

SHS stages 'Just Another High School Play'



The cast and crew of "Just Another High School Play."

That was the name of this year's Spiritwood High School production. Instead of tackling two productions, one for Juniors and one for Seniors, the drama troupe combined forces to put on one larger play titled "Just Another High School Play."

Seventeen students took on the acting roles while nine students were part of the tech crew, managing the sounds, lights, and props. Mrs. MacFarlane, assisted by Ben Willick, headed up the production's direction, which was a big task considering the number of actors involved.

The scene started with the frazzled stage manager and stage director on opening night, who had discovered they had been abandoned by their drama teacher. It would appear Mr. Willick had flown the coop down to Mexico to fulfill his lifelong dream

of becoming a salsa dancer after realizing none of the students had bothered to show up for rehearsal. With showtime quickly approaching, and a crowd that was quickly growing impatient, the students needed to come up with a solution and fast.

Scripts were handed out and smaller groups were formed, and the audience was treated to a dog's breakfast of excerpts from various plays of the past.

The audience were treated to a history lesson of the theatre and some improvised drama warm up. They were given a walk through the Christopher Marlowe, "Little Shakespeare" debacle and a myriad of melodrama in ninety seconds before the intermission.

Following some dainties and socializing, the students once again took the stage

opening with a rap number derived from Dicken's "A Christmas Carol" in an effort to bring it into the new century.

They got a little tongue and cheek in the next sketch with lines alluding to famous Broadway productions and sitcoms.

A game of character mix-up saw crooner Tom Jones and illusionist David Copperfield take a trip to Vegas together.

The audience was taken back a few centuries to old England for a poorly delivered puppet show reproduction of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet.

Exhausted after the hours of scrambling, the cast and crew are relieved when the curtain is called and the show run its course, when who should appear but Mr. Willick, having escaped from the trunk of car he had been confined to by the greedy

assistant director whose desire to gain all artistic control overtook her the night of the show.

The end of the show was met with a plethora of applause from the audience as they cheered on actors: Shandra Epp, Caitlyn Armstrong, Danielle Poulin, Cherie Desjarlais, Shayla Chaykowski, Ehva Scott, Amber Simonar, Seanna Priestley, Reese Wasden, Sara Francoeur, Jaida Jones, Gracie Gaboury, Jeremy Chorney, Cody Bear, Clayton Haryung, Jayden Dauvin, Bohdan Booth.

The actors and actresses were joined on stage by the remaining members of the tech crew who were not also acting: Payton Sanders, Karstin Booth, Shelby Woytiuk, Aidyn Duret, Colten Haryung, Lexie Jones, and Ava Beaulac.

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Craswell rink wins Closed Bonspiel

The Spiritwood Curling Club had a busy week kicking off the bonspiel season, starting with the Spiritwood Curling Club Closed Bonspiel which ran from Jan. 27 through 29.

Anyone who holds a membership with Spiritwood Curling Club can sign up for this bonspiel where the teams get jumbled up to keep things interesting.

There were eight teams in this year's bonspiel, skipped by Brad Nemish, Don Turgeon, Craig Thompson, Dalton Wasden, Glen Caffet, Terry

Thompson, Wayne Pauls, and Ron Craswell.

All draws started at 7 and were 6 ends with a cumulative team draw to the button after all the games for additional prizes.

Monday night draws were random match ups and all 4 sheets were full. Caffet got the best of Nemish, while Turgeon took down T. Thompson. C. Thompson came out ahead of Pauls and Craswell beat Wasden.

On Tuesday, the winners from Monday night faced off against each other on the A side while the losers

from Monday hoped for some redemption against one another on the B side.

Turgeon beat Caffet and Craswell took down C. Thompson to determine the matchup for the Wednesday night final.

On the B side, T. Thompson beat Nemish and Pauls bested Wasden to finalize the match up for the consolation final.

Wednesday night was the final showdown.

Pauls (Cody Dicus, Deon Laventure, and Susan Siegel) handily beat the Thompson team in a

widespread game to take the consolation final while Craswell (Karstin Booth, Bohdan Booth, and Shannon Caffet filling in for Gail Radke) came out on top in a one-point game against Turgeon.

