

Spiritwood Herald



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SHS curlers: on to next level



Spiritwood High Senior Girls, headed to Meadow Lake for Regionals March 1-2: Jason Reddekopp (coach), Aleah Beaulac (skip), Payge Galambos (third), Jaida Jones (second), Amber Simonar (lead), and Brad Nemish (coach).

All three senior curling teams from Spiritwood High School have taken the first step towards bringing home more Provincial jewelry by capturing berths in the North West Regional playdowns. The Girls and Mixed teams earned their spots by posting undefeated records at the Battle West District playdowns held in Unity last week.

The boys had a bit rockier road to travel, but they pulled it off and will therefore be one of Battle West's two representatives at Regionals, which will take place in Meadow Lake

March 1 and 2.

The boys were locked in a tough struggle in the "A" Final after winning their first two games, eventually losing in an extra end. That knocked them to the "B" side, where they were again engaged in an extra-end nail-biter. This time, though, they prevailed, and as a result will join their girls and mixed teammates for the competition in Meadow Lake.

The girls event in Meadow Lake will also feature the team from Medstead Central School, who won the silver medals at Districts.

Spiritwood curlers have achieved some success at the provincial level in the past few years. The Senior Boys have struck silver two years in a row, while the Senior Mixed team brought home bronze last year.

While the boys' team contains no holdovers from the silver medal winning teams, they are aware of the tradition of success and will be giving it their all. This year's crew consists of Kyle Brewer, Karstin Booth, Colton Balaszi and Tyson Knot. The four are Grade 10 students, with two more years of eligibility remaining.

The mixed team, on the other hand, has three of the four bronze-medal winners. Dalton Wasden, Emma Beaulac and Jordan Tuttroen are the returnees, with Olivia Parker joining the team in the lead position. Last year's lead was Payge Galambos, who is now with the Senior Girls team with Aleah McNabb, Amber Simonar and Jaida Jones.

The Medstead girls who will be joining them in Meadow Lake are Sarah Bargaen, Ryann Short, Jaelyn Kroeker and Emily Gatzke.

More photos on page 2

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SHS curlers: on to next level



Medstead Senior Girls, headed to Regionals after winning silver at the District Playdowns in Unity Feb. 12-13. Sarah Bargaen (lead), Ryann Short (third), Jaelyn Kroeker (skip), and Emily Gatzke (second).



Spiritwood High Senior Mixed, hoping to bring home another medal from Provincials, will take part in Regionals March 1 and 2 in Meadow Lake. Jason Reddekopp (coach), Dalton Wasden (skip), Emma Beaulac (third), Jordan Tuttroen (second), Olivia Parker (lead), and Brad Nemish (coach).



Spiritwood Senior Boys are off to Regionals. Jason Reddekopp (coach), Tyson Knot, Colton Balaszi, Karstin Booth, Kyle Brewer, and Brad Nemish (coach).

Worried about rising interest rates affecting your mortgage?

(NC) With the Bank of Canada recently raising its key interest rate once again, many of are concerned about the impact on our household debt and mortgages. Fortunately, there are many tips and tricks for saving and budgeting you can use for other areas in your life.

Try the three-category budget. It can be overwhelming trying to track all your expenses, but it is advisable to have a baseline to check your progress. Money experts recommend picking just three categories you want to focus on, since most of us overspend in just one or two categories. The three-category system is an easy way to get started on trimming expenses.

Pay down high-interest debt. One in three of us sometimes buy things we can't afford. If you've put a few too many purchases on your credit cards, a big portion of your monthly payment are going just towards paying down debt. To get out ahead, consider moving the debt to a low-interest option, like a line of credit. When paying off any debt, prioritize the higher-interest loans you have and work your way down.

Boost your education. If you don't know much about personal finances, you're not alone. A recent survey by the Chartered Professional Ac-

countants of Canada revealed 49 per cent of Canadians grade themselves C or lower on their overall personal financial skills. But it's hard to get your budget on track when you don't have the right tools or knowledge. Do some research and work with an expert like a chartered professional accountant to get a better handle on your income and expenses.

Work together. If you're married or are splitting expenses with a relative, you need to be on the same page about spending and savings goals. So, sit down to outline your priorities together and create a realistic budget you both feel comfortable with and can stick to. You can even try an online budgeting tool or app to help you both track and understand expenses.

Find more information and resources to get on a path of long-term financial health at cpacanada.ca/financialwellness and also request a free educational session for any organization you're part of.



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Rally seeks accountability from ACTC

About two dozen members of the three First Nations making up the Agency Chiefs Tribal Council (ACTC) staged a rally Friday, Feb. 15, calling on “transparency and accountability in the ACTC.”

“There are rumors and allegations of terminations,” said Sylvia McAdam, a spokesperson for the group and one of the organizers of the rally, “and we aren’t being told anything.”

The concern is, according to McAdam, that programs and services aren’t being delivered due to termination of staff. Another concern is that the ACTC Building has been closed and inaccessible to people for much of the past few weeks.

“I don’t believe it’s a coincidence that the building is closed and we’re hearing people have been terminated,” she said.

“We’re calling for INAC to do its due diligence for our communities,” said Marlene Thomas, co-organizer of the rally. “The money that comes in to the Tribal Council is for every community and every band member, and we are asking for financial transparency.”

“We want to know what’s going on,” she said. “We want our leadership to do what they are required to do.”

“From what I understand,” said

McAdam, “there are people who have been terminated and for the past couple of weeks the building has been not available to band members, and we want to know why.”

“Why are we not getting answers, and why can’t we get into a building where programs and services are provided to band members? As a band member of Big River First Nation, I want to know what’s going on. According to the Contribution Agreement, it says band members have a right to know. The three chiefs and the Board members have to answer to our questions.”

“None of us should have to be doing this.”

Chief Anne Thomas of the Witchekan Lake First Nation was invited to speak.

