

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald

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www.shellbrookchronicle.com | www.spiritwoodherald.com

Kerri English's students showcase talent at recital



From left to right: Rebecca Schutte, Marj Bradley, Kael Bick, Kiera Howden, Burke Debruijn, and Natalia Gallegos perform as part of the group number "Golden Girls March."

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The Shellbrook Theatre was the home of lively music and a livelier audience on Saturday, May 11, as Kerri English and her music students took the stage for their annual spring recital.

With proud parents and loved ones cheering them on from the theatre house, English's 35 students of vastly varying ages bowed, plucked, picked, strummed, and sang their way through 41 numbers, playing everything from classic country, gospel, and folk songs to classic rock hits, to pop chart toppers and showtunes.

Throughout the nearly three-hour show, the musicians were accompanied by backup musicians Dennis Adams (guitar), Mick Gratias (bass), and Dean Kushneryk (drums). Running the light and sound booth for the show, Spectrum Sound's Jeff Lake ensured not a single note was missed.

English expressed gratitude to these professionals for their continued com-

mitment to the students year after year, noting that their kindness and guidance helps the budding musicians gain invaluable confidence an experience.

"Spreading joy and creating community is a wonderful part of being a musician," English said of the many benefits of music.

"Music is so beneficial to everyone, and the lessons learned by playing music extend way beyond the songs [the students] learn."

In keeping with a longstanding recital tradition, Saturday afternoon's show began with a large group performance of "Allie Crocker," before the solos got underway with Jude Reynolds' cello rendition of "Baa Baa Black Sheep."

Shay Benjamin was up next with "This Little Light of Mine," followed by Hudson Henry with "Rhinstone Cowboy," and Jocelyn Robin with "Pelican Reel." Getting groovy on the guitar, Dayton Graham played "Walk Like an Egyptian," then Rhonwen Johnson performed "Curly Hair," and Cameron Smart played "She'll be Coming Around the Mountain."

After a group performance of "Stone's Rag," Arya Horricks played "Au Claire de la Lune," Finlee Gardiner performed "Skip to my Lou," Burke De Bruijn played "Farmer's Jamboree," Kael Bick performed "Reel de St. Antoine," and Hudson Johnson played "Reuben Reuben."

Lending both his guitar and his voice to his performance, Leeland Schutte performed Johnny Cash's "Ring of Fire," then Domisaya Holowachuk played "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star," Jacob Wojcichowsky-Bates played the Beatles' "Hey Jude," Natalia Gallegos performed "A Million Dreams," and Kiera Howden closed out the first act solos with "Paddy on the Turnpike/Tommy's Tarbukas."

Group numbers "Golden Girls March" and "Shepherd's Wife" closed out the first act and opened the second act, respectively. Then, it was back to solo performances with Theo Gallimore's "Buffalo Gals," Paislee Gardiner's "Ode to Joy," Elisha Johnson's "Houston on My Mind," Brynlee Aiken's "Little Liza Jane," and Marj Bradley's "Good Idea Foxtrot."

Keeping the music coming, Gavin Smart played "My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean," Rebecca Schutte played "Perfect," Sayward Holowachuk played "Old Joe Clark," and a large group played "Rose Tree/Over the Waterfall."

Up next, Ginny Gradin offered up cello renditions of "Mountain Air/Wagon Wheel Notch," Heavenlee Gardiner performed "Mary Had a Little Lamb," Amy Robin performed "On the Road to Boston," Beckett Horricks performed "We Will Rock You," and Tessa Wojcichowsky-Bates lent her voice and guitar to "Ever Be."

Getting into the last handful of solos, Alethea Reynolds played "Atkin's Polka Number Four," Raef Debruijn played "Reel Beatrice/Joe Cormier's," Kally Bick played a mandolin version of "He's a Pirate," Nolan Robin played "Log Driver's Waltz," and Becky Wilson got the crowd going with "Fishing Rod Reel/Festival du Voyageur Reel."

The show concluded with a group performance of "Sweet Dreams."

More photos on page 12

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Spiritwood Lions, schools celebrate mothers

By **BEVRA FEE**
Spiritwood Herald Reporter

In conjunction with the annual Spiritwood Lions Club's Mother's Day Poetry Contest, the students and staff at Hartley Clark Elementary School hosted a Mother's Day Tea & Poetry Gallery Walk on Wednesday, May 8.

With the gym walls adorned with students' poems and stories about how they value their mother figures, whether it be moms, grandmas, sisters, or aunts, the families and general public were invited to take part in the art walk and to share in the cookies and tea.

Also scheduled for the afternoon of May 8 was the Lions

Club's annual presentation to mothers and students who submitted nominations in the form of praise letters. Two recipients were selected for each grade from Kindergarten to Grade 6, with the students receiving a certificate and chocolates, while their moms received a potted plant.

Lions Marlene Walter, Shelley Allard, and Megan Allard were on hand to do the presentations. The Spiritwood Lions Club has been sponsoring the Mother's Day Contest at both Hartley Clark Elementary and Rivier Elementary for many years, and it is always a rewarding experience, says Lion Marlene.

The Hartley Clark Elementary students who submitted winning letters about their moms were: Maverick Funk, Olivia Roth, Chloe Bill, Kienan Olivares, Rex Walter, Miya Wapass, Mia Mudrak, Khloe Clarke, Karma Fineday, Broden

Lavoie, Elijah Bill, Sara Bear, Emily Thomas, Zoey Bogner.

On Thursday, May 9 the Spiritwood Lions Club attended Rivier Elementary School to present certificates and potted plants to the students in each grade who submitted winning Mother's Day poems and stories.

For writing about their

moms, two students were selected from each grade: Logan Warkentin, Elizabeth Turgeon, Zarriah Pahtayken, Brianna Castillo, Zeckiah Baloloy, Kylee Feszczyn, Norie Beauchesne, Piper Robertson, Hallie Pomedli, Payten Caffet, Georgia Scott, Christal Janeen Mangubat, Kylie Sarrazin, and Saphira Naytowhow.



Rivier Elementary School's winners. Missing: Logan Warkentin, Georgia Scott, and Brianna Castillo.



Lions Marlene Walter, Megan Allard, and Shelley Allard presented certificates to the students and plants to the moms.

Turner wins \$103,125 Lucky 7 jackpot

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

In 2021, when the Shellbrook Curling Club and Shellbrook Kinettes' Chase the Lucky 7 draw went the distance and produced the largest ever jackpot of \$54,902.50, ticket sales for the final week of the draw went through the roof.

Gayle Draper, who represents both groups, recalls that final evening vividly.

It was the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, and ticket sales were being handled drive-thru style from a shack set up outside the curling rink. Despite the rainy weather, cars were lined up to the highway, and once the tickets had been painstakingly handwritten, a kiddie pool and a hockey stick were

required to mix them up for the draw.

In the end, Colby Moe was the winner of that record setting Lucky 7 jackpot. Other big winners over the years include Laurie Kennedy, who won \$30,000 in 2017, and Matt Dagenais, who earned a \$37,000 pay out in 2023.

Lucky for the Shellbrook Curling Club and Shellbrook Kinettes' team of volunteers, the ticketing process for the Lucky 7 draw has been digitized, because this year's down to the wire Lucky 7 draw made the past payouts look like child's play.

