

Spiritwood Herald



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Spiritwood, Saskatchewan Thursday, March 14, 2019

www.spiritwoodherald.com

Spirited Players present "Daddy's Girl"

March is Food and Funny month, at least in Spiritwood. The food comes from the excellent meal served up by Ronnie's Catering, and the funny is provided by the Spiritwood Spirited Players.

And March is when it all comes together as the Players presented their spring (OK, late winter) production, choosing "Daddy's Girl" as this year's offering.

The play featured the largest cast in modern memory to be seen on a Spiritwood stage, some fourteen characters, consisting of old diehards who caught the bug years ago, several who have been acting for one-to-a-few years, and an exciting crop of newcomers.

The play is called "Daddy's Girl" because it centres around Bernard's (Kelly Egert) question that he's had for 25 years: what has become of the daughter he and his wife (Maudie, played by Jennifer Epp) gave up for adoption. Maudie has passed on, but because Bernard hasn't moved on, he can still speak to her.

When two angels (Taylor Kuffert and Ryan Steinhilber) show up and tell Maudie that Bernard is about to figure something out, the audience knows what that is, but Bernard doesn't.

The trail to the discovery is a madcap adventure that includes a tongue-tied and lovestruck professor, a snippy columnist, a biker chick and her somewhat reluctant singer-wannabe daughter, a pair of old maids who finish each other's sentences, a costume changing woman who'd like to be a love interest for Bernard, an agent, and a hangabout who leaves his shoes and shirt by the door.

Have we left anyone out? Oh, yes, the waitress, Betsy, played by Michy Brule. And it's not until the end that the audience discovers the true importance of this character to the story. If you didn't choke up, just a little, you're heartless.

The production played to three large audiences March 7-9. There were about 75 in attendance at Thursday's rush seating performance, with 114 for the Friday night dinner theatre, and a sell-out of 150 Saturday night.



Walter (Grant Lavoie) gets encouragement from Alex (Brett Goller) about how to talk to Betsy (Michy Brule).

The Friday and Saturday crowds were treated to a meal consisting of sweet & savoury back ribs, chicken Dianna, and a selection of vegetables and salads.

The list of thank yous included Martodam's Family Retail for selling the

tickets, Steinhilber Farms for storing sets, Hartley Clark Elementary for stage extensions, Spiritwood High for lights and make-up, and Sue Kahl for screen printing.

Longtime Spirited Player Grant

Lavoie said it best: "Cari just keeps finding great plays for us." Cari Cross was the Director of "Daddy's Girl", and the entire cast, and three audiences, thanked her for her great contributions.

More photos on page 2

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Spirited Players present "Daddy's Girl"



The cast of Daddy's Girl, left to right: Alison Sullivan, Dalyce Epp, Jeanette Primeay, Janessa Hummel, Mckayla Gaboury, Jennifer Epp, Grant Lavoie, Michy Brule, Kelly Egery, Tanner Gaboury, Brett Goller, Ginelle Marion, Taylor Kuffert, and Ryan Steinhilber.



Angels Gabrielle and Michael (Taylor Kuffert and Ryan Steinhilber) with a soon-to-be angel, Maudie (Jennifer Epp).



Alex (Brett Goller) lining up some lab work to find out the recipe for the secret sauce.

Sask. Health Authority volunteer opportunities

The Volunteer Service Department is in need of caring, compassionate and committed volunteers to fill the following service positions:

Parent-Tot/Family Volunteering Program – Evergreen Health Centre, Leoville (306) 984-2136

Parents and their children visit residents on a one-to-one basis or in small groups. Parents are responsible for their children at all times.

Shifts: Flexible, once or twice per week.

Pet Therapy – Spiritwood and District Health Centre (306) 883-2133

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Shifts: Once or twice per week: Flexible hours.

Special Groups or Individuals – Hafford Special Care Home (306) 549-2108

These volunteers entertain, provide interesting educational presentations, assist with special events, sing, etc. and have fun with the residents.

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If you are interested in this or any other Volunteer service position, or if you have a particular skill or talent you would like to share with the patients, residents or clients, please call your local health care facility to apply. You can also reach the Volunteer Services Department at (306) 765-6010, by email at volunteers@paphr.sk.ca or find us on the web at www.paphr.ca. We look forward to matching your talents and interests with the right position for you.

Water Safety Instructors required for the Resort Village of Chitek Lake Summer Swimming Lessons July 15 – 26th, 2019

Qualifications: Current Canadian Red Cross WSI Certification & Current CPR Certification, (Lifesaving Society Instructor Award (LSI), National Lifeguard Award (NLA), or Red Cross Lifeguard are considered assets).

Please send resume and copies of certifications by **Wednesday, March 27, 2019** to:
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Tickets available at the door
Adult – \$14 | Kids – \$10

Report from the Legislature

The Saskatchewan Legislature is back in session.

We are on track to deliver a balanced budget and committed to keep standing up for Saskatchewan, defending jobs and families across our great province.

The economic outlook for Saskatchewan is strong. Jobs are up, unemployment is down and exports are expected to increase. Saskatchewan's GDP growth is expected to be higher than the national average, and the highest in the prairies. The Conference Board of Canada believes our agriculture, oil, and potash sectors will drive this growth.

Saskatchewan is also the most attractive place in Canada for mining investment according to the Fraser Institute's Annual Survey of Mining Com-



HON. SCOTT MOE, PREMIER
~
MLA for Rosthern - Shellbrook
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scottmoe.mla@sasktel.net

panies. The survey found that Saskatchewan is the world's 3rd most attractive jurisdiction for mining investment and has moved into the top spot in terms of government policy.

We're going to keep working to ensure our world class mining sector creates even more opportunity for generations to

come.

Right now, much of Saskatchewan's growth and opportunity is at risk with a forced federal carbon tax, Bill C-69, and a lack of market access for our export products. Bill C-69, for example, will not accomplish its stated goals of streamlining or efficiency in getting resource projects built. It will only add uncertainty and further delays.

The current system is not broken – what seems to be broken is political will and pride in the resource sector that Canada is known for.

While we await a decision on our government's court challenge of the federal carbon tax, the Trudeau government will be forcing the tax on Saskatchewan.

The federal government should stop its forced car-



HON. JEREMY HARRISON, MLA
~
Meadow Lake
Toll Free:
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jharrisonmla@sasktel.net

bon tax until the courts have had their say but they won't. Starting April 1, the cost of the federal carbon tax is going to make it more expensive to gas up our vehicles, heat our homes and keep the lights on.

This is unfortunate for families and businesses across our province. SaskPower worked hard

to ensure there would be no rate increase this year, and our government is currently reviewing a request by SaskEnergy to reduce natural gas commodity rates to their lowest level in 20 years, effective April 1. These savings would be wiped out by the Trudeau carbon tax.

Our government has been clear from the start: our made-in-Saskatchewan plan will achieve real emissions reductions, while the Trudeau carbon tax, with its multi-year increases, will only impose costs on families with virtually no impact on emissions.

