear.

Bear was last seen walking on Pelican Lake First Nation on or around Jan. 22, 2024. At the time, he had indicated he was planning to travel to Porcupine Plain, Sask., but did not show up as planned.

Bear is described as approximately 5'9" and 130 lbs. He has short black hair and brown eyes. He was last seen wearing a black jacket and red shoes.

Anyone who has seen Bear, or who knows where he is, should contact the Spiritwood RCMP Detachment at 306-883-4210. Information can also be submitted anonymously by contacting Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or www.saskcrimestoppers.com.



Kebo Bear, 30, was reported missing on Feb. 2.

Employment Incentive Now Open for Applications

Saskatchewan working parents earning between \$500 and \$2,200 per month may be eligible for the maximum monthly SEI benefit ranging from \$400 to \$600, depending on the number of children they have. The SEI has a simple online application and reporting process to make it more convenient for families to access their monthly benefit. **Learn more and apply at saskatchewan.ca/employment-incentive.**

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

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



Spiritwood Library hosts literacy program

By **HEATHER GATZKE**
Spiritwood Library

On Jan. 19, Chantelle Sprenger from Regional KidsFirst came out from Prince Albert to offer a literacy themed program for children at the Spiritwood Public Library, as part of January's Canadian Literacy Month celebration.

Chantelle came prepared with a story sack. Inside the story sack was everything needed to have fun with the book *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle. It included a puppet and felt creations of everything that the caterpillar ate.

Literacy is not just reading, but all kinds of interactions with your child, from eye contact to touch, from sounds to words. Even math skills are literacy.

Each child was able to go home with the gift of a book.



Chantelle Springer from Regional KidsFirst readies a puppet for *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*-themed activities.



Chantelle Sprenger interacts while children enjoy the book.



Kids took part in activities based on *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*.

GOOD NEWS

THE LORD'S PROTECTION

By **DAVE BODVARSON**
Shellbrook Pentecostal Assembly

"I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress." (Psalm 91:2)

In 1978, in the late fall, I made my way to Calgary. I had left Red Deer College. My plans to be a lawyer were in the rear-view mirror. At that time, I hadn't a clue where life was going to take me. After leaving College I did work for my older brother Tim for a month or so. I got the basics of cribbing or building basements. I think I chose Calgary because some in my family spoke well of the city. After all, it's not far from the mountains.

When I got to Calgary, I needed a place to stay. I found a Calgary Herald. I leafed through it and found a basement suite. That would be good. I also found out Cal Roc construction was looking for cribber helpers. With my limited experience I felt I could apply. The first thing I did was secure the basement suite, which amounted to one of the bedrooms in the basement. The deal was as renters we could go upstairs and help ourselves to cereal in the mornings. That is how I met Brian Davis. Brian Davis some three years later would be my best man.

I did start working for Cal Roc building basements. We were working in northwest Calgary in a community called Ranch Lands. This community was brand new. So much so, when I took a Calgary bus, it only took me so far. To reach the construction site I had to jump on another little shuttle bus.

I eventually had to move out of the basement suite. The landlord was no longer willing to rent out his basement. I was able to find other accommodations in other parts of the city. Despite moving around, I kept in touch with Brian. Brian is the one who introduced to First Assembly in Calgary. That is where I met Pastor Ken and Joan Bombay, who I became fond of. I have maintained my friendship with Ken Bombay going on

46 years.

Brian knew I was from Hay River and was wanting to see the North. One Christmas I took Brian with me. We got as far as Fox Creek, Alberta, and we hit black ice. Brian was my passenger in a little Ford Fiesta that I had bought brand new from Kingland Ford in Hay River.

Alberta has some awesome moose. On the highway between Fox Creek and White Court I saw two standing on the road. It is like eternity flashes before your eyes. It was pretty early in the morning and I could see lights coming my way heading south as I was heading north. I saw a semi truck coming towards me. He must have seen the moose and stomped on his brakes, because that semi came over on my side and hit my Ford Fiesta. As the semi came over, I said a quick prayer. I said, "Lord take me home if you want but don't let me suffer." I didn't want to come out of accident all mangled up. The Good Lord decided He wasn't going to take me home. The truck hit near the back of the car. As the semi hit, he landed in the ditch as I did. The driver ran out of his semi. I rolled down my window and he said, "I thought I killed you." All I could say was, "no we are both fine."

I have to give the RCMP credit. The officer knew I wanted to continue my journey home. He simply said put a damage sticker on it and drive it. I drove the Ford another few hundred miles to Hay River. I also drove it back to Calgary where it was repaired.

Brian got to see the north and come through an experience he likely wouldn't want to repeat. He stood beside me in 1981 on a January day in Calgary as the warm winds blew, and witnessed me marry the love of my life, Marlene Riddell. We have been married for some 43 years.

So glad we had God's protection. Wishing you that throughout this year and all the years to come.



CHECK IT OUT!

Shellbrook Chronicle Website
www.shellbrookchronicle.com

Spiritwood Herald Website
www.spiritwoodherald.com

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 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 1pm - 5pm

MARCELIN: Wapiti Library - Thursday 2pm - 7pm; Saturday 9am - 2pm. For information on all your library needs, please contact 306-226-2110.

