



205 in attendance at 2019 Festival of Treats



From left: Brad Nemish, Grant Lavoie, and Neil Buswell enjoying some social time after supper.

Wild blueberry sauce, succulent stuffed pork roast, and chicken parmesan were on the menu from Marion's Burger Bar at the 2019 Festival of Treats. The event has been hosted by Spiritwood Minor Ball for the past few years as a fundraiser for the Ball Diamond Restoration Project. This year's event brought in between \$12,000-13,000 to go towards these upgrades to the diamonds.

Tanis Franson, the event's main organizer, provided an update after supper on the project's status.

Drainage on the diamonds saw the number of cancelled games drop from 16 games in 2018 to 3 in 2019. The main diamond has received a new backstop, first and third baseline fencing, dugouts, and a redone in-

field with a new layer of shale put in this fall. Both diamonds were given an undercoat of screenings to help with drainage and new grass seed was put in at the common area and the drainage swails.

Upcoming activities include moving the far diamond, redoing the fencing, adding dugouts and shale, moving the kitchen, and installing bathrooms. The goal is to have the project completed by 2021 when Spiritwood is scheduled to host the Parkland Minor Ball tournament.

A plaque was presented to Paul Durette in recognition of his dedication to Spiritwood Minor ball and all the work he has put into the diamond restoration project.

Kelly Schneider from Boechler-Schira

Auctioneering took the stand next for a mix of comedy and auctioneering for the dessert auction.

The 16 remaining desserts after the Pick of the Litter was won by Taylor Kuffert brought in a whopping \$4,975, with buyers Patrick Booth, Aaron Dauvin (2), Victor Kuffert, Jodie Saam, Terry Wingerter, Larry Ledinski, Alex Beauchense, Fred and Marlene Walter, Dana Doucette, Laurie Ledinski, Curtis Schmidt, Gary Vonholwede, Kevin Latus, Scott Haggerty, and Darcy Gatzke.

Other fundraising initiatives included a heads or tails game that was won by Pauline Gagne and a raffle won by Michelle Andersar. Brenda Tipton won the big poinsettia

door prize.

The comedy stylings of Schawn Lacomber brought in a plethora of laughter from all ends of the room with jokes being made about the town's impossible to miss pink house and the fire hydrant in the middle of the cull-de-sac. After much prodding at Larry Ledinski, Lacomber chose to pronounce him the new mayor of Spiritwood, at least for the remainder of the comedy show that is.

Once the comedy show rolled to a close, DJ Trevor Pauls rolled out a mix of beats with everything from old country to new pop. Attendees had a great time visiting, dancing, and laughing.

More photos on page 2

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205 in attendance at 2019 Festival of Treats



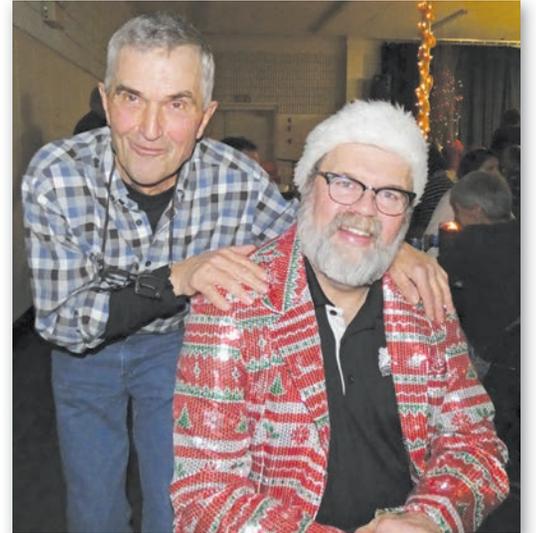
Guests were entertained by the comedy stylings of Schawn Lacomber.



Tanis Franson presenting Paul Durette with a plaque recognizing his dedication to the Spiritwood Ball Diamonds Restoration Project.



Taylor Kuffert was the winner of the Pick of the Litter draw, and got the first choice of a dessert.



Fred Walter and Kelly Schneider came for a good time and a little auction action.



Guests danced late into the night.



The Marion's Burger Bar team put on a spectacular meal for all the guests.



The Festival was enjoyed everyone, young and old.

Local man making professional boxing debut

Stuart Twardsik grew up in Big River and began training as a boxer at the age of 10, coached by his

father Stuart Twardsik. He has an extensive background in amateur boxing, having fought in 94 bouts.

The seven-time provincial champion has a long list of achievements from his amateur career. In 2004 he was awarded the National Bronze Medal in Prince George, B.C. In 2006 he won the Brampton Cup in Brampton, Ont. In 2007 he took home the Canada Games Silver Medal in Whitehorse, YK. 2008 was a big year for Twardsik as he received the National Gold Medal in Windsor Ont., the Brandenburg Cup Silver Medal in Germany, the Youth Commonwealth Games Gold Medal in Pune, India, and was nominated for Athlete of the Year.

In 2009, he won the Ringside World Champion-

ship in Kansas City, Missouri. During this time, he trained at Ring 83 in Montreal with Russ Amber, and with Sergio Martinez and Gabriel Camillo in Oxnard, California.

He took some time off from the ring for a few years but has returned to the boxing scene recently, feeling better than ever with his wife Candace as his manager. His last amateur bout took place on Oct. 26, 2019 in North Battleford, where he was awarded Best Male Fighter of the Night.