Meanwhile, the NDP continues to demonstrate how truly out of touch they are with the people of our province. On February 12, the Leader of the Opposition said "our position is very clear...

we think that a price on pollution is a reasonable thing."

This is a change in terminology for the NDP who are now shifting their language on a carbon tax to "a price on pollution", just like Prime Minister Trudeau has.

The NDP is standing with Prime Minister Trudeau in support of a carbon tax that would be a hit to Saskatchewan jobs and a \$16 billion hit to our GDP. This is clearly out of touch with Saskatchewan and its residents.

Our government will continue to stand up for Saskatchewan and stand up against the Trudeau carbon tax. We will continue voicing Saskatchewan's concerns with this and other federal headwinds that would cause harm to our economic interests.

Witchekan Lake FN man facing slew of charges

On March 6, 2019 at 6:11 p.m., Spiritwood RCMP along with RCMP members from Blaine Lake, Shellbrook, Big River, and Battleford PDS attended to a complaint of a disturbance outside a residence on Witchekan Lake First Nation.

A male suspect was reported to be intoxicated and walking past a residence, yelling at the occupants of the house. The suspect fled as police arrived and entered a house a short distance away.

It is alleged the suspect then walked in and out of the residence, obtained firearms from within the residence, yelled threats, was pointing the firearms at police and threatening to shoot other people.

The suspect was barricaded within the house, but would occasionally exit and then return within the residence when approached by police. The suspect re-

fused to comply with police commands and the Emergency Response Team was activated while the scene was contained.

At one point the male had exited without the firearms and members were able to rapidly approach and arrest the suspect. The Emergency Response Team was still on route at the time of the arrest.

The following individuals have been charged in relation to this incident.

Dwayne Witchekan (1978-03-27) from Witchekan Lake First Nation is charged with the following offences:

- Arson Section 434 of the Criminal Code;
- Point Firearm Section 87 of the Criminal Code;
- Careless use of a firearm Section 86(1) of the Criminal Code;
- Carry a weapon dangerous to public

X 3 Section 88 of the Criminal Code;

- Uttering threats Section 264.4 of the Criminal Code;

- Obstruction Section 129(a) of the Criminal Code;

- Break and Enter Section 349(1) of the Criminal Code; and

- Unauthorized possession of firearm X 2 Section 92(1) of the Criminal Code.

Witchekan was scheduled to make a court appearance on March 12 in North

Battleford Provincial Court.

In relation to the incident, Freddie Witchekan from Witchekan Lake First Nation was charged with Obstruction, Section 129(a) of the Criminal Code.

Jashlin Lewis of Witchekan Lake First Nation was also charged with Obstruction Section 129(a) of the Criminal Code.

Freddie Witchekan and Jashlin Lewis will be appearing in Spiritwood Provincial Court Tuesday, April 23, 2019.



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“Wasted Weekend?”

If a tree falls in the forest and there's no one to hear, does it make a sound? If a person spent an entire weekend watching Brier curling, was it a wasted weekend?

My money is on “no”, even if my reason for saying so is that I spent most of my weekend doing just that. And I don't think I was the only one glued to the television set from Friday until Sunday night, and pretty much a couple of hours each day in the week leading up to the Championship round and the playoffs.

Even though the game can be fairly slow, with guys standing around discussing what shot they'd like to play if this happens and if that happens, when it comes right down to it, there's a tension and an excitement that keeps everyone on the edge of their seat.

Add to that the tension and excitement of knowing we had two teams of young high school curlers at the Provincial championships on Friday and Saturday, and trying to follow their progress. We had the SHSAA website, which was posting the scores as the games were completed, and we also had live broadcasts over Facebook from parents, which, until their phones went dead, kept us in the know.



DAVE
HYNDMAN
~
News Editor

One of the teams, the Mixed, came home with a gold medal, improving on the bronze they came home with last year. Along the way, they defeated the team that dropped them into the bronze game last year.

So, we give our thanks to the parents who accompany the curlers, and especially those who are willing to sacrifice their phone batteries to keep us in the know.

It's interesting that the gold medal win for Dalton Wasden and his team came exactly forty years after the SHS team featuring his aunt and uncle, Denise and Claude Wasden, won the bronze medal in the Mixed championships.

The Provincials were held in Allan that year, and back then, 1979, the trail began in Unity with Districts, and then Loreburn, and then finally in Allan. The two Wasdens and their teammates, Glen and Patty Caffet, slogged through each of the spiels and came up with the medal at the end.

We had a lot of fun on that trail. Roberta Wasden and Joan Caffet were the two parents who never missed a trip, never missed a game, never missed a rock. They sometimes got after me for doing crossword puzzles while the games were on, but that's a whole other story.

It was the first curling medal for Spiritwood High since the late 40's, when the late-Gordon Thompson and company medalled for the school.

This year's medal marks the fourth year in a row that SHS teams have come home with at least one, and sometimes two, medals. The credit goes to the High School's coaching, for sure, but a great deal of credit also has to go to the Spiritwood Curling Club, which has opened the club up to actively recruit and develop young curlers, and provide them with opportunities and coaching.

As a result, there are more young people curling now, and they are getting to be very good. Need proof? The new club champions are four high school students, and of the four, two of them are kids from Shellbrook who have been coming to Spiritwood weekly to curl.

There's still a lot of curling on the local calendar between now and the end of March. There's the Open, the Ladies and the Seniors, and then the Cordwood, where the Lions hope that a few more youngsters begin to get the curling bug.

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Talk of Sask. secession harmful, not helpful

It's a simple enough question, on the surface, at least: “Should Saskatchewan leave Canada?”

The query, being posed by an organization called Prairie Freedom, has started to appear on billboards in urban centres across the province, stirring up the anti-federal government sentiment that has had our neighbours in Alberta asking the very same thing in recent months.

Indeed, from Manitoba to Alberta, secession from Canada seems to be top of mind for those who are fed-up with a Liberal federal government (helmed Prime Minister Justin Trudeau) that seems to have no appreciation for the west.

The prairies' list of justified grievances with Ottawa, according to Prairie Freedom, is lengthy, but begins, first and foremost, with the lack of equal democratic representation given to provinces that aren't named Ontario or Québec.

The crux of the argument, however, hinges on the Liberal federal government's environmental policy, which, of course, includes the federal carbon tax, and a seeming disdain for the industries that drive the economies of the prairie provinces.

To be certain, the environmental strategy of Mr. Trudeau's Liberal government has been woefully inconsistent.

First, it doomed the proposed Energy East pipeline to regulatory oblivion when Québec put up even the slightest resistance to having pipelines run through the province.

Then, of course, came the Liberal government's campaign of bullying the provinces into accepting the aforementioned carbon tax, followed by Ottawa's perplexing decision to purchase Kinder Morgan's embattled Trans Mountain pipeline for \$4.5 billion.

Adding further muck to the mire, Mr. Trudeau's government attempted to introduce Bill C-69, a piece of legislation that we were told would clarify the process for future pipeline approvals. As of December 2018, however, the legislation was undergoing senate review, after it was almost universally panned as a confused mess, and a death knell for Canada's oil industry.