SHELLBROOK: Shellbrook Branch of the Wapiti Library located at 105 Railway Ave., West (Provincial building). Library Hours: Monday 2pm - 6pm; Tuesday 2pm - 8pm; Wednesday 2pm - 8pm; Thursday 12pm - 6pm; Friday 10 am - 5pm (Story Time 10:30am - 11:30am); Saturday 10am - 4pm.

SHELLBROOK: LR Quist & Co. Saturday Night Concert - February 10, 2024, 7pm @ Shellbrook Pentecostal Assembly. Potluck lunch to follow concert. *Offering will be received for Living Waters Camp

BIG RIVER: Ice Fishing Derby on Cowan Lake in Big River, SK - Saturday, March 23. \$20,000 in prizes! Entry fee: \$50/Hole; 2nd Hole \$20. Tickets available by phone 306-469-7990 or @ Timberlost Outdoors in Big River and @ The Fishin' Hole in Saskatoon.

CANWOOD: Canwood Royal Purple Elks are hosting a "Sunday Brunch" on Sunday, February 11 from 10am to 1pm in the Canwood Elks Community Hall. Admission: Adults \$15; 6-10 yrs \$10; 5 & under Free. Pancakes, Sausages, Eggs, Muffins, Toast, Coffee, Tea, Juice and all the fixin's! Everyone welcome!

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.

TRIPLE YOUR ADVERTISING

We'll advertise your important community event in our Community Calendar FREE for two weeks prior to the event with purchase of a 2 column x 2" Display ad for only:

\$60.00 plus G.S.T. - A savings of over 30%

Available to Non-Profit & Community Organizations Only

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Support the local businesses that keep your community and its newspapers thriving.

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PIHC rec. therapy news highlights



The Shellbrook Kinettes, with help from local artist Tammy Smart, joined PIHC's long-term care residents for an intergenerational paint night in January. Spearheaded by Kinette Amber Larson, and made possible by grant funding, the paint nights have become a regular, enjoyable experience. Pictured: The artists show off their work. *By JORDAN TWISS, Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter*



With support from the Walter Willoughby Horticulture Society, as well as donations and grant funding, the great room at PIHC is looking lush and green. Pictured: Walter Willoughby members with the new plants, from left to right: Dennis and Joan Sommerfeld, Shirley Phillip, Roseanne Boyle, and Jessie Dion.

Adolph Benson celebrates 95th birthday



The family of Adolph Benson hosted a memorable 95th birthday party for him on Saturday, Jan. 27. The Senior's Room at the Canwood Elk's Community Hall was packed full, with about 90 people coming to celebrate the special occasion. The MC, Dale Benson, did an excellent job reminiscing about his dad's life. There was a delicious lunch served, with everyone enjoying a piece of the birthday cake.

Submitted by LORRAINE BENSON



The Shellbrook & District Arts Council recently offered its support to the artistic endeavours of Parkland Integrated Health Centre's (PIHC) long-term care residents with a \$500 donation to be used for art supplies. Pictured: Arts Council member Judy Hjertaas presents the cheque to elders Muriel Howrie (left) and Val Rusk (right).

CONSIDER GIFTING A SUBSCRIPTION

FAMILY MEMBER MOVED AWAY BUT WANTS TO STAY UP TO DATE ON HOMETOWN NEWS?

GIFT THEM A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE **Shellbrook Chronicle Spiritwood Herald**

FOR \$80 + GST PER YEAR



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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

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

ANGLICAN CHURCH
Leask - All Saint's
Sunday Service - 9 a.m.
St. Andrew's - Shellbrook
Sunday, 11 a.m. Service
Canwood - Christ Church
Sunday, 2 p.m. - Service
Rev. Canon David Butorac
306-961-1634
Minister's Warden:
306-922-5159

H.C. Service with Rev.
Butorac - 2nd Sunday of the
month

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

EVANGELICAL FREE
Big River
11:00 a.m. - Worship
Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.
Summer: 10:30 a.m. - 12
306-469-2258
Youth Nite: Fridays
Mont Nebo
Sun. Worship - 11:00 a.m.
(10:30 a.m. June - August)
306-468-2525

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
Parkside
11 a.m. - Worship

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

CATHOLIC CHURCH
Debden
Sun. Mass - 9:30 a.m.
Fr. Mariusz Zajac
Big River - Sacred Heart
Sun., 11:30 a.m. - Mass
Whitefish
Sun., 2:30 p.m. - Mass.
Victoire
Sat., 7:30 p.m. - Mass.
Fr. Mariusz Zajac
St. Agatha's - Shellbrook
Mass - Sunday 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/Unite/
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.
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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

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

Gideons International of Canada
Battlefords Camp
Phone Art Martynes
(306) 389-4633

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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

A new star shines on the PGA Tour

Twenty-year-old Nick Dunlap has joined the youth brigade that has guaranteed the PGA Tour will continue to be the only golf tour that really matters. Of late, youngsters like Colin Morikawa (26), Victor Hovland (26) Sahith Theegala (26), Cameron Young (26), Ludvig Ab-berg (24), Akshay Bhatia (21) and Tom Kim (21) have begun to dominate on the PGA Tour and now it appears as if Dunlap may be better than them all.