Coming up on Dec. 6, 2019 Twardsik will make his professional boxing debut in Edmonton, Alta.



The desserts up for auction looked as beautiful as they were delicious.

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BINGO! December 11, 2019
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Ag Barn in Spiritwood

Bring your unused 2019 hunting tags for a chance to win a \$75 gift certificate to Cabela's

New and experienced curlers come out for annual Grey Goose Funspiel

The Spiritwood Curling Club hosts a funspiel each year at the rink for some lighthearted curling that is a great way for new people to try out the sport and an opportunity for experienced curlers

to have a bit of fun.

There were eight teams playing in this year's Grey Goose Funspiel, including a couple teams with brand new curlers. The tournament format has each team

playing three four-end games where the rules are decided upon by the teams playing. Some curlers tried out a couple of their best trick shots, while others simply tried their best to slide out of the hack without ending up on their back-side.

There was a chuck-a-puck 50/50 won by Garret Reddekop who took home \$65 for being able to toss his puck closest to the button at the opposite end of the sheet.

The normal 50/50 was won by Lynna Buswell who took home \$130.

The liquor raffle traditionally has a bottle of Grey Goose vodka as the first prize as an homage to the name of the tournament. This and the second prize raffle item were won by Todd Turgeon while Andy Marsollier and Derryk Franson took home the two remaining items.

The Curling club donated four t-shirts as a door prize. These were won by the Sullivan team.



From left: Andy Marsollier, Todd Turgeon, and Derryk Franson were the winners of the Grey Goose raffle.



Some dressed up for the fun at the Grey Goose Funspiel.



Participants in the 'Chuck-a-puck' competition.

Spiritwood Stockyards

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REAL ESTATE WEEKLY

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| <p align="center">\$88,500</p> <p>606 4th St. E., Spiritwood Double lot, 2BD, 1BA, 940 sq. ft., well maintained, ready to move in. All appliances included. Front and back decks, double detached garage w/ insulated workshop area. MLS#SK755642</p> | <p align="center">\$69,900</p> <p>2 Main Street, Rabbit Lake Double lot, 2BD, 1BA character home, newly refinished original fir hardwood floors, new bathroom flooring, paint, heated with NG and wood stove, double detached garage. MLS#SK759563</p> | <p align="center">\$335,000</p> <p>Birch Lake Waterfront situated on 8.26 acres at Birch Lake. 3BD, 2BA unique home, walk out basement, wood/electric heat. A must see property!! MLS#SK770220</p> |
| <p align="center">\$99,000</p> <p>101 McMurphy Rd., Medstead Large lot, 4BD, 2BA, 1306 sq ft open floor plan, c/w all appliances. Call for more information. MLS#SK771601</p> | <p align="center">\$210,000</p> <p>322 - 1st St. W., Spiritwood 2BD, 1BA townhouse, carefree living, open floor plan, condo fee includes nat gas, all yard maintenance, water/sewer/garbage, building exterior maintenance, c/w all appliances MLS#SK773580</p> | <p align="center">\$295,000</p> <p>422 Poplar Place, Chitek Lake 3BD, 1BA, 4 season home/cabin. Wood fireplace, nat. gas heat, quiet cul de sac, surrounded in spruce trees and nature. C/W boat dock space and all appliances. MLS#SK786163</p> |

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Aboriginal communities still in need of hope

Time is a funny little thing, isn't it?

Given the right circumstances — or the wrong ones, depending upon how you look at it — an hour can feel like a month and a day can feel like an eternity.

And yet, on the other hand, it often seems like one can blink and somehow miss out on an entire year in that split second during which one's eyes are closed.

For the people of the Makwa Sahgaiehan First Nation in northern Saskatchewan, it must feel that time is simply standing still, or revolving in an infinite loop.

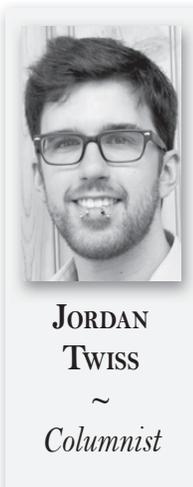
Just three years ago, the First Nations community was one of a number in Saskatchewan that garnered national media attention when six young Aboriginal girls took their own lives. The others, as you may recall, were La Ronge, Stanley Mission, and Deschambault Lake.

At that time, all of Canada seemed to come together around these four Saskatchewan communities — as well as the Attawapiskat First Nation in Ontario and the Shamattawa First Nation in Manitoba, both of which grappled with suicide crises earlier that same year.

Political leaders, including then-Premier Brad Wall, paid visits to the First Nations. They said the right words and made the right promises, all with utter sincerity.

They even “parachuted” social workers and mental health workers into the communities, to help them find their footing and begin to move forward in the face of unfathomable tragedy.

It seemed, then, that we had all heard the wake-up call loud and clear. That we were



JORDAN
TWISS

~
Columnist

finally prepared to leave behind decades of finger pointing and shirking our responsibilities, in favour of rolling up our sleeves and putting in the work to provide these communities with the hope and the resources they needed.

Instead, we blinked.

In that briefest moment in which our eyes were closed, three years flew by. And when our eyes finally opened again, we inexplicably found ourselves in almost exactly the same situation.