Though separate from Ottawa's environmental confusion, the ongoing SNC-Lavalin affair has poured fresh salt in the prairie provinces' wounds by revealing Mr. Trudeau's willingness to skirt propriety to save 9,000 jobs (3,400 of which are conveniently in Quebec) – this, when he didn't lift a finger to assist the more than 100,000 western oil sector workers who lost their jobs during the market downturn.

With a government in Ottawa that seems content to punish the prairies for producing oil, while in the same breath importing dirty oil from the beacon of environmental accountability that is



JORDAN
TWISS
~
Columnist

Saudi Arabia, it's no wonder that some in the prairies are so adamant about secession.

In Prairie Freedom's own words: “This is a legitimate option if the federal government continues to destroy our economy and way of life. The potential tax savings for the Prairies, and revenue losses for Canada are both immense.”

Is it truly a legitimate option though?

Looking at the taxation argument, secession from Canada would spare the prairie provinces from the glorified shell game that is the Liberal government's federal carbon tax and rebate program.

Additionally, Saskatchewan would save \$500 million annually in federal equalization program payments, and Alberta would get to keep \$2 billion in its coffers (Manitoba, however, would lose out on \$2.2 billion in equalization dollars).

But even with all these savings, where would the money come from to fund healthcare? What about infrastructure and all of the provincial and municipal projects and initiatives that require federal dollars?

Moreover, what chance would a small, almost entirely landlocked, prairie coalition with a population of less than 7 million stand of attracting business, investment and skilled labour? These are things that the prairie provinces already struggle with, especially with regards to healthcare professionals, and scorning the rest of Canada wouldn't make things any easier.

Then there's the question of trade. Sure, the prairies aren't lacking in valuable commodities, but how do we get those to market when we're surrounded on three sides by a Canada that would have every reason to bear us ill will?

The idea of separation isn't new to Canada. The question has shot down many times in Quebec, because its people understand that Canada is stronger as a whole – though, of course, Quebec also has 13 billion other reasons to remain part of the country.

Organizations like Prairie Freedom are hardly original, and, quite frankly, their efforts deepen the divisions between us, and do more harm than good.

Granted, the prairie provinces are giving up a lot to be part of a country that doesn't always appreciate them. But that comes with being a part of something bigger than oneself, and if one truly looks at the scales, one will see that they're more balanced than they'd expect.

For those who remain unconvinced, though, there's always the hope that Mr. Trudeau's government will be evicted from Ottawa this fall.

Wilson-Raybould demands new accountability standard

There are times in this business when it's simply great to be wrong.

And being wrong about the low expectations of Jody Wilson-Raybould's testimony before the House of Commons justice committee was one of those times.

The past couple weeks hasn't just been about setting Canadian politics on its head and perhaps toppling Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government.

While that might very well be result and might very well be what a lot of Western Canadians – especially, rural Canadians – want to see, what Wilson-Raybould has done may be more important than even that.

It could be that Wilson-Raybould has injected a new standard of public ministerial accountability for all governments.

Her forthright testimony reeked of credibility in its detailed and note-backed assertions of multiple examples of Trudeau, his former principle secretary Gerald Butts, and even the privy council applying undue pressure on the former attorney-general to give SNC-Lavalin an out-of-court prosecution deal.

Wilson-Raybould's testimony was unprecedented and it has forced others in the Liberal government to consider that there needs to be another way to do politics. This is demonstrated by Jane Philpott's decision to follow suit and also resign from cabinet.

Of course, the federal Conservatives and several of their close allies, including those in the Saskatchewan Party, are giddy at the Liberal misfortunate... but maybe



MURRAY
MANDRYK

others in politics need to be careful here.

As unlikely as it may seem, there's always the chance the federal Liberals will get their act together.

After all, what happens if Trudeau is forced out and replaced by someone like Wilson-Raybould as leader? What then happens to the Sask. Party's entire political narrative that's been all about opposing the Trudeau brand?

But here is perhaps

the most intriguing question: What happens when other existing governments are held to the same standard of credibility and accountability as the federal Liberals now are?

That thought is worth pondering if you compare what's gone on with the SNC-Lavalin file in Ottawa to the Global Transportation Hub file here in this province.

For three years now, the Sask. Party government has been haunted by the Global Transportation Hub scandal in which former minister and Kindersley MLA Bill Boyd rented farmland from a businessman who made \$6 million by buying 204 acres of land under government expropriation. That land was then sold to a Regina businessman who made \$5 million when he sold it to the GTH for

\$103,000 an acre.

Notwithstanding an RCMP investigation that found no grounds for criminal charge, and notwithstanding early attempts by the then Brad Wall-led Sask. Party to claim there was no wrong-doing here, the matter has been nothing short of a political scandal.

While running for the Sask. Party leadership last year, most of the six candidates raised this as a concern – the most critical being, former Saskatchewan attorney general Gord Wyant.

"We need to shine a very, very bright light on this," Wyant told the CBC at the time. "And the only way to do that is to give the commissioner the power that he needs not only to compel witnesses and compel documents and testimony but to make some

findings and so that we can put this whole thing behind us as a party."

Well, fast forward to today when Wyant is deputy premier and education minister... and suddenly sees no need for the examination into the matter.

On at least 30 occasions, Sask. Party government backbenchers blocked GTH or government employees from having to testify before legislative committees examining the GTH.

Suffice to say, Saskatchewan taxpayers need more disclosure. This is also what Wyant once believed.

Right now, the contrast with Wilson-Raybould could not be more stark.

If Wilson-Raybould is the new standard, governments everywhere will struggle to step up to meet it.

YOUR TWO CENTS

Conservatives introduce tax-free home heating plan

Dear Editor,

With the soaring cost of Canadian energy, it has been difficult to watch as the Liberal government does nothing to help Canadian families who are struggling to heat and light their homes. Seniors and those living on a fixed income are suffering the most.

In Canada, heating your home is a necessity – not a luxury. In contrast, the federal government doesn't tax other necessities like most groceries or medical supplies. So why tax home heating?

That's why I'm proud that Conservative leader Andrew Scheer announced that as Canada's next Prime Minister, he will be removing the GST from

home heating and energy bills. Putting more money back into the pockets of Canadians. When you combine that with scrapping the Liberal Carbon Tax, this will save Canadians hundreds of dollars a year.

I am running as a Conservative in the upcoming election because only the Conservative Party has a plan to help Canadians get ahead. Andrew Scheer's latest announcement is just one of the ways that we will be helping make energy costs more affordable.

Sincerely,
Gary Vidal,
Conservative Party Candidate for Desnethé –

Missinippi – Churchill River

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Member of



SHS Mixed curling team brings home gold

Spiritwood High School's senior curling teams have met with a lot of success in recent years, but they had never won SHSAA provincial gold medals prior to the past weekend. After many years of coming close, a team has reached the top of the podium for the first time.

The Mixed team – consisting of Dalton Wasden (skip), Emma Beaulac (third), Jordan Tuttroen (second) and Olivia Parker (lead) – did just that, scoring a convincing 11-4 win in the gold medal final against the team from Kipling.