Turgeon went up early

taking three in the first end. Craswell slowly but surely worked his way up to five points over the next four ends. Turgeon missed an opportunity to get two in the last end leaving the score 5-4 for Craswell.

The event drew a hand-

ful of spectators each night and was a great way to get the bonspiel season rolling.

There was a lot of socializing following the games where players used up their winnings, which came in the form of Spiritwood Recreation Gift Certificates.



The winning team of the Spiritwood Curling Club Closed Bonspiel. From Left: Ron Craswell, Karstin Booth, Bohdan Booth, and Shannon Caffet (playing for Gail Radke).



There were many exciting games to watch at the 2020 Spiritwood Curling Club Closed Bonspiel.



The consolation final winners of the Spiritwood Curling Club Closed Bonspiel. From left: Wayne Pauls, Cody Dicus, Deon Laventure, and Susan Siegel.

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SEASONAL GRADER/EQUIPMENT OPERATOR POSITION

The R.M. of Medstead No. 497 invites applications for an experienced full time Seasonal Grader/Equipment Operator. The Seasonal Grader/Equipment Operator will be responsible for public works operations, organizing their own schedule and work duties, have good communication skills and be able to prepare and maintain reports as directed by the Council. Wages will be between \$25.00 - \$28.00 per hour depending on experience.

The R.M. of Medstead No. 497 is located in central Saskatchewan located approximately forty five minutes north of North Battleford.

Applicants must possess a valid Class 5 driver's license and have skill and experience in maintenance and operation of heavy equipment including grader, dozer, buggy, tractor, mower, rock picker and mulcher.

Submit written resumes stating experience, expected wage, two references and a current driver's abstract by 4:00 p.m. on March 12th, 2020. All resumes shall be marked "Seasonal Grader/Equipment Operator Position" and mailed, dropped off at the address below or emailed to rm497@sasktel.net.

R.M. of Medstead No. 497
 Box 12
 Medstead, SK S0M 1W0

Council thanks all applicants for their interest in this position but only persons selected for interviews will be contacted.

The R.M. of Medstead No. 497 reserves the right to reject and refuse any or all expressions of interest.

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Spiritwood wins Spirit of the North Curling Classic



From left: Kyle Brewer, Karstin Booth, Colton Balazsi, and Tyson Knot were the winners of the 2020 Spirit of the North Curling Classic.

Each year, Spiritwood High School hosts a curling bonspiel with teams from out of town.

Nine teams came down to the Spiritwood Curling Club on Saturday, Feb. 1 for the Spirit of the North Curling Classic, three each from Spiritwood High School, St. Mary's in Prince Albert, and Meadow Lake High School.

The teams were sorted into one of three pools for some round robin play. The top three teams from each pool advanced to the playoffs as well as one wild card spot.

All three teams from

Spiritwood as well as one team from St. Mary's in Prince Albert advanced on to the playoffs where team Booth from Spiritwood took the top spot.

The teams who did not advance on to the playoffs were paired up to play for fun to make sure every team got three to four games in for the day.

Spiritwood PeeWees host tournament

By Tera Fisher

On Feb. 1, the Timberwolves PeeWee teams hosted the Battliefords Barons, Martensville Pirates, LaRonge Ice Wolves and Stanley Mission Riverhawks for a one-day tournament.

Gold Candy cups were presented in the final games to every team in the tournament. Riverhawks won Gold with an undefeated tournament record of 3-0-0. Martensville Pirates earned Silver, Timberwolves 2 earned Bronze, and the Timberwolves 1, Barons and the Ice Wolves went home with consolation cups.

The busy stormy Saturday

at the rink ended with the two local Spiritwood teams going head to head for the Bronze cup. With an exciting 5-4 finish, Timberwolves 2 came out on top. A game that could go either way with these two teams on any given day. In the end, the score didn't matter. Playing the game, candy cups in the dressing rooms, laughter and bowling with friends, seeing parents, grandparents, aunties and uncles together in the stands and the community joining forces for the day is what hockey is all about!