“I can’t make any comments regarding the alleged allegations,” she said. “I am a Board member. I am Chief of Witchekan Lake First Nation, however I will always support accountability.”

“I have a fiduciary obligation as a Board member and as Chief of Witchekan Lake First Nation.”

“I was brought up holding morals and values of truth,” she said. “At times, the truth can be hurtful. At times the truth may even

seem destructive. But I gotta honor the three chiefs that had a vision for this tribal Council. I’m pretty sure their vision isn’t what’s happening here today.”

“But,” she added, “I am here to also support the grassroots people because if they need answers, we owe it to them.”



Rally participants held signs calling for accountability and transparency in the ACTC.



Sylvia McAdam of Big River First Nation and Marlene Thomas of Witchekan Lake First Nation, were organizers of the rally, “Why are we not getting answers, and why can’t we get into a building where programs and services are provided to band members?”



Chief Anne Thomas of Witchekan Lake First Nation, “I am here to also support the grassroots people because if they need answers, we owe it to them.”



Junior Citizen of the Year Scholarship

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

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“The CRA...”

“This call is to inform you that the Canada Revenue Agency is filing a lawsuit against you as you have failed to respond to legal notices that have been sent to you by the Canada Revenue Agency. To get more information on your case file, call back immediately on our department number ...”

They gave me the number to call, and using my “Reverse Lookup” app on my phone, I discovered that the number came from Ottawa-Hull, which, on first blush, seems legit as Ottawa-Hull is a realistic place where one might find the CRA.

Naturally, I didn’t call the number. Had I done so, they would have been asking me for such savory details as my Social Insurance Number and who knows what else, all designed to fleece me.

We’ve had warning after warning about fraudulent calls from people whose goal it is to separate us from some of our money. How much? As much as they can get, apparently. But the warnings have been so frequent that it’s hard to believe anyone with a pulse would fall for such a scam.

Yet, it happens, all too frequently, and it remains a profitable enough activity for the charlatans who prey on ordinary people that it keeps on going.

Take this to the bank: the CRA is not going to call anyone and threaten them with arrest if a certain amount of money isn’t sent to them immediately, not in cash, but in iTunes cards or Bitcoin.

The temptation is to say to these people “I don’t know what third-world country you’re calling from, but this is Canada and the police don’t come banging on your door to haul you off to jail if you owe money on your taxes.”

I am currently trying to log in to MyCRA, which is their version of online connection, however, I am temporarily locked out of my account because they sent me a code in April of last year and, silly me, I don’t remember what I might have done with that code.

It’s all well and fine, anyway, as the CRA is one of those agencies where you know things are going alright if you never hear from them.

**

Minor hockey playoffs are underway, and the younger fry sure put up some entertaining action. Now that the weather is warming up a bit after that long, cold bit we’ve had, you could get yourself down to the rink to catch that action.

The Glaslyn-Spiritwood Midgets are set to take on Hague in the first round of Provincial Playoffs, with Game One of the series taking place in either Glaslyn or Spiritwood, depending on the weather, on Feb. 23. Stay tuned.

**

There’s a measles outbreak in Vancouver, with eight confirmed cases. Eight in a population of, what, two million, doesn’t sound like an epidemic or cause for alarm, but all eight are among students at three different schools in the city.

The father said that he and his then-wife chose not to vaccinate their kids because of concerns that vaccination led to autism. He said he realizes now that those concerns have been debunked and there is no link.

**

Here’s what’s making news on Yahoo!: Toronto is expecting ten centimetres of snow, caused by a low pressure system passing over the area.

I wonder if they’ll call out the army to help with the fallout.

In the meantime, Quebec has been hit with an outrageous storm, and parts of California have been undergoing torrential rains causing severe flooding. Videos taken from the Palm Springs area show highways washed out and people stranded.

I guess we can take a little bit of cold.



SNC scandal unearths more broken promises

Sometime ago, I mused at length about the dearth of options that Canadian voters will have when they head to the polls for the upcoming federal election this fall.

At that time, I contended that the electoral contest was Justin Trudeau’s to lose. And nearly six months later, with election day fast approaching, little has changed in the landscape of federal politics, and Mr. Trudeau’s Liberal Party remains the party to beat.

Mr. Scheer is making more appearances in the media, but he hasn’t proven himself to have much of a personality, and has done almost nothing to endear himself to Canadian voters.

Mr. Singh, meanwhile, hurts his party’s already dismal chances every time he opens his mouth. With each appearance, he demonstrates just how disconnected he is from the views of his own party – and the majority of Canadians – and just how shallow his understanding of the issues is.

Needless to say, this doesn’t bode well for Mr. Singh’s chances of winning in the upcoming byelection in the hotly contested Burnaby-South riding – a riding the NDP won by just 500 votes in the 2015 federal election. And Mr. Singh’s recent proclamation that he will stay on as party leader, even in defeat, is unlikely to do him or the NDP any favours.

So just what has changed over these past six months?

Well, for one, Mr. Trudeau and his fellow Liberals seem to be doing everything in their power to prove that they’re up to the challenge of losing the election for themselves.

We’re now more than three years removed from Mr. Trudeau’s proclamations of “Sunny ways”, and his infamous “Because it’s 2015” rationalization for appointing a gender-balanced cabinet.

But based on what’s transpired over these three-plus years, Canadians could be forgiven for believing that those words were uttered by someone else, because the reality of Mr. Trudeau’s governance looks nothing like what was promised.

By now, Canada should be a country united, possessing a singular vision on important matters such as healthcare, the environment, and the economy.

Instead, Canadians have a nation that has been divided along innumerable fault lines by a government whose “Sunny ways” approach to policy making could more aptly be described as “Sunny, so long as you do things my way.”

Canadians also have a mile-long list of broken promises, starting with Mr. Trudeau’s decision to abandon electoral reform upon realizing that the system worked well enough to get him elected.