And it was that same Kipling team that handed the Spiritwood foursome their only loss, a 5-4 last-rock victory in the opening game of the round robin.

Kipling went 3-0 through the "A" Pool, while the Sabres, at 2-1, settled for second. No matter, it put them into the medal round, and a semi-final matchup against Saskatoon St. Joseph. This was the same squad that had beaten Wasden and co. in the semi-final last year and went on to win gold, while Spiritwood settled for bronze.

This time, it was a 7-2 win for the Spiritwood team, and a spot in the gold medal game.

Wasden and his teammates were never seriously challenged in the final, kicking it into high gear right off the mark with a 5-ender in the opening end. After giving up a single, they added another three in the third end for an 8-1 lead. Kipling got a few points, but when Spiritwood scored another three in the seventh end, the teams shook hands.

The Senior Girls team, also in the Provincial championships in Nipawin, didn't fare quite as well, but they served notice that they will be a force to be reckoned with in the future.



The Spiritwood High School Sabres Senior Mixed curling team, Gold Medal champions at the SHSAA Curling championships in Nipawin March 8-9. Left to right: Jason Reddekopp (coach), Olivia Parker (lead), Jordan Tuttroen (second), Emma Beaulac (third), Dalton Wasden (skip), and Brad Nemish (coach).

The team of Aleah McNabb (skip), Payge Galambos (third), Jaida Jones (second) and Amber Simonar (lead) made it to the medal round, but they had to work for it. They were in a three-way tie for first place, all three finishing 2-1. They met Gull Lake in a tiebreaker, the team that had handed them their earlier loss.

However, this time, the Spiritwood foursome came out on top, winning 7-5 and placing second in the pool.

Their semi-final opponent was Weyburn, 3-0 in their pool, and that's when the wheels fell off. Weyburn

started off with three in the first, and Spiritwood came back with a deuce in the second. Weyburn picked up three more in the third, and then stole two in the fourth and another three in the fifth. That was the game.

In the bronze medal game, a couple of steals by Yorkton Regional in the middle ends spelled doom for the girls' chances to claim the medal. Yorkton won 7-2 and exacted some revenge for the 7-5 loss at the hands of the Spiritwood girls in the round robin.

Still, it was a good outing. And all four are currently in Grade 10, with two years of eligibility remaining.

In the Boys draw in Humboldt, the

two Region D teams that earned their spots in the Provincial championship came away with medals. Carpenter High of Meadow Lake won silver, while NBCHS took bronze.

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Spiritwood Herald

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MARCH

31

The deadline to apply, cancel
or make changes to your
Crop Insurance contract is
March 31, 2019. For more
information, call 1.888.935.0000
or visit our website.

Canada

Tissue report raises questions about ag's future

The future of farming may well rely on its ability to backfill raw products as society becomes more aware of just what its decisions as consumers mean to the natural world.

Without a doubt there is increased awareness regarding what the impact of what we do has on the environment. Society is increasingly concerned when we hear about elephants being killed for their tusks, or what destruction of grasslands might mean to burrowing owls or black-footed ferrets, and that is generally a positive thing.

Moving forward con-

sumers are also going to send messages with what they decide to purchase.

For example, a recent online Leader-Post article detailed "a report on tissue paper use gave failing grades to the leading toilet paper, tissue and paper towel brands for using only virgin fibre pulp, mostly from Canada's old boreal forests."

The report, called The Issue With Tissue, noted that the United States in particular drive the demand for the softest tissue "with the average American using almost three rolls each week and major manufacturers



CALVIN DANIELS

spurning alternative fibres ...

"The U.S. is followed by Germany and Britain in annual toilet paper consumption. They far out-pace the other nations. Canada isn't in the top 10."

Instead of looking at alternative fibres, manufacturers turn to

soft woods, predominantly from Canada's forests.

The report is quoted as noting, "When the boreal and other forests are degraded, their capacity to absorb man-made greenhouse gas emissions declines. In addition, the carbon that had been safely stored in the forests' soil and vegetation is released into the atmosphere, dramatically undermining international efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions."

The solution would be to have tissue paper made from alternative materials and that is where farmers could

play a significant role.

The story even suggests a couple of alternatives, bamboo, and of more interest to farmers here is wheat straw.

Another obvious answer would be hemp, a fibre source that has long been overlooked because of concerns with its relation to marijuana. The potential for hemp fibre in a wide range of products, and when you consider the tissue industry is valued at \$31 billion in revenue every year in the U.S., it would be a massive market for farmers.

But the industry is unlikely to rock a \$31

billion boat without a push from somewhere.

There are two possible ways to push an industry, one being government legislation, created to protect the soft-wood forests.

The second, and certainly the preferred method, would be for consumers to seek out tissues with alternative source materials, pushing manufacturers to make changes to hold market share.

Consumers can make a difference based on their purchasing choices if they choose to use that power effectively.

And, that might open new markets for farmers.

4,000+ reasons

To grow our world from the ground up.

In Nutrien's first full year of operations, we generated \$750 million* of new economic activity in Saskatchewan.

Candace Laing is one of more than 4,000 people in Saskatchewan employed by Nutrien. Our Vice President, Sustainability and Stakeholder Relations grew up on a farm near Swift Current and is building her career in Saskatoon as part of the world's largest provider of agricultural solutions.

In 2018, we increased the number of positions at our corporate office by almost 30 percent and we're the largest private-sector employer in Saskatchewan. And by investing more than \$50 million in Nutrien Tower, we're building a home for our future.

As Nutrien grows our global business, we're creating more opportunities in Saskatchewan.

To see the stories behind the numbers, go to Nutrien.com/Saskatchewan.

* A research study by Ernst & Young (EY) measured the incremental impact of Nutrien's operations, capital expenditures and investments in Saskatchewan in 2018.

Town Square in planning stages

The question "Why don't they do something with that lot" just may have an answer. The Northern Lakes Economic Development Committee (NLEDC) has come up with a concept plan that is in the preliminary stages, but if it gets the go-ahead, it could become a Town Square.

The lot in question is the northeast corner of Main St. and 1st St. East, which has been vacant since the old service station was demolished a couple of years ago.

The Town Square would contain picnic tables and benches, and possibly a bandstand. It would be seen as a spot at which to stop and relax for a bit or, on occasion, to enjoy some live music. Fea-

tures would be added from time to time, depending on funding and public interest.

Spiritwood Pharmacy had purchased the lot with the intention of building their new pharmacy on that spot. However, due to the anticipated cost of clean-up of the site, Gary and Heather Von Holwede went with Plan "B" and purchased the building across the street.

The Von Holwedes have donated the use of the lot for the purpose of developing the Town Square.

NLEDC is currently awaiting an environmental assessment, but the committee isn't anticipating any difficulties, since there will be no building on the site.



A concept plan for a proposed Town Square. The finished product may look like this, or it may change depending on input. It would be located on the empty lot at the corner of Main St. and 1st St. E. Not every detail will be adopted, but the general design has been accepted by the NLEDC Board.

APAS calls for changes to how farm fuel is taxed

The Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan is calling on the federal Ministers of Finance and Environment to make immediate changes to how farm fuels are treated under the Greenhouse Gas Pricing Act that comes into effect for Saskatchewan on April 1, 2019.