Going the distance once again, the Lucky 7 grew gradually over the course of 30 weeks. The longer the Lucky 7 remained in play, the more the pot grew, leading to an exponential explosion in ticket sales on the draw's final night on Friday, May 10.

"Tonight, we brought in more money in one week than any of our previous payouts. We brought in \$60,210," Draper said before the last draw got under way, noting that ticket sales for this year's Lucky 7 totaled more than \$220,000 over 30 weeks.

Going into Friday night, the jackpot already sat at a record high of \$74,020. By the

time ticket sales closed, the \$60,210 worth of tickets sold throughout the week grew the jackpot to a staggering final total of \$103,125, and the atmosphere at the standing-room-only curling rink lounge was buzzing with excitement.

The first name pulled from the proverbial hat was Carmela Ahenakew, who, by virtue of being first, won a guaranteed payout of \$1,000. That was all she'd win, however, as her proxy drew the 12 card.

Up next, Josh Kowarchuk's proxy eliminated card number 49, Jarrett Trumier's proxy pulled the 15 card, Robyn Borgmann raced down to the curling rink to come close by pulling the 8 card, and Lynden Kerber's proxy drew the 11 card.

With 20 cards left in the pool, Braidon Turner's name was read out. As Turner was unable to attend, it fell to a proxy to draw the card for him.

Finally, the 7 was pulled, netting Turner the \$103,125 jackpot.

Chase the Lucky 7 began in 2014 as a joint venture between the Shellbrook Curling Club and the Hidden Hills of Shellbrook Golf Course. Eventually, the Shellbrook Kinettes joined in the initiative, and for the last several years it's just been the Curling Club and the Kinettes running it.

For each week of the Chase the Lucky 7 draw, 50 per cent of ticket sale proceeds are split between the Curling

Club and the Kinettes, and the remainder grows the jackpot. The share of the pot split by the two organizations goes right back into the community, says Draper, helping make Shellbrook "a great place for us to all call home."

As an added bonus, Sask Lotteries, which provides the licence for Chase the Lucky 7, provides a matching grant to allow the groups to do even more good in the community.



Though he couldn't be there to draw the 7 himself, Braidon Turner was the winner of the \$103,000 jackpot. Photo courtesy of Shellbrook Kinettes

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF ASSESSMENT ROLL

Pursuant to subsection 214 of *The Municipalities Act*, Notice is hereby given that the Assessment Roll for the Resort Village of Echo Bay for the year 2024 has been prepared and is open to inspection by calling (306)427-2188 or emailing resortechobay@gmail.com or 1-800-824-2570 (SAMA) between May 17th and June 18th, 2024. Any person who wishes to appeal against his or her assessment is required to file his or her notice of appeal with:

The Board of Revision

Kristen Tokaryk

Box 149, Meota, SK S0M 1X0

By the 18th day of June, 2024

Dated at Shell Lake, Saskatchewan, this 16th day of May, 2024

Tara Bueckert, Assessor

Resort Village of Big Shell

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF ASSESSMENT ROLL

Pursuant to subsection 214 of *The Municipalities Act*, Notice is hereby given that the Assessment Roll for the Resort Village of Big Shell for the year 2024 has been prepared and is open to inspection by calling (306)427-2188 or emailing villagebigshell@gmail.com or 1-800-824-2570 (SAMA) between May 17th and June 18th, 2024. Any person who wishes to appeal against his or her assessment is required to file his or her notice of appeal with:

The Board of Revision

Kristen Tokaryk

Box 149, Meota, SK S0M 1X0

By the 18th day of June, 2024

Dated at Shell Lake, Saskatchewan, this 16th day of May, 2024

Tara Bueckert, Assessor

Resort Village of Big Shell

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Blaine Lake Library hosts Eclectic High Tea

By **LOUISE DIEHL**
Branch Librarian

On Sunday, May 5, the Blaine Lake Library board hosted its second annual Eclectic High Tea. Doubling the number of tickets sold, this year the board decided to move this growing event from the Blaine Lake Gospel Chapel to the Blaine Lake Seniors Center.

Almost 60 people attended the event and enjoyed bite sized sandwiches and desserts. They were also serenaded by Ed Bajak with his beautiful classical guitar music. A community crafted Afghan was also raffled off.

Proceeds from the event and raffle are directly put back into upcoming events. It was a beautiful day for a spring tea party.

The Blaine Lake Library board has been busy this past year with a wide variety of classes, including five mosaic making classes, a painted insulator craft with local artisan Nicole Pool, mindful stretching with Ginnette Tournier, author readings with Miriam Korner, Gail Kirkpatrick, and Alexandra Jarrett, AKA Axis, and an introductory seminar on mushrooms in Saskatchewan with Donovan Theissen and Sandy Jasieniuk of Sask. Mycology.



Guests enjoyed bite sized sandwiches and desserts, as well as time to visit, during the Blaine Lake Library Board's Eclectic High Tea.

Big River Health Centre hosts appreciation tea

By **MAISIE KRIENKE**

The staff of the Big River Health Centre hosted a special tea party on May 7 to show appreciation to all the facility's volunteers. All volunteers were invited to come and join in the celebration of appreciation for all the wonderful things they do.

The residents of the long-term care facility enjoy volunteer participation and support in their activities. These people donate many items to the facility as well as hours of service assisting with events of entertainment for the residents.

The afternoon opened with musical entertainment by Gilles & Friends. These gentlemen played many old-time favorites, which everyone enjoyed.

Many even sang along with the boys. Then, attendees had a time of visiting and enjoying a coffee and several awesome desserts.

Residents benefit greatly every day from the work and dedication of volunteers here in Big River at the lodge. There's so much the lodge would not be able to do without their support. Big River is unique in the fact that it has volunteers that are so willing and supportive.

Volunteers help with day-to-day programming, fundraising, and providing items and services that residents greatly appreciate. It was great that so many came on this lovely day to celebrate.

It was a perfect afternoon spent among friends.



Big River Health Centre residents enjoy the musical entertainment.

Shaping Municipal Futures: Targeted Sector Support Funding Opportunity

Saskatchewan municipalities are encouraged to apply for cost-shared funding under the Targeted Sector Support (TSS) Initiative.

Eligible project funding streams:

- capacity building
- regional co-operation
- municipal corporate transition
- relationship building and dispute resolution

Municipalities require at least one partner to apply, which could be a neighbouring municipality, First Nation, regional organization or district planning commission.

Applications are being accepted until **June 7, 2024**

Scan the QR code or visit the website below for more.

The TSS Initiative is a partnership between Saskatchewan's Ministry of Government Relations, Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association, Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities and New North.



Sex ed. ban only hurts Sask. students

On May 1, when he introduced a new support for families with children who need to travel out of province for medical treatment, Health Minister Everett Hindley said the initiative was the result of the Sask. Party government listening to families, kids, and front-line healthcare providers.

Since it's apparently in a listening mood for once, perhaps this Sask. Party will heed the words of Bu Wells-MacInnis, a Grade 8

student from Saskatoon who, in a recent *Globe & Mail* article, shared her concerns about the state of sexual education in Saskatchewan's schools.

According to Ms. Wells-MacInnis, her school year thus far has included only one sexual education lesson: a *Jeopardy!* game focused on healthy relationships, led by a school counsellor.