JORDAN TWISS

~
Columnist

More recently, and more damning, revelations in the pages of the *Globe and Mail* informed Canadians that Mr. Trudeau had also broken a vow to end the detested and undemocratic (Mr. Trudeau’s own word from 2013) practice of using omnibus bills.

What’s more, Mr. Trudeau broke the promise to shield Québec-based engineering firm SNC-Lavalin – a financial supporter of the Liberals, sometimes through less legal means than others – from a bevy of fraud and corruption charges, and a potential 10-year ban on bidding on federal contracts.

The broken promise, hidden away in the Budget Implementation Act in 2018, saw Mr. Trudeau’s government introduce deferred prosecutions agreements (DPA) to Canada. (Used in other countries, DPAs are essentially plea deals for naughty corporations that allow them pay hefty fines rather than go to court.

The idea behind DPAs is to prevent major companies from going under, thereby protecting jobs and the economy.)

That Mr. Trudeau’s government did this is part of the public record. But from here, things get incredibly murky for a government that also promised to be more open and transparent, and one can only speculate.

Currently, the common narrative is that now ex-Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould was pressured to pursue a DPA for SNC-Lavalin and refused. This refusal resulted in her “demotion” to the veterans affairs portfolio, and her eventual resignation from cabinet last week.

That Mr. Trudeau’s government has tried to limit a probe into the sordid SNC-Lavalin affair is telling.

More telling, still, is the commentary from Ms. Wilson-Raybould’s own colleagues, who have referred to her in the days since her resignation as “difficult to work with, flighty and self-centred”. Then, we also have comments from Mr. Trudeau himself, blaming her for not voicing her concerns about the SNC-Lavalin matter.

It all harkens back to a day when “uppity” was the racial epithet used to vilify black people who weren’t content with the status quo.

But because Ms. Wilson-Raybould is both Indigenous and a woman, and because Mr. Trudeau’s government claims to be committed to truth and reconciliation and gender equality, it plays even worse.

If there’s any justice, this scandal won’t be swept under the rug by Mr. Trudeau’s thinly-veiled smear campaign. And it might just destroy his government’s chances of earning a second mandate.

Meili's push for clean donations should begin at home

New Democratic Opposition leader Ryan Meili is dead on: It's high time Saskatchewan cleaned up the rules allowing unlimited donations from businesses and unions.

But there are a couple of big problems with the way Meili is making his case.

First, it's never been just a Saskatchewan Party problem. It's a long-standing political systemic problem that his NDP predecessors could have, and should have, dealt with when they were in government.

Second, if change is to happen, Meili and the NDP should stick to their knitting and focus on big problems right here in Saskatchewan. That the NDP seems more interested in trying to make this issue about far-away big international companies like SNC-Lavalin rather

than businesses and unions right here in Saskatchewan is suspicious.

That said, Meili likely has bipartisan support for what he is generally proposing. Having witnessed for decades, the problems with those with the bucks controlling political parties, there is a sense that people are a more than little fed up.

It's high time we saw change. The problem right now is business influence on the Sask. Party, but that doesn't mean that this has always been the only problem.

Past NDP governments passed laws and policies like the Crown Construction Tendering Agreement in which private, non-unionized construction companies had to pay union-scale wages to bid on government contracts. There was also



MURRAY
MANDRYK

the most-available hours policy in which private companies were forced to give available hours to the most senior part-time worker – whether that worker was the best choice or the person most suited for the task.

All this was done at a time when union donations to the NDP were rampant.

Yet certain developers and businessmen looking for government money or

support could also be found parked in NDP ministers' offices.

Of course, Meili argues things will be different if he is premier and, to his credit, did not take union or corporate donations during his successful NDP leadership bid.

That said, it's more than a little curious that he would go after SNC-Lavalin (who doesn't donate much here and has donated to all parties) and not local businesses.

Last week, Meili took a run at the giant Quebec engineering company that, admittedly, has a very bad reputation for exercising undue political influence on the national and international scene.

It is alleged that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's office tried to apply undue

pressure on former federal justice minister Jody Wilson-Raybould to help SNC-Lavalin avoid federal criminal prosecution on fraud and bribery charges. The company has a sordid history of political involvement, including admitting in 2016 that it violated the Elections Canada Act by providing tens of thousands of dollars in illegal campaign donations to the Liberals.

But while this is horrific, it should also be noted that SNC-Lavalin is a gigantic international engineering company with business dealings in every province, including here in Saskatchewan where it has a \$700-million carbon capture and storage contract near Estevan and the management of the new Saskatchewan Hospital at North Battleford.

To this, Meili wants a review of all SNC-Lavalin contracts in Saskatchewan, even though none of them have anything to do with the goings-on in Ottawa.

Why? Because the giant company plops down \$1,000 for a table at the annual premiers' dinner like other most other Saskatchewan businesses do for the thinly veiled political fundraiser.

Strangely, we aren't seeing Meili hold similar press conferences about local companies like Brandt Developments – a big-time donor to the Sask. Party – receiving special consideration, like being allowed to build its new headquarters building in Regina's Wascana Park.

If we are concerned about political influence, surely Meili needs to recognize it begins right here at home.

YOUR TWO CENTS

Highway robbery alive and well in Saskatchewan

Dear editor,

Highway Robbery: This phrase originated in the middle ages along with the term "Highway Man", which referred to one who laid in wait to plunder and terrorize the traveling public in 15th century England. The penalty for those highwaymen who were caught was death by hanging, being drawn and quartered or other gruesome forms of capital punishment as administered by the ruling authorities at their discretion. It seems that such activities were treated as high crimes back in those days. There was little or no tolerance for any accused offender.

Today's world has changed. We have developed a legal system designed to be equitable, impartial and effective in administering penalties that fit the crimes committed. We no longer send people to the gallows for theft.

