

Fallen RCMP officers remembered with BBQ



The RCMP tipi was the backdrop for the day's activities. Pictured, from left to right: Cst. Colin Allen, Dalton Bill (Pelican Lake First Nation Community Safety Officer), Chief Peter Bill of Pelican Lake First Nation, and Austin Lehouillier (Pelican Lake First Nation Safety Officer).

By BEVRA FEE

Spiritwood Herald Reporter

Spiritwood's annual Cameron & Bourdages Memorial Barbecue was hosted by the local RCMP Detachment on Monday, July 8, at the Memorial Park named for the two fallen officers.

Each year, the RCMP stages the event to commemorate Cst. Robin Cameron and Cst. Marc Bourdages, who were wounded in the line of duty on July 7, 2006. Both officers subsequently died of their injuries a week later on July 15, 2006. The 2024 memorial event consisted of a free barbecue, which served just over 400 hungry patrons, face painting, and a pow wow dance demonstration. RCMP recruiters were also on hand and avail-

able to visit with interested parties.

The emcee for the day's activities was Cal Arcand of the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation. Arcand acknowledged that "we are all treaty people" and then introduced the Grand Entry honourees, including Sgt. Andrews of the Spiritwood RCMP Detachment and Chief Peter Bill of Pelican Lake First Nation. Andrews carried the Canadian Flag, while Cst. Colin Allen carried the provincial flag. Members of the Pelican Lake First Nation Community Safety Patrol presented local and commonwealth flags, dressed in their formal blue uniforms.

The drum group for the pow wow demonstration was Iron Nation from Big River First Nation. Iron Nation performed a flag song as the emcee acknowledged Canadian veterans,

honoured the seasons, the weather, the youth in the cadet program, and the RCMP. Following the flag song, the drum group performed a victory song to honour young people, which was followed by pow wow dancers demonstrating cultural dances such as the Ladies' traditional dance.

Deputy Mayor, Jim Bedi, brought greetings on behalf of the Town of Spiritwood, while Chief Peter Bill spoke about his memory of working with Robin Cameron and Marc Bourdages. His recollection of the day of their mortal shooting brought back the weight of the incident and the fact that time has not dimmed the memory of their sacrifice of 18 years ago. A large audience was on hand to commemorate officers Cameron and Bourdages at the memorial park

named in their honour.

During his comments at the event, Sgt. Andrews took the opportunity to honour local volunteers, Jason and Colleen Reddekopp, who are often found at the memorial park tending to the trees, cutting the grass, and performing general beautification maintenance. Others who received recognition for leadership were Elders from Witchekan Lake First Nation, Barney and Jane Tipewan.

Chief Raymon Witchekan spoke on behalf of Witchekan Lake First Nation, followed by further cultural pow wow dance demonstrations including Ladies' Jingle Dance and Ladies' Fancy Dance. The day finished out with Men's Chicken Dance, Grass Dance, Traditional Dance, and Fancy Dance.

More photos on page 6



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Thorpe, Stene represent Canada at CanAm Bowl

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

For the first time in its 26-year history, Shellbrook was part of the Team Canada roster when 15 players and four coaches travelled to Meeteetse, Wyoming, for the CanAm Bowl, an annual six-man football game pitting Team Canada against Team USA.

Started in 1997, the CanAm Bowl is an all-star game featuring the best graduating Grade 12 players from Saskatchewan and Alberta for Team Canada and from Montana, Nebraska, Texas, and Wyoming for Team USA. Each year, the game alternates between Canada and the United States, with the six-man football rules for the host jurisdiction being followed.

For Team Canada, tryouts were held in Rosetown on May 12. There, Shellbrook's Brett Stene made the team as its starting linebacker, capping off a graduating year of football that saw him win the WP Sandin High School football team's Heart and Soul award.

Stene didn't travel to Wyoming with complete strangers, as Devon Thor-

pe, WP Sandin's football coach, joined the team after successfully applying to serve as one of Team Canada's assistant coaches. He was joined on the coaching staff by head coach Ryan Barnstable (Hafford), and fellow assistant coaches Carson Derksen (Hafford) and Bob Mayo (Lemberg).

"I chose to serve as an assistant coach for the opportunity to better my coaching repertoire, but also help lead Team Canada to victory," Thorpe said. "The coaching opportunity allowed me to collaborate with the best coaches and players in six-man football."

In the CanAm Bowl's history, wins have typically been difficult to come by for Team Canada. But this year Team Canada put up a good fight, taking a 20-14 lead after a first quarter that saw the offences come out firing on all cylinders. Team Canada kept the offensive pressure on through the second quarter, and Team USA responded in kind, leaving Canada with a slim 36-34 lead at halftime.

Thanks to some big stops on fourth down, the momentum shifted slightly in the third quarter, as Team USA jumped

out to a 58-44 lead. Though Team Canada held its opponents to only one touchdown in the fourth quarter, they failed to score any of their own, ultimately losing 65-44.

Despite the loss, Thorpe says he's proud of the team for playing with "passion and heart" throughout the entire game. He also says the experience was invaluable for him.

"The opportunity to work with high level athletes and coaches is also a truly humbling experience that I will value," he said. "The experience will help build our Shellbrook Football program since I was able to develop new strategies and drills."

In addition to playing football, members of Team Canada also got to experience the culture of Wyoming by participating in Cody, Wyoming's Independence Day parade on July 4.



Shellbrook was represented at the CanAm Bowl by player Brett Stene and assistant coach Devon Thorpe.

Local talent set for Sask. Summer Games

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

With the 2024 Saskatchewan Summer Games just around the corner, Team Lakeland has unveiled its roster, featuring plenty of young, local athletes from Shellbrook, Spiritwood, and the surrounding areas.

Local talent makes

up half of Team Lakeland's archery roster, with Shellbrook's Sage Brooman and Leoville's Skylar Halko on the team. Elsewhere, Tyson Brooman will be serving as a coach for Team Rivers West.

In boy's beach volleyball, Spiritwood's Matthew Tkachuk will be competing as part of a duo with Eli Ens of Ros-

side, Parkside's Sydney Martin is paired with Lexis Chaplin of Rosthern. Shellbrook's Katie Martin will coach both the boy's and girl's teams alongside Madison Fisher, with Parkside's Tim Martin serving as the teams' manager.

Team Lakeland's canoe/kayak roster is also packed full of local athletes, as Spiritwood's Katherine Follack and William Follack and Leoville's Danica Laventure all made the cut.

And hailing from Big River, Devyn Bergen will be competing on Team Lakeland's softball squad.