Dunlap did something in late January that no one has done in 33 years — win on the PGA Tour while still an amateur. The last one to accomplish that was Phil Mickelson at the 1991 Tucson Open.

The reigning U.S. Amateur champion, Dunlap is the only golfer to have won the U.S. Junior, the U.S. Amateur and a PGA Tour event at age 20 or younger. Tiger Woods, also a Junior and Amateur champ, was 21 when he won his first Tour event.

Dunlap, a sophomore

at the University of Alabama, shot round of 64-65-60 to take a three-shot lead into the final round of the American Express in Palm Springs, and the golf world waited for him to shoot a mid- to high-70s round over the final 18 holes and finish tied for 32nd or so.

It didn't happen. Joseph Lasagna, writing on The Fried Egg website, said, "When a player doesn't belong in the final group of a golf tournament, they tend to unravel. Once the unravelling begins, the wheels seldomly get back on the track. That's what happens when a player doesn't have the game to withstand the pressure of a final group on the precipice of a life-changing accomplishment."

Dunlap did experience an unravelling. It happened on the seventh hole of the Stadium Course at LaQuinta, where he made a double bogey to lose his lead to a hard-charging Sam Burns. But he played the final 11 holes in three



BRUCE PENTON

under par and when his chasers unravelled a bit themselves, he needed a seven-foot putt on the 18th hole to win. He made no mistake. A golfer who once shot a 59 at age 12, and owns a 30-2 match play record in major amateur events eschewed a \$1.5 million payday, which instead went to runner-up Christian Bezuidenhout. The victory locked up a Tour card until the end of 2026, so Dunlap announced three days later he was turning professional.

Not yet enticed by big-money contract offers from LIV, the young stars on the PGA Tour make the established

tour the place to play for those wishing to establish a legacy of brilliance. Michael Wolf, on Twitter, had this to say: "Stories like Nick Dunlap can't happen in 48-person fields where all of the spots are reserved for 40-year-olds who signed guaranteed long term contracts before the year started."

The win moved Dunlap from a world ranking of 4,129th to 68th, with the ascent likely to continue. He's obviously golf's next big thing.

• Nora Berry: "Anyone who thinks women talk too much has never sat through a six-hour Super Bowl pregame show."

• TSN hockey analyst Craig Button on what he should tell Leafs' fans about their team: "You can't handle the truth. It is as simple as this. You want people like me to come up here and tell you how great your team is, and it's not very good."

• Scott Ostler of the San Francisco Chronicle: "Seriously, amazing moment: Draymond

Green got bad call, called for block, and had NO REACTION!!! Great sign for Warriors."

• From fark.com "Ex-NHL player Tony Hrkac saves someone from choking to death at Kings' game. Fans of the team considering him for coach since Kings have been choking on the ice since December."

• Pro golfer Tommy Fleetwood, quoted on @PGATour on X, after reportedly turning down \$75 million to sign with LIV: "My future is too bright to just throw it away. I don't want to ruin my reputation ... my name is Tommy Fleetwood, not Cam Smith."

• Bob Molinaro of pilotonline.com (Hampton, Va.): "What's been the greatest motivational factor for Michigan man Jim Harbaugh? Running toward a Super Bowl title or away from possible NCAA sanctions?"

• Another snark from fark.com: "In today's edition of 'cheaters never prosper,' Jim Harbaugh is leaving the national champion Michigan

Wolverines to become head coach of the Los Angeles Chargers. I thought the constitution forbids 'cruel and unusual punishment.'

• Canadian parody website The Beaverton: "Hockey Canada sexual assault scandal a real shock to anyone who has never met a junior hockey player."

• Headline at theonline.com: "Fox NFL Sunday Producers Worried Broadcast Doesn't Feature Enough 50-To-90-Year-Old Men Standing Awkwardly."

• Headline at fark.com: "NFL starting to realize it was Brady, not Belichick, that was responsible for the New England dynasty"

• RJ Currie of sports-deke.com: "I imagine it must be tough for Saskatchewan curling fans to cheer Mike McEwen, longtime arch-rival from Manitoba, suddenly skipping a Saskatoon-based team in 2024. Call it sweeping with the enemy."

• Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

U13 C Shellbrook Elks advance in Provincials

By JORDAN TWISS
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

Having easily topped the Carrot River Loggers by a score of 7-2 in game one of the opening round of Provincials, the U13 C Shellbrook Elks returned to the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre for game two on Saturday, Feb. 3, with all the momentum on their side.

This momentum carried over into the second, potentially series-deciding match, as the Elks set the pace of the game early on and jumped out to an early lead on a shot from Hunter Loewen that left Loggers goalie Cale Charko wondering what just happened. Dawson Danberg and Dominic Reban assisted on the goal.

Continuing to pour on the pressure, the Elks struck just a minute later when Carson Nordin found the back of the net with a wrist shot, on assists from Tanner Mason and Camerin Smart.

Later, after killing off a penalty themselves, the Elks made the most of a power play opportunity to take a commanding 3-0 lead in the game. Mason scored the goal, on an assist from Danberg.