The tournament boasted a 50-50 draw which paid out \$485,

a prize table with many great donations, player board, and free bowling for the teams and guests when not on the ice. The local restaurants and businesses, arena kitchen and bowling alley benefit from these local tournaments and events. The day raised over \$2,800 for Spiritwood Minor Hockey, which does not include all of the economic benefits the local Recreation Centre brings to the community.

Many local businesses sponsored this event through prizes and cash donations, while local volunteers committed their time to help run the facility.



Back row from left: Ian Tipewan, Brandtsen Moore, Justice Starblanket, Liam Aumack, Cooper Watson, Avery Duret, Austin Dizalo-Findlay, Sarah McNabb, Dysen Helgeton, Daelyn Turgeon, Avery Harris; front row from left: Jaeger Moore, Declan Szabo, Brooklyn Saam, Jorja Parker, Logan Fisher, Brock Fry, Chance Goller, Brady Hujber, Corbin Wingerter, Bodie Dewhurst, Saydee Lehoullier, Brayden Moore.

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Sask. Party must answer for travel expenses

For the 10 Saskatchewan NDP MLAs currently sitting in the legislature down in Regina, it must feel, at times, as if the party is lost in space where no one can hear them screaming.

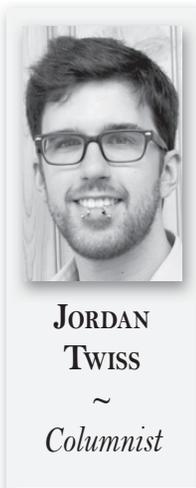
As is the official opposition party's duty, the Sask. NDP devotes a great deal of its time to holding the feet of the Saskatchewan Party government, and Premier Scott Moe, to the fire. And if the inboxes of media outlets like this one are anything to go by, it seems as though there are many reasons for it to do so.

Yet, for all its castigations of the Sask. Party, and all the questions (some more valid than others) it raises, the party is scarcely capable of generating more than an indifferent shrug of the shoulders from Saskatchewanians.

Any response it does get, tends towards the negative, either unearthing the buried corpses of long-dead NDP governments, or accusing the party of making a mountain out of a molehill.

Case in point, the complete lack of public response to the Sask. Party's failure to be open and transparent about its travel expenses.

Following a recent Freedom of Information request, which cost the Sask. NDP an absurd \$1,690, there are certainly many things that the Sask. Party government should be answering questions about, when it comes to its failure to make information about the travel of MLAs, ministers, and the premier readily available to the public.



JORDAN
TWISS
~
Columnist

First among those questions, is why did Mr. Moe choose to take a \$4,000 chartered flight from this constituency to Regina two months ago? Could better scheduling of his time not have allowed him to make the four-hour drive instead, saving taxpayers money?

Next, one could easily ask why the premier's total travel expenses for the 2018-2019 fiscal year are nearly double those of former Premier Brad Wall in 2016-2017 (\$84,000 for Mr. Moe, compared to \$45,000 for Mr. Wall).

Last, but certainly not least, Saskatchewan taxpayers have a right to know why ministerial travel costs for the past fiscal year increased by 53 per cent, ballooning to \$321,248.

"It's a pretty significant increase when we're looking at a province that's telling everyone else that they should tighten their belts," said NDP ethics and democracy critic David Forbes.

"We've seen a billion-dollar increase in PST in the last few years. Everybody else is paying more. And if that's paying more so ministers and the premier can travel more, they want to know why and they want to know what it's for."

No doubt, the Sask. Party has an explanation for all of its travel. One perfectly reasonable justification is that the Sask. Party government has been spending more money on trade missions, as part of its economic strategy to open up more markets for Saskatchewan exports and make up for lost oil and other non-renewable revenues.



This is certainly good and worthwhile work — work that will have measurable economic benefits for the province. But if this is all there is to it, then why bother with all the obfuscation?

To be clear, the cause of the increased travel expenses for Mr. Moe and his Sask. Party government colleagues is the least of the issues with this situation (unless, of course, it's revealed that the money isn't actually being spent on what it's intended for).

What's truly at issue, is the fact that Mr. Moe's government doesn't seem to have any interest in disclosing information that should already be readily available to the general public.