In a large athletics (track and field events) roster, local athletes are well represented in the mix, with Samantha Kennedy, Ezra Peake, Marvail Philp, and Cole Smith representing Shellbrook, Emeri Simonar representing Shell Lake, Joshua Christiansen representing Big River, and Alex Tkachuk representing Spiritwood.

Finally, in special Olympics bocce ball, Thomas Beam will be representing Team Lakeland and Brett Ethier will be competing for Team North.

The 2024 Saskatchewan Summer Games are set to take place in Lloydminster from July 21 to July 27.

For more information, or to follow the results, visit: <https://sask-games.ca>

PUBLIC NOTICE

RM of Shellbrook No. 493 Public Notice – Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw Amendments

Public Notice is hereby given that the Council of the Rural Municipality of Shellbrook No. 493 (RM) intends to adopt two bylaws under *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*, Bylaw No. 2024-05 to amend Bylaw No. 2018-09, known as the Official Community Plan (OCP), and Bylaw No. 2024-06 to amend Bylaw No. 08-1981, known as The Zoning Bylaw (ZB).

INTENT: The proposed amendment to the OCP would: add the Métis Local 66 for Crutwell to the list of First Nation and Métis communities within the RM; create policy to direct the use of dedicated lands funds towards provision of schools within the region; add transitional policies for land use designation implementation through zoning; correctly identify Organized Hamlets in the RM on the Future Land Use (FLU) Map; change the maximum country residential parcel density from 32 to 16 parcels per quarter section; and, redesignate land use areas for a number of properties in the RM.

The proposed amendment to the ZB would: within the AR – Agricultural Residential (AR) District, clarify the minimum site size of a farm land holding, including exceptions for fragmentation, and the allowable area of land which could be subdivided for residential purposes (8.08 ha); with respect to site area and frontage requirements, legitimize parcels existing as of Jan. 1, 2024, in the AR and CR – Country Residential (CR) Districts; add flexibility to the maximum site sizes of legal subdivisions; change the minimum site area for residential parcels in the CR District from 0.8 ha to 4.05 ha but with mechanisms for flexibility to accommodate farmstead severances or where the average parcel size on a quarter would remain 4.05 ha or greater; increase the maximum floor area of detached accessory and ancillary buildings from 150 m² to 464.5 m²; clarify the calculation of number of animal units that can be kept on a CR-zoned site up to a max. of 20 units; introduce new definitions for "ancillary use" and "home based business"; replace the definition of "site" such that contiguous parcels under common ownership can be considered a single site; and replace the RM's Zoning District Map which would rezone a large number of properties in the RM to reflect current land use and for conformity with the RM's planning bylaws.

AFFECTED LAND: Several of the proposed OCP and ZB amendment items would apply to the entire RM.

The following properties would be redesignated on the OCP FLU Map as follows: From various **Country Residential and Industrial Development Areas to Agricultural Development Area** - All of Parcel C, Plan 78PA01580, lying within W ¼ 21-49-03-W3M; All of NW ¼ 21-49-03-W3M Ext 87; and, All of Parcel D, Plan 90PA11567 Ext 0, lying within SW ¼ 21-49-03-W3M. From various **Agricultural, Future Industrial, and Forestry Development Areas to Country Residential Development Area** - All of Parcels B and C, Plan 77PA27821, lying within SW ¼ 17-49-03-W3M; All of Parcel D, Plan 83PA00140, lying within NW ¼ 16-49-03-W3M; Parcel A, Plan 67PA03616; Parcel B, Plan 70PA12498; and, Parcel C, Plan 78PA10032, all lying within NE ¼ 16-49-03-W3M; All of SE ¼ 16-49-02-W3M; Parcel A, Plan 76PA04912, Parcel B, Plan 83PA21984, and Parcel C, Plan 101440842, all lying within SW ¼ 17-49-02-W3M; Parcels B and C, Plan 102361115, all lying within SW ¼ 23-49-02-W3M; Parcel B, Plan 101440673; Parcel C, Plan 101440651; N ½ 15-49-02-W3M, Plan O2488 Ext 1, all lying within N ½ 15-49-02-W3M; and, LSDs 12 and 13, both lying within NW ¼ 21-49-02-W3M.

Numerous properties would be rezoned by adoption and approval of a new Zoning District Map. Landowners affected by a proposed rezoning of their land(s) will be notified directly by mail. Please see public inspection options below.

REASON: OCP amendments: proper identification of Métis Locals in the RM; update dedicated lands policy for conformance with updated governing legislation; decrease the allowable residential parcel density in Country Residential land use areas for alignment with the corresponding proposed zoning bylaw amendment; create policy guidance for zoning implementation and transition of land use(s); properly identify Organized Hamlets on the FLU Map; and, redesignate certain lands to reflect current and desired land use types.

ZB amendments: to legitimize with respect to minimum site area, agricultural holdings which had been previously subdivided; clarify the amount of land on a quarter section that can be subdivided in the AR District without rezoning to another District; provided density exceptions in the AR District where quarter sections are fragmented by man-made or natural features where contiguous use of land is impractical; provide a mechanism to legitimize existing non-conforming parcels in the AR and CR Districts with respect to site size and frontage requirements where they may be currently non-compliant and/or restricted for future (re)development; to provide flexibility on non-standard legal subdivision site size. In the CR District: increase the minimum residential parcel size and decrease the maximum parcel density to limit further subdivision and densification of residential land use; increase the accessory/ancillary building size better suited to a large-parcel country residential context; and, simplify the calculation of allowable animal units allowed on site. To add definitions of terms employed in the ZB and add the ability to consider multiple parcels under common ownership as a single site. The need to harmonize land use policy area designation implemented through zoning for proper application of the ZB; and, to better render existing parcels conforming with site and density regulations based on current and intended future land use(s) through updated zoning assignment.

PUBLIC INSPECTION: Any person may inspect the bylaws at the RM office during regular office hours, excluding statutory holidays. Draft copies of the proposed bylaws are available from the RM office; hard copy at cost, digital copy free upon request or at the web address below. Copies of the proposed amendments (including associated maps), and a detailed land listing and illustrative map of properties affected by rezoning on the proposed new Zoning District map, will be posted on the RM's website at the following web address: <https://www.rmofshellbrook.com/notice>. The RM office is located at RM Office at 71 Main Street, Shellbrook, SK, S0J 2E0 (PO Box 250).

PUBLIC HEARING: Council will hold a public hearing on **August 13, 2024, at 7:00p.m.**, at the Shellbrook Seniors Center to hear any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed bylaws. Please contact the office prior to the hearing for protocols related to making in-person representation; prior registration is required if you wish to address Council. Council will also consider written comments received by the undersigned by **August 8, 2024 @ 4:00p.m.** For additional information, please contact (306) 747-2158 or admin.493@sasktel.net.