Over the past four weeks, the Makwa Sahgaiehan First Nation has been shaken by three suicides, including those of a 10-year-old girl and a father in his early 40s. There have also been no fewer than eight suicide attempts, by mostly young people.

The suicides and attempted suicides prompted the First Nation to declare a state of crisis. In response, the provincial government has sent 11 crisis counsellors to the community to provide assistance to the grieving.

It's encouraging, of course, to see the province mobilize its resources so quickly to respond to a community in need. Hopefully it will be enough to turn the tide of the crisis.

But at the same time, it's hard not to wonder why we're in this very same situation three years later, and why nothing ever seems to get better for these communities.

For, if we're being honest with ourselves, we've been reading the same headlines over and over again for far more than just the past three years.

How many Indigenous lives need to be prematurely ended before we move beyond pretty words and hollow promises? What



body count will make the federal and provincial governments take these crises seriously?

Makwa Sahgaiehan and other First Nation communities like it are far beyond the need for the band-aid solutions and temporary fixes that the provincial and federal governments keep on supplying.

What they need are permanent resources and a long-term strategy to meet the needs of their people — not just when it comes to mental health, but also in healthcare, housing, employment, and so much more.

A little over three years ago, I said of the children living in these communities: “They need the hope that comes from a sense of community, and stability in their home lives. They need the hope that comes from hav-

ing opportunities available to them that give them the ability to envision themselves being happy and healthy in the future.”

These words are as true now as they were back then. They stand as incontrovertible evidence that something significant has to change locally, provincially, and federally.

Sitting in Shellbrook, or Blaine Lake, or Big River, or Spiritwood, you may feel as though there's nothing you can do.

But, if nothing else, you can join the Christmas card campaign that was started by former Makwa Sahgaiehan resident Linda Johnson to remind someone in the community that people care.

Cards can be mailed to: Makwa Sahgaiehan School, BOX 519, Loon Lake, Sask., S0M 1L0.

A walk around town: women's volleyball

By Alison Sullivan

You might find them in Leoville, Medstead, or Spiritwood. They might be playing on a Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday night.

Regardless of the day or location, one thing is for certain, this group of women love to play volleyball.

It was a Wednesday night at the Spiritwood High School gym when I went out to watch a bit of this adult recreational league myself.

Nine teams of women participate in the weekly evening volleyball that runs from October through December. Four teams will get together on a given night

and play a total of six sets, two against each of the other three teams.

Between all the laughing and smiling going on, there was also some great volleyball being played. There were women from a few different ethnicities and many different levels of play, but all of them were there for the same reasons, a bit of fun and recreation.

Hardly a game when by without a few very impressive serves, a couple of terrifying spikes, and some lengthy rallies.

Volleyball is the sport's second name, having first been called Mintonette



A little bit of action from the women's volleyball league.

when it was developed in 1895 in Holyoke, Massachusetts by William G. Morgan. It took five years for a spe-

cial ball to be developed for the game, 47 years before men's world championships were held, 57 years before

women's world championships were held, and 69 years before it became an Olympic sport.

Volleyball, like most sports that separate two teams with a net and an objective to land the object of play in the other team's court, isn't restricted by time but by a team reaching a certain number of points.

The longest game ever recorded happened in Kinston, North Carolina and lasted 75 hours and thirty minutes.

Luckily the women in Spiritwood aren't that competitive, otherwise I may not have made it to the end

of the game.

Despite the seemingly limiting population size of our community, there are quite a few people with an awful lot of initiative that help make the community the lively and active place it is.

There certainly is no shortage of opportunity to get out for a bit of recreation and a bit of fun, or even for some entertainment if watching is what you enjoy.

While I enjoy playing a great number of sports myself, volleyball is one that I am happy to sit on the sidelines for, and appreciate the talent on the court.

Report from the Legislature

For the past 12 years, Saskatchewan has been growing – more people, more jobs and more investment in our families and communities. We want to ensure this strong growth continues. Your Saskatchewan Party government has a new Growth Plan for a new decade so that everyone continues to benefit from a growing province.

Our plan for the next decade of growth is a roadmap for a growing province with key targets such as growing our population to 1.4 million people, creating 100,000 new jobs, increasing exports by 50 per cent and agriculture value-added revenue to \$10 billion.

Saskatchewan's Growth Plan for 2020 to 2030 outlines 20 key actions our government will undertake in the 2020s to build a strong and growing province and ensure we remain on track to realize the 30 goals we look to achieve by 2030.



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From supporting communities through \$2.5 billion in revenue sharing to investing \$30 billion in infrastructure and reducing surgical wait times, our new Growth Plan will ensure a strong economy, strong families and a stronger Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan has always been a province of abundance and opportunity. Our province is home to natural resource wealth that is the envy of nations around the globe. Because of the hard work, optimism and innovation of its

people, Saskatchewan has succeeded in overcoming obstacles and challenges.

Saskatchewan's population has grown to its highest level in a century. There are more people working than at any time in our history. We are increasingly globally connected as a province – new Canadians from 180 countries call Saskatchewan home and our products are sold to 156 countries around the world. Our agricultural and natural resources feed and fuel the world. Through innovation, we are increasing the growth and sustainability of our agricultural and resource industries.