As the Saskatchewan NDP noted, it was simply asking for basic information that's readily available in almost every other province.

In its news release, the party highlighted

that, "Alberta provides ministerial office expenses and international travel expenses. British Columbia provides ministerial and Deputy Ministers' expenses including itemized receipts. Manitoba provides quarterly expense reports for ministerial travel and annual reports of ministerial office expenses ... Ontario discloses travel, hotel accommodation, meal, and hospitality expenses for each MPP."

Perhaps this whole unavoidable situation is a sign that the Sask. Party government has gotten a little too comfortable at the public trough over the past 13 years.

Or perhaps it's just gotten too good at playing the old government game making itself hard to scrutinize by making it more difficult for people to hold it to account.

Whatever it is, Saskatchewanians should be demanding answers.

Gormley: Sask. election will have significant firsts

There's an old saying in politics that a weekend can be an eternity, meaning that game-changing variables can move dramatically and quickly. The corollary is that making predictions months before an election is a mug's game.

Saskatchewan voters will cast ballots at the end of October and it will be a significant election for a few reasons. First, the Saskatchewan Party faces its fourth election as government and, besides the once natural governing party CCF-NDP which had a lock on the province from 1944 until the early 2000s, the last non-NDP government to govern this long was the founding Liberal government in 1905 that held power for more than two decades.

Second, for Premier Scott Moe it will be his first public accountability session. Although Premier since early 2018, it was by virtue of winning the leadership of the gov-

erning Sask. Party, not a decision made by the general electorate. After three successful campaigns with the popular Brad Wall at the helm, this election will be Mr. Moe's first ask of voters to endorse him and the party under his leadership.

Third, for the NDP — the one-time political powerhouse that had only five leaders during 44 years of governing — this fall's election will see the party's fourth leader in four elections. Once thought impossible for a political party that reveres its leaders and memorializes their names, the NDP has cycled through leaders as if hunting for a magic formula that eludes them.

The party's latest leader, Dr. Ryan Meili, is a physician, social justice activist and relative newcomer to party politics. Although a dedicated campaigner for a variety of causes — he was even locked up while protesting at the Quebec City

Summit of the Americas as a medical student — Dr. Meili's challenge has been to build out his party beyond its base.

It is axiomatic in politics — right or left in Saskatchewan — that when a party is considered for the privilege of governing it must reach past its core supporters to moderates, unaffiliated voters and political "switchers" who take a leap of faith. Dr. Meili's harder left-wing social activism and "smartest guy in the room" demeanour will leave him challenged.

A longtime political friend refers to two attributes that win elections: the opportunity for pleasant surprises and not being tempted by lost causes. Pleasant surprises are positions that attract voters beyond the party base. The temptation of lost causes is the tendency for a leader to either stay stuck campaigning to the base vote, which doesn't grow support, or trying to

move too far into issues and voters that will not yield results. It takes discipline and a good team to maintain a formula that wins.

A good example is Ryan Meili's public support for Unifor members involved in the labour dispute at the Coop Refinery in Regina. While the NDP is an official labour party, relying on union financial and volunteer support, rather than show up on the picket line early on and declare his support, Dr. Meili waited until the situation deteriorated into lawlessness, stood in the crowd, nodding approvingly as out-of-province activists threatened an escalation in illegal activity, rule of law be damned. As public support for Unifor and its Ontario leadership has plummeted, Dr. Meili's appearance did nothing to expand his support beyond hardcore union activists, whose votes he already has.

For the Sask. Party and Premier Moe, a softer resource economy

and a government in Ottawa committed to "transitioning" away from many Saskatchewanians livelihoods, are a challenge. While his recently unveiled growth agenda sets out some workable paths forward, his reach will have to be broader than just campaigning against the Trudeau government.

As the economy has softened in some sectors, the Premier's steady, balanced and "Sask-first" approach have earned him popularity ratings over 50%, which are enviable for any leader, never mind one leading a party that has governed for over a dozen years.

This will be the year that leaders get tested.