Issued at the Town of Shellbrook this 20th day of June, 2024.

Duane Storey – Administrator - RM of Shellbrook No. 493

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Chase Wutzke drafted by Minnesota Wild

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

Since he first laced up his skates and took to the ice in his home community of Debden as an IP hockey player, Chase Wutzke has had big dreams of one day making it all the way to the NHL.

"I liked always being active as a kid, and

I thought hockey was a great way of being active and keeping myself in shape," Wutzke said of what initially drew him to hockey.

"Goalie was always one of the positions I wanted to try. Once I tried it, and I was doing pretty decent at it, I just stuck with it and kept going."

Reaching the NHL is a dream a lot of young small-town hockey play-

ers share, but that relatively few go on to realize.

But at age 18, the 6'2, 158-pound netminder, nicknamed "The Debden Defender" in honour of his hometown, is defying the odds. At this year's NHL draft, hosted at the Sphere in Las Vegas, Wutzke was selected in the fifth round, 142nd overall, by the Minnesota Wild.

"I was going there with an open mind, just hoping I was going to get drafted. If I didn't, I'd just work that much harder next year to get myself drafted," Wutzke said of his expectations going into the draft.

"It's always been a dream, since I was a little kid, to get drafted and see my name go across the board. It was a great experience for that all to happen."

What makes Wutzke's success at the NHL Draft even more impressive, is the fact that when he started the 2023-2024 hockey season as a rookie with the WHL's Red Deer Rebels, his name wasn't even listed on NHL Central Scouting's preliminary draft rankings.

Though he had previously started between the pipes for the Rebels at age 15, becoming the youngest goalie to win a

WHL game in the internet age, Wutzke expected to spend his rookie year gaining valuable experience as the Rebels' backup goalie.

However, as Wutzke quickly grew accustomed to the intense, fast-paced play at the WHL level, the Rebels began to turn to him as their starter.

Wutzke didn't disappoint, earning goalie of the week honours the week of Dec. 11 after going 2-0-0-0 with a 0.88 GAA and .970 save percentage the week prior.

Wutzke ended December with a 5-0-0-1 record, with a 1.66 goals-against average and .941 save percentage, and was also named the WHL's Goaltender of the Month. And his hot streak continued through January, as he went 8-0-0-1, with a 1.98 goals-against average and .929 save percentage, to earn his second straight nod as the WHL's Goaltender of the Month.

Sitting third in the league in goals-against average (2.24) and save percentage (.922.), and boasting a 15-2-1-2 record at the end of January, it was no surprise

that Wutzke's name was suddenly on the radar of NHL scouts.

By the end of his rookie season, Wutzke had amassed a record of a 19-10-2-2, with a 2.82 goals-against average, a .904 save percentage, and one shutout, helping to lead the Rebels into the playoffs. There, he backstopped the team to the Eastern Conference semifinal, before being forced to bow out early due to an injury.

In the end, his play between the pipes spoke for itself.

"It was just the way I competed and how I never gave up on any play,"

Wutzke said. "I was always the guy to give it that extra little bit."

Having just recently celebrated his high school graduation from his hometown École Debden Public School, Wutzke has been working hard to recover and maintain his fitness level.

In the offseason, he'll be training with his goalie coach, Kelly Guard, in Prince Albert, and travelling to Saskatoon four days a week for workouts. Once fall rolls around, he'll be focused on playing hockey in Red Deer.

Wutzke is the son of Regan Bittner and Duane Wutzke.



Debden-born goaltender Chase Wutzke has been drafted by the NHL's Minnesota Wild.

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Carbon tax melodrama wastes time and money

Like a long-lost evil twin coming back from the dead to wreak havoc on a daytime soap opera, it seems there's no end to the plot twists and turns when it comes to the federal carbon tax.

The latest story arc in As the Carbon Tax Turns began last fall, when Prime Minister Justin Trudeau introduced a new "energy affordability package," highlighted by a three-year moratorium on the carbon tax for homeowners who heat their homes with heating oil.

Though the carbon tax exemption applies nationwide, it was rightly seen as a benefit targeted primarily at the Atlantic provinces, because 30 per cent of homeowners in the region still use furnace oil to heat their homes (a much higher proportion than anywhere else in Canada).

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has tried to frame the exemption on home heating oil as a matter of fairness, pointing out that heating a home with the fuel source is far more expensive than other options like natural gas.

And the math supports Mr. Trudeau's claims. With the carbon tax included, producing a gigajoule of energy using natural gas in Saskatchewan costs just over \$12 as of the fall of 2023. Meanwhile, the cost to produce a gigajoule with home heating oil was \$42.50 before the carbon tax (and \$47.87 with it).

However, there's also no denying the political calculations behind the exemption for home heating oil, given that it came at a time when the Liberals were seeing an erosion of their usually stalwart support in the Atlantic provinces (indeed, they were still trailing the Conservatives by six points in Atlantic Canada as of the latest 338Canada polling on July 7).

Liberal MP Gudie Hutchings, who represents the Long Range Mountains constituency in Newfoundland and Labrador, all but laid bare the Liberals' political strategy, calling on those complaining about the carve-out for Atlantic Canada to "elect more liberals" if they want similar benefits.

Even before Ms. Hutchings' idiotic choice of words, the announcement of a carbon tax exemption that primarily benefits Atlantic Canada went over about as well as one would expect in Saskatchewan and Alberta, which view



JORDAN TWISS
~
News Editor

anything carbon tax related as a personal affront.

And all too soon, it became all too easy to ignore other benefits included in the "energy affordability package," such as a doubling of the carbon tax rebate boost for rural Canadians (a major boon for Saskatchewan, which trails only the Atlantic provinces in terms of rural population).

Within days of the exemption's announcement, Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe retaliated by announcing

his government's plan to stop collecting and rebating the carbon tax on natural gas for home heating, putting it in contravention of the law.

Mr. Trudeau attempted to get Saskatchewan to fall back in line by suggesting that Saskatchewan residents could stop receiving the carbon tax rebate (a threat his government hasn't followed through on).

But with the stage set for a high-stakes game of political chicken, neither Mr. Trudeau nor Mr. Moe have blinked yet.

Now, the standoff between the two opposing governments has effectively reached a point of no return and will be decided by the courts.

In April, the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) announced it would be auditing Saskatchewan for failure to pay carbon tax levies.

Doing everything to stoke the boiling political tensions, Mr. Trudeau wished Mr. Moe "good luck" in dealing with the CRA, noting that the agency is "very good" at getting monies it's owed.

With the province's "unpaid" tax bill climbing to \$56 million between January and April this year, the CRA attempted to collect half that sum via bank order. It's unclear if the agency was successful in this attempt, but further efforts have been halted by a temporary injunction until the matter can be heard and decided upon by the federal court in Vancouver.