Given a little room to breathe,

the Loggers tried to fight their way back into the game, when Alex Goertzen tapped home a rebound off an offensive rush, earning assists for Jorja Maynard and Callen Quintaine along the way. But the Elks fired right back, pinning the Loggers in their defensive end and wearing them down until Loewen was able to score his second goal of the night, on helpers from Gabriel Hug and

Reban.

Taking a comfortable 4-1 lead into the second period, the Elks continued to dominate the action in the early going but just couldn't convert any of their opportunities into goals. This opened the door for the Loggers to rally and close the gap once more, when Maynard scored on a rebound from the Elks' doorstep. Abel Head earned the only assist on the

play.

Late in the frame, after killing off a penalty, the Elks' restored their three-goal lead on a two-on-one rush that ended with a perfectly placed cross-ice feed from Danberg to Nordin, who was able to tap in his second goal of the night. Danberg earned the lone assist on the goal.

Still up by three goals as the action moved to the third peri-

od, the Elks faced a much stiffer challenge from the Loggers, leading to a flurry of back-and-forth hockey. The Loggers got the better of this in the early going, when Maddox Flegg pounced on an inopportune line change by the Elks and easily found the back of the net.

Any hopes of a Loggers rally were soon dashed, however, as Camdyn Ashby tallied an unassisted goal for the Elks just seven seconds later to put them up 6-3.

With the game all but out of reach, Nordin would go on to score his hat trick goal on a penalty shot, and Loewen would take a cross-ice pass from Danberg to score a hat trick of his own and cement an 8-3 victory for the Elks.

The big game two win means the Elks now advance to the second round of U13 C Provincials. There, they will play the Kelvington Wheat Kings, who topped the Dundurn Wolfpack in round one.

Game one will be played in Shellbrook on Thursday, Feb. 8 (tonight). Puck drop for the game is 7:30 p.m.

The action will move to Porcupine Plain for game two (and possibly game three) on Thursday, Feb. 15.



Elks forward Carson Nordin seeks out a loose puck in front of the Loggers' goal.

OBITUARIES

Lorne Blake Mooney



MOONEY, Lorne Blake
August 5, 1947 – January 15, 2024

In Loving Memory of Blake Mooney, our beloved husband, father, and grandfather, who passed away at the age of 76 on January 15, 2024. He left this world surrounded by the love of his family, who will forever cherish the laughter and wisdom he brought into their lives.

Born on August 5, 1947, in Star City, Saskatchewan, Blake grew up in Carrot

River with his sisters (Della, Jean and Grace) and his two brothers (Emerson and Ken). After graduating from high school, Blake attended the University of Saskatchewan where he received a degree in education while working summers with his brothers constructing pipeline.

He dedicated his career to helping others navigate the intricate paths of life. As a guidance counselor for more than 25 years in northern Saskatchewan, Blake touched the hearts of countless students, offering not only academic guidance, but also a compassionate ear and words of encouragement for those who were struggling. Whatever was asked of him, Blake carried out his duties with empathy, class and dignity.

His commitment to the well-being of others extended beyond his professional life, making a lasting impact on the community he

served. Blake was always willing to volunteer to help coach the sports that his kids enjoyed - hockey and badminton in particular but also softball. Retirement from his career marked a new chapter for Blake, but his sense of humor and love for people remained unwavering. He worked for several years at Cosmopolitan Industries in Saskatoon helping the participants there and becoming a favorite with them and his co-workers.

Those who knew him best will fondly remember his infectious laughter and the clever wit that could turn any situation into a memory. He was a born storyteller who had a remarkable ability to find humor in life's challenges, a quality that endeared him to friends, colleagues, and, most importantly, his family. Many kind words have poured in about Blake with the most common characteristic or theme shared being his kindness. Blake was also courageous and resourceful. He was

prepared to take on any task and help someone at a moment's notice whether they were a friend, neighbour or someone having trouble at the side of the road.

Family was at the center of Blake's world, and he leaves behind a legacy of love and devotion to his wife, children and grandchildren. As a father and husband, he was both supportive and understanding. He took immense pride in the achievements of his children and grandchildren, celebrating and sharing each milestone with joy. Blake also wiled away many hours reading and playing cards with them as well as cheering at every opportunity for his grandsons as they played hockey, basketball, baseball and lacrosse.

Beyond his dedication to family, community and career, Blake loved his Raptors and Roughriders. Going so far as to organize his day around being able to watch them. When the Raptors won it all in 2019, he was overjoyed. Blake also had a

deep passion for music - it was a constant companion in his life. So often his early mornings on Lansdowne Avenue in retirement were filled with music. His love for music became a shared experience with his family (driving anywhere was a chance to listen to music together), creating bonds that will endure through the generations and he passed this love on to his children and their children.

As we say our farewells to Blake, let us remember the stories, laughter, and the music that filled his life and ours. In honoring his memory, let us also celebrate the legacy of a man who lived fully, loved deeply, and made a positive impact on all who were fortunate enough to know him.

Blake was predeceased by his parents and four siblings (Jean, Grace, Emerson and Ken). He is survived by the love of his life, Bernadette; his five children: Curtis; Liam (his wife Joella); Norman (his wife Jenn); Jennifer (her husband Peter); and

Caitlain (her husband Alex). He was a loving grandfather to August (son of Norman and Jenn); Ronan and Connall (sons of Liam and Joella); and Esme (daughter of Caitlain and Alex). He is also survived by his sister, Della.