John Gormley is a broadcaster, lawyer, author and former Progressive Conservative MP whose radio talk show is heard weekdays from 8:30 a.m. — 12:30 p.m. on 650 CKOM Saskatoon and 980 CJME Regina

Report from the Legislature

Saskatchewan is an entrepreneurial province in which we want people to be able to start and grow their businesses. Reducing red tape and regulatory burden is imperative because we know that when small businesses grow, Saskatchewan grows.

Saskatchewan's Growth Plan for The Next Decade recognizes that competitiveness is crucial to economic growth. On the issue of taxes, regulations and government spending, our objective is to ensure Saskatchewan remains competitive.

We know that red tape can stand in the way of the growth of businesses and communities. Our government's "Help Cut Red Tape" web portal helps residents fast-track their concerns on regulations. Our work on this initiative was recently recognized and celebrated by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB).

Saskatchewan received the CFIB's highest ranking



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in their national Red Tape Report Card for its efforts to reduce red tape and modernize regulations. We will continue to identify and cut red tape with additional actions in our Growth Plan, which include:

- appointing a business advisory panel from communities across the province to identify priorities for the Government of Saskatchewan's Red Tape Reduction Committee;
- keeping the province's finances strong and investing in priorities such as

infrastructure and health care, which are areas of concern for small businesses; and

- utilizing the Government of Saskatchewan's Direct Cost Estimator to make informed decisions.

This past year, Saskatchewan saw an increase of 10,400 jobs, or 1.8 per cent, from 2018. More than half of that job growth is due to full-time jobs. In spite of some external headwinds, the creation of 10,400 jobs last year is an indication that Saskatchewan has a robust, diverse and growing economy and is on track for continued growth.

Complete with action items and ambitious goals for the future, Saskatchewan's Growth Plan for The Next Decade is a roadmap to get us there. To learn more please visit saskgrowthplan.ca.

There was a time not long ago when Saskatchewan had the highest number of road fatalities in Canada. In 2019, fewer people were killed on Saskatchewan



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roads than in any single year since records started being kept in the 1950s.

Our government has taken stricter enforcement measures, introduced targeted legislation and run powerful awareness campaigns – all to reduce road fatalities – because collisions are preventable and even one traffic death is too many.

Thank you to all Saskatchewan residents for working to make our roads safer.

Distracted driving is

one of the leading factors in collisions and injuries from automobile crashes in Saskatchewan. In an effort to reduce the number of people driving while distracted, harsher penalties are now being introduced.

Effective February 1, 2020, the cost of a distracted driving ticket for a first offence will more than double, from \$280 to \$580, plus four demerits.

A second offence, within a year of being convicted of the first, is a \$1,400 ticket, plus an additional four demerits, plus an immediate, seven-day vehicle seizure. This penalty does not include the costs associated with towing and impound fees.

A third offence within a year of conviction of the first is a \$2,100 ticket, plus four more demerits and another seven-day vehicle seizure.

It is against the law in Saskatchewan to hold, view, use or manipulate electronic communication equipment while driving a mo-

tor vehicle, and if you are caught, you will get a ticket under distracted driving legislation.

It's important to know that an experienced driver can use a hands-free device if it can be activated with voice commands or one-touch, and is mounted on the dashboard or visor in a cradle. But if you're a new driver in the Graduated Driver Licensing program, even hands-free devices are not acceptable and are illegal to use.

Other forms of distracted driving like eating, using GPS, reading, personal grooming or interacting with pets or passengers are covered under driving without due care and attention legislation. These activities are not considered against the law and won't automatically result in a ticket. But, if your behaviour poses a risk to road safety, you may be ticketed by police for driving without due care and attention.

To learn more visit sgi.sk.ca.

YOUR TWO CENTS

Real action needed on clean energy

Dear editor,

I was really pleased to see the January 30 Spiritwood Herald include a letter about energy issues, an article about plastic waste and an article about soil improvements.

All of these are important issues that deserve our attention and thoughtful consideration.

Our reliance on fossil fuels has enabled us to

build a highly productive economy, but it has also come with serious consequences. We have spewed greenhouse gases into the atmosphere to such an extent that we face a climate emergency.

We need to cut back our use of fossil fuels and rapidly expand our renewable energy infrastructure.