The hearing was scheduled for last Friday, with the province's argument hinging on the assertion that garnishing a provincial bank account violates Section 126 of Canada's constitution. Mr. Moe, meanwhile, remains steadfast in his conviction that the province's taxes have been "paid in full."

Speaking with the *Globe & Mail* last week, Rory Gillis, an assistant profes-



sor at Western University specializing in tax law and federalism, says the whole episode is unprecedented.

Regardless, Mr. Gillis says Saskatchewan is facing an uphill battle in convincing the court that carbon pricing is unconstitutional, when the Supreme Court of Canada already ruled in the federal government's favour on the matter in 2021.

At the same time, Mr. Gillis says the courts may not be comfortable with the federal government reaching its hand into a provincial bank account.

"The reason we have this rule in the Constitution that the province and federal governments can't tax each other is because we both want them to have their own separate spheres where they can operate," he explained.

"We don't want one level of government taking money from another and impairing its ability to operate."

In all likelihood, then, we're looking at more months, or even years, wasted on litigation over the federal carbon tax.

If, by some chance, Mr. Moe's government succeeds in convincing the courts it shouldn't have to pay its taxes, Saskatchewan residents will undoubtedly be happy not to have to pay the carbon tax on home heating. However, a win would also set a dangerous precedent, suggesting one can simply choose not to pay taxes one disagrees with.

Meanwhile, in the equally likely outcome the province loses the case, it means more taxpayer money wasted on fruitless legal battles against Ottawa.

What's worse, those unpaid taxes will have to be paid – again, at the expense of taxpayers.

On the other hand, a win for the federal government means it gets its money. But, in the context of a federal budget boasting \$480 billion in spending, \$56 million (and counting) is barely even a drop in the bucket.

A victory for the federal government also sets a precedent of rewarding governments for making policy based on what's politically expedient rather than what's best or fair for taxpayers.

Conversely, a loss in court means the federal government sabotaged its key-stone environmental policy for the sake of winning a few votes that are unlikely to change the outcome of the next federal election.

After all, the 2025 federal election is a key consideration in this soap opera, as it makes the whole court battle an even bigger waste of time.

As of the latest 338Canada polling on July 7, support for Mr. Trudeau's government had dropped to 24 per cent nationally and Pierre Poilievre's Conservative Party was 18 points ahead at 42 per cent. And there's still a long way for Mr. Trudeau to fall between now and election day.

Unless, by some miracle, the Liberals can redeem themselves, Mr. Poilievre's first move as prime minister is almost certain to be making good on his commitment to "Axe the Tax," making the whole legal battle between Mr. Trudeau and Mr. Moe a moot point.

Shellbrook Chronicle

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Happenings at Honeywood

By **JUDY HARLEY**
Honeywood Heritage Nursery

Something that we missed attending since COVID hit was the Gardenscape trade show in Saskatoon. Honeywood was very happy to attend it again this year! We had a great time, made lots of new friends, found a couple of new artists to join us as vendors for our events, and, despite the dreaded Lily Beetle being everywhere, actually sold some lily bulbs. All in all, it was a very successful return to Gardenscape.

Last year, Honeywood's friend, Malcolm Jenkins, sold his Canadian Tire business in October and entered a well-deserved life of retirement. As a result, Honeywood had to find a new source of annuals, trees, and shrubs. Manager Janie Denton started a large variety of annuals in her home and greenhouse, which she donated to the nursery.

Honeywood was also fortunate to have a contract with Kathy Alexander's Alexander Greenhouse in Holbein, to supply us with a variety of annuals. And as for fruit trees, trees, and shrubs, Honeywood received contact info for Byland Nursery from its old Canadian Tire contact, placed our order with them, and received a very nice supply to sell throughout the season.

It made a very good start to the season.

As Honeywood has done over the years, we applied for the Canada Summer Jobs grant to help with wages for two summer staff. We were successful once again and were able to hire

Rebekka, who started on May 6 and is working with Janie looking after potted plants, gardens, visitors, and weeding, and Ryan, who started July 2 and is working with Mark, pruning trees, mowing, and maintaining the grounds. We are very fortunate to have the assistance to hire this much needed help.

Something new this year were the two workshops Janie organized: a succulent bowl workshop held May 14 and a cactus/succulent workshop on June 4. Both were lots of fun and thoroughly enjoyed by those who participated.

This April, Honeywood was contacted by Tania from the small family-owned Common Sense Seeds of

Calgary. They offered seeds of the Bert Porter Early Brookpact Tomato. Of course, we accepted and shortly thereafter received packages of the Bert Porter tomato seeds, plus seeds of a yellow tomato called Yellow Fireworks from Saskatchewan breeder Stan Zubrowski (a friend of Bert's). Janie promptly started them and offered them for sale this spring. It is very exciting to have Bert's tomato growing at the nursery once again.

This spring, Honeywood was invited to attend the Art in The Garden trade show held at Christopher Lake. Janie and her husband, Lee, packed up an assortment of perennials and some gift shop items, and joined the group

at Christopher Lake on June 7. They had a very good day despite not the best weather.

As is always the case, there is maintenance to do on the buildings at the nursery. Mark has been working on the Porter log house over the last few years, and is planning to continue with that project this year. The gazebo and office/washroom buildings both need to be sanded and re-stained — projects to be worked on in cooler weather.

Lilies in Bloom, the first event of 2024, is set for July 21, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be a nice selection of vendors this year, with some new ones joining our regulars, offering a great selection of creations for our visitors to view and purchase.

Honeywood's volunteer ladies are offering beef on a bun with all the fixings, and of course, the very yummy apple or rhubarb crisp served with ice cream. All the beef (eight 10lb roasts) was donated by J&R Meats. Food and refreshments will be served from the Porter log home.

Shade will be available under the new 20' x 40' tent (bring a lawn chair,) and all the picnic tables have umbrellas to ensure you have a spot to cool off when necessary.

Check out all the work that has been done throughout the nursery, see the new beds, and look for the old piano to have your picture taken with. Of course, there will be wagon tours during the afternoon, so make sure you get in line for your spot on the wagon. And make sure you stop at the Old Red Office to shop for plants and browse the gift shop to see what's new.



Guests shop for potted plants at Honeywood's 2023 Lilies in Bloom event.

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Fallen RCMP officers remembered with BBQ



Rachelle Swan was on hand to paint fun characters on kids' faces.



Cpl. Ed Ricalton of the Spiritwood RCMP and Jason Reddekopp cooked the burgers and hotdogs for a large audience who attended throughout the day's event.



Emcee Cal Arcand hosted the ceremonial portion of the day.



Pow wow dancers formed part of the grand entry to begin the ceremony and demonstration.