A memorial service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on February 24, 2024, at Saint Andrew's College in Saskatoon, where friends and family will come together to celebrate the life of a remarkable man. We welcome you to send a note, share a story or upload a photo at Mourning Glory Funeral Services, <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/en-ca/funeral-homes/saskatchewan/saskatoon/mourning-glory-funeral-services/3082>

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Cosmopolitan Industries in memory of Blake Mooney.

May his soul rest in peace, and may his memory continue to bring warmth and inspiration to all those whose lives he touched.

Charles Allan Morley



MORLEY - Charles
Charles Allan Morley passed away on January 16, 2024, in Headingley, Manitoba at the age of 59.

Charlie is predeceased by his grandparents, Stanley

and Mary Morley and Ken and Edna Wiles, his father Morrison (Moe) Morley, his father-in-law Peter Shenher, his brother-in-law James Rings, his Aunts Jean Martindale, Iola Christie, Millie Peterson, Judy Martin, Orel Measner, Ada McAmmond, Edith Morley, and Sharon Wiles, and his Uncles Allan Morley, and Gordon Wiles.

He is survived by his loving wife of 33 years Michelle (née Shenher), and his daughter Anna, his mother Marilyn Morley, his siblings and their families Sandra Rings (Justin and Lynette Rings, Kevin Rings), Ken (Patty) Morley (Robin and Jared Rau, Dawn, and Dan

Farrington), Gina (Terry) Zapaniuk (Cody Zapaniuk, Laine Zapaniuk (and partner Joel), brother-in-law Martin (Barb) Shenher (Jennifer Mathers-Piper, Steven, and Emily Mathers), sister-in-law Lori (Terry) Kennedy (Ryan Bear, Marla Bear), 15 great nieces and nephews, his Uncles Warren Morley, and Brian Martindale, and numerous cousins, and close friends considered family too numerous to mention (you know who you are).

Charlie was born to Morrison and Marilyn Morley on May 13, 1964, in Humboldt, SK. The family lived 5 years in Prince Albert before moving to Chitek Lake in July of 1970. Charlie spent as much time as he

could at the home of Aime and Therese Crossland, and they became his second family. Charlie enjoyed working with the cattle and horses on the Crossland farm and would skip school to ride with Maurice in his pulp truck. Charlie attended school in Leoville up to grade 9, before leaving to pursue work. He would later return to school in Meadow Lake, SK as a young adult, where he obtained his full grade 10, and part of grade 11. Charlie enjoyed the outdoors, hunting, trapping and fishing, snowmobiling and quadding, and playing sports such as hockey, curling, golf, and ball. Charlie loved kids, and he enjoyed coaching ball and hockey, and was known to coman-

deer anyone's baby to hold at any function he attended. Charlie's work experience included heavy equipment operator, labourer, driller, small motor mechanic, EMT, and a trucker for logs, grain, gravel, concrete, livestock, and flat decks. He had the opportunity to work in every province in Canada, and the North West Territories, and often shared many fond memories of the places he visited and the people he met. Charlie met Michelle in Saskatoon, in September of 1989, and they were married in August of 1990. In 1992 they briefly moved to Leoville, and then to Brownwood, Texas from February of 1993 to January of 1998. Charlie enjoyed working with his neighbour

restoring classic cars, and riding his motorcycle with his friends. Charlie would return home every fall to help his parents with guiding American hunters for the bear and deer hunting season. In April of 1996, Charlie's daughter Anna was born and he was overjoyed at being a dad. Upon returning to Canada the family settled in Canwood, SK for 5 years, before buying an acreage near Shellbrook. Charlie was gone from home frequently for work, but when he was home, he enjoyed spending time with family and friends, watching hockey, and always lending a hand to anyone who needed it. With Charlie, there was no such thing as strangers, only friends he had not yet met, and he will be greatly missed.

Memorial donations in memory of Charlie can be made to the "Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation", 9 Lancaster Rd, Regina, SK S6J 1M8, or "Shellbrook Minor Hockey" PO Box 1114 Shellbrook, SK S0J 2E0.

There was a Memorial Service held for Charles on Saturday, February 3, 2024, at 2:30 p.m. at the Shellbrook Community Hall with Delores Beaulac officiating. Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit www.beaulacfuneralhome.com Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home & Crematorium, Tammy Smart & Lynn Anderson, Funeral Directors, Shellbrook, SK. 306-747-2828.

Michael John Topping



Michael John Topping
July 6, 1952 – January 24, 2024

It is with profound sadness that we, the family of Mike, announce his passing on Wednesday, January 24, 2024, in Shellbrook, SK at

the age of 71.

Mike is survived by his loving wife of 44 years Maryann Topping; his 4 children and grandchildren Patricia (Joel) Durham, and their family Mykah, Oakley, and McKenzie; Jennifer (Justin) Knaus, and their family Allyanne, Dash, Kayde, and Karter; Jeffrey (Ashley) Topping, and their family Emma and Kensley; Joanne (Andrew) Sushelnicki, and their family Ryan, Mason, and Lacey.

Mike is predeceased by his parents Jack and Joan (née Furminger) Topping, his brother David (Bill) Topping, his parents-in-law William and Sophie (née

Urbaniak) Skoropat.