Nevertheless, these activities continue and our legal system is clogged with cases ranging from simple fraud to elaborate internet-based schemes. Criminals have invented new ways

to steal from anyone who is not constantly vigilant, especially when using the internet. They range from those posing as CRA 'enforcers' to computer virus cons. Who hasn't received an email offering a foreign inheritance or a message from a bank claiming to be checking their records? The fact is, we are destined to be victimized by those who have devised schemes to rob us at nearly every turn. The highways of today exist in different forms and so do those who take advantage of travelers whether they be on the asphalt or the internet. Make no mistake, "highway robbers" continue to thrive.

We suggest that there is yet another example of what appears to be highway robbery recently committed right here in our province. Saskatchewan taxpayers have been the victims, and there seems to be little appetite for identifying the perpetrators.

The recent major infrastructure project known as the Regina Bypass has had a significant and punitive impact on many individuals. It has also resulted in a major deficit which will

be placed on the backs of Saskatchewan residents for many years to come. With a cost estimate exceeding \$2 billion dollars, it also represents the largest fiscal liability in the history of our province.

It follows that with such fiscal commitment comes equal responsibility to ensure that those paying for it (you and I) have our interests protected and fairly represented. When you examine the history of this development and its implementation, it would seem that these principles have been deliberately ignored. Many landowners have been arbitrarily dealt with by our various levels of government. They have suffered losses both financially and principally as a result of the way this project was planned and implemented. The apparent lack of concern or transparency for those who have been impacted is sadly evident, especially on the part of our elected officials. They are responsible for upholding the public trust.

highwayrobbery.org

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Member of



Trudeau's broken omnibus bill promise at the heart of his SNC-Lavalin troubles

**By Aaron Wudrick,
CTF Federal Director**

Like a character in a Greek tragedy, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is suffering for perpetrating an anti-democratic abomination he once decried: an omnibus bill.

Keeping that promise may have saved him from accusations that his office pressured former attorney general Jody Wilson-Raybould, who suddenly resigned from cabinet on Tuesday, to let SNC-Lavalin negotiate a so-called remediation agreement instead of facing full prosecution for millions of dollars worth of corruption in Libya.

Before getting into the gritty details, let's start with that pious promise about omnibus bills.

"I wouldn't use them, period," said Trudeau in 2013. "There will always be big bills, but they need to be thematically and substantively linked in all their different pieces so that they form a piece of legislation. The kitchen-sink approach here is a real worry to me."

The Liberal platform was equally clear: "Stephen Harper has also used omnibus bills to prevent Parliament from properly reviewing and debating his proposals. We will...bring an end to this undemocratic practice."

Apparently, the prime min-

ister's view changed. Last year, the 556-page Budget Implementation Act included a change to the Criminal Code to allow for the possibility of remediation agreements instead of prosecutions for companies accused of corruption.

Only a few were alert enough to see the problem.

"Because this is an omnibus bill, no experts have given evidence about the Criminal Code amendments," wrote defence lawyer Michael Spratt. "[A separate bill] would allow every MP to know what the heck is in the government's legislation ... And it would probably result in a better law."

Imagine the surprise of the parliamentary finance committee when a Department of Justice lawyer showed up to mention the budget included changes to the Criminal Code. To their credit, MPs of all parties raised concerns.

"I do have some serious questions about this," said Liberal MP Greg Fergus. "It seems we're letting those with the means have an easier time of it than those who don't have the means."

NDP MP Pierre-Luc Dusseault called on the government to split the bill and debate the Criminal Code amendment separately. Conservative MP Dan Albas also called for the bill to be split.

The Liberals refused.

Essentially, the Trudeau government snuck in a loophole to help corporations evade criminal prosecutions and deliberately shielded the measure from the scrutiny of elected officials.

That raises a new question: if legislators weren't involved in making this change, who was?

Into this legislative tragedy enters SNC-Lavalin.

In early 2015, the RCMP brought charges against SNC-Lavalin in relation to work the firm did in Libya between 2001 and 2011.

SNC-Lavalin said the charges were "without merit" and stated on Twitter that: "We will contest the charges in the interest of our current employees and their families, clients, investors, partners."

However, SNC-Lavalin's strategy seemed to shift from denouncing the charges to intensive lobbying.

In 2016 and 2017, the firm logged 67 meetings – including 23 interactions with the Prime Minister's Office – to lobby on "justice and law enforcement" issues.

Ultimately, Ottawa embarked on a consultation regarding an alternative to corruption prosecutions.

In the fall of 2017, the discussion guide produced at the outset of the consultation suggested deferred pros-

ecution agreements could be considered depending on "whether [the accused] reported the wrongdoing without undue delay and provided information unknown to law enforcement."

By the time the legislation became law, the loophole had grown to give prosecutors the flexibility to consider "the circumstances in which the act or omission that forms the basis of the offence was brought to the attention of investigative authorities."

The original language makes self-reporting critical, but it was the RCMP that brought to light alleged corruption in Libya and SNC-Lavalin called the charges "without merit."

Remediation agreements

may or may not be good policy. But tailoring the process of creating them to suit one big company, and then burying the proposals in a budget bill are not the way to go about implementing them.

If Parliament had provided proper democratic oversight, this loophole might not be law today – and might have saved Trudeau from even the perception of interfering in an ongoing criminal prosecution that has now cost him a cabinet minister and created the worst ethics crisis of his time in office. He is learning the hard way about the dangers of omnibus legislation – and he should now honour his own promise to put an end to this undemocratic practice.

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Information tech comes with learning curve

A recent survey by Farm Credit Canada (FCC) regarding agriculture information technology has revealed results that most would have anticipated before checking the boxes on a survey form.

Farmers have traditionally been quick adopters of technology from the time of the first steel plows, through to the arrival of tractors replacing horses, to zero-till farming, and the use of global positioning systems.