Long time local dancer Cheyenne Fineday performs during the Ladies Traditional Dance demonstration.



Drum group Iron Nation provided the soundtrack for cultural dance demonstrations.

Shellbrook Library June activity highlights

By **LORRAINE THIBEAULT**
Assistant Librarian

June was a busy month for activities at the Shellbrook Public Library.

Lego activities included participants aged 5 to 12 making bees, bears, fishing scenes, and turtles, and also engaging in free play.

Storytime, which is tailored for children aged 0 to 5 years, featured the following topics:

- Books about butterflies, a flying butterfly toss, and handprint butterflies made with construction paper.
- Books about dogs with participants singing BINGO and clapping their hands for the song. Participants made dogs out of toilet paper rolls.
- An Indigenous-themed Storytime was led by Hanna, the summer student from Wapiti Regional Headquarters, as the library celebrated National Indigenous Peoples Day. The focus was on First Nations,

Métis and Inuit culture and authors.

- The final Storytime for the month of June was about fish. We read books about fish and played a magnetic fishing game.

Participants joined Hanna from Wapiti Regional Headquarters to build robots by combining smaller robotic cubes called Cubelits. Robotic cars were made and raced. This activity taught kids about programming and logic.

On June 20, Lindsay from Wapiti Regional Headquarters explored the world, science, art, architecture and more as slides were viewed on virtual reality headsets. Eyes were opened to the many wonders of the world.

The library's TD Summer Reading Club (TDSRC) Kickoff took place on Monday, June 24, as children arrived at the library to sign up for this summer's TD Reading Club. Each registrant received a booklet to record the books he/she read or had read to them, some

stickers, a paper craft, and a chance to win prizes throughout the summer. They made rockets to decorate the wall for the "Blast Off" to TD Summer Reading Club and contributed a sentence to the library's popcorn writing story which begins, "One spooky night at the Shellbrook Library..." Drop in to read how the story has developed and to check out the rocket wall.

To celebrate National Indigenous Peoples Day, participants painted feathers in the style of Lucille Scott, a local Métis artist. In a self-directed feather painting session, patrons used acrylic paints to design themes of their choice. Information about Métis artist Leah Dorion of Prince Albert, along with some of her books, and Lucille Scott of Debden, along with actual feathers painted by Lucille, were available at the library. Sample feathers and art books were used to inspire ideas. The remaining prepared feathers were supplied to Parkland Integrated Health Centre for elders to paint on their own time.



Aurora showcases her Lego forest and fishing pond.



Adults took part in a VR session at the Shellbrook Library and got to see the world.



In recognition of National Indigenous Peoples Day, the library hosted a self-directed feather painting session.

Climate change raises questions on prairies

Whether this comes as a surprise to anyone who pauses to consider the situation or not, Western Canada is becoming a generally warmer place.

A recent article at www.producer.com, citing a researcher with Environment and Climate Change Canada, notes the region is “now warmer than it was in the 1950s, and that trend is expected to continue.”

The article goes on to state “since the late 1940s, the growing season on the Prairies and British Columbia has lengthened by 15 to 30 days. A lot depends on location, but it seems like British Columbia and Al-

berta are getting warmer — and faster — than Manitoba and Saskatchewan.”

Then, turning to the source, the extent of the trend is quantified.

“On the Prairies, it’s looking like 15 to 20 days (longer),” said Barrie Bonsal, who studies climate impacts on water availability. “In B.C., it’s showing 30 to 35 days longer.”

If you needed more evidence of climate change, you may simply not want to believe the reality of the situation.

The ‘why’ climate change is happening might be something of greater debate than the



CALVIN DANIELS

‘if’ it is actually happening.

The history of man evolving into existence on this planet is a relatively recent thing in comparison to the age of Earth, and obviously the fact that past ice ages occurred suggests climate does change — and it wasn’t human activi-

ty that caused the ice to spread.

That said, considering how generally destructive human activity has been to the planet, from plastics in oceans, to deforestation, to urban sprawl, to the threat to pollinators, it would be folly to think we are not part of the cause of climate change.

And to be clear, I’m not suggesting it’s cows when the skies are a maze of chemical spewing airplanes. It’s humans impacting things.

But is it all bad?

Is a longer growing season a bad thing for Prai-

rie farmers?

On the surface, of course not.

As farms get larger it requires more time to plant and harvest, so an extended growing season is something of a boon.

The longer season also paves the way to a wider range of crops.

We have seen the region to successfully grow soybeans here broaden, and a longer growing season with potentially more hot days will do the same for corn.

It is not a bad thing to diversify the cropping options producers have.

But there is a caveat,

too.

If the growing season has been lengthening for decades, it is something that can be termed a trend, and if that trend continues there are huge concerns.

Does it become too hot, or too dry, or introduce new weeds, pests, and diseases producers will need to adapt to? And will science keep pace with developments to help farmers adapt?

It is such questions that make the impact of climate change top the priority list, and the answers will determine how best to move forward.

Sask. introduces new animal production regulations

The Saskatchewan livestock sector is now supported through The New Animal Production Act. The new Act governs animal production in Saskatchewan including domestic game farming, fur farming, wild boar farming (new addition), domestic meat inspection, milk compositional standards, livestock inspection and transportation, animal identifiers, premises identification, stray animals (livestock specific), animal keeper’s liens, and livestock dealer licensing.

“These changes are a positive step toward modernizing and streamlining regulatory processes for our producers,” Agriculture Minister David Marit said in a statement. “Removing barriers helps this sector continue to grow and thrive.”

Areas of interest for the livestock sector include requirements for stray livestock, newly added wild boar farm requirements and new transportation and inspection standards. Specifically, a requirement for all wild boar farms to be licensed and inspected along with a moratorium on new wild boar farms.

“Sask Pork is pleased to see the province’s commitment to regulate wild boar farms,” Sask Pork Chair Toby Tschetter said in a statement. “The new oversight of these operations will position the province and the pork industry to better respond to wild boar escapes and potential animal disease outbreaks.”

The ministry has updated stray ani-

mal requirements to provide rural municipalities with more flexibility to address stray animals in their area.

Other changes include clearer requirements for livestock inspection and transportation standards. Additionally, when transporting animals, they must be accompanied with documentation that specifies the premises identification numbers for the animal’s point of origin and destination.

This modernized legislation consolidates four existing Acts related to animal production into one Act and reduces 10 sets of regulations into a single set. This change reduces red tape and simplifies the legislation.

“The updated regulations, focused on clarity and congruency, will allow LSS to communicate more clearly with its stakeholders as well as guide our support and enforcement services to the industry in a more straightforward manner,” Livestock Services of Saskatchewan CEO Jason Pollock said in a statement.