A Memorial Service will be held on Thursday, February 8, 2024, at 1:00pm at the Shellbrook Community Hall (Elks Hall) in Shellbrook, SK.

Anyone wishing to make a donation in Mike's memory may do so to the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Saskatchewan, 1738 Quebec Avenue, Saskatoon, SK S7K 1V9, or Diabetes Canada: Saskatchewan, 3530 Millar Avenue #510, Saskatoon, SK S7P 0B6.

Family and friends may leave online condolences at <https://grays.ca>

Funeral arrangements are entrusted to the care of Gray's Funeral Chapel, (306) 922-4729, Colette Harnett, Funeral Director, and Mary MacWilliams.

Margery Wilson



Margery (Marge) Frances (Smith) Wilson née Barrone passed away peacefully at her home on January 27, 2024 in her 100th year.

She was born November 21, 1924 to Floyd and Wilma Barrone near Davidson,

Saskatchewan.

Beloved wife of the late Orval Wilson for fifty years, she survived three sisters and two brothers.

She is lovingly remembered by eight children and one step-daughter.

Shirley (Ken), Patricia (Art), Carol (Terry), Barbara (Dave), Belynda (Errol), Daniel (Holly), Harold (Lucille), Marion (Paul), Joselyn (Laurie), also all her grandchildren, great grandchildren, great-great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, friends and family.

Share condolences and memories of Marge through her obituary at www.fischersfuneralservices.com

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MEMORIALS

In memory of Roman Becker July 24, 1938 - February 4, 2021



The world changes from year to year, our lives from day to day; but the love and memory of you shall never go away. Sadly missed and forever remembered. Lavern, Lorna, Travis, Danielle, Teresa & family, Margaret & family, LeeAnne & Logan.



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The amaryllis

By PATRICIA HANBIDGE

Amaryllis belladonna is originally from South Africa's Cape region. There it is commonly called the Cape Belladonna, the Belladonna Lily and the Naked Lady. In South Africa you will see showy bold, strappy foliage in fall and winter. By early summer, the foliage dies down and bare scapes (flower stalks) emerge about six weeks later. In bloom, it appears that these leafless stalks are growing right out of the soil. These "naked ladies" are topped with a cluster of up to 12 sweet-smelling, trumpet-shaped blooms.

The Amaryllis we commonly grow here is actually a generic name for Hippeastrum spp. It is also a flowering bulb that is native to the Caribbean, Mexico and South America and is often sold as an indoor flowering plant during the holiday season. The genus (part of the botanical name) of this plant used to be Amaryllis, but in 1987 it was ruled in the 14th International Botanical Congress that the name Amaryllis belonged to the South African genus while the tropical America natives were transferred to the genus Hippeastrum. Most commercial Hippeastrum hybrids are derived from just six species.

We do have much choice when it comes to choosing an amaryllis to grow. They come in various shades of red, white, pink, salmon and orange as well as many striped and multi-

coloured varieties. There are even double amaryllis that are now available in the Double Galaxy group of plants. These beautiful amaryllis produce a flower within a flower but grow much the same as the single types and bloom approximately eight weeks after planting.

One of the best things about the bulb with the common name of Amaryllis we grow here is that this is not a one-and-done flower. Once they have finished blooming - do not throw them out! It is extremely easy to get these amazing plants to bloom again the following year and actually for many years if you take just a little bit of extra care.

Due to their country of origin, these plants do not undergo true dormancy. In cooler climates, plants go into a dormant state or into dormancy as the climatic conditions are not favourable for regular plant growth. Instead, these bulbs go through a rest period after flowering which allows the plant to rest, recover and then bloom again. After the plant is finished blooming, it does keep growing. This is essential as the continued growth of leaves allows photosynthesis to occur, which allows the plant to store energy in the bulb for future leaf growth and flowers.

In the natural world, around December, the leaves will yellow and drop off and the plant will stop growing. After the rest period, the amaryllis will again begin growing - first leaves and if there is enough energy stored in the

bulb, another flower stalk will appear.

For your amaryllis, after the bloom has faded, cut off the flower stalk as low as possible. Continue to water and fertilize for the next five or six months, allowing the leaves to continue to develop and grow. In early fall, the leaves will begin to yellow so reduce the watering and cut the leaves back to about 2 inches above the top of the bulb.

The bulb can be removed from the soil and stored in a cool, dark place (at about 10°C) for six to eight weeks. After this time, pot up with the shoulders of the bulb above the media, place in a bright space and give the bulb a good drink of water.

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



Coverage expands for cystic fibrosis drug

More children in Saskatchewan living with cystic fibrosis (CF) are now eligible for Trikafta, a medication that improves lung function. Starting February 1, 2024, coverage of Trikafta will be available to CF patients two to five years of age who meet the medical criteria.

"We are pleased to expand coverage for this treatment for more Saskatchewan children with cystic fibrosis," Health Minister Everett Hindley said in a statement. "Trikafta has been shown to improve quality of life in patients living with CF, so this expanded coverage means more children with CF can benefit and lead healthier lives."

Although there is no cure for CF, Trikafta works to correct the underlying cause of CF.