Information technology is no different in terms of its usage on the farm. It is just another tool to help producers be more productive and

more profitable.

But, there is an issue tied to information technology that is not tied to deciding on a new seed variety, or an air seeder with some innovative technology new to the industry. The difference is what the information gathered on an individual farm might be used for off that farm, and by whom.

In a release, FCC noted its "Vision Panel survey shows 25 per cent of the more than 2,000 Canadian farmers questioned have become less comfortable sharing data with outside organizations – such as suppliers – over the past two years, while 58 per



CALVIN DANIELS

cent say their comfort level hasn't changed."

So it's not surprising the survey also showed "71 per cent of those surveyed said data treatment is "very" or "extremely" important when selecting an agriculture technology provider."

"There is no doubt

that privacy protection and control over where and how farm data is used is a top-of-mind issue for a majority of producers," said Fred Wall, FCC marketing vice-president in the release.

Again, this can't be seen as a huge surprise by the industry.

A producer can be accepting of the huge impact large mega national corporations have in terms of supporting agriculture on a large number of fronts, but some caution in terms of how a person's specific farm data is used has to be in the back of many producers' minds.

"At the same time,

most see the benefits of using technology to improve their operations, reduce paperwork and help them make better decisions in a growing and dynamic industry," said Wall.

In fact, 69 per cent of those surveyed believe technology can increase efficiency, lower costs and result in better yields, while 65 per cent believe it can improve management control and decision-making, noted the release.

What the results indicate is a desire by producers to be aware of just how data collected on their farm might be disseminated and utilized beyond making

specific decisions on their farms.

That is a challenge for the information technology sector as once something is digitized and sent out into the world tracking it can obviously be challenging.

Of course some of the onus falls to producers too to make wise decisions when choosing software and service providers.

There is undoubtedly much to learn in terms of accumulated data from a variety of on-farm sources, but controls are also clearly needed to endure privacy and personal knowledge retention.

Wheat Growers Support Sask. government's fight against federal carbon tax

The Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association supports the action taken by the Province of Saskatchewan, and others, to oppose the imposition of a carbon tax by the federal government.

"Farmers will fully bear the cost of this tax, shrinking our margins even further. We have no way to pass these costs on to end users. Farmers have been leaders with many environmentally friendly practices – no-till planting, fewer crop inputs, better water management and fuel-

efficient equipment are all steps that we have implemented for years," stated Levi Wood, president of the Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association.

The WCWGA believes that the coalition opposing the federal carbon tax is the right and necessary step. Saskatchewan grain is sold into the global market and the imposition of a carbon tax makes our grain less competitive.

A federal carbon tax will hurt farmers.

"The Saskatchewan government has a 'Made in Saskatchewan Climate Change Strategy' that our members are in favour of. The federal government should not impose their tax on the farming industry. Further, the

federal plan does not acknowledge the carbon sequestering and other steps that the agriculture community has already undertaken," said Jim Wickett, chair of Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association.



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Winter survival in the garden

By Patricia Hanbidge

Winter is really winter when the temperature plummets, and with the wind chill we are experiencing minus stupid temperatures.

How can our plants survive? How can the trees in the landscape survive standing outside at -46 C bare naked?

Year after year, when experiencing these bone chilling temperatures how do things manage to come back to life in spring? On days like today, when I started my car early just to make sure that it would get me to work, I wonder how anything outside will live.

In order for trees to survive the winter to again grow in spring it is miraculous! However, in order to survive, they must have adaptations in order to survive the cold of winter but also the severe drying conditions.

Unlike, the animals (and humans) they cannot change their geographical location and they certainly can't put on or grow a winter coat. They meet winter head on without any clothes on at all. They therefore, must rely on physiological and structural adaptations in order to survive.

In summer, the height of trees is advantageous as there is nothing in nature that competes for sunlight at that level. However, in the winter that same height is a liability as tissues become extremely exposed to the weather. In order to survive trees need to use a variety of strategies.

Trees will either shed their leaves or in the case of evergreens will adapt strategies for leaf retention. The leaves are a major source of water loss and would be difficult to protect in winter conditions.

Deciduous trees will therefore drop their

leaves to aid in winter survival. This leaf drop is stimulated by changes in the photoperiod, or day length, which is followed by a radical change in the chemical and hormonal make up in the tree itself.

There is a complex process where abscission layers between the leaves and stems are formed which essentially causes the leaf drop itself. You will notice that all trees do not drop their leaves at the same time, which is because the processes that occur within the tree are specific to the tree itself.

Evergreens will also shed their leaves but not all of them at the same time. The exception to this is the genus Larix, but the other evergreens benefit from the economy of using their leaves for more than one year.

In addition, evergreens have a thick coating on the leaves (cutin) that assists in reducing the amount of water lost. They have a few other adaptations that include a tighter stomatal closure (pores that allow air and water to pass in and out of the leaf) which further reduces winter water loss.

Trees that are able to survive the winter have acclimatized to the climate. This cellular process helps to exploit the physical properties of water which aids in survival through the winter. However, each species and in fact each individual specimen will have a killing temperature.

Within the cell itself there are changes that can slightly reduce the freezing point by changing the solute concentrations within the cell.

This concentration change within the cell further helps with survival by causing the area outside the cell (which has a higher con-

centration of water) to freeze first which in turn releases a small amount of heat energy which also aids in individual cell survival.

For deciduous trees, the biomass above ground is relatively water tight as stems and buds lose very little water. However, for evergreens, even in winter there is water loss through the leaf tissues.

On sunny days, the sun shining on the leaves can increase the temperature significantly enough to be above the ambient air temperature.

As a result, metabolic rates rise; the internal vapour pressure increases and even with all the protective measures will cause the net

loss of water and desiccation of the leaf tissue. Hence, the importance of ensuring that evergreens go into winter in a well hydrated state.

So the next day that is bitterly cold, take a moment to think about the trees that surround you, and the wonders of nature, and its adaptations, that allows survival outside without any clothes on!