For a full list of amalgamated, updated and repealed legislation, please visit: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/business/agriculture-natural-resources-and-industry/agriculture-business-farmers-and-ranchers/programs-and-services/regulations-and-guidance/the-animal-production-act-and-the-animal-production-regulations>.

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. Summer Hours: Tuesday 9:30am - 4pm; Wednesday 9:30am - 4pm; Phone: 306-468-2501

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.

SHELLBROOK: Fill The Pool Campaign – July 1 to August 23. All donations up to: \$30,000 will be matched by an anonymous donor. To donate: parklandpool-project.ca, 306-747-7331, Box 402 Shellbrook, SK S0J 2E0. Join us at the Party in the Park on August 23, 2024!

PARKSIDE: Parkside & District Community Club – Demolition Derby – Saturday July 27, 2024. To enter derby, phone Derek Olson 306-747-9114 or 306-747-2000. Over \$11,000 in prize money! Barrel Races start @ 1pm, Derby starts @ 3pm. Mixed Slo-Pitch Tourney, Friday Evening & Saturday, July 26 & 27. Dance Saturday Night feat. Live DJ from 9pm to 2am (must be 19 yrs, ID required). Gate Admission: \$10; 6-12 yrs \$5; Under 6 Free; Dance \$10. See Facebook page for full details: facebook.com/ParksideDemolitionDerby

PARKSIDE: ‘LILIES IN BLOOM’ Honeywood (Dr. A. J. Porter) Heritage Nursery Inc. Provincial Heritage Site Parkside, Sask. July 21st, 11am - 4pm. Enjoy musical entertainment, Great artisan displays, Tours, Food, Refreshments, Potted lilies, perennials & trees! \$5.00/person, Children 10 and under free. Ph: 306-747-3307 or honeywoodn8@gmail.com Facebook @ Honeywood Heritage Nursery Inc

LEASK, MARCELIN, ALDINA and HAFFORD: 12-40 and Beyond Self-Guided Art Tour – July 27 & 28, 2024, 10am to 6pm. Visit artists showcasing their work: original paintings, prints, art cards, silk screened scarves, wooden treasures, stained glass, leatherwork and much more. Demonstration in blacksmithing. For more info contact 306-852-9139 or visit our website: www.12-40andbeyond.com or www.facebook.com/1240andbeyond

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Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald



Trotz and the Predators go on spending 'frenzy'

The Sports Network calls July 1 'Free Agent Frenzy' and the label definitely applied this year as about \$1 billion in contracts were finalized with National Hockey League players who officially became free agents when their contracts expired at midnight, June 30.

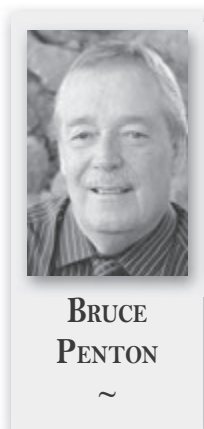
And the biggest spenders of all were the Nashville Predators, whose new general manager, Barry Trotz, grew up in Dauphin, Man., so he knows the value of a good plate of perogies, the best kielbasa and a centreman with 16 years' NHL experience and 555 goals.

That would be Steven Stamkos, the most prominent name to switch teams during Free Agent Frenzy, coming to terms with Nashville for four years and \$32 million. Stamkos was the No. 1 overall draft pick in 2008 by the Tampa Bay Lightning after scoring 100 goals in two seasons with Sarnia Sting, and the Toronto native kept up the goal-scoring pace when he joined Tampa

Bay, scoring 23 goals as a rookie and putting up seven 40-plus goal seasons, including a 60-goal campaign in 2011-12.

But if Stamkos was the main course for Trotz and the financial gurus who run the show in Nashville, the appetizers weren't too bad, either. Jonathan Marchessault, who had six 25-plus goal seasons with Vegas Golden Knights and won the Conn Smythe trophy in 2023 when he led Vegas to the Stanley Cup, signed on with the Predators for five years and \$27.5 million. And defenceman Brady Skjei, formerly of Carolina, signed a seven-year contract for \$49 million.

It's obvious Trotz wants his team to make a run at the Stanley Cup next year. One of the league's best goalies, Juuse Saris, is a Predator, and he signed a contract extension covering the next eight years, for \$61 million. One of the NHL's best defencemen, Roman Josi, is under contract, and the Preds' offence was more than respectable to begin



BRUCE PENTON

with, thanks to the likes of Filip Forsberg, Ryan O'Reilly, Tommy Novak and Gustav Nyquist. Adding Stamkos and Marchessault to that lineup almost guarantees a huge increase in firepower.

"It's a statement, I think, for the rest of the league," Trotz told the Nashville Tennessean. "That these players will come to Nashville. These players see what we're doing with our franchise. We have lots to offer, and we're very determined to win."

While the Preds made a huge free agent splash, a number of other teams made statements, too. The Leafs, for instance,

bolstered their blue-line with the signings of Chris Tanev and Oliver Ekman-Larsen. Edmonton added high-scoring Viktor Arvidsson and Jeff Skinner. Tampa Bay backfilled the loss of Stamkos by signing Jake Guentzel. Jake DeBrusk moved from Boston to Vancouver.

But the Predators made the biggest splash of all and, basically, Trotz's future employment depends on the success of the newest team members. In all, the Predators spent \$111 million on free agents and extensions and while that might not necessarily buy a Stanley Cup, it would certainly pay for a lot of kielbasa.

• **Headline at fark.com:** "Just like Crazy Eddie's prices, French Olympic officials say scheduled water events will be in Seine."

• **Globe and mail columnist Cathal Kelly,** on new Utah defenceman Mikhail Sergachev: "Come the playoffs, he is a 6-foot-3 pair of elbows in search of skulls to soften."

• **Super 70s Sports:** "You know you're dining at a quality restaurant when (NFL kicker) Tom Dempsey's helmet and shoe and a candle are dangling above your table. This is apparently the marriage proposal booth."

• **Bob Molinario of pilot online.com (Hampton, Va.):** "Does the USA soccer defeat (to Uruguay) sting any worse because Uruguay's population of 3.4 million is dwarfed by our 340 million? It shouldn't. All they've got in Uruguay is soccer. We've got pickleball, y'all."

• **Headline from the onion.com:** "Caitlin Clark brushes off 23 stab wounds from own teammates."

• **Mike Bianchi of the Orlando Sentinel:** "NASCAR insider Buddy Pittman just told me Orlando-based injury law firm Morgan & Morgan has signed a multi-year sponsorship deal with NASCAR's Richard Childress Racing. Wow, I'd hate to be the driver who wrecks one of Morgan & Morgan's cars because you know you're getting sued!"