The intent of the legislation is to exempt farmers from paying carbon taxes on certain fuels used on-farm. In order to receive this exemption, producers will be required to complete and submit this form

to their bulk fuel provider prior to delivery.

"It is our understanding that farm fuel not delivered to the farm, but picked up at Cardlocks across Saskatchewan, is not included in this exemption," said APAS President Todd Lewis.

Lewis learned of this loophole while attending the Canadian Federation of Agriculture's AGM last week in Ottawa. Delegates at the meeting heard that the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) is aware of the issue and are looking at what

needs to be done to address it. However, the carbon tax will be applied to Cardlock fuel until a solution is found.

APAS is writing the Ministers responsible and asking for immediate changes before the carbon tax is imposed on April 1.

"With only a few weeks before spring seeding, we have producers phoning our office and asking if they need to be buying additional tanks to store their fuel on farm," Lewis continued. "It makes absolutely no sense for an exemption to cost producers more money or for legislation designed to reduce carbon to be forcing delivery trucks up and down Saskatchewan roads."

Medstead Leisure Life Club holds monthly meeting



Medstead Leisure Life Club held their monthly meeting on March 4, 2019 with 10 members present. Our birthday recipients were Lt-rt, Fern Moen & Louise Casson. Appreciation goes to Helen Conacher for making the delicious cake. Our next meeting will be held on April 1, 2019. Mark Sunday, March 24, 2019 on your Calenders for our next Jam Session in the Medstead Hall at 2 p.m. Afternoon. Everyone is Welcome!

You're at home here.



Lake Country Co-operative Association Limited

ANNUAL MEMBER INFORMATION MEETING

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2019

John M. Cuelenaere Public Library
125 12th Street East
Prince Albert, SK
10:30 a.m.

ALL MEMBERS WELCOME!



The Government of Canada's Carbon Tax

The Government of Canada has imposed a *Federal Carbon Tax* that will impact your power and natural gas bills starting **April 1, 2019**. The Government of Canada will apply the GST to the *Federal Carbon Tax*. The Government of Saskatchewan will not charge PST on this new tax.

For more information, visit saskatchewan.ca/federalcarbontax



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Canada

Services aux
Autochtones Canada

Registered Nurse Home Care

Big Island Lake First Nation

Rewarding opportunity available for motivated nurse who desires to work with First Nation clients in a friendly, welcoming community. The position is full-time permanent, week days, vehicle provided and multiple funded, learning opportunities and excellent support provided.

For more information about this challenging and rewarding position, please contact Lindsey Dauvin, Supervisor Nurse Practice Advisor with Indigenous Services Canada, Spiritwood. Phone 306-883-1465 or email lindsey.dauvin@canada.ca

To apply for this position and to view the full list of required qualifications, please refer to the federal government employment website: www.canada.ca/government-jobs. The deadline for applications is March 17, 2019.

We thank all candidates who apply and advise that only those selected for further consideration in the process will be contacted. Preference will be given to Canadian citizens. We are committed to Employment Equity. The Public Service of Canada is committed to developing inclusive, barrier-free selection processes and work environments. If contacted regarding this competition, please advise of the accommodation measures which must be taken to enable you to be assessed in a fair and equitable manner.

Vous pouvez obtenir ces renseignements en français.

Canada

New club champions at SCC

The Spiritwood Curling Club has a new club champion following the play-downs held Mon-Wed last week. Dalton Wasden and his team of Emma Beaulac at third, Spencer Fox second and Alexis Stochmanski lead scored a last rock victory over Brad Nemish in one of the most tense and exciting matches in recent memory.

Nemish, with Landon Swityk curling third, Jordan Tuttroen second and Lane Buswell lead, had scored a three-ender in the 7th end to tie the match at five apiece and lead to the dramatics coming home.

“We were lucky to be there,” Nemish said later. “They out-curling us position for position.” He noted that the two chip shots by lead Stochmanski were the best he’s ever seen, “even on tv.”

In the past, the Monday night teams were seeded on one side of the draw, and the Wednesday teams were on the other. This year, care was taken to make sure teams involved in both nights were on opposite sides of the draw,

and the rest were drawn to fill the spots.

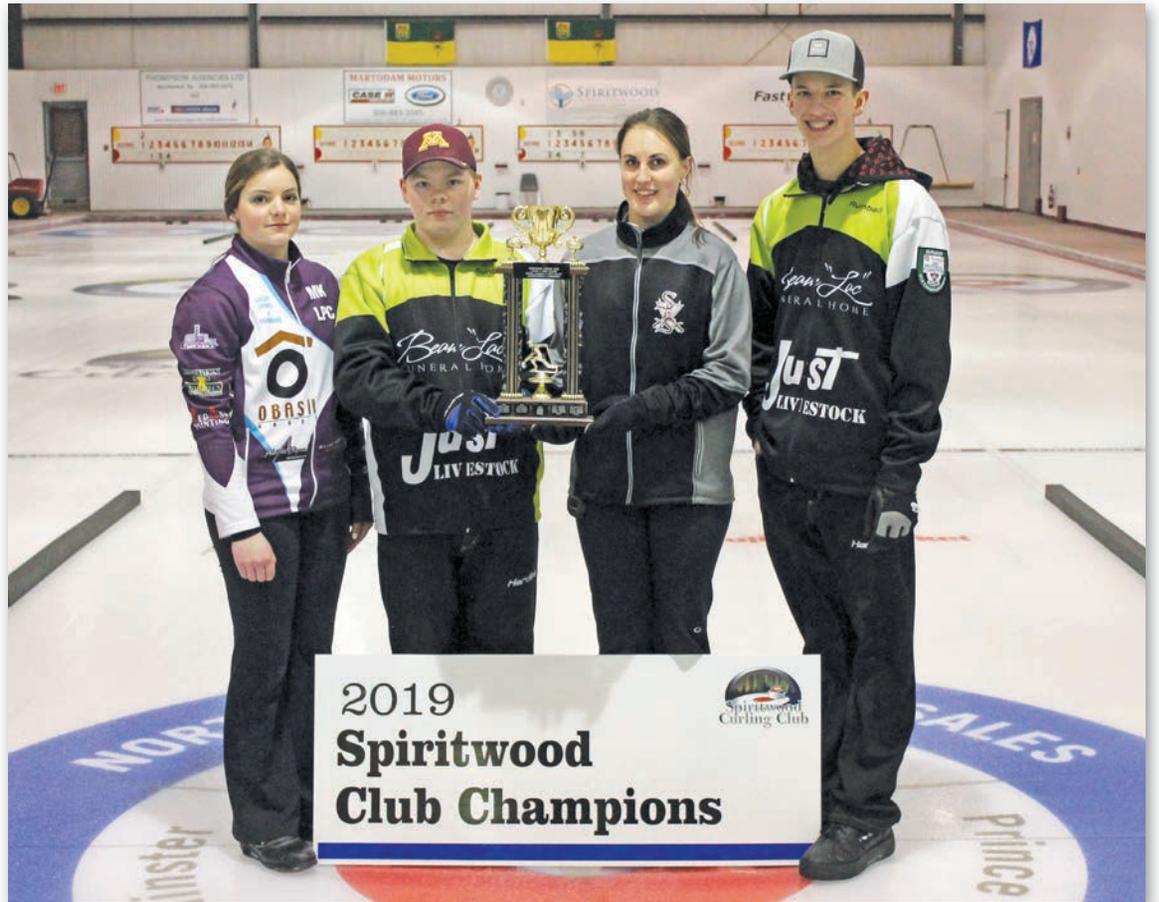
Nemish and Wasden went undefeated through their respective sides of the draw before meeting in the final.