Saskatchewan's future economic success is increasingly dependent on knowledge and innovation. Rapid technological changes, including advancements in automation and artificial intelligence will continue to impact our economy over the next decade. Supporting the creation of innovative products



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and services, as well as the adoption of leading-edge processes for industry will help our industries stay competitive and open up new markets while contributing to new technologies and practices to help achieve the province's climate-change goals.

Saskatchewan's technology sector is a growth driver in our economy and an important future enabler of growth in our agriculture and resource sectors. The combination of existing research infrastructure and two new technological in-

cubators has increased momentum in the province's digital economy, making Saskatoon the second-fastest growing tech job market in Canada.

Our government's plan is to triple the growth of Saskatchewan's technology sector by 2030. This includes:

- Aggressively pursuing new measures to retain and attract large-scale tech employers in Saskatchewan to anchor the province's technology ecosystem;
- Ensuring investors are aware and accessing Saskatchewan's "Patent Box" incentive which reduces the corporate tax rate to six per cent for income taxes generated through the commercialization of innovation in Saskatchewan;
- Supporting the Saskatchewan Technology Start-up Incentive (STSI). Introduced in 2018, the STSI has addressed a need for capital investment in emerging startups in Saskatchewan. As of April 2019, 26

companies and 83 investors have been approved for tax credits that have triggered over \$3 million in private investment;

- Supporting the Made-in-Saskatchewan Technology (MIST) program to allow companies access to public sector partners to test and refine their technologies and serve as a launching pad towards new sales and customers; and
- Positioning government as a test-bed and platform for the adoption of Saskatchewan-based technology to create made-in-Saskatchewan solutions to public sector challenges. This will assist technology entrepreneurs in our province to land their first major customer, validate their technology and commercialize their innovation – creating new businesses and jobs. Examples of recent success and details of our government's Growth Plan for the next decade can be found online at saskgrowthplan.ca.

Premiers Moe, Ford and Higgs sign nuclear energy agreement

On Sunday, Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe, Ontario Premier Doug Ford and New Brunswick Premier Blaine Higgs released the following joint statement:

"Ontario, Saskatchewan and New Brunswick agreed today to work together to explore new, cutting-edge technology in nuclear power generation to provide carbon-free, affordable, reliable, and safe energy, while

helping us unlock economic potential across Canada, including rural and remote regions.

We have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), committing to collaborate on the development and deployment of innovative, versatile and scalable nuclear reactors, known as Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), right here in Canada.

SMRs could generate clean and

low-cost energy for both on-grid and off-grid communities, connect more remote and rural areas of our province, and benefit energy-intensive industries, including the mining and manufacturing sectors. It could also drive economic growth and export opportunities as these technologies are further adopted across the country and around the world.

Our governments support a collab-

orative approach to reducing emissions and growing the economy in a way that meets the specific needs and economic priorities of each province.

We look forward to continuing to work together on innovative energy solutions and creating the best business environment to attract jobs and growth in regions right across the country."

Spiritwood Herald

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Member of



Games Day held at Spiritwood Library

Classics like Twister, Yahtzee, and Candyland were among the games being played by about 14 kids from both Hartley Clark and Rivier schools during early dismissal day on Nov. 27. The kids were having a great time trying out all the games and trying to get through all.

The Spiritwood Literacy Partnership in conjunction with Links to Learning Inc. and the Spiritwood Library host an activity afternoon every month on early dismissal day to occupy

kids until their parents are able to collect them after work.

The Wapiti Regional Library Headquarters have different kits that can be ordered to help provide some creative extracurricular activities to kids. Larissa Swityk-Conacher, the main organizer, says there are a variety of kits that can be borrowed, and they are all great ways to learn. Some that they have tried out are Halloween crafts, Lego, 3D pens, Easter eggs, and Ozabots.



Shelley and Megan Allard spinning the wheel for a game of twister.



Kids having fun building trains in Ticket to Ride.



Caleb was the big winner of the game Stone Soup.

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 Program – Spiritwood and District Health Complex (306) 883-4432

Mothers and/or fathers along with their young children may 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.

Entertainment – Evergreen Health Centre (306) 984-2136

Volunteer performers (Musicians, magicians, actors, etc.) share their talents with residents in long-term care. Other volunteers assist by inviting residents to a specific area for entertainment, parties, sing-a-longs, etc. Assist with snacks, lunches, etc.

“On Call” Volunteers – Hafford Special Care Home (306) 549-2108

Extra volunteers are often needed for the long term care residents on an “on-call” basis, to assist with outings, parties, social gatherings, shopping trips, taking residents to appointments, etc.

Shifts: As needed

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.

Shellbrook Chronicle Spiritwood Herald

Office will be closed from
December 20/19
@ Noon
to
December 29/20

Regular office hours
will resume on
December 30, 2020.

Advertising Deadline

is
Monday, Dec. 16/19
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Yields aren't the farm's only measure of success

Yield has always been the first measuring stick for success on the farm, and is still generally promoted as the goal, but the question that should be asked is if added production is achieved at an assured cost of production that leads to profitability.

For example the Canola Council of Canada has an established a 2025 goal of 26 million tonnes of seed production based on an average prairie yield of 52 bushels per acre.

The push by producers to boost production has generally been in the right direction in recent

years.

Since 2011-12 yields have risen from an average of 34 bu. per acre to a 2016-18 average of 41, according to a recent Western Producer story.