• **Another onion.com headline:** "Rafael Nadal withdraws from Wimbledon to spend more time pressing tennis racket against face to make waffle marks."

• **Headline at fark.com:** "After rigorous scientific study conducted over long period of time, sports geneticist Skip Bayless concludes Bronny James has bigger clutch gene than his dad."

• **fark.com headline after Jayson Tatum signed the largest NBA contract in history, \$314 million for five years:** "Jason Tatum will get paid \$265.92 per second of game time for five seasons starting in fall 2025."

• **Steve Simmons of the Toronto Sun:** "In free agency on July 1, ESPN should have gone out and got itself a No. 1 hockey announcer. Sean McDonough, excellent at bringing you baseball, basketball or football doesn't have the right cadence for hockey. He's nowhere near a Doc Emrick or a Bob Cole."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Community Initiative Fund supports local programs

By JORDAN TWISS

Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) announced the recipients of 416 grants totalling \$5,300,476 on Friday, July 12, with the communities of Big River, Blaine Lake, Canwood, Leask, and Marcelin, and their surrounding areas, among those receiving money.

"The CIF supports a wide range of organizations, programs, people and communities in all regions of the province," Community Initiatives Fund Executive Director Tracey Mann said in a statement. "The creativity and resilience of these organizations and communities strengthen our province and CIF is proud to provide its support."

The CIF's grants are provided for an array of purposes, including programs that contribute to the wellbeing of children and youth,

families and communities, and summer camps and day programs offering positive recreation, arts, culture, and learning opportunities.

CIF funding also helps non-profit organizations enhance their program delivery, governance and leadership capacities and to engage individuals as volunteers. Additionally, as part of the \$5,300,476 awarded, The Canadian Mental Health Association's Saskatchewan Division will receive \$1,187,000 over two years to support its Gambling Awareness Program.

"These grants strengthen important community programs and support healthy lifestyles and inclusive communities. Our government is proud to support the CIF's important work by investing \$8.5 million from casino revenues to the grant program in 2024-25," Parks, Culture, and Sport Minister Laura Ross said in a statement.

In Big River, the FiddlyNess Summer Camp received a \$5,000 grant, while the Saskatchewan 4-H Council's summer camp was awarded \$6,000, the Town of Big River received \$3,800 for its summer day camp, and the Wild Sky Adventure Learning Forest Kids Camp (part of the Northern Lights Bluegrass and Old Time Music Festival and Music Camp at Ness Creek) was awarded \$5,350.

Elsewhere, the Blaine Lake Community Fundraising Association's Playschool Program received a grant totaling \$6,750, the Village of Canwood's Summer Youth Program was awarded \$6,000, and the Marcelin Public Library received a \$6,000 grant for its summer camp.

Closing out the grant recipients, Leask Community School's Nutrition Program was awarded an \$8,000 grant, and Emerald Lake Regional Park's summer camp received \$6,000.

Spiritwood Library hosts Lego Challenge



The Spiritwood Public Library was full of strange creatures and emoji faces on June 26 at 3:30 p.m. Lego Club Masters received their challenges, and the creations were outstanding. They could either make an emoji (using any colour) or a strange creature. Most of them did both challenges.

By HEATHER GATZKE, Librarian

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Sask. issues provincial fire ban

Due to hot, dry conditions, high fire activity and a high fire risk that covers most of Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency (SPSA) has issued a provincial fire ban for Crown lands and provincial parks, provincial recreation sites and the Northern Saskatchewan Administration District effective at noon on July 11, 2024.

The ban, which covers any open fires, controlled burns, and fireworks, also includes all land within 4.5 km of the provincial forest boundary.

"We are making the decision to implement a fire ban to protect lives, communities, major infrastructure and resources from wild-fire," SPSA Vice-President of Operations Steve Roberts said in a statement. "We are asking the public to take extreme caution to prevent wildfires during this time. This includes being cautious using all-terrain vehicles and to report a fire if they see a fire."

The SPSA encourages all other municipalities, rural municipalities and communities to examine the

fire risk in their area and to consider implementing consistent fire bans to prevent unwanted human-caused wildfires. In Saskatchewan, nearly half of the wildfires in the province are caused by human activity and usually start in accessible areas near communities and roads.

As of 8 a.m., there are 73 wildfires burning in the province. To date, Saskatchewan has had 302 wildfires, which is 91 more than the five-year average of 211.

Anyone who spots a wildfire can call 1-800-667-9660, dial 9-1-1 or contact their closest SPSA Forest Protection Area office.

People can find the latest fire risk maps, fire prevention tips and an interactive fire ban map at saskpublicsafety.ca.

Established in 2017, the SPSA is a treasury board crown corporation responsible for wildfire management, emergency management, Sask911, SaskAlert, the Civic Addressing Registry, the Provincial Disaster Assistance Program and fire safety.

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
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

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

ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

Minister's Warden:
306-922-5159
H.C. Service with Rev.
Butorac - 2nd Sunday of the
month

EVANGELICAL FREE

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

PRESBYTERIAN

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

CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

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

PRAISE & WORSHIP

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

PARTNERS IN FAITH

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

UNITED /ANGLICAN

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

CATHOLIC SUNDAY

Spiritwood - 9:00 a.m.
Leoville - 11:00 a.m.
Chitec Lake - 1:00 p.m.
SATURDAY
Medstead - 6:00 p.m.
Shell Lake - 8:00 p.m.
Everyone Welcome
Fr. Ramel Macapala

COWBOY CHURCH

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

FIELDS OF HOPE (HOFFNUNGSFELDER) MENNONITE CHURCH

Glenbush
Worship - 10:00 am
1st Sun. (June, July, Aug.)
Worship - 10:00 am
at Rabbit Lake
Mennonite Church

BETHEL

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

BELBUTTE FULL GOSPEL

11 am Worship Service

MENNONITE BRETHREN

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

Gideons International of Canada

Battlefords Camp
Phone Art Martynes
(306) 389-4633

PARTNERS IN WORSHIP

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

LAKELAND

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

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OBITUARIES

Ruth Mae Bold



BOLD – Ruth Mae

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Ruth Mae Bold (née Martin), at the age of 92.

Ruth Mae Bold was born on October 22, 1931, in the Yankee Valley district, the middle child of a family of 5. Her and her siblings grew up with their parents, Albert and Mary (McDowall) Martin on the family farm. Days were spent tending to the many chores around the farm and attending school at the small country school.

Ruth enjoyed her

childhood on the farm, helping with the various animals, picking berries and wild fruit and tending to the large garden. Sunday afternoons were for making homemade ice cream with the old hand-turned ice cream maker, a favourite treat for all the Martin clan.