Wasden scored a deuce with his last rock against Kyle Brewer’s team – the Spiritwood Senior Boys – to eke out a narrow 3-2 win in one semi-final. Brewer scored one in the first end, and Wasden tied it in the 6th with a single. Ends 2-5 were blanked. Brewer, facing three opposition stones with his final rock in end seven played a raise takeout with his final shot to score a single that gave him a 2-1 lead coming home.

But Wasden had the hammer, and he made it count.

In the other semi-final, Nemish kept the pressure on Laurie Mayo all night. A steal of three in the fifth end put him way up, and the teams called it quits after six.

There were 17 teams competing, with games played Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.



Spiritwood Curling Club Champions 2019, Left to right: Alexis Stochmanski (lead), Spencer Fox (second), Emma Beaulac (third), and Dalton Wasden (skip) . Both Stochmanski and Fox are from Shellbrook, but they have curled all winter in Spiritwood on the Wednesday night draw. They also curl with Beaulac and Wasden on their respective U-18 teams.



Decisions, decisions. Brad Nemish and his team agonize over a shot he’s facing.



Semi-final action with Kyle Brewer’s third and second, Colton Balaszi and Karstin Booth, tracking a shot by Tyson Knot.

Employment Opportunity RM of Spiritwood No. 496

The RM of Spiritwood No. 496, located in the heart of the parkland region has an employment opportunity available for a Seasonal Scraper Operator.

The Scraper Operator will be responsible for, but not limited to the operation & maintenance of a TS14GScraper, in a safe and appropriate manner for municipal road repairs & rebuilds as well as other duties that may be assigned by the foreman.

The successful candidate must be motivated, enthusiastic, goal oriented & able to work unsupervised in a team setting. The position can be physically demanding and requires attention to detail, decision making, planning, time management & organizational skills.

Applicants possessing experience and knowledge of heavy equipment will be given preference. Salary will be based on qualifications & experience.

Health & Dental, Disability, Vision & MEPP are provided.

Approximately 40 -50 hours/week.

Required Certification: High School or equivalent, WHMIS, TDG. A Class 5 Driver’s License is imperative.

The successful applicant must supply their own steel toed safety boots.

Please submit resume complete with **references, certifications, driver’s license abstract and a criminal record check** to Box 340, 218 Main Street, Spiritwood, SK S0J 2M0 Ph: (306)841-7655, Fax: (306)883-2557 or email to rm496@sasktel.net by 4:00 pm Friday, March 29th, 2019.

Only those applicants chosen for an interview will be contacted.

Notice of Public Meeting Rural Crime Watch

Time: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 @ 7 p.m.

Place: Canwood Elks Community Hall

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Election of Executive
- Determination of area representatives to sit as Board Members
- Optional Membership with Fees
- Local RCMP on-site with Criminal Record Check Applications

To complete an application at the public meeting attendees will require:

Valid Driver’s Licence or photo identification (must show civic or rural address)

AND one additional piece of identification

This Crime Watch group will be administered through the “WhatsApp Messenger” App which allows the Group to cover a large geographical area.

EVERYONE WELCOME

Prairie Centre Credit Union ANNUAL MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 16TH 2019

Herbert Lions Community Hall

Supper: 6:00 p.m.

Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Tickets available at your local PCCU branch



Prairie Centre
CREDIT UNION

We'll help grow your money.

Theresa Martin leaves legacy to Jim Pattison Children's Hospital

A new private patient room and specialized equipment in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Jim Pattison Children's Hospital will bear the name of local senior Theresa Martin of Spiritwood, SK, thanks to a generous legacy gift of \$297,000.

Born premature herself, Theresa was always drawn to care for those who needed a little extra help to heal and grow. She had a special place in her heart for children. Theresa always took the time to talk to kids she met around town and had a supply of handmade blankets that she generously gave to children on her many ambulance trips. Knowing that these blankets would comfort them during

their journey warmed her heart.

The idea to leave a gift in her will to the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital came to her while listening to the Children's Hospital Radiothon on the radio. Her decision to leave a lasting gift to Saskatchewan babies, children and families seemed like a perfect fit for her family.

"Theresa's generosity is a gift of hope to families who find themselves in the depths of a NICU journey with their sick



Theresa Martin

or premature baby," said Lynn Redl-Huntington, vice president of communications at Jim Pattison Children's Hospital Foundation. "Her decision to leave a lasting legacy will give the tiniest babies of Saskatchewan a chance to overcome their biggest battles. We are grateful for her gift that will improve outcomes for these little ones and their families for years to come."

The new Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at

Jim Pattison Children's Hospital will provide the most comfortable environment possible for our littlest patients and their families, including space for visitors and a place for a parent to sleep. Every patient room is 100% private, offering added privacy and confidentiality, while allowing parents to be engaged in their newborn's care. Large, bright windows offer a natural light source, proven to elevate moods, regulate sleep and decrease stress.

Jim Pattison Children's Hospital is scheduled to open in Fall 2019.

Join the team and donate now at pattisonchildrens.ca or call 306-931-4887.

World Day of Prayer hosted by Lakeland Community Church

By Betty Taylor

Lakeland Community Church was this year's host of the March 1, 2019 World Day of Prayer. The women of Slovenia provided the program for this annual event, held in some 170 countries in the world.

Participants from the churches in the community – Roman Catholic, Cowboy Church, Partners in Faith (Anglican/Lutheran/United) and Lakeland Community Church entered the sanctuary to the lively singing of, "Come into His presence with thanksgiving in your hearts and give Him praise..."

The theme, "Come – Everything Is Ready", was taken from Luke 14: 13-23 where an invitation is given to a banquet. With many excuses invited guests say they cannot come. The master of the banquet then directs his workers to go out and invite strangers to come to the banquet and fill his table.

Through the readings, songs

and stories of real people in Slovenia we were drawn to see our modern day parallel to the story in Luke. Our theme song, "Come to The Table" puts it so beautifully." (To listen to this song, google YouTube "Sidewalk Prophets – Come to The Table.")

As this song was played, four participants, one by one, joined around a table invitingly prepared with breads, grapes, a pitcher of grape juice (representative of wine), salt and rosemary – things of significance to Slovenia. It is a wine-producing country and salt is produced on the Slovenian coast in the Piran Salt-pans. Rosemary is significant of celebration. At the song's invitation to "Come to the table," the celebration continued with people from the congregation (pictured here) spontaneously joining others at the table.