While yields are up, with only five years to go to get to the Council goal of 52 bushels, things would need to jump massively in those few years.

As canola has taken over as the main cash crop across much of the Canadian Prairies, acres devoted to the crop have increased, and that at times has meant pushing rotations, and putting canola fields in close proximity to other canola



CALVIN DANIELS

fields.

Such conditions are among reasons for increasing pressure from weeds, bugs and disease which puts pressure on keeping yields increasing.

To deal with weeds, bugs and disease produc-

ers generally turn to crop protection products, but there are new pressures on that side of things too, new regulations regarding long-used standbys such as glyphosate.

Moving forward farmers are going to face greater regulations when looking to the farm sprayer to fix in-field issues.

And as some long-used chemicals are restricted, expect new replacements to cost more.

With any application of chemical whether to control weeds, bugs, or disease, add to the cost of production for a crop and that can narrow the prof-

it margin, especially if yields are still impacted.

There is a balance between price received, yields produced and the cost to produce those yields in terms of a farmer actually making money.

Yields whether 30, 40 or 52 bushels per acre is not a guarantee of profit. There are other variables that the aforementioned Council goal does not address in terms of the farmer.

The yield goal does automatically favour the bottom line of seed companies, fertilizer sellers, and chemical companies since such a yield will

require maximizing nutrient levels and applying chemicals to protect every bushel of potential yield.

But, in spending to maximize production the producer also increases a risk. When weather -- still the key element in production -- impacts things in a negative way, the bills for fertilizer and chemical must still be paid, regardless of the lower yield.

While yield increases are a measuring stick, without an eye of profits over cost-of-production, those yields might not be as positive as a quick look might suggest.

Spiritwood Pioneer Centre activities

By Armand Smith

The Pioneer centre was busy in the month of November with BINGOS, Kaiser, and Cribbage. Every Thursday BINGO is played starting at 2:00 PM, followed by some dainties, coffee, and visiting. The centre was busy with five sessions of Cribbage.

On Nov. 1, twenty-two people came out to try their luck at Cribbage. Rosanne Smith had the high score, while Doris Colley placed second and Anita Guimond came in third. Anita also won the 50/50.

On Nov. 8, six tables played. Ed Crossland placed first followed by Armand Smith in second and Donna

Storozuk in third. Armond had the first 24-hand of the evening and Irene Marion 50/50.

On Nov. 15, there was a good turnout again with Geri Solinger having the highest number of points. Loaraine Lavoie placed second followed by Helen Mack. Anita Guimond had the winning 50/50 ticket and also won the five dollars for having the first 24-hand.

Eleanor Pallo had the high score on Nov. 21, with Linda Newton coming in second and Mavis Crossland placing third. Helen Mack won the prize for the first 24-hand. Rosanne Smith won the 50/50.

The last cribbage session for November saw Eleanor Pallo take the high score again, followed by Armand Smith and Mavis Crossland. Liz Valette got the first 24-hand and John Delfrari won the 50-50.

The monthly Kaiser tournament was held on Nov. 17 with a good turnout. Paul Durette had the high score for men followed by Sal Tipton. Ann Marie Laventure took first prize for women followed by Rita Bonneau in second. The 50/50 winner was Doug

Solinger.

On Nov. 24 the Senior Centre held their Christmas Supper starting at 4 PM. The group enjoyed the Youth Mennonite Choir from Leoville. They sang many Christmas songs in four-part harmony. Almost seventy seniors sat down to a very tasty turkey supper catered by Marion's Burger Bar.

Door prize winners were Rosanne Smith, Wallace Duhaime, Roze Szabo, Helen Krelow, Gilles Oulette, and Norman Colley.

Leoville Seniors celebrate birthdays and anniversaries



Leoville Seniors celebrating November and December anniversaries and birthdays. Standing: Lucille Larrivee, Lucille Denis, and Cecile Smith. Seated: Marie Ange Denis, Andre and Cecile Chalifour (64th anniversary), Eva Crossland (90th birthday), and Olive and Don Christopherson (64th anniversary in October).

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Hoback, Vidal, Block join Conservative shadow cabinet

Though Saskatchewan may still be unhappy with the results of October's federal election, residents in the readership area of the *Shellbrook Chronicle* and *Spiritwood Herald* may find some comfort in knowing that they are well-represented in the ranks of shadow cabinet appointed by Conservative Party leader Andrew Scheer.

Mr. Scheer announced the appointments Friday morning, and the

list includes three of the four MPs elected to represent ridings in the combined readership area of both papers.

"Our Conservative team is united, experienced and focused on finishing the job we started and replacing the Trudeau Liberals," Mr. Scheer said ahead of his reveal. "The Shadow Cabinet I have announced today reflects the growing strength of our team and our commitment

to work for Canadians from coast to coast."

First, long-time Prince Albert MP Randy Hoback was named as the shadow minister for International Trade.

"I will work tirelessly with our Conservative team to ensure that the Trudeau Liberals are held to account on this important file, and urge them to take the necessary actions required to regain and maintain the market access that they have lost for Cana-

da's industries over the last four years," Hoback said.

Up next, rookie MP Gary Vidal, who won the Desnethé-Missinippi-Churchill River riding, was selected as the shadow minister for Indigenous Services. The riding is a large and diverse one, spanning 340,000 square kilometres in northern

Saskatchewan and featuring a 70 per cent Indigenous population.