Ms. Wells-MacInnis says there's been nothing on consent, dating violence, gender discrimination, sexually transmitted infections, the harms of pornography, and intimate image sharing – all important topics for children aged 13 to 14 to understand.

"I am concerned because youth need to be educated in this," she told the *Globe & Mail*. "[Without proper education] people could carry unhealthy patterns for the rest of their life."

Ms. Wells-MacInnis' comments come at the tail end of a school year marked by the absence of third-party sexual education providers from classrooms.

These invaluable resources were banned from classrooms last summer, after an incident in which Planned Parenthood Regina brought inappropriate materials to a presentation to Grade 9 students in Lumsden.

Though not part of the presentation, students got their hands on the materials and shared them, igniting a public firestorm. And despite Planned Parenthood issuing an apology for the incident, then Education Minister Dustin Duncan immediately brought the ban hammer down on the organization.

The Sask. Party government didn't stop there, however.

Acting with a swift decisiveness it's lacked when it comes to cutting off funding for private religious schools facing lawsuits over legacies of abuse



JORDAN TWISS
~
News Editor

and misconduct, it leveraged the "scandal" to push its focus on "parental inclusion and consent." This agenda was formalized as Bill 137 in the fall, thanks to the government's pre-emptive use of the notwithstanding clause to shut down the credible constitutional challenges it knew the legislation would inevitably face.

Bill 137 has three main pillars.

First, it requires schools to seek parental consent to use the preferred name and pronouns of students who are under the age of 16.

Second, it mandates that parents or guardians be informed about the sexual health education curriculum and have the option to decline their children's participation.

And third, it bans all third-party sexual education providers from classrooms "while the Ministry of Education reviews educational resources to ensure they align with the curriculum." This part of Bill 137 also bans educators at sexual assault centres, who once delivered sexual abuse prevention programs in classrooms, and third-party organizations focused on LGBTQ inclusion and safety.

Nearly a full school year later, there's nothing to suggest the Ministry of Education has even started to review the provincial sexual education curriculum, much less come close to finalizing any changes, meaning students have lost a full year of information they desperately need in their most formative years.

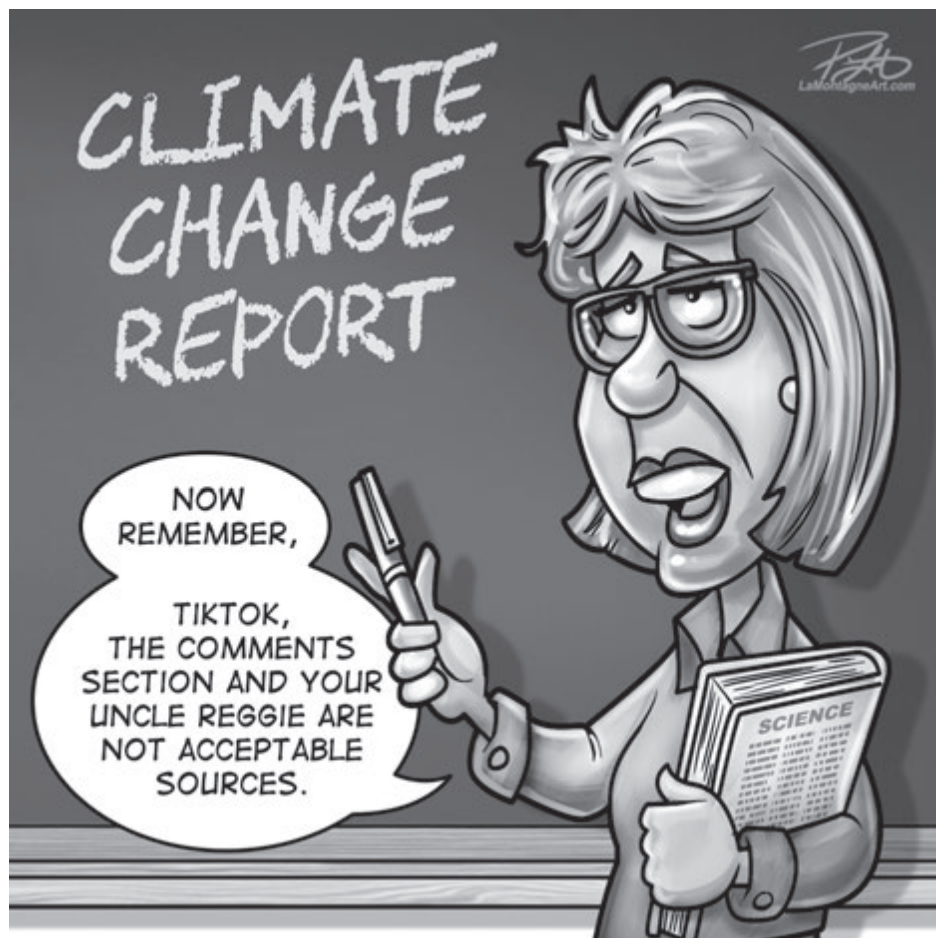
Ms. Wells-MacInnis' mother, Megan Wells, told the *Globe & Mail* she feels the government has taken the wrong approach.

"Informed youth are protected youth," she said.

Educators, too, are concerned about the government's decision and the impacts it will have on sexual health outcomes in the province.

Prior to the introduction of Bill 137, Saskatchewan already had some of the worst outcomes in the country, including the second highest rate of teen pregnancies, some of the highest case rates of chlamydia, gonorrhoea, and syphilis, and new HIV diagnoses quadrupling the national rate.

The province also has significantly higher rates of sexual violence than



the national average. A pity, then, that the Saskatoon Sexual Assault & Information Centre's "I'm the Boss of Me" program, which equips children aged 8 to 11 with the confidence and skills to disclose sexual assault to a trusted adult, was also caught up in the ban on third-party sexual health educators.

Prior to the government ban, the program had been in place for 20 years. In 2022-2023, an estimated 4,200 Grade 4 students benefited from the program, with a further 2,000 Grade 8 students doing an adapted version focused on healthy relationships and consent.

The story is the same for the Battledowns & Area Sexual Assault Centre, which delivers seminars to as many as 3,500 students each school year.

And Bill 137's impact hasn't just stopped at third-party organizations; it's had a chilling effect on classrooms across the province.

Educators now say they're uncertain about what they can and can't say in the classroom, and worried that any discussions relating to sexual health could result in blowback from parents and endanger their jobs. They also say they're missing out on important "teachable moments," because they can't answer students' questions when they're raised.

In the midst of this upheaval, the Ministry of Education is pointing to the use of Saskatchewan Health Authority staff to deliver sexual education this school year, as if the province's health-

care workers don't have enough to worry about already. It's also not providing a timeline for its review of the sexual education curriculum or the lifting of the ban on third-party providers.

In a province with such abysmal sexual health statistics, the importance of sex education cannot be overstated.

Indeed, in a study published in the *Journal of Adolescent Health* in 2020, researchers Eva Goldfarb and Lisa Liberman reviewed three decades of research into sex education.

What they discovered couldn't have been more clear: comprehensive sex education offers a myriad of benefits, including "appreciation of sexual diversity, dating and intimate partner violence prevention, development of healthy relationships, prevention of child sex abuse, improved social/emotional learning, and increased media literacy."

Is there always room to review and improve the materials and information being presented? Absolutely.