Saskatchewan has lots of wind and sun that can be harnessed to generate electricity. Instead of having our tax dollars subsidize the fossil fuel industry, we should be supporting a transition to clean energy.

Kay Willson,
Spiritwood

Nuclear energy raises many questions

Dear editor,

This is an add to the excellent article by Crystal Frenette on Pickering and nuclear electricity generation.

Sask. obviously didn't accept the Sk-NDP candidate who was going to put big nuclear with notorious Bruce Electric in control.

Continued on page 6

Spiritwood Herald

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Member of



Local artist receives Arts Board grant

Spiritwood artist Richard Thunderchild received a \$6,800 Indigenous Peoples Art and Artists grant to “provide classes for adults and youth to learn the powwow craft of headroach-making.”

The Indigenous Peoples Art and Artists program aims to increase access to

public funding by Indigenous artists in Saskatchewan, either to develop their artistic/cultural practices or to share their art, skills and teachings.

At the most recent grant deadlines, the Saskatchewan Arts Board awarded funding to more than 100 indi-

viduals and organizations, totaling almost \$850,000. Arts Board funding supports a variety of initiatives, including organizations that provide ongoing programs in the arts, the creative work of professional artists, community art projects and the engagement of professional

artists to work in schools with students and teachers.

Established in 1948, the Saskatchewan Arts Board is the oldest public arts funder in North America and second oldest in the world after the Arts Council of Great Britain. We provide grants, programs and services to in-

dividuals and groups whose activities have an impact on the arts in Saskatchewan and ensure that opportunities exist for Saskatchewan residents to experience all art forms. For more information on our programs and services, visit www.saskartsboard.ca.

YOUR TWO CENTS

Nuclear energy raises many questions

Continued from 5

Having lived in Toronto's Scarborough, we have drunk radioactive water in summer when the Great Lake Pickering H2O (water) backwatered.

There was, one time, a lot of curiosity generated about the P. nuclear plant grounds flooded with vehicles and the total absence of official comments — it cannot be expected officials in government on nuclear are going to brag about the slightest failure in a facility.

Sitting inside a control room watching a big board full of lights may be exciting your first week on the job. There was one point in time Pickering people were wondering what some of the operators were smoking. Today, with opiated

brownies to cure boredom.... let's pray!

The tech, re “small”, is, as stated by C.F., experimental.

Big Nuke was engaged in Ontario big time, and there have been many questions raised from time to time. Satisfying answers to the public are hard to get.

The Nuclear people proclaim that we have made nuclear subs that are safe, so why no SN made electricity? Have you seen an studies on subs and people in them? Long-term studies?

BP oil learned that the Russians drilled one mile down, found oil. They said why don't we drill down one mile. Must be okay!

But the Russians drilled on dry, solid ground... did they notice or care? Because they trilled through flowing, softer than warm butter water! Then the black stuff flowed unbound, unconfineable, and they tried to stop it with golf balls — very sportsmanlike!

Does this company have an engineering department?

They were allowed after the gulf spill to drill in Canadian waters, and have already

damaged the fish farmers' spawning grounds! So much for company responsibility.

The small nukes are said to take 10 years before being in place. Everyone should be aware of inflation (governments count on it to pay off old debts with inflated dollars).

There is only so much these privatized (yes, governments proposing these are the ones willing to privatize everything) plants can change — costs are high — profiteers are known to cut safety costs.

Nuclear has always been related to water. Subs are in H2O. This fuel is temperamental. Pickering is at Lake Ontario. Alberta ice fields are receding. The oil companies have never been willing to share profits in good times. Both think they shouldn't have to pay taxes.

Do you think they're going to share H2o with Sask. when it gets in short supply?

It's up to people to ask questions, not accept poor answers.

Hoping I have been of use to Sask.,
N. Levandoski,
Chitek Lake

Strong Leadership
Strong Saskatchewan



Saskatchewan's Growth Plan for the Next Decade, 2020-2030

Saskatchewan's Growth Plan is a roadmap for a strong economy, strong communities and strong families, to build a stronger Saskatchewan.

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- investing \$30 billion in infrastructure, and
- growing our agri-food exports to \$20 billion.