In a release issued following his appointment, Vidal said he welcomes the opportunities the new role will bring.

"I am excited to continue the work we have done building relationships with First Nations communities. I am

grateful for the opportunity and I look forward to engaging with Indigenous peoples across Canada," Vidal concluded.

Last, veteran Carlton Trail-Eagle Creek MP Kelly Block also earned a spot in Mr. Scheer's shadow cabinet, and will handle the Public Services and Procurement portfolio.

Highlights of a Spiritwood Library Board meeting

There were eight board members and the librarian present at the Spiritwood Library Board meeting. A Literacy report was given. We are planning to do programs for the younger students on early dismissal days. Board games were planned for November.

Joyce has reapplied for the Lions Club Grant for 2020. There was talk of a book club but we have no one willing to spearhead this program at this time. There is an organization that will come to the library to speak on low carbon stories. This will be discussed more at a later date.

There is a Libby App. This is for books and audio. We will invite Lindsey from headquarters to come and explain this app to the public.

Peggy and Hugh Jenner entertained at the library one afternoon in October. The music was enjoyed by

all those that attended.

Dessert of the Month is Dec. 12. All board members will bake for this draw. This should help supplement someone's Christmas baking. Tickets are only \$1.00.

The Library will have a book sale during the week of Dec. 9 to 13.

Write for Rights is Dec. 10, International Human Rights day. Tammy Burak did a writing workshop on Nov. 24 at the library.

Kay attended the Semi Annual Meeting. She gave a short report on that. Wapiti headquarters will be celebrating 70 years in 2020.

Joyce gave the Annual Financial report for 2019. A proposed budget for 2020 was decided on. All board members will remain the same for 2020.

The next library meeting will be Jan. 29, 2020 at 5 p.m.

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scottmoe.mla@sasktel.net



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

70 come out for sundaes with Santa

SARCS decided to change up their annual Breakfast with Santa this year and offered up ice cream sundaes instead. The Spiritwood and District Lions Club was there to serve up the sundaes, of course, which was sure a change from the usual pancake flipping they are used to.

Santa, also known as TJ Tipton for the other 363 days of the year, was there for pictures taken by Robin Lafond of Shyhorses Photography. Kids were running around everywhere and having a great time.

SARCS handed out a good bag to each child who came to see the jolly old man.



The re-imagined event drew a large crowd this year.



The Lions were out to serve up the sundaes on Sunday.



Parents and children enjoyed the Sundaes with Santa.



Megan and Shelley Allard with Santa (TJ Tipton).

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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: Witchekan Wildlife Federation Horn Scoring - Sat. Dec. 14 @ 7 pm, Ag Barn in Spiritwood. Bring your unused 2019 hunting tags for a chance to win a \$75 gift certificate to Cabela's.
SHELL LAKE: BINGO! December 11, 2019, 7:00 pm. Turkeys, Hams and other prizes. Presented by Little Wonders Clubhouse (preschool) at Shell Lake Lions Hall.

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Tennis star simplifies Lou Marsh Award voting

Canadian media is getting a break this year when it comes to voting for the Lou Marsh trophy, awarded annually to Canada's best athlete. Given the array of skill, talent and accomplishments, deciding on the worthy candidate has always been a difficult task.

But not this year. It's a breeze, thanks to tennis star Bianca Andreescu.

The Torontonian made a huge splash in 2019, moving into the top five ranked players in the world and making worldwide headlines by defeating Serena Williams, one of the sport's all time greats, in the final of the U.S. Open.

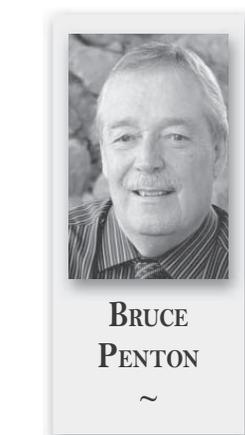
Overall, it has been a great year for Canadian women in sport and 2020, a Summer Olympics year, promises to be equally spectacular. Our country boasts one of the best and most popular female golfers, Brooke Henderson, and the Hockey Hall of Fame inductions were recently highlighted by Shaunavon, Sask.'s Hayley Wickenheiser, the no-

argument world's best of all time at her sport.

The Canadian sportswriters and broadcasters certainly can't be accused of sexism when it comes to voting for the Lou Marsh. While there could be some legitimate arguments that coverage of men's sports far outweighs that of women across the land, Lou Marsh winners have been, genderly speaking, 50-50.

Swimmer Penny Oleksiak won in 2016 after making a big splash in the pool at the Rio Olympics. Bobsledder Kaillie Humphries was the winner in 2014 and soccer star Christine Sinclair was voted No. 1 in 2012. Speedskaters Cindy Klassen and Catriona LeMay Doan have also been recent winners.

The vote in support of Andreescu, ranked 178th in the world at the start of the year and No. 4 at the end, should be unanimous. She was born in Mississauga but learned the basics of her sport in Roma-



BRUCE
PENTON

nia, when her parents moved back to their native land for a few years. By the age of 11, and now back in Canada, she got involved in the Tennis Canada development program.