Hanbidge is a horticulturist with the Saskatoon School of Horticulture and can be reached at 306-931-GROW(4769); by email at growyourfuture@gmail.com; facebook: @schoolofhort; twitter: @horticulturepat; instagram: patyplant or check out our website at saskhort.com

OBITUARY

Julian Dulle



DULLE, Julian Rena
March 6th, 1930 - February 10th, 2019

The family of Julian Dulle are heartbroken to announce the passing of their dad on the 10th day of February, 2019. Julian

was born in Simpson, SK in March of 1930. He was a proud Veteran. He lived and farmed in the Debden area with his wife and three daughters. He loved farming, but the first love was trapping, hunting and then came the farming. He had a mixed array of animals; cows, horses, goats, pigs, sheep, cats, dogs, turkeys, chickens, did we forget anything... rabbits. He is missed and remembered by his daughters; Glenda Berscheid (Arnie dod-2017), his second daughter Nada (dod 2015)(Murray Symington) and last but not least his third daughter Carmen (Tim) Endicott,

all his grandkids, great grandkids, his brother and sister, numerous nieces, nephews and many other family and friends. There was a Memorial Service held on Monday, February 18th, 2019 at the Pentecostal Church in Canwood, SK. Family and friends wishing to send online condolences may do so by visiting www.beaulacfuneralhome.com Memorial Donations may be directed to the Canwood Legion Branch #132 Box 508 Canwood, SK S0J 0K0 in Julian's Memory. Arrangements have been entrusted to Lori Saam of Beau "Lac" Funeral home, Canwood 306-468-2244

PRAISE & WORSHIP

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

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Summer Worship 11:00 a.m.
Rev. Nora Borgeson

UNITED /ANGLICAN

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

PENTECOSTAL

Glaslyn
Pre-service Prayer
Sunday, 10:30 am
Sunday Service 11:00 am
Kids Club Tuesday
3:30 pm - 5 pm
Wednesday Prayer
7 pm - 8 pm
Pastor Ruth Phillips

CATHOLIC SUNDAY

Spiritwood - 11:15 a.m.
Leoville - 9:30 a.m.
Chitek Lake - Closed for
the Season
SATURDAY
Medstead - 6 p.m.
Shell Lake - Closed for
the Season
Father Peter Nnanga MSP

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BETHEL

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Worship
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Sun., 10:30 am - Worship
Pastor Bill Klumpenhower

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Spiritwood
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Pastor Gerry Zak

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Pastor Floyd Berg

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Pastor Rick Martin

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SPIRITWOOD: Wapiti Regional Library - Tuesday 9:00 am - 4:30 pm, Wednesday 9:30 am - 4:30 pm & Friday 9:00 am - 4:30 pm

LEOVILLE: Wapiti Regional Library - Wednesday 10 am - 4 pm; Thurs. 10 am - 3 pm (Storytime from 10:30 am to 11:30 am)

SHELL LAKE: Wapiti Regional Library - Tues. 12:30 pm - 4:30 pm; Wed. 1 pm - 4 pm.

SPIRITWOOD: Spiritwood Spirited Players Presents 'Daddy's Girl' by Gary Ray Stapp. Dinner Theatre: March 8 & 9, 2019. Tickets \$40 each. Tickets available at: Martodam's Family Retail until March 7 @ 5 pm. Catered by Ronnie's Catering. Doors open @ 6, Supper @ 7, Performances to follow. Spiritwood Civic Centre. Performance Only: Thursday, March 7 @ 7 pm. \$10 admission at the door, doors open @ 6:30. Spiritwood Civic Centre.

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Men's pro tennis needs more drama

Sports observers heaved a collected yawn! — followed by second and third yawns — when Novak Djokovic won the first men's tennis Grand Slam event of 2019, beating Rafael Nadal of Spain in the final.

Picking a winner of a men's tennis Grand Slam event is about as difficult as figuring out the fifth letter of the alphabet and if you guessed E — Eureka!, you're right.

Since 2004, when Switzerland's Roger Federer won three of the four Grand Slam titles — the big four tournaments are the Australian, French and U.S. Opens, and Wimbledon — three players have totally dominated the world stage. You want sports drama? Look elsewhere. The only drama involved is the rare occasion when Nadal, Federer or Djokovic does not walk off with the title. Andy Murray or Stan Wawrinka shows up on a few rare occasions — like

10 times in the last 61 majors. You read that correctly: The big three have won the big four tournaments 51 out of the last 61 tries — an astonishing 84 per cent of the time. During that span from 2004 through this year's Australian Open, Federer has won 19 Grand Slam titles, Nadal has 17 and Djokovic 15.

Yawn! Professional golf, on the other hand, has what tennis only dreams of — a wide open field with any one of perhaps 80 or 90 players having a shot at major championship glory.

During the same time period, starting in 2004, there have been 10 multiple winners: Tiger Woods with five, Phil Mickelson and Rory McIlroy with four each, Jordan Spieth, Padraig Harrington and Brooks Koepka with three apiece, and Zach Johnson, Martin Kaymer, Angel Cabrera and Bubba Watson with two each.

That leaves 30 other



BRUCE
PENTON

majors with one-time winners, giving golf fans pre-tournament hope that drama and the unexpected, not yawns, will lie ahead. Many of the game's greats — Jason Day, Justin Thomas, Justin Rose, Dustin Johnson to name four — are stuck on one major.

How boring would pro golf be if, say, Mickelson, Woods and McIlroy had won 51 of the last 61 majors?

So if you've got a few dollars to wager on tennis and golf majors in the months ahead, put your cash on Nadal, Federer or Djokovic in tennis, and buy a dependable crystal ball

to help you with your choices for golf's biggest events.