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Minimal Growth

*Based on historical 5 year average rate of return of 1.35%

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\$10,000

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Funds are Accessible

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*Based on historical 5 year average rate of return of 8.00%. Mutual funds and other securities are offered through Qtrade Advisor, a division of Credential Qtrade Securities Inc. Mutual funds are offered through Qtrade Asset Management Inc.

Winter brings guessing game for farmers

It is that time of year when farmers sit at their desks and kitchen tables and hope they can divine the future in terms of what crops to plant in the spring to generate the best returns this fall.

The process is not a new one, although given all the technology at hand, and data at their fingertips, the process is probably now easier today than it was in the 1960s, or 1940s.

Certainly, 2020 would seem to be a year with a fair amount of cloud and fog rolling through the crystal ball making decisions just that little

bit more difficult.

For some, the question marks for spring are really the ones lingering from last fall. There are producers with crop still in the field and doing something with that once the snow goes will put added time pressure on producers who already face a squeeze in terms of a limited spring window.

Even if it's not a case of removing leftover crop, the long, drawn out harvest meant many producers were not able to apply fall fertilizer, or do other pre-seeding preparatory work. That



CALVIN DANIELS

may well force some changes in cropping plans.

Then there are the vagaries of international markets. The marketplace for grains and oilseeds is always difficult to fully analyze with any long term clarity be-

cause weather and politics can change things almost overnight.

Global climate change may, or may not be a myth, but more severe weather does seem to be hitting around the world with greater frequency, and the more severe a storm, or drought, and the larger the area affected, the greater its impact on markets.

With Donald Trump facing impeachment proceeding as American president, rising tensions in the middle east, Vladimir Putin still stirring the pot from Russia, and Brit-

ish Prime Minister Boris Johnson stickhandling clumsily through that country's withdraw from the European Union, there is as much political volatility as ever.

And, there are the cropping options themselves.

Prairie producers have been very reliant on canola in recent years as their go-to crop for maximum returns. However, clubroot is a disease issue that is not going away, and anytime rotations are pushed it tends to favour the emergence of pest and disease.

There are of course many cropping options, but past canola and wheat, they have all been relegated to near niche market status, which means too many producers opting for any one crop might signal a down turn in prices. As an example, one recent headline in farm media noted an expected increase in acres devoted to oats could signal a price decline.

So the questions are many, but as always, farmers will take something of a leap of faith, set a plan, and take the annual roll of the dice that is grain farming.

Sask. Health Authority volunteer opportunities

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

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

Volunteering as a family can bring families closer together. Family members along with their young children can visit residents on a one-to-one basis or in small

groups to make a positive impact in the life of the resident. Parents are responsible for their children at all times.

Shifts: Flexible
Special Groups or Individuals – Evergreen Health Centre, Leoville (306) 984-2136

Volunteers entertain, provide interesting educational presentations (i.e. Travel presentations), assist with special events, sing, and have fun with the residents.

Shifts: Flexible – 1 – 1 ½ hrs. Once per month

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

Volunteers are 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: Flexible
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.



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RESIDENTIAL HOUSE FOR SALE BY TENDER

Sealed tenders will be received by the undersigned until 5:00 p.m. on Monday, February 17, 2020, for the purchase of the following land and building in the Town of Spiritwood, Saskatchewan:

413 – 2nd Avenue East
Spiritwood, Saskatchewan
("the Property")

The Property is sold on an “as is” basis. Bidders must rely on their own research of the Property to determine acreage, condition, improvements, assessment and state of title.

Property will be available for viewing by appointment only on Wednesday, February 5, 2020 and Monday February 10, 2020. Call Prairie Centre Credit Union at 306-883-1551 to book an appointment.

Tenders must be accompanied by a certified cheque in favour of the undersigned for 5% of the tender price as a deposit, which will be returned if the tender is not accepted and the sale is not completed. The balance of the tender price will be payable by certified cheque within 30 days following notice of acceptance of the tender, following provision of a transfer authorization on conditions established by the solicitors for the Vendor. The Purchaser will be responsible for GST, if applicable, and for the costs of registering a transfer of Title.

The highest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted, and the Vendor reserves the right to reject any tender.