Signs of a 2019 breakthrough were shown in January when Andreescu beat a number of higher seeded players to make the final of the ASB Open in Auckland, which she lost. She then won a WTA event in Newport Beach, Calif., in January, moving to No. 68 in the world. In March, Andreescu stunned

the tennis world by winning the Indian Wells tournament at Palm Springs, generally regarded as just a notch below the Grand Slam events in status. Then she won the Canadian Open in July, beating Williams in the final after the veteran American suffered an injury. But there was no injury-related asterisk in early September when the Canadian once again beat Williams in the final of the U.S. Open, taking the title in straight sets and making it look almost as easy as the voting will be for this year's Lou Marsh trophy.

• Mike Bianchi of the Orlando Sentinel, on Twitter: "Myles Garrett deserved to be suspended for the the NFL season, but anybody who says he should be banned for life is just being silly. Um, Ray Lewis was arrested for murder and pled down to "obstruction of justice" and is in the Hall of Fame."

• A groaner from RJ Currie of sportsdeke.com: "Pius Heinz, 22, once won the \$8.72-million prize at the

World Series of Poker. When he got ahead, opponents of Heinz played ketchup."

• Dwight Perry of the Seattle Times: "Baylor blew a 28-3 lead in losing to Oklahoma. Adding further insult, the Atlanta Falcons immediately sued the Bears for trademark infringement."

• Bob Molinaro of pilotonline.com (Hampton, Va.) "Until o-9 Cincinnati gets off the schneid, let's call them the Bagels."

• Norman Chad of the Washington Post: "The day synchronized swimming incorporates replay challenges, I'll know it's all but over."

• Comedy writer Jim Barach: "Tickets for the Lions and Redskins game this weekend are selling for \$5 apiece. Meaning with parking, concessions and souvenirs fans can enjoy the entire game for just over \$600."

• Comedy writer Alex Kaseberg: "During his helmet-slammng appeal, Myles Garrett accused Mason Rudolph of using a racial slur at him.

It turns out it was almost as worse. Mason called Myles a Bengal."

• Kaseberg again: "In the Chargers' 24-17 loss to the Chiefs, did you see Phillip Rivers try to block? Bless his heart, he looked like a Kardashian trying to spell."

• Headline from theonion.com: "Astros Fan Announcing Game 7 After Joe Buck Scalps Press Pass For \$25,000"

• Janice Hough of Left-CoastSportsBabe.com, after QB Tom Brady said he is "frustrated" with the Patriots' offence: "Fans of 29 other teams: 'Thoughts and prayers.'"

• Ben Frederickson of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch: "Baseball, you have a Houston problem."

• Reader Michael Kolb, in a question to Norman Chad of the Washington Post: "With the accusations against the Houston Astros using video to steal signs in MLB, is that just now called a "belichick"?"

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

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Worship
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Artisan Boutique holds grand opening

Spiritwood's Artisan Boutique was packed with people on Dec. 1 for their Grand Opening.

Vendors were coming in and out throughout the four-hour event to meet and mingle with customers. Many vendors had specials on items for the event, which was a great way to kick off the holiday season.

The boutique had a couple of special drinks on, including a candy cane mocha and an egg-nog latte as well as a gift basket that could be won by anyone purchasing items during the grand opening. The gift basket, containing a variety of items from the vendors, was won by Nora Borgeson from Spiritwood.



From left: Bevra Fee and Jeanette Short ready to brew a cup of coffee for visitors.



From left: Barb Jansen, Heather Gatzke, Heather Pederson, and Kathy Aumack are all vendors at the Spiritwood Artisan Boutique.



Nora Borgeson (left) being presented the gift basket by Heather Beauchesne (right).

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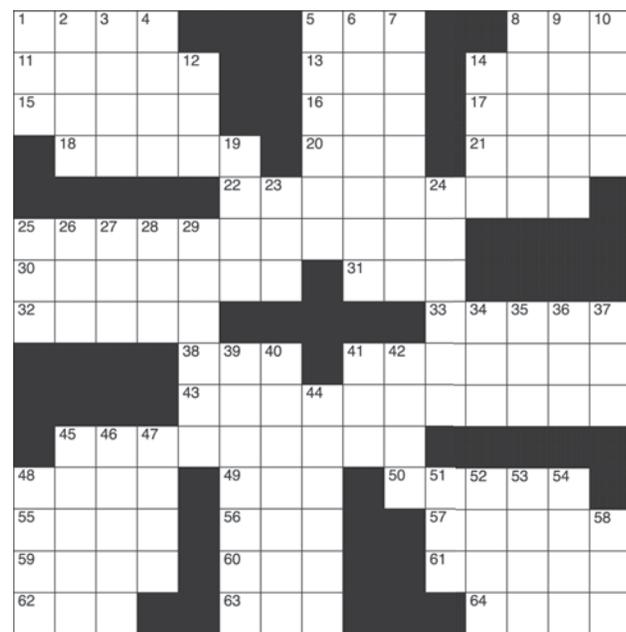
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Egyptian bull-god
5. America
8. Type of field (abbr.)
11. Reagan's Deputy AG
13. Negative
14. Mother of Hermes
15. Summer and Winter Olympics gold medal winner
16. In shape
17. Oh my goodness!
18. People of Guinea or Sierra Leone
20. A form of "to be"
21. Succulent plant
22. Estranges
25. Honest
30. Showing conviction
31. High schoolers' test
32. Implant
33. Acknowledgment
38. Cash dispenser
41. Transferred to another
43. Superhero group
45. Photographers
48. Small, rich sponge cake
49. Power to perceive
50. Heavy cavalry sword
55. Israel's first permanent UN delegate