The message, given by Stephanie McClellan, pastor of a



At the song's invitation to "Come to the table," the celebration continued with people from the congregation spontaneously joining others at the table.

United church in Lewisporte, Newfoundland, came to us via technology. Her words underlined the message of the entire program – that all are welcome. She told of growing up in a family that took in foster children at a moment's notice; that many times she would wake up in the morning and count how many strangers were in their home that had not been there when she went to bed the night before. She and her brother learned about sharing and "sometimes had less so that all could have some".

During the offering the ushers gave each person an invitation explaining how to accept Jesus' invitation to "Come".

The service concluded with the song, "You Shall Go Out with Joy" followed by a time of food and fellowship. The ta-

ble in the fellowship area was bountifully spread with a variety of homemade breads, vegetables, grapes, finger foods and side dishes. A table, with more than enough for all, represented God's abundant provision for us both physically and spiritually.

The women of Slovenia, through World Day of Prayer 2019, brought the clear mes-

sage to us and to all the world that all are invited to "Come to the table", but not all accept the invitation. Those who do are to go out and invite others to come to God's spiritual table where the healer of our brokenness heals and restores hope. For all who are hungry and thirsty and in need of hope, "Come to the table".



For all who are hungry and thirsty and in need of hope, "Come to the table". Four participants, one by one, joined around a table invitingly prepared with breads, grapes, a pitcher of grape juice (representative of wine), salt and rosemary – things of significance to Slovenia.



CHECK IT OUT!

Spiritwood Herald Website
www.spiritwoodherald.com

Jays say Guerrero Jr. not quite ready (wink!)

At the age of 19, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. — a Canadian citizen because he was born in Montreal when his dad, Vlad Sr., played with the Expos from 1996-2003 — is, and has been for more than a year, the Toronto Blue Jays No. 1 prospect.

But the prodigious hitter with vast potential will start the season with the AAA Buffalo Bisons until, oh, about the third or fourth week of April.

Seasoning, the Jays will say. Nudge, nudge, wink, wink. Further development needed, they'll add. Another couple of winks. Not quite ready yet, the Jays general manager Ross Atkins will repeat.

While Atkins might wink while uttering those words, Jays' fans eyes will be rolling. There hasn't been a 19-year-old player more ready than Guerrero to step into a major league team's lineup. He slammed 20 homers and batted .381 in AA and AAA

last year. But, just as Atlanta kept Ronald Acuna, Jr., down on the farm until late April before calling him up and watching him romp to the National League's rookie-of-the-year title, Guerrero will bide his time in the minors and the Jays' brass will continue to fudge the truth about the reason why.

It's simple, really. If a player is on a major-league roster for at least 172 days, it counts as a full season of service. After six years of service time, the player is eligible for free agency. By not adding Guerrero to the major-league roster until around the third week of April, his 2019 service time is — wow, wouldn't you know it! — just fewer than 172 days.

The MLB Players' Association doesn't approve of such roster manipulation. It tries to provide as many jobs and financial opportunities as possible for its players. But you can't blame Jays' management for trying to maximize the availability of a star



BRUCE
PENTON

player such as Guerrero. Jays' fans may lament the youngster's AAA stint for three weeks or so, but those same fans will be happy in 2025 when Guerrero is in the final year of his contract — barring the signing of an extension before becoming eligible for free agency.

But if Guerrero is as good as touted, he'll almost certainly let his contract expire and explore his value on the free market. He'll look at what Bryce Harper signed for earlier this month — \$330 mil-

lion from the Phillies for 13 years — and harbour similar, or greater, dreams in 2026.

So no, Guerrero is not going to start the season with the Blue Jays. He could hit 20 spring training home runs, drive in 50 runs and bat .625, but Atkins will say that Guerrero needs a little more minor league seasoning.

He'll wink. And the baseball world will understand.

- **Headline at TheOnion.com:** "Climatologists Find Pitchers And Catchers Reporting Further South Every Spring"

- **Another onion.com offering:** "Bryce Harper Asks If Phillies Willing To Move To Another City"

- **Patti Dawn Swansson in the River City Renegade:** "The Ottawa Senators' Mark Stone, Matt Duchene, Ryan Dzingel — all shipped out the same week. Eugene Melnyk — still there. That's an L of an outfit."

- **Comedy writer Alex Kasberg, on Bryce Harper's re-**

cord 13-year, \$330 million contract with the Phillies: "The deal includes a lucrative \$5,000 bonus for each booed at-bat."

- **Janice Hough of leftcoast-sportsbabe.com:** "At 13 years for Bryce Harper contract, there are kids not even born in Philly who will be booing him someday."

- **Dwight Perry of the Seattle Times, on the Department of Homeland Security establishing a fake university in Michigan to snare undocumented immigrant students:** "And the ruse looked so authentic, insiders say, that the school now appears on four SEC non-conference football schedules next fall."

- **Brad Rock of the Deseret (Utah) News:** "The NBA is considering lowering the draft-eligible age from 19 to 18. Wouldn't it be easier to just move Kentucky, Duke and North Carolina to the NBA?"

- **RJ Currie of sportsdeke.com:** "The New York Mets

GM said Tim Tebow is just one step away from playing Major League Baseball. Failing that, he might end up playing for the Mets."

- **Another one from Kasberg:** "Broncos Adam 'Pacman' Jones was arrested for cheating at an Indiana casino. This will add to Pacman's 30 strikes-and-you're-out deal with the NFL."

- **Dwight Perry again:** "Porn star Mia Khalifa underwent corrective surgery that she said resulted from an errant puck rupturing one of her breast implants at an undisclosed Stanley Cup playoff game last year. Junior-high puckheads immediately declared it the No. 1 upper-body injury ever."

- **Stat of the week, from Perry:** "The website UPSupply.co crunched the numbers and determined it would take a single Zamboni 693 years to resurface all of Lake Superior."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Bull riding a go for the fall

Spiritwood's Bull Riding Committee is hoping to have a bigger and better show for fans this October. This will be the fourth annual Bull Riding Competition, and so far some 2,650 people have been entertained over the first three such events.

And in the process, some \$165,485 has been realized, through the event itself and the accompanying 50-50, which has been applied to the outstanding mortgage on the Rec Centre.

One of the events leading up to the bull riding evening is the table auction. A VIP table will be donated to the Community Auction, which will be held in April, to kickstart the table auction.

As well, the 50-50 tickets are due to go on sale sometime in June, and if it ever warms up, one

can expect to see Barb Szasz in her office in front of Hujbers Market. Last year's 50-50 netted over \$8,000 for the lucky winner.

It promises to be an exciting event, so you won't want to miss getting your tickets when they go on sale.



Michael Ostashek won the 2018 Bull Riding Competition in Spiritwood. He is expected to be back to defend his title.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Rural Municipality of Big River, No. 555

Public Notice is hereby given that the Council of the RM of Big River, No. 555 intends to adopt a bylaw pursuant to Section 207 of the *Planning and Development Act, 2007* to amend Bylaw No. 1/19 known as the Zoning Bylaw.