In December 2023, the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health issued a recommendation that jurisdictions expand coverage of Trikafta for patients two to five years who meet certain medical criteria. Successful pricing negotiations have recently been completed through the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance.

"Saskatchewan was one of the first provinces to fund Trikafta for both the six years and older and 12 years and older age groups, and today has continued to recognize the treatment's transformative value by expanding coverage to include children ages two to five years old," Cystic Fibrosis Canada President and CEO Kelly Grover said in a statement.

"While not a cure, starting young children with cystic fibrosis on modulator therapy as early as possible could protect their health and prevent significant structural lung damage from occurring - we celebrate this news alongside our CF community in Saskatchewan, who has worked tirelessly for this day."

In Saskatchewan, coverage of Trikafta for CF patients ages six to 12 came into effect in 2022, while coverage for patients ages 12 and older began in 2021. Approximately 90 people in Saskatchewan already benefit from Trikafta coverage. An estimated five more children are expected to become eligible in the first year with the expanded criteria to include ages two to five.

Patients with CF or parents/guardians of children with CF who think they may benefit from therapy with Trikafta are encouraged to speak with their physician.

Coverage is also available in Saskatchewan for two other CF medications which target specific genetic mutations of the disease: Orkambi and Kalydeco. Coverage of Orkambi was expanded in July 2021 for patients two years of age and older who meet certain medical criteria. Kalydeco has been listed on the Saskatchewan Formulary since 2014.

According to the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Registry, there are more than 4,300 CF patients in Canada and approximately 125 patients in Saskatchewan.



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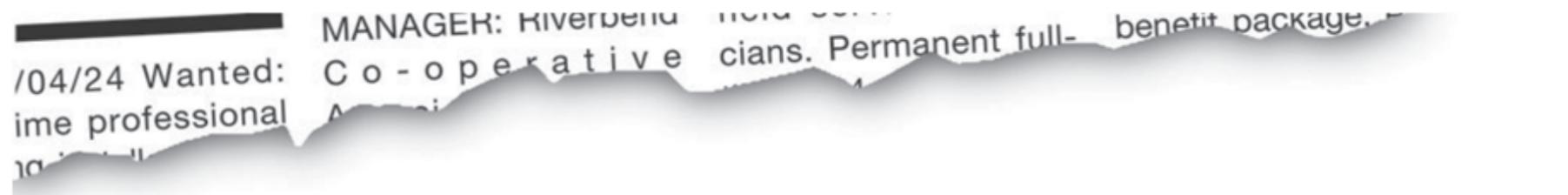
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SaskPower inks nuclear deal with GE Hitachi

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

SaskPower has taken another step towards developing nuclear power in the province, and ensuring Saskatchewan's grid meets the goal of net-zero emissions by 2050, by partnering with GE Hitachi on the development of small modular reactors (SMRs)

The agreement, announced Jan. 30, will enable SaskPower and GE Hitachi to collaborate on project planning and facilitate the sharing of expertise related to the design, fuel sourcing, and fabrication for the BWRX-300 small modular reactor, the technology selected by SaskPower in 2022.

SaskPower says it will also support the workforce and supply chain planning needed for a Saskatchewan-based SMR deployment.

At the moment, SaskPower has identified Estevan and Elbow as two potential regions for the province's first reactor.

"We've been narrowing down within both study regions, specific sites that we could then subject to further geotechnical testing and characterization along with our partners, so that we can actually make an impact assessment application sometime in 2025," said SaskPower president and CEO Rupen Pandya.

Even with the access to the technical specifications of the BWRX-300 small modular reactor provided through the agreement with GE Hitachi, the earliest SaskPower could receive the green light from the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission would be 2029.

"We're working as fast as we can to meet our 2050 target by exploring a range of reliable and carbon-free solutions, including

nuclear power," Pandya said.

Since signing a memorandum of understanding to explore SMRs along with New Brunswick in 2019, both Saskatchewan and Ontario have chosen the BWRX-300, a boiling water reactor capable of generating an estimated 300 megawatts of power per unit.

SaskPower did so after "comprehensive consideration" of generation capability, size, fuel type, safety, and cost. Readiness of the technology was also considered, said Minister responsible for SaskPower Dustin Duncan.

Ontario's first SMR is on track to be built at the Darlington Nuclear site, east of Toronto, and online by 2029. Three more are planned for the future.

Saskatchewan's plan, laid out in 2022, aims to have four SMRs online by 2042. Construction on the first reactor may be-

gin in 2031, with the goal of being operational by 2034.

SMRs are scalable nuclear reactors that typically produce up to 300 megawatts. A single 300-megawatt SMR could generate enough clean electricity each year to power 300,000 homes.

Advanced SMRs can offer a source of both clean electricity and heat energy (co-generation) for clean fuel production such as hydrogen for residential applications and heavy transport, ammonia, and synthetic fuels for transportation, as well as for heavy industry such as chemical, cement, steel, aluminum, mining, desalination, and oil sands.

Meanwhile, micro (off-grid) SMRs can be used to displace diesel generation used in mining in remote areas, and heat and electricity generation in northern remote communities.

Minutes of an R.M. of Blaine Lake meeting

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

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Council of the Rural Municipality of Blaine Lake #434 which was held in the RM's Municipal Office on Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2023.