But limiting the resources available to students, at a time when they need them most, is not the solution.

Going forward, the Ministry of Education needs to demonstrate some urgency in reviewing the province's sexual education curriculum and bringing third-party providers back into classrooms.

Most of all, though, it needs to listen to experts – not just the 18 people whose letters served as the justification for the swift passing of Bill 137.

Shellbrook Chronicle

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Spiritwood Herald

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

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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

As Saskatchewan's population and economy continue to grow, our government remains committed to investing in our growing workforce. The 2024-25 provincial budget invests in growing Saskatchewan's workforce through the advanced education sector, workforce training programs and enhanced credential recognition.

Investing in Saskatchewan's present and future at the post-secondary education level is a priority for our government. The budget provides \$793 million for the Ministry of Advanced Education – an increase of \$28.2 million, or 3.7 per cent, from last year – to enhance funding, expand health training programs and focus on key infrastructure projects.

This includes a one-time, \$12 million top-up to the province's current multi-year funding agreement with post-secondary institutions, an increase of 2.2 per cent. The increased funding will allow the institutions to remain responsive to the needs of students and the labour market.

The budget also pro-



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vides nearly \$15 million in new funding to train additional health care workers through the Health Human Resources Action Plan. This includes an operating increase of \$11.4 million for new seats across several programs.

Through the Health Human Resources Action Plan, over 610 new seats will be added to training programs for various professions, with a focus on high-demand and hard-to-recruit professions, such as registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, primary care paramedics and continuing care assistants. A total of 600 new seats will be added in nursing programs, including registered nurs-

ing, nurse practitioner and registered psychiatric nursing programs. In addition, 32 seats will be added to the undergraduate medical education program.

Our government is also investing \$3.6 million this year in new opportunities for students to train in health sciences programs in the province. These include physician assistant, speech language pathology, occupational therapy and respiratory therapy.

Saskatchewan post-secondary institutions receive nearly \$725 million in operating and capital grants in this year's budget. This includes funding to help the Western College of Veterinary Medicine explore an infrastructure expansion. Meanwhile, Indigenous Teacher Education programs will continue to receive funding, supporting the preservation and revitalization of Indigenous languages in the province.

To assist students pursuing post-secondary education, the budget includes \$4.2 million in new funding to create a new provincial grant for low-income students

with dependents under 12, or over 12 with a permanent disability. This new grant is part of \$46.5 million for overall student supports in the budget, which includes \$34.4 million for the Student Aid Fund (repayable and non-repayable financial assistance to more than 22,000 students each year) and \$12.2 million for scholarships and bursaries.

To help post-secondary students remain in Saskatchewan as they transition to their careers, the budget continues to fund the Graduate Retention Program – the most generous support program of its kind in Canada. The program provides up to \$20,000 in tax credits to post-secondary graduates who remain in the province to work. More than 81,600 students have benefited from the program, which provides \$65 million in support annually.

To help meet current and future labour market needs in our growing province, the Ministry of Immigration and Career Training receives \$160.5 million in the budget. This includes continued support for skills training programs and ser-



HON. JEREMY HARRISON
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vices for unemployed or underemployed persons. These include adult essential skills training, pre-employment programs and services, credentialled skills training programs delivered through post-secondary institutions, and employment for persons with disabilities.

The budget includes an increase of \$1.5 million for the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship Trade Certification Commission to add 250 additional seats for construction-related trades, including electrician, plumbing and welding. This increases the investment in apprenticeship training to \$22.9 million and expands the number of training seats to 4,700.

To support the Health

Human Resources Action Plan, our government will invest in training and settlement supports for in-demand health professions. This includes training seats for continuing care aides, licensed practical nurses and medical lab assistants.

The Ministry's budget also includes \$856,000 to support record nominations through the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program, which will help address the labour needs of Saskatchewan employers. Safeguards are being added to the program to enhance fraud detection and protect its integrity.

Additionally, the Labour Mobility and Fair Registration Practices Office will continue to help individuals with foreign credentials or those who are licensed in other provinces navigate the licensure process with their respective regulators. This is another effort to ensure we have a skilled workforce and trained professionals in place to support our growing economy.

As our government continues investing in Saskatchewan's workforce, we look forward to hearing your feedback in our constituency office.

Shellbrook & area moms celebrated at teas

By JORDAN TWISS
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The Shellbrook Senior's Association celebrated mothers in high style on Friday, May 10, welcoming in community members for a Mother's Day high tea and mini raffles, and an afternoon of visiting.

Drawing in a sizeable crowd, the menu for the afternoon included finger sandwiches and, of course, tea, which was served in teacups donated by Norma Dahl. As a gift to everyone, each guest got to go home with their teacup.

In keeping with British tradition, dessert consisted of cakes, as well as scones with a selection of jams and toppings. While the tea and sandwiches were prepared by Senior's Association members, the organization turned to expert scone makers Alanna Carswell, Barb Grimm, and Laurel Jensen to ensure the desserts turned out flawlessly.

In addition to the culinary delights on offer, the afternoon also saw a number of raffle prizes and door prizes up for grabs, thanks to a handful of donations. Lorraine Thibeault, Marj Hislop, Jessie Dion, and Marj Moline provided

the raffle prizes, while door prizes were donated by Marilyn Lofstrom, Norma Dahl, and Dianne Roberts.

The Senior's Association also continued to sell tickets for its ongoing raffle draw fundraiser, which features a modular planter set and other garden-related items donated by Shellbrook Home Hardware. The draw for the prize will be held Monday, July 1.

The day prior to the Shellbrook Senior's Association's Mother's Day tea, Parkland Integrated Health Centre's recreation therapy department hosted its own Mother's Day tea for continuing care residents and their families.

The day included tea, cupcakes, and musical entertainment. Shellbrook Flowers and More provided cut flowers and vases to add a touch of beauty to the festivities.



The Shellbrook Senior's Association honoured moms with high tea and mini raffles on Friday, May 10. Norma Dahl (left) donated the teacups for the event and each guest got to take their cup home.

R.M. OF SHELLBROOK NO. 493 ASSESSMENT ROLL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Assessment Roll of the Rural Municipality of Shellbrook No. 493 for the year of 2024 has been prepared and is now open for inspection in the office of the Assessor from 8:30 a.m. to Friday 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday from May 9th, 2024 to June 14th, 2024.

A bylaw pursuant to Section 214 of *The Municipalities Act* has been passed and the assessment notices have been sent as required.

Any person who wishes to appeal his/her assessment is required to file his/her notice of appeal, accompanied by \$200.00 appeal fee per roll number with The Assessor, R.M. of Shellbrook, Box 250, Shellbrook, Sask, S0J 2E0, by the 14th of June, 2024.

Dated at Shellbrook, Saskatchewan, this 3rd day of May, 2024.

Duane Storey
Administrator

R.M. OF SHELLBROOK NO. 493 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Rural Municipality of Shellbrook No. 493 is seeking Request for Proposals on 2 Properties:

The first is a Rental/ Lease Agreement for a Partial Portion of NE-14-52-03-W3. For more information contact the Office at 306-747-2178.

The Second is the Sale of a 3.13 Acre Parcel NW-21-50-03-W3 Blk/Par A-Plan 101587710 Ext 12, ISC Parcel # 150026835.