- Golf broadcaster Johnny Miller, during his final tournament, after Russell Knox of Scotland badly fanned on a putt on the 16th hole. "That was about as good as the food in Scotland."

- Post Super Bowl headline in the Los Angeles Times: "Lambs, not Rams."

- From Mike McIntyre of the Winnipeg Free Press, on Twitter, quoting Jets' coach Paul Maurice after a 5-2 loss in Montreal: "Coach was no good. Players were no good. Food was no good. I just hope the plane works."

- Comedy guy Brad Dickson of Omaha: "Some members of the national media are making a big deal out of Ndamukong Suh not shaking hands at the end of the Super Bowl. So what? You're just lucky he didn't eat the Pats mascot or toss anyone off the upper deck."

- Dickson again, on

the low-scoring Super Bowl game, on Twitter: "If you're a fan of good, solid punting this is a great game."

- Dwight Perry of the Seattle Times: "A 14-pound 13-ounce boy named Ali became the heaviest baby ever born at Texas Health Arlington Memorial Hospital. Not sure if he has a baby carriage yet, but he does have a full ride to Texas A&M."

- RJ Currie of sports-deke.com, on the Patriots victory in the Super Bowl: "NFL in-game coaching is often likened to a chess match. I'm thinking Rams coach Sean McVay got Belichick-mated."

- Currie again: "Is anyone surprised the Clemson Tigers got a fast-food feast at the White House? Ever since Donald Trump took office he's been serving up whoppers."

- Comedy writer Alex Kaseberg: "Super Bowl MVP New England Patriot, Julian Edelman, had his bushy beard shaved off on "Ellen" by Ellen DeGeneres. It was shocking when Ellen

shaved Edelman's beard and two of Tom Brady's deflated footballs fell out."

- Headline from the onion.com: "Super Bowl halftime show marred by functioning sound system."

- Tim Hunter of Everett's KRKO Radio, on Marshawn Lynch stealing the show in the NFL's 100-year commercial during the Super Bowl telecast: "See what happens when you give him the ball?"

- Norman Chad of the Washington Post, on seeing the Patriots yet again on Super Bowl Sunday: "It's like waking up Christmas morning with acne."

- Headline at Fark.com: "Knicks say they had to trade (Kristaps) Porzingis because he wasn't on board with the Knicks' plan to continue being the Knicks."

- Will Bunch of The Philadelphia Inquirer, via Twitter: "This Super Bowl is so bad that Gladys Knight took an earlier train."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

SPHL playoffs going as expected

The first round of the playoffs in the Saskatchewan Prairie Hockey League have produced no surprises. The top four teams at the end of the regular schedule feasted on the bottom four and have advanced to the semi-finals.

All four series were 3-0 wins in the best-of-five



The Senior Timberwolves are out of it, but there's no shortage of hockey at the Spiritwood Arena. Here, the Novice Timberwolves are engaged in a match against Moosomin.

match-ups.

Battleford Beaver Blues won the opener 4-2 in Radisson against the Wheatkings, and then pounded the Wheaties 9-2 and 9-1 in Battleford.

Second place Edam Three Stars took three from Perdue, 7-0, 4-2 and 6-2.

Meota Combines, third place finishers in the regular schedule, downed Maymont by scores of 8-1, 10-3 and 9-4.

The games were a bit closer in the Shellbrook-Glaslyn Series, but the fourth place Tips ended up with three wins to take the series in straight games. Scores were 6-3 in Shellbrook, 4-3 in Glaslyn, and 5-1 back in Shellbrook.

The Silvertips get league leader Beaver Blues as their semi-final opponent, and the 'Tips ought not be counted out. True, their second encounter with the Blues was a 7-5 loss, but in their first game, the Silvertips won 6-3. If home ice means anything, as those two games showed, the Blues would have the advantage given they would get the extra home game.

Game one goes Friday night in Battleford, with game two Sunday in Shellbrook.

In the Edam-Meota series, the Three Stars won game one 5-1 with game two scheduled for Thursday in North Battleford.

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NE 27-49-08-W3 Title 119071346 \$510.76
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NE 20-51-08-W3 Title 117971332 \$739.63

NW 20-51-08-W3 Title 117971354 \$600.16
SE 20-51-08-W3 Title 117971376 \$705.42
NE 29-51-08-W3 Title 117971398 \$263.34
NW 29-51-08-W3 Title 117971411 \$321.82
SE 32-51-08-W3 Title 117971433 \$398.50
SW 33-51-08-W3 Title 117971455 \$739.58
Lot 25 Blk 2 PL 101918606 Title 141685230 \$1,576.37
NE 18-52-10-W3 Title 138460440 \$653.17
NW 07-51-09-W3 Title 120303177, 120303166, 120303155, 120303144, 12030199, 120303188 \$348.07
NW 18-51-09-W3 Title 116029627, 116029638, 116029638 \$377.31
SW 18-51-09-W3 Title 116029694, 116029773, 116029751, 116029795, 116029650, 116029739, 116029672, 116029717 \$900.94
Lot 08 Blk 1 PL 101935942 Title 146491577 \$502.05
Lot 4 Blk 2 PL 102254240 Title 150876377 \$610.25
Lot 17-20 Blk 2 PL AN2606 Title 137391936, 137391947 \$1,370.93
NE 28-54-13-W3 Title 127973469 \$831.74
SE 33-54-13-W3 Title 127973504 \$444.09
NE 18-53-13-W3 Title 150487904 \$3,593.11
NW 18-53-13-W3 Title 150487892 \$183.16
Lot 02 Blk 1 PL 00B12023 Title 134351186 \$532.17
SW 04-51-08-W3 Title 138329949 \$1,396.76
SE 21-51-08-W3 Title 146515507 \$749.81
NE 09-54-10-W3 Title 129856393 \$187.23
NW 09-54-10-W3 Title 129856427 \$186.37
SE 09-54-10-W3 Title 129856393 \$184.40
SW 09-54-10-W3 Title 129856348 \$184.91
NE 10-54-10-W3 Title 129856449 \$192.59
NW 11-54-10-W3 Title 129856292 \$590.10
NE 15-54-10-W3 Title 129856494 \$399.35
NW 15-54-10-W3 Title 129856461 \$280.71
PT SW 15-54-10-W3 Ext 16 Title 129856595 \$308.69
SW 16-54-10-W3 Title 129856562 \$586.85
SE 22-54-10-W3 Title 129856517 \$661.91
SW 22-54-10-W3 Title 129856573 \$738.03
NE 30-49-11-W3 Title 117912517 \$712.13