CLUES DOWN

1. Type of degree
2. Expression of sorrow or pity
3. Large, predatory lizard
4. River in Romania
5. Biased
6. Parties
7. TV's used to need one
8. Philly football player
9. Recognized ethnic group of China
10. Gradually disappear
12. Large, dark antelope
14. Vegetarians won't eat it
19. Takes the energy out of
23. Body part



56. Everything
57. Afflicted
59. Language spoken in Chad
60. Pioneering MC Kool Moe ___

61. Jewish spiritual leader
62. Keyboard key
63. Soviet Socialist Republic
64. Impudence

24. Succeed in achieving
25. Where golfers begin
26. Computer memory
27. One who buys and sells securities
28. Midway between north and northeast
29. Quiet and rather dull
34. A limb on which to walk
35. It precedes two
36. Of she
37. Commercials
39. Necessary for sewing
40. Infectious viral disease
41. Expression of good wishes
42. Some are contact
44. More plentiful
45. Secret political clique
46. Behind the stern of a ship
47. Supernatural force
48. Altar in Orthodox churches
51. Swiss river
52. Impartiality
53. "Luther" actor Idris
54. They resist authority (slang)
58. Criticize

Answers on page 14

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Choosing and caring for your Christmas tree

By Jackie Bantle

Using greenery to decorate inside homes around the winter solstice (December 21st) goes back to ancient Greek and Egyptian times. In many countries throughout time, evergreen plant decorations were used to ward off witches, evil spirits and even illness during winter solstice. Germany is credited with originating the Christmas Tree as we know it today when 16th century Christians brought trees into their homes at Christmas time to decorate. Martin Luther, the 16th century Protestant

reformer, is the first recorded person to place lighted candles on a Christmas Tree: he said that it reminded him of the twinkling stars above a forest of evergreen trees.

When I was young, most Christmas trees were cut from wild forests in northern Saskatchewan or British Columbia. Nowadays, retail fresh Christmas trees are grown on Christmas tree farms. These trees may be grown locally or shipped from as far away as Quebec or the northern States. Locally grown trees include: White

(Black Hills) Spruce, Blue Spruce, Balsam Fir and Scots Pine. White spruce trees have short (2 cm), stiff needles that are dark green in color and easily roll between your fingers. Blue spruce needles have a bluish-green color. Spruce tree branches are straight and stiff and their fragrance can be intense when they are first set up. Balsam fir trees have flat, short, soft needles that are glossy green in color. The soft needles and branches as well as the pleasant, long-lasting fragrance make the Balsam fir one of the most favorite trees at Christmas. Scots pine tree needles are long (6cm), sharp and slightly twisted. Scots pine are the least fragrant of the four trees mentioned so far. The long needles of the Scots pine tree make the tree look lush and green. Scots pine trees grown in Saskatchewan tend to have a yellowish-green hue in fall and are sometimes spray painted to hide the yellowish needles.

Fraser firs are imported from eastern Canada and available at most tree lots on the Prairies. Fraser firs are known for their ability to hold their needles longer than other tree types. Fra-



Balsam fir needles; soft and fragrant

ser firs have soft needles with silvery-grey underside, strong but limber branches and mild fragrance. Douglas fir trees are shipped from BC. The needles are soft and have a lemony scent. The Douglas fir is usually narrower and less dense than the Fraser fir.

When choosing your Christmas tree, look for a tree that has healthy, green needles that are well attached to the tree. The more branches that are emerging from the stem, the denser the tree will be.

If you are not putting up your tree immediately, store your tree in a cool/cold shady location; do not let the tree

thaw. Just prior to putting your tree in the stand, saw 2.5cm off the base of the tree trunk, cutting the trunk at a slight angle. After putting the tree in its stand, fill the stand with boiling hot water. The boiling hot water will help the sap to start moving through the tree as it thaws. Do NOT put any sugar or other additives in the water. Never allow your Christmas tree to dry out. In the first few days, the tree will 'drink' a lot of water. Depending on how big your water reservoir is, you may have to fill the reservoir several times each day. As the tree gets older, it will use less water. Avoid setting

your tree near a heat register. Never leave your tree unattended with the lights on.

If you are planning to cut your own Christmas tree from the forest, remember that only one tree can be cut per family. Saskatchewan residents are permitted to cut trees growing ONLY on Crown land or provincial forests, NOT on private land. The tree can be no larger than 12' high and must not be cut from an area of renewal (i.e. a newly planted forest). Minimize the damage to the surrounding plant and wildlife in the area. Perhaps a better idea is to support your local tree grower and visit one of the local farms that allow people to come out and cut their own Christmas tree. Check out the Prairie Christmas Tree Growers Association website for information on local Prairie Christmas tree growers. (www.prairiechristmastrees.org)

This column is provided courtesy of the Saskatchewan Perennial Society (SPS; saskperennial@hotmail.com). Check our website (www.saskperennial.ca) or Facebook page (www.facebook.com/saskperennial) for a list of upcoming gardening events.



White lines on the underside of Fraser Fir needles

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