Proposals will be accepted until **June 28, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.** The highest of all proposals will not necessarily be accepted.

Dated at Shellbrook, Saskatchewan, this 10th day of May, 2024.

Duane Storey
Administrator

Highlights of a Shellbrook Town Council meeting

BY JORDAN TWISS

Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

(The following council highlights are not the approved minutes of council for May 6.)

Shellbrook's Town Council met for its regular meeting in person and via teleconference on Monday, May 6.

In attendance were Mayor Amund Otterson, Councillors Larry Batten, Peter Halayka, Brent Miller, and Kathleen Nording, and the town's CAO, Kelly Hoare. Absent were councillors Bruce Anderson and Cheryl Ledding.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Otterson, and council began with its customary Treaty 6 land acknowledgement in recognition of Truth and Reconciliation. Then, it approved the meeting's agenda, adopted the minutes of its April 22 meeting, and moved into reports.

Under her report, CAO Hoare noted that issues with the sewer line plugging on the east side of town had been cleared up, but noted that it's impossible to tell where the blockage originated.

Council agreed it's important for residents to understand not to wash things like grease and food down the drain, and not to flush objects like baby wipes. Meanwhile, Mayor Otterson added that part of the is-

sue is with dips in the line, which allows for things like grease to pool and build.

Elsewhere, with spring getting into full swing, Hoare informed council that town Community Safety Officer Jon Bohmann has been given a list of priorities to focus on, particularly when it comes to unsightly properties.

In the hospital and clinics report, Mayor Otterson noted there are currently three U of S medical students residing in the condos by Parkland Integrated Health Centre. He said there will be another six before the end of the year.

Moving to the library board report, council gave kudos to librarians Jacqueline and Lorraine Thibeault for putting in a lot of volunteer hours to get library programming back up and running at full steam.

Closing out the reports with updates on the Shellbrook Housing Authority, Councillor Anderson said units are currently full. With an annual inspection pending, Anderson said the committee had asked to accompany the inspector so it can be aware of any issues. Mayor Otterson said the committee deserves praise for keeping the housing units in good shape.

Moving right into new business, council discussed and eventually carried a motion to sign on to a memorandum of understanding with TJ Disposals owner Randall Johnson and Carbotura to provide the town's waste for its future Recyclotron waste recycling facil-

ity.

Council added some terms to its agreement: the town won't spend money beyond what it currently spends on waste disposal, it requires clarification on how tipping fees will be rebated, and it will direct its waste contractor (currently Greenland Waste) to transport waste to the Recyclotron facility.

Up next, council carried a motion to discontinue the tax free for three program, noting that it had run its course and wasn't helping to sell any town-owned lots. The program will close to new applications effective July 1, and existing arrangements will be honoured.

Continuing with its new business, council carried a motion to refund the Community Hall rental fee if W.P. Sandin High School isn't required to use it for its graduation ceremony, and agreed to match the Shellbrook Kinettes' purchase of three dog waste stations, which will be placed at various locations around town. The town's share of the cost will be \$1,349.97 plus taxes and shipping, and the town will be responsible for disposal of the waste.

Closing out the meeting, council carried a motion to implement a fee of \$75 to cover the cost of cleaning the Community Hall after an event for which there is no rental fee charged. The fee will only be charged if the hall is not returned to the state it was in prior to the rental.

Canwood ladies attend Outlook Woman's Retreat

By LORRAINE BENSON

On Saturday, May 4, five ladies from Zion Canwood's Lutheran Church went to a woman's retreat at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Outlook, Sask. They were Marilyn Lofstrom, Loretta Kvinlaug, Lorraine Benson, Joyce Davidson, and Sandra Boyle. Cindy Wall from St. John's Lutheran Church in Shellbrook also attended.

The theme for the Woman's Retreat was Fearfully and Wonderfully Made, from Psalm 139: 13-14: "For you created my inmost being, you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderful-

ly made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well."

The women arrived at 10 a.m. We had coffee and snacks and then played a game of Jeopardy with topics on heart, hands and feet, ears and nose, garments, and a bonus round. They sang spiritual songs and listened to six women who gave the group their perspective in the health and wellness area. One lady shared her experience in Afghanistan, and another in Africa.

The group had a break for a cold lunch and delicious desserts. The afternoon activities were focused on the above topics. Everyone signed up for two sessions. At 2:45 p.m. attendees came back

to the large group. The groups sang songs again and closed with a prayer.

The day was to help attendees accept themselves just as they are in this exact moment. Make it a habit to see, support and accept yourself exactly as you are!

Attendees were given a joke in their material.

How to have a summer beach body in 2 steps!

1. Have a body.
2. Go to the beach.



Canwood and Shellbrook attendees at the woman's retreat at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Outlook, Sask. From left to right: Marilyn Lofstrom, Loretta Kvinlaug, Lorraine Benson, Joyce Davidson, Sandra Boyle, and Cindy Wall.

Cargill donates to Canwood Regional Park



Cargill employees met at the Canwood Cargill office on Tuesday, May 7, to present a cheque to Bob Thompson, Vice Chairman of Canwood Regional Park, in the amount of \$18,632.80. The donation is in support of the upcoming spray park project at the park. From left to right: Hugh Danberg, Bob Thompson, Keisha Anakaer, Tyler Couture, and Lucas Giroux.

By BOB THOMPSON, Canwood Regional Park

Record-Breaking Number of Surgeries Performed

Saskatchewan's surgical teams achieved another record-breaking year for surgical volumes in the 2023-24 fiscal year, surpassing the previous year's record. **More than 95,700 surgeries were performed between April 1, 2023, and March 31, 2024, the highest annual surgical volume ever recorded.** Thank you to Saskatchewan's surgical teams, for your work every day ensuring patients are receiving the care they need.

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

For more information
visit [Saskatchewan.ca/budget](https://www.saskatchewan.ca/budget)

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

Free trade a double-edged blade

Have you ever wondered what would happen if we had true worldwide free trade in agricultural commodities?

I suppose it is ultimately an exercise in fantasy because, politics and nationalism being the forces that they are, governments aren't likely to ever completely stop meddling in trade as a way to gain favour at home, or as a way to fire a salvo in political battles with other nations.

If I think back to social studies and history classes in school many,

many years ago, I recall the teacher suggesting Canada would do quite well if the world simply let countries that produce something best be allowed to do it.

On the surface, that is rather a reasonable vision.

For example, does it make sense to try and grow wheat by reclaiming desert?

Certainly, that would make little sense if trade flowed unencumbered, but the reality is that in our increasingly volatile world there is risk in re-



CALVIN DANIELS

lying on another country for your food supply.

We in Canada look south and there sits the U.S., and we tend to think that country is a stable trade partner.

But is that assured in

a world where you still have the loose cannon that is Donald Trump eyeing the presidency – perhaps from a jail cell?

Then, mix in some of the 1950s-style legislation being enacted in several southern states, which makes one wonder how those powder kegs might play out.

And just how good of a neighbour will the U.S. be if they ever need our water, or our oil with any level of urgency?

Ultimately, the U.S. is as “me first” a nation as any.

Back to the original question. It is one we need to realize would mean the world would have to have evolved, and areas such as Eastern Europe and swaths of Africa would be allowed to produce as they could, with access to technology and that elusive free trade.