NW 30-49-11-W3 Title 117912539 \$692.46
SE 31-49-11-W3 Title 117912618 \$952.64
SW 08-50-10-W3 Title 140609628 \$915.11
NE 18-50-10-W3 Title 146021149 \$509.68
SE 19-50-10-W3 Title 146021127 \$887.67
SW 20-50-10-W3 Title 141494238 \$898.79
NE 13-50-11-W3 Title 127276465 \$717.31
SE 28-50-09-W3 Title 145889881 \$1,214.24
NW 14-50-08-W3 Title 119624553 \$322.80
SW 23-50-08-W3 Title 119624575 \$2,627.63
Lot 07 Blk 1 PL 98B11312 Title 141812209 \$1,416.29
Lot 10 Blk 1 PL 102021841 Title 139519109 \$941.48
Lot 11 Blk 2 PL 82B02078 Title 142503735 \$1,515.81
Lot 1 Blk 2 PL 102254240 Title 150867513 \$607.45
Par NN PL 101882808 Title 130393706 \$1,928.63

Dated this 21st day of February, 2019.
Colette Bussiere,
Treasurer 1-08H

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Electric Toro Power Shovel for sale, great for small jobs, easy to handle, purchased in 2018, been used once by a stubborn man, asking \$100.
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HELP WANTED - Full or part time position available at large farm operation. Must know cattle and machinery. Ph: Kelly Feige after 6 pm 306-747-2376
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Advertising Deadline is Friday 5:00 p.m.

LOT FOR SALE

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Property is lot 20, located on Sanjun Drive, Shellbrook. 104' wide x 133' long with 59' wide x 29' long extension. All services available.

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Priestley wins "Chase the Ace"

Alvin Priestley was the lucky winner of \$9,988 in the final draw of the "Chase the Ace" SARCS fundraiser. The final draws were held Friday, Feb. 15 in the Mezzanine.

The Ace Pot was destined to go, as the tickets allotted under the permit were all sold, and there was going to be a winner no matter how long it took for someone to find the ace in the remaining deck.

However, it didn't take long. The first name out of the drum was that of Vic Kuffert, who was the winner of \$3,362.50, which was 50% of the week's sales of \$6,725. In his absence, Maurice Busiere drew the card, but it wasn't the ace of spades.

Priestley was the very next person drawn. As he perused the cards lying on the table, his finger circling

around them and then finally making his choice, he slid the card to the edge of the table and handed it to Les Walker without first looking at it. Walker held it up for all to see, and as luck would have it, it was the Ace.

There were nineteen cards that had been eliminated from the deck over the course of the winter.

Total sales from the beginning of the current project were \$29,960. Of that amount, some \$14,980 had gone to weekly winners. SARCS received \$5,992. The first draw was made Oct. 12.

The next series of Chase the Ace begins on March 1. Tickets are available at the Town Office and on Fridays at Happy Hour in the bowling alley lounge.



Alvin Priestley holds up the Ace of Spades, which won him \$9,988 in the SARCS Chase the Ace fundraiser.



Alvin Priestley peruses the cards, trying to decide which one to pull. In the end, he made the right choice.



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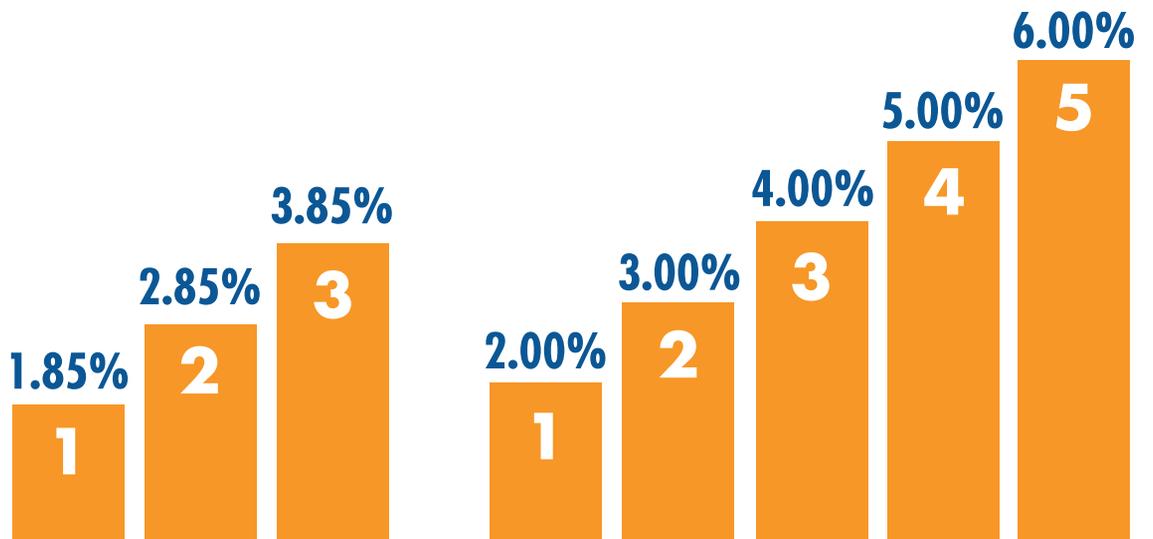
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