After her school days were done, Ruth took up the vocation of switchboard operator, working over the years in the Shellbrook, Leask and Marcelin offices. It was during this time that she met one John Bold, who presumably swept her off her feet, and on June 29th, 1962, they were married.

Ruth joined John on his farm near Blaine Lake, where they lived during the farming season, while winters were spent in their home in Saskatoon. Life on the farm during the summer would best be described as rustic, as the small house they had there lacked both running wa-

ter and electricity. Despite these drawbacks, Ruth always had ample and delicious meals at the ready for both themselves and any company that might happen along, as well as tending to chickens, geese, and a garden that could only be described as enormous. Ruth's skills in the kitchen were unmatched, and John often said that Ruth's cooking was why he was so big. Of course, such a large garden produced large amounts of produce, which Ruth would skillfully preserve, quite a task without running water.

But Ruth loved the farm, and nary a word of complaint was ever heard from her. Her devotion to John and the farm ran deep, and when there was work to be done or company to feed, Ruth quietly got on with the task at hand. Visits to the farm were always a delight for us nieces and nephews, and Ruth always had a smile and

kind words for us, as well as seeming endless baking.

Ruth was a quiet lady, preferring to stay in the background, especially around larger groups of people. But with those she knew well, Ruth was an absolute delight who loved a good visit and who had an amazing sense of humor. The more you got to know her, the more she would open up to you and visiting with her was always a heartwarming experience.

Ruth was also a very loyal partner to John and would always accept whatever John decided without question. Her love for and trust in John ran deep. In her later years after John's passing, she would still be concerned with what John would have wanted when decisions needed to be made. Adjusting to life without John was difficult, but she persevered and made a life in Saskatoon for many

years, enjoying visits from family, trips to the mall with friends and especially a little bingo.

Ruth was rarely seen without a smile on her face and was always far more concerned with how others were doing rather than herself. If someone needed help, there was simply no question about it, Ruth would do whatever she could for them. Even in her final years at the care facility in Shellbrook, she would always want to offer visitors a coffee and a snack. She always kept her sense of humor as well, and when the mood was right, she would delight the staff with a put-on English accent, something we family had never heard. She loved to reminisce about the old days and visiting her was always a delight.

Ruth is lovingly remembered by her numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Ruth was predeceased by her husband John

Bold; her parents Albert and Mary Martin; her brother and sister-in-law Ken and Mary Martin; her sister and brother-in-law Rineald and Norma Wall; her sister and brother-in-law Alex and Edna Galambus; her brother Gordon Martin; and her niece Laurie Gail Martin.

There was a Graveside Service held for Ruth on Wednesday, July 17, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. from the Leask Cemetery with Rev. Emmanuel Aristide officiating. In lieu of tributes, memorial donations may be made in memory of Ruth to the Shellbrook & Districts Health Services Foundation "House C". 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, Lori Saam, Funeral Director, Leask, SK 306-466-4822.

Irene "Rene" Ellen Neurauter



Irene "Rene" Ellen Neurauter

November 16, 1934 – July 7, 2024

Rene passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family at the age of 89. She will be lovingly remembered by her husband Ray of 71 years. Her children Larry (Pat), Bev (Lyle), Russel, Lynn (Darryl). Her grandchildren Jamie, Leslie, Donald, Bradley, Shaun, Chad, Jordan, Fallon, Brittany, Craig, Darryl, and Emma. Along with her 14 great grandchildren.

Rene always made time for her family and friends. Her greatest pleasure after family and friends was her yard full of flowers. She was greatly involved in the Spiritwood horticultural show for many years.

She loved her job as an LPN at the Spiritwood & District Long Term Care (training many of those who would later care for her in her later years) and then volunteering many hours at NU2U in her retirement.

She was predeceased by her parents, her infant brother Arthur, her sister Lottie, her twin brothers William & Henry, and her daughter-in-law Sandra.

The family would like to extend a huge thank you to the health care workers for their compassionate care they have provided over the last 6 years. We are truly thankful for all you have done.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Idylwild Lodge Auxiliary Inc. C/O Linda Pauls Box 641 Spiritwood, SK S0J2M0

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 and Crematorium, Mark Muir Funeral Director, Spiritwood, SK 306-883-3500.

GOOD NEWS

EARTH IS NOT INHABITABLE BY 'CHANCE'

By RANDALL MCLEOD
Immanuel Lutheran, Parkside

Ok, now we have a universe, but what about a planet suitable for life, one that has all the precise requirements for life to exist, what does that require? Back in the 1980s, astronomer Carl Sagan noted that in our galaxy alone there could be anywhere from "a pitiful few to millions" of intelligent civilizations. What have we learned since then?

Well, it turns out that our planet is particularly gifted to support life. We are the "Goldilocks Planet." It used to be thought that precious little was needed to support life but, as it turns out, that is not true. A large number of factors are necessary, and those include: A star (our sun) just the right temperature, stability, and distance away is critical. The precise tilt of earth on its axis, the correct atmosphere, including the precise mix of gases that we have (including that minute portion of CO₂). Just the right land and water proportions. Those gas Giant planets that are sized and positioned, just so, to protect us from stray comets and meteors. A moon just the right size and distance from us. The exact magnetic field that we have, to name a few.

The probabilities of finding all these things together are astronomically low, and so far, no similar planet has ever been found. Not even one. In all the stars that we have assessed, not one. That's why we are called the Goldilocks planet, because everything is "Just Right".

Beyond that, the SETI project (Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence) has not turned up any signs whatsoever of any alien life out there. Again, none, nada, nyet, zip, zilch. We really do seem to be alone in the physical universe. The metaphysical, where God dwells, is another matter all together.

For more rationale about the necessity of our uniqueness, all we have to do is look to our nearest neighbours, Venus and Mars. Same solar system advantages, same geological age as us, but too near and too far from the sun, so, no life. The Goldilocks conditions all have to be met.

In closing, the fine tuning necessary for a universe to exist is also required for life to exist at any location in that universe. We have a "fine-tuned" universe

and a "fine-tuned planet", all of which had to be programmed into the system from the onset. No material alien lifeforms appear to exist to generate, or interface with, life on this planet. And consider this... If there has not been enough time (in 18.5 billion years) for life to "evolve" here, neither has there enough time for it to evolve anywhere else, let alone for it to learn to travel from there to here.

As (multiple award winning) astronomer Sir Fred Hoyle stated so succinctly: "A commonsense interpretation of the facts seems to suggest that a superintellect has monkeyed with physics, as well as with chemistry and biology, and that there are no blind forces worth speaking about in nature."

Going forward I will be on mission in Peru from July 24 to Aug. 9 so I may not be able to contribute, or maybe I will have an opportunity to send a report. We shall see.

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