Tenders shall be sealed in an envelope marked "Land Tender" and shall be mailed to:

Prairie Centre Credit Union (2006) Ltd.
Attention: Janine Doucette
Box 129
Spiritwood, Saskatchewan
S0J 2M0

MEADOW LAKE LIVESTOCK SALES LTD.



To consign cattle or for on-farm appraisals please contact Brent, Blair or Brody

Friday, February 7, 2020

Bred Cow & Heifer Sale 1:00 p.m.

Wed., February 12, 2020

Regular Sale 9:00 a.m.

All Breeds Presort Internet Sale 11:00 a.m.

Producers wishing to market cattle prior to sale day please contact the office 306-236-3411 for delivery.

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Office 306-236-3411 ~ Fax 306-236-3412

Email: mlstockyards@sasktel.net ~ market info visit: www.mlstockyards.com

Northern Lakes Health Committee news highlights



Scotiabank donating \$1,000 to the Northern Lakes Health Committee on behalf of committee volunteer Gail Ferster.



The Northern Lakes Health Committee put together wine and cheese baskets to thank three doctors for their service. From left: Roberta Wasden (board member), Barb Olson (board member), Dr. Shirin Ravini, Laura Beauchesne (board member), and Dr. Anju Gulpta. Missing from photo: Dr. Terry Person.



The Northern Lakes Health Committee put together wine and cheese baskets to thank three nurse practitioners for their service. From left: Barb Olson (board member), Gail Peters (nurse practitioner), and Roberta Wasden (board member). Missing from photo: nurse practitioners Barbara Warkintine and Ivy Poulin.

PRAISE & WORSHIP

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

PARTNERS IN FAITH

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

BETHEL

Medstead
1st Sunday, 10 am -
Worship
Pastor David Jensen
3rd Sunday - 10 am
Worship
Pastor David Jensen

EVANGELICAL FREE

Mont Nebo
Wed., 7:30 pm -
Bible Study & Prayer
Sun., 10:30 am - Worship
Pastor Bill Klumpenhower

LAKELAND COMMUNITY CHURCH

Spiritwood
Sun., 11 am - Worship
Service & Sunday School
Pastor Gerry Zak

BELBUTTE FULL GOSPEL

11 am Worship Service
1st Sun., 7:30 pm
- Hymn Sing
Pastor Floyd Berg

COWBOY CHURCH

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



Junior Citizen of the Year Scholarship

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- Inspire others
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This year four deserving youth will receive \$3000 bursaries to use towards their post-secondary education.

Visit www.swna.com for further information
and nomination forms

Nominations close March 31, 2020

Why roses are such a must-have on Valentine's Day

Many things are symbolic of Valentine's Day. In the 1800s, heart-shaped boxes of candy became wildly popular ways for sweethearts to express their affection for each other, and since then they have become one of many symbols of Valentine's Day. But one such symbol traces its history back even further than that.

Roses are now as symbolic of Valentine's Day as those heart-shaped boxes, and, in fact, have long maintained a connection with feelings of love. The Ancient Greeks and Romans, for example, wore rose garlands during wedding ceremonies. But the practice of giving Valentine's Day flowers can be traced to King Charles II, who served as King of Sweden from 1809 as well as King of Norway from 1814 until his death in 1818.

During his travels, King Charles visited Persia,



where he learned about the use of flowers to express certain emotions. Red roses were used to express deep love, and King Charles shared the

language of flowers when he returned home to Europe. It soon became quite popular.

But Europeans were learning about the symbolic power of flowers even before King Charles' visit to Persia. In fact, Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, the wife of a British ambassador to Turkey, began sharing the practice of assigning meaning to objects via letters she wrote home to England in 1716. Lady Montagu noted how the locals had assigned meaning to various colors, flowers and plants in order to send secret love letters to one another. However, Lady Montagu was incorrect in her interpretation, as historians would later note. Despite her misinterpretations, Lady Montagu's perception of the flower language would spread, and many people still associate certain flowers with certain emotions. Never is that more apparent than on Valentine's Day, when red roses remain a popular way for lovers to express their deep love for each other.

How did "XO" come to symbolize kisses and hugs?