Present Council Members and Administration attended as follows: Gerry Strelieff — Reeve, Courtney Swystun — Division 3, Alan Lavoie — Division 4, Tim Stupnikoff — Division 5, Glenn Lamontagne — Division 6, and Assistant Administrator Alan Tanchak.

Absent were: Michael Chudskov — Division 1, Lee Dolezal — Division 2, and Administrator Linda Klimm.

The meeting was called to order by Reeve Gerry Strelieff at 8 a.m.

Mark Curry presented a lead hand report to Council from 8:01 a.m. to 8:35 a.m.

Lavoie: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 move in camera to discuss Legal Matters compliant with s. 120(2) of The Municipalities Act, and on the basis that the discussions that take place during the meeting apply to s. 22 of The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the time being 8:45 a.m. Carried

Lamontagne: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 move out of camera, the time being 9:20 a.m. Carried

Swystun: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 authorize Administration to investigate and

obtain legal advice on human resource issues and present to Council for their perusal. Carried

Lamontagne: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approves the Nov. 14, 2023, Regular Meeting minutes as presented. Carried

Lavoie: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approves the Nov. 16, 2023, Special Meeting minutes as presented. Carried

Swystun: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 authorizes brush work in Division #3 at the following locations: East of 17-42-07 W3, North of 16-42-07 W3, and West of 30-42-07 W3 at an estimated cost of \$10,000. Carried

Stupnikoff: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 accept the November 2023 Statement of Financial Activities, Income Statement, Budgetary Control, Chequing Account Statement and Bank Reconciliation as presented. Carried

Stupnikoff: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approves the List of Accounts for Approval, including cheques #6612 to #6648 with the total payable amount being \$89,810.07. Carried

Lavoie: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approves the Additional Accounts for payment as presented by the Administration in the amount of \$1,589.28: Alan Tanchak, \$1,589.28. Carried

Stupnikoff: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approves the presented Council indemnity totaling \$1,292.75:

- Gerry Dec. \$235.00
- Alan Oct.-Nov. \$531.25

- Michael Sept.-Nov. \$526.50. Carried

Lamontagne: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 authorize and approve approximately \$1,000 vehicle and shop expenditures and pay accordingly. Carried

Delegation: Penny Caron, library chairperson, spoke to Council from 9:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. to request that the RM consider a contribution of \$1,234.74 to purchase an additional one hour per week for a one-year period.

Stupnikoff: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 authorize that emergencies be handled by the Division Councillor in the respective division, and that the Reeve be contacted as a last resort. Carried

Lamontagne: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 appoint Elizabeth Torrens for audit services of the 2023 tax year. Carried

Swystun: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approve the 2023 audit dates of Feb. 12, 13, and 15. Carried

Swystun: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 abate roll #68 for the 5 acres known as the "RM South Pit" at SW 11-42-07 W3. Carried

Strelieff: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 contribute \$1,234.74 to the Blaine Lake Branch of the Wapiti Library Region matching the Town of Blaine Lake contribution. Carried

Swystun: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 acknowledge receipt of the deviation

approval for the subdivision of the South half of 30-42-06 W3. Carried

Lamontagne: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 acknowledge receipt of the Certificate of Approval from Community Planning approving the subdivision of SE 28-42-07 W3. Carried

Councillor Alan Lavoie declared a Conflict of Interest and left Council Chambers at 10:06 a.m.

Strelieff: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 acknowledge receipt of the Certificate of Approval from Community Planning approving the subdivision of the North half 16-44-07 W3. Carried

Councillor Alan Lavoie returned to Council Chambers at 10:08 a.m.

Lamontagne: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 enter into a 2024 Service Agreement with Loraas Disposal, and that the Administrator be authorized to sign the agreement on behalf of the municipality. Carried

Lavoie: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 acknowledge the letters received from SMHI for the hail roll commission of \$1,457.12 and claims paid out in 2023. Carried

Lavoie: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 acknowledge receipt of invoices #2023-00040 and #2023-00041 from the Town of Blaine Lake, and approve payments to the Town of Blaine Lake as our share of costs of jointly operated facilities in the following amount of \$6,576.66 and \$5,886.63 respectively. Carried

Stupnikoff: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 contact the RM of Laird with a mutual aid proposal for firefighting services. Carried

Swystun: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 introduce Bylaw 10-2023 to provide for entering into an agreement with the Town of Borden to provide for a mutual aid firefighting agreement and hereby be read a first time. Carried

Strelieff: That Bylaw 10-2023 be given a second reading at this meeting. Carried

Lavoie: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approve tax refunds in the amount of \$943.66. Carried

Councillor Glenn Lamontagne declared a Conflict of Interest and left Council Chambers at 10:55 a.m.

Reeve Gerry Strelieff declared a Conflict of Interest and left Council Chambers at 10:58 a.m.

Swystun: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 move in camera to discuss Legal Matters compliant with s. 120(2) of The Municipalities Act, and on the basis that the discussions that take place during the meeting apply to s. 22 of The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the time being 10:58 a.m. Carried

Swystun: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 move out of camera, the time being 11:26 a.m. Carried

Swystun: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 adjourn, the time being 11:32 a.m.

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