It would seem reasonable that North America might find that it is not as perfectly situated geographically if trade became truly free.

Then, too, one might have to factor in the im-

pact of climate change moving forward.

And if climate change continues, and we as humans have a negative role, what will that mean for export transportation?

Granted, this is all very speculative questioning, and the aforementioned volatility of the world makes knowing what might happen tomorrow difficult. But it is interesting to think about a long-held vision, and how it might be less wonderful than we would hope.

Op-ed: Canadian Grain Commission must put farmers first

By IAN BOXALL & JAKE LEGUEE

The Canada Grain Act and the Canadian Grain Commission (CGC) are pillars established to serve grain producers. It's our collective responsibility to ensure that the framework governing grain regulation and oversight prioritizes the interests of the backbone of our industry – farmers.

Established in 1912, the Canada Grain Act sets standards for Canada's grain industry, ensuring quality, safety, and fairness in grain trading. Under its purview, the Canadian Grain Commission operates critical programs that ensure quality standards, information access, and protection from payment default.

The March 26, 2024, Canada Grain Act Summit in Saskatoon provided a crucial platform for producer groups to address critical issues concerning the Act and CGC, sparking discussions vital for our agricultural sector's future. Throughout the summit, participants engaged in discussions pivotal to the Canadian grain industry's competitiveness and prosperity.

Understanding the CGC's role and mandate was central. Participants stressed maintaining objectivity in CGC operations and governance for fairness and transparency. To achieve this, those regulated by the CGC should not unduly influence its decisions, ensuring policies serve producers' best interests.

The need to enhance producer protections, including increased oversight of quality assessment at primary elevators, dispute resolution mechanisms and payment security, were emphasized. The CGC must act as a guardian of producer rights, ensuring accountability and equity throughout the agri-

cultural value chain.

Transparent, consistent, and efficient delivery contracts and market information emerged as critical themes. Enhancing market clarity with information such as forward export sales, empowers producers to make informed decisions. Participants noted successful use of a consistent grain contract in Australia, yet similar streamlined models are lacking in Western Canada due to the reluctance of grain companies to engage and the CGC to initiate discussions on improvements.

The Summit emphasized the significance of sustainable funding approaches for the CGC and upholding stringent quality standards to preserve the integrity of Canadian grain and maximize agriculture's contribution to the economy. Participants learned about inspection and funding systems in Australia and the US, how their systems are maintained and administered with clear provisions for funding including services delivered for the public good.

Maintaining grain export integrity is key for economic prosperity and reflects our commitment to excellence. As we navigate trade dynamics and emerging consumer trends, integrity, accountability, and transparency remain essential, ensuring the grain industry's continued prosperity for today's farm families and generations to come.

The newly appointed Chief Commissioner of the CGC, David Hunt, will be stepping into the role at a crucial time. His leadership will be pivotal in navigating the concerns of grain producers and ensuring that the CGC continues to function as a cornerstone of fairness and transparency in these complex times.

Our commitment to addressing challenges and driving positive change is

unwavering. Let's build on the summit's momentum, fostering collaboration and commitment for a stronger, more resilient agricultural sector benefiting producers. It's crucial to reaffirm our commitment to the Canada Grain Act principles to maintain Canada's status

as a trusted grain supplier globally.

Ian Boxall is the president of the Agricultural Producers' Association of Saskatchewan

Jake Leguee is the chair of Saskatchewan Wheat

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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

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

BLAINE LAKE: Wapiti Library - Wednesday 1pm - 6pm; Thursday 1pm - 6pm; Friday 1pm - 6pm; Saturday 10am - 3pm. Contact us for more info 306-497-3130, www.wapitilibrary.ca.

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

CANWOOD: Canwood Branch of Wapiti Regional Library. Tuesday 10am - 3:30pm; Thursday 2pm - 6pm; Friday 1:30pm - 5pm. Kids Club is Fridays 3:30pm - 4:30pm, Crafter's Choice is the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month.

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

LEASK: Wapiti Library & Legacy Gallery Hours - Tuesday 9am - 2pm; Wednesday 3pm - 6pm; Friday 11am - 5pm

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

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

BIG RIVER: The Northern Lights Bluegrass and Old Time Music Camp and Festival, running from August 12-16 and 16-18, 2024, at The Ness Creek Site near Big River, SK, features a dynamic lineup of music, workshops, dances and outdoor activities for all ages. At the music camp (Aug 12 - 16) there will be classes of all skill levels by renowned artists and the introduction of the Wild Sky Forest Kids Camp for children ages 3 - 12. Learn more at northernlightsbluegrass.com

LEASK & CANWOOD: Walter Willoughby Horticultural Society – Bedding Plant Sales. Canwood – Seniors Hall: Tuesday, May 21 from 12-4 pm – To book a table call 306-468-2841. Leask – Seniors Hall: Friday, May 24 from 12-4 pm – To book a table call 306-466-9179. Pie & coffee will be served at both sales!

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It's time to ditch the whiteout in Winnipeg

Hey, Winnipeg Jets fans, it's time to lose the 'whiteout' approach to your team's National Hockey League playoffs. It's not working. In fact, it seems to be more of a jinx than anything else.

The idea of the 'whiteout' — having all 15,000 fans wear white garb to home games to create some sort of powerful mystique to help their team defeat the opposition — has been about as successful as someone trying to sell broccoli-flavoured bubblegum. White is associated with pale; pale is associated with death; dying in the playoffs is what the Jets have done far too often lately.

How about a red-out? A black-out? Even a green-out might work. Green suggests vibrancy and growth, and the Jets definitely need a growing number of playoff wins. During his decade or more of pro golf dominance, Tiger Woods wore red on Sunday because psychologists suggested red is an

aggressive colour and opponents could be intimidated. White is blah. What colour is the flag one waves when surrendering? White, of course.

Face it, Jets' fans. White is not working. The whiteout approach to playoff games began as a marketing ploy in 1987, but to say it's getting as stale as white bread left out overnight is an understatement. And while we're talking about white this and white that, can the NHL powers-that-be not arrange for the Jets to wear their white sweaters while their fans are coated and sweated in white up in the pews? When the Jets bowed out of this year's playoffs, they wore blue jerseys in their 6-3 loss to Colorado while the Avalanche wore white. Seemed inappropriate.

While the Jets played at a .695 percentage pace on home ice during the regular season, they have not come close to that kind of



BRUCE
PENTON

success in the post-season. Blame it on the white. Since 2015, when the whiteout fad started to reach its zenith, the Jets are a horrendous 6-15 on home ice in playoff games. They were 1-2 this year, which snapped a seven-game home-ice losing streak. You'd think with that kind of failure, some marketing expert would say, "Hey, maybe we should lose the white."

Next year, Jets' fans, let's go red. A bullfighter uses a red flag to get the bull supercharged and snorting.

Maybe red throughout the Canada Life Centre will add a level of aggressiveness and speed to the Jets that will make them unstoppable.

The people in the stands who shell out big bucks to watch their loveable Jets should be reminded that a heart — the symbol of love — is almost always shown as bright red. If you really love your Jets, ditch the white.

Leave white for the bride's wedding day dress and for the colour of the rice on your next Chinese food takeout order. It's not working as a winning hockey gimmick.