INTENT

To amend zoning district map to rezone a portion of the N½-03-55-12-W3, lying east of Highway 24 from F - Forest District to A - Agriculture District, to accommodate a lagoon and an access to the said lagoon.

AFFECTED LANDS

An area on the east side of Highway 24, south the Resort Village of Chitek Lake and the intersection of Highway 945 and Highway 24, predominately located within the NE-03-55-12-W3 and a small area located within the NW-03-55-12-W3, in the Rural Municipality of Big River, No. 555, shown in the sketch below within the bold dashed line.

REASON

The reason for the amendment is to accommodate the Resort Village of Chitek Lake Proposed Lagoon Site and future expansion thereof.

PUBLIC INSPECTION

Any person may inspect the bylaw at the RM Office on any judicial day between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Copies are available at a cost of \$1.00.

PUBLIC HEARING

Council will hold a public hearing on April 8th, 2019, in the Board Room at the Big River Community Centre at 606 First Street North, Big River, SK at 3:00 pm. Council will also consider written comments received at the hearing or delivered to the undersigned at the municipal office before the hearing.

Issued at Big River this 14th day of March, 2019.

Donna Tymiak
RMA



Shell Lake 50-plus Club hosts successful bonspiel

Submitted by David Jensen

Once again The Shell Lake Fifty Plus Club hosted a very successful Bonspiel on March 5, 6, and 7.

Ten teams competed for the coveted prize money and the opportunity of being called champions.

As in the Tournament of Hearts and Brier there were three draws each day, however they were completed by 5 p.m. each. On Monday participants were treated to a delicious meal of baked ham, scalloped potatoes, three salads, plus the choice of three delectable trifle des-

erts.

In the A Event, the Jim Koetse rink made up of players from Spiritwood and Shell Lake went through the competition defeating all of their competition. In the final they defeated Rene Beaulieu and his rink from Debden.

In the B Event, John Howard team from Shell Lake and Spiritwood survived a very close final game against the Lloyd Fisher team with players from Spiritwood and Shell Lake.

Finally, in the C Event, the Gilles Francoeur team from Debden sur-

vived a back to back to back game day on Wednesday to defeat the Ken Grandberg team all from Shell Lake.

The Shell Lake Fifty-plus Club ap-

preciates all the teams who played, and all people who work tirelessly to make this bonspiel a success each year.



A Winners: Skip Jim Koetse, third Ken Hogg, second Sandra Howard, and lead Helen Conacher.



B Winners: Skip John Howard, third Don Garand, second Connie Heisler, and lead Deb Hogg.



C Winners: Skip Gilles Francoeur, third Mitch Beaulac, second Vivian Spriggs, and lead Aline Hammon.

PRAISE & WORSHIP

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

PARTNERS IN FAITH

Lutheran/United/
Christchurch Anglican,
137-2nd St. W.
Spiritwood
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

PARTNERS IN WORSHIP

Shell Lake - Sun. 10 am
(Worship in Lutheran -
United Church)

Gideons International of Canada

Battlefords Camp
Phone Art Martynes
(306) 389-4633

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

407 - 2nd Ave .E.,
Shellbrook
Sat., 9:45 am -
Sabbath School
Sat., 11:00 am - Worship
Broadcast on
VOAR 92.1 FM
Pastor Dan Guiboche
306-930-3377

MENNONITE BRETHREN

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

FIELDS OF HOPE (HOFFNUNGSFELDER) MENNONITE CHURCH

Glenbush
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Spiritwood
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Pastor Floyd Berg

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Spiritwood
Every Wednesday Night
7 pm
Spiritwood Legion Hall
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 Skating Club presents "Through the Year". Sunday, March 17, 2019, 2 pm, Spiritwood Arena. Silver Collection. A Skate Canada Sanctioned Event.

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Celebrating the green with shamrocks - St. Patrick's Day

By Patricia Hanbidge

Another year, and yes another St. Paddy's and all that goes along with that! March 17th marks a special day for those of us who are Irish... and those that would like to be! All joking aside, this day is celebrated by people from all backgrounds in many parts of the world. St. Patrick's Day is a celebration of all that is green and people help to make the day special by wearing something green.

This day simply bursts with folklore surrounding leprechauns, good luck and of course the shamrock. The Celts called the shamrock "seamrog" or "little clover" and considered it a sacred plant symbolizing the re-birth of spring. Now I think that for any of us who garden on the prairie, the shamrock is very special to us as it does signal the ebbing winter and the quickly approaching spring.

Identifying what plant is the original Irish shamrock has always been a bit of a puzzle. Many of the Irish still living in Ireland would say it is a four-leaved clover while others consider that is must be a three-leaved clover. No one can agree which plant was picked by St. Patrick; however there are a number of possibilities of plants that are native to Europe and are now naturalized to North America. It could be the European wood sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*) which is often considered the true



shamrock or perhaps a type of white clover (*Trifolium repens*), the hop clover (*Trifolium procumbens*) or even the familiar black medic (*Medicago lupulina*).

During the month of March we see a number of shamrock looking plants gracing the shelves in our favourite garden centres and tempting us to purchase them for good

luck. They are usually oxalis which is native to Mexico in the higher elevation areas and southern Africa and South America. They grow from tiny bulbs and generally have three or four-lobed leaves. In the landscape, some of the oxalis can become a problem ground cover.

Oxalis prefers to be in high

light areas. The leaves will close at night and open in good light or sunshine. There are oxalis that will have leaves of red, green or purple with blooms of white, yellow, pink or red. Many of the oxalis we grow would go dormant in the summer if they were growing in their place of origin. If your oxalis is placed in an area that gets too hot

it will also go dormant until the temperature drops to an acceptable level. If you forget to water them they might also go dormant but if you again begin to water, new sprouts will appear. If you find that your plant is not blooming it may need a rest, so just cut back on the watering and fertilization and let it rest for a couple of months. They are almost impossible to kill but they are susceptible to root rot so be careful not to over water them.

This time of year look for the following oxalis:

O. regnelli (Lucky Plant) has three or four lobed, triangular shaped leaves. Irish mist is the variegated version

O. triangularis or purple shamrock is a beautiful plant with deep purple leaves and light purplish flowers.

O. deppei (Iron Cross) also has the three lobed leaves but the center of the green leaf is a deep purple. It has white flowers.

Watch next week for more on St. Patrick's Day. Happy Luck of the Irish to you! May your shamrocks grow and may you find a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow!

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.

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The Shrove Tuesday pancake supper held by Partners in Faith on March 5 was again a highly successful event.

The pancake supper is a time-honored tradition both here in Spiritwood and elsewhere, kicking off the important Lenten season on the Christian calendar.

In some parts of the

world, Shrove Tuesday is more commonly known as pancake day. People, in preparing to fast for Lent, would give up "fattening foods", and would therefore use them up before Lent began. A common recipe to use up the eggs and milk would be to add some flour, and voila, the pancake was born.



We weren't given a count of how many plates were served, but the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper was well attended and very successful.



Al Steinhilber flips a fresh batch of pancakes. The Shrove Tuesday pancake supper is a time-honored tradition in Spiritwood.

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