• Super 70s Sports: "The NCAA transfer rules are insane. I used to think 'one and done' was stupid but 'one here, one there, one there, and one there' is infinitely worse. These kids are moving around more often than a left-handed relief pitcher."

• Phil Mushnick of the New York Post: "How'd you like to be a CBS News-Tokyo

employee, recently laid off in order to cut costs while CBS pays Tony Romo \$180 million to call half-a-year's NFL games?"

• Bob Molinaro of pilotonline.com (Hampton, Va.): "The NBA may survive the absence of LeBron James, Kevin Durant and Steph Curry from the remainder of the playoffs as long as Charles Barkley makes it to the studio on time."

• Vancouver comedy guy Torben Rolfsen: "Ferrari signed a massive title sponsorship deal with HP. So expect to start seeing their race cars constantly overheating."

• Canadian satirical website The Beaverton, before Game 7: "Hardworking Leafs tie up series, maximize how sad fans will be when they still lose."

• Another one from the Beaverton: "Loblaws promises to lower grocery prices as soon as Leafs win three rounds in the playoffs."

• Bob Molinaro again:

"Virtually every TV highlight from baseball's spring training is a long ball, as if that's all the game is about. That would be like daily NBA highlights of nothing but dunks and three-pointers. Uh, never mind."

• RJ Currie of sportsdeke.com: "The Canucks won the final two games against Nashville by scores of 2-1 and 1-0. I tuned in to some hockey games and two soccer matches broke out."

• Another one from Currie: "How can you tell it's springtime in Canada? The snow has melted and the Leafs have been falling."

• Headline at fark.com: "Falcons tried to get back in top 10 after drafting Penix, perhaps to grab J.J. McCarthy."

• fark.com again: "LeBron is starting to concede that the only way he'll play basketball with his son is at a local rec league at the Y."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Sask. teachers reject new contract offer

By JORDAN TWISS
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Saskatchewan's teachers have said a resounding "No" to the Sask. Party government, voting overwhelmingly to reject what was billed as the province's "final offer."

The results of the vote were released the evening of Thursday, May 9. With a voter turnout of 92.2 per cent, 90 per cent of those who cast votes voted against accepting the government's contract offering.

"The message to government and the Saskatchewan School Boards Association is crystal clear: their so-called 'final offer' is unacceptable and does a disservice to students and teachers," said Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation president Samantha Becotte in a statement.

"The Government of Saskatchewan and the SSBA must finally take this process and these issues seriously and work with teachers in good faith to address the crisis occurring in publicly funded schools under their watch."

Speaking after the results were announced, Education Minister Jeremy Cockrill said he was disappointed to see the vast majority of teachers vote against the offer.

The government's three-year contract offering included salary increases of three per cent in the first two years and two per cent in the final year of

the agreement, with retroactive pay to Sept. 2023 and enhancements to teachers' benefits packages. This marked a return to the government's original salary offering, after Cockrill had previously proposed 3 per cent increases over the next four years to match the salary increases taken by MLAs.

The government's offer also included its promised accountability framework, an agreement between the government, school divisions, and teachers meant to ensure new funding to address class size and complexity will be used for its intended purpose, as well as a new line saying the framework will be "honoured and followed."

Outside of the collective agreement, there was also a letter of undertaking signed by Government Trustee Bargaining Committee chair Don Hoium to address classroom size and complexity.

The province's teachers have been without a contract since August 2023. Since new contract negotiations with the province began last May, they have asked for issues like classroom size and complexity to be included in the new collective bargaining agreement. The government has refused to budge on this issue, leading to a prolonged campaign of job actions by the province's teachers.

On March 8, after a months-long stalemate with the teach-

ers over the issue, the government and the Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA) announced a multi-year funding agreement, with the government promising \$356 million over the next four years to address issues of class size and complexity.

The government then proposed the aforementioned memorandum of understanding with teachers and school divisions on an accountability framework that would ensure proposed education funding makes it into the classrooms and toward the supports it's intended for.

While the STF welcomed the funding commitment and the offer of accountability, it expressed concerns that the funds could still be clawed back or used for other purposes without any sort of binding contract in place.

Now that the government's offer has been rejected, Becotte and Cockrill say it's imperative for both parties to return to the bargaining table. In anticipation of the government's bargaining team receiving a new mandate, Becotte said teachers wouldn't immediately resume job actions.

Meanwhile, Cockrill has suggested the school year could be extended to make up for lost instruction days, if job actions are resumed.

The province's educators were expected to vote on resuming job actions on May 15 and 16.

Spiritwood Library hosts Tiny Art Show, Lego Club

By HEATHER GATZKE
Branch Librarian

The Spiritwood Public Library was super busy with a Tiny Art Show, followed by Lego Club on Wednesday, April 24.

The Tiny Art Show started about 2:30 p.m. Children were given paint, pencils, and markers and a very tiny art canvas on a wooden easel. The instructions were to create whatever they wanted. Each artwork was unique, and some even had a theme, but all were very well done.

The art show will remain open for viewing on display for several more weeks.

It was almost a full house with 9 of 10 spots filled for Lego club at 3:30 p.m. Each child was

given a base plate and given the question of "What makes you happy?" as a brick build challenge. Then, they had about 45 minutes to create their build.

Once they finished creating, they each took a turn to talk about their build and what made them happy.

Builds were incredible. There was a Barbie doll, ocean and sea creatures, a horse eating a carrot, snake and a macaw, a military base, a house, the great outdoors, a dragon (along with a pen, note paper, and magnifying glass to examine the dragon) and a restaurant with a blue slushie machine.

The Lego builds will be on display at the library until the next Lego club, when the bricks will get recycled into a new challenge.



These miniature canvases are part of the Spiritwood Library's ongoing Tiny Art Show.

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

CARD OF THANKS

The Debden Knights of Columbus would like to thank all those who supported them in their recent draws. The winners of the 50/50 \$1,000 prize were Phil and Cecile Demers and the winner of the Afghan was Kari Compagna.

SEED FOR SALE

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

MEMORIALS

DOUCETTE Shirley November 21, 1954 - May 21, 1998

OUR MOTHER

You can only have one Mother Patient, kind, and true;

No other friend in all the world Will be the same to you.

When other friends forsake you,

To Mother you will return, For all her loving kindness,

She asks nothing in return.

As we look upon her picture, Sweet memories we recall,

Of a face so full of sunshine, And a smile for one and all.

Sweet Jesus, take this message, To our dear Mother up above;

Tell her how we miss her, And give her all our love.

Forever loved and sadly missed by Rick, Nicole, Shawna, Brad, Kayla and families.

By ELAINE PERKINS
Shellbrook Royal Purple

On Thursday, May 9, the Shellbrook Royal Purple had the honour of welcoming the Saskatchewan Royal Purple provincial president Darlene May to its regular meeting. Besides her smiling face, she brought with her an encouraging speech of the success of the Saskatchewan Royal Purple Association and the Lodges throughout the province.

Many people have asked what does the Royal Purple do?

Ten years ago, the new Canadian Royal Purple was formed (the current Shellbrook lodge was formed in 2019). In those 10 years, the Saskatchewan Royal Purple board, along with the 12 lodges in the province, are proud of the many firsts they have accomplished in the organization.

The Saskatchewan Royal Purple was:

First to have a charity part-

nership, forming BrainLove.

First in having their own Facebook page.

First to have boosts, where it runs ads in different parts of the province to let people know about Royal Purple.

First to have Brain injury education.

First to establish new lodges and rebuild lodges.

First to host Purple Thursday, where care bags are taken to the shelters for those fleeing from interpersonal violence. These bags are filled with personal hygiene products, notepads, pens, colouring books, and much more, as most, if not all, leave with the clothes on their backs.

First to have Virtual Lodges. First to Unite Canadian Lodges.

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Shellbrook Royal Purple welcomes provincial president

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Shellbrook Royal Purple members welcomed Royal Purple provincial president Darlene May on Thursday, May 9. Back row, left to right: Wendy Otterson, Pat Radchuk, Elaine Perkins, and Wendy Watt. Front Row: Cindy Wall, Darlene May, and Lorna Neufeld.

GOOD NEWS

IFS, ANDS, OR BUTS

By LORNE VALUCK
Parkside Pentecostal Church

"No ifs, ands or buts."

Have you heard someone say that? Have you said it? I'm glad the Bible has "ifs", "ands", and "buts." The words, "if", "and," and "but" are conjunctions: single words or groups of words used to join clauses, phrases, and words together for constructing sentences. Conjunctions make a link between or among words or groups of words to other parts of the sentence and show a relationship between or among them.

There are some great conjunctions in the Bible, the Word of God. Many times, words like "if", "and", "when", "then", or "but" introduce hope, healing, and restoration into a rather dismal situation.

Listen for a few turning point conjunctions in this passage, Lamentations 3:17-26 (NLT). Raise your hand or just shout it out when you hear them.

Peace has been stripped away, and I have forgotten what prosperity is.

I cry out, "My splendor is gone! Everything I had hoped for from the LORD is lost!"

The thought of my suffering and home-

lessness is bitter beyond words.

I will never forget this awful time, as I grieve over my loss.

Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this:

The faithful love of the LORD never ends! His mercies never cease.

Great is His faithfulness; His mercies begin afresh each morning.

I say to myself, "The LORD is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in him!"

The LORD is good to those who depend on him, to those who search for him.

So it is good to wait quietly for salvation from the LORD.

A few simple words can make such a difference - can offer such hope and rest.

Have you ever watched a movie where a destitute, lonely, hurting person is walking down a street or sidewalk and can see through a window, observing pleasant household activities going on, maybe a meal, playing a game, visiting?

Or have you been on your way driving to work a late shift on a cold winter night and you can see into, or imagine homes where people are relaxing for the evening with a coffee in their easy chair while you're gearing up for the stress of work and weariness?

Oh, how we'd rather be in the warm and cheery than the cold and dreary - physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

Sometimes when we feel that way, we fall into the thought that change can't happen, we aren't worthy, or God doesn't care.

Guess what. That's fake news.

Those life changing conjunctions we read in Lamentations apply to you and me.

Mark 2:17 (NLT) tells us about the up-pity ups complaining about Jesus hanging out with the down and outers: When Jesus heard this, he told them, "Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do..."

And in Matthew 11:28 (NLT) The Lord gives this open invitation: "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

We need God's help, hope and rest - some days more than others.

Imperfect, fragile man in a fallen, sinful world needs a gracious, merciful God to meet him where he's at.

If you're on the outside of that idyllic household scene, come on in, you're welcome. Our Heavenly Father has plenty of room at His table. Respond to His invitation for salvation, deliverance, and healing, and if you are already in that house, receive and live in God's help, hope, and rest. And be aware of the hurting, alienated, and tentative that are looking in. Love them, and invite them to join the household of faith.

God be with you until we meet again.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOMINATIONS FOR CELEBRATING SENIORS PROVINCIAL VOLUNTEER AWARDS



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Conexus Arts Centre, Regina

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WANTED

WANTED

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OBITUARY

Loren Edwin Herzog



Loren Edwin Herzog, late of Mayview, SK, passed away on Saturday, May 4, 2024, at the age of 74, at the Parkland Integrated Health Centre in Shellbrook, SK.

Loren was 2nd born to Lawrence and Ruth

Herzog. Loren attended Tanglewood School in Mayview, then Christopher Lake and Wild Rose School near Holbein, SK for his elementary years, and then was bussed to Prince Albert to attend St. Mary's for High School. While in high school he spent his summers working on the farm, as well as various jobs in Carrot River, Christopher Lake, Spruce Home, and north of LaRonge. After high school Loren attended the U of S for 2 years but the farm had his number and was calling him home.

During his time at university, he met his future bride Kathy Her-

ringer, whom he married in 1970, and they worked and saved money to move to the farm in Mayview in 1973. There they toiled on the land and built a big family of 4 boys and one girl, while expanding the farm and raising a cattle herd. Keeping faith a focus in his life, he mostly attended mass at Christopher Lake, and Shellbrook RC Parishes. Loren spent his life loving his farm and his family. There was no place he'd rather be, except maybe on his boat with company, going after that big fish, playing with the grandkids, or eagerly listening and learning something

new about someone he just met. He led by example to show the value of hard work, but he made sure to stop and enjoy the important things in life, such as family and friends, and a beautiful morning or sunset out on the lake. His generosity with his loving nature, time, spirit, curiosity, humour, and his infectious laugh, made him a special person to people that were fortunate enough to be a part of his life.

Loren will be lovingly remembered by his wife Kathy; children, Trevor (Krista), Jason (Jen), Kristan (Marco) Gagnon, Eric (Carmen), Mark (Leslie); grandchildren,

Josh, Matt, Taylor (Ryan); Henley and Jason, Tanis, Sydney, Kaila, Ethan, Koen, Liam, Ben, Conner, Maren; siblings Bev (Morgan) Partridge, Linda (Andy) Fehr, Verdy (Karen) Herzog, Valerie Anderson; siblings-in-law Lynn Herzog, Rick (Jennifer) Herringer, Jessie (Jeff) Herringer, Mark (Judith) Herringer; numerous nieces, nephews and other relatives. Loren was predeceased by his parents Lawrence and Ruth Herzog; parents-in-law Bill and Katherine Herringer; siblings-in-law Maureen, Noreen and Jan Herringer, Jo-

Ann Bennett.

Funeral Mass was held at 11:00 AM on Monday, May 13, 2024 at Sacred Heart Cathedral, 1401 4th Ave West, Prince Albert, SK. In lieu of other tributes, donations may be made to Shellbrook and District Health Services Project, Box 233 Leask, SK., SoJ 1Mo.

Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit www.beaulac-funeralhome.com. Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home and Crematorium, Marianne Turcotte Funeral Director, Prince Albert, SK, 306-763-3322.

Kerri English's students showcase talent at recital



Jacob Wojcichowsky-Bates plays the Beatles' "Hey Jude."



From left to right: Becky Wilson, Ginny Gradin, Rebecca Schutte, Jude Reynolds, Marj Bradley, Brynlee Aiken, and Kael Bick perform as part of the group tune "Shepherd's Wife."



Beckett Horricks plays Queen's "We Will Rock You."



Theo Gallimore plays "Buffalo Gals."



Becky Wilson closes out the solos with "Fishing Rod Reel/Festival du Voyageur Reel."



Dayton Graham plays "Walk Like an Egyptian."



Arya Horricks performs "Au Claire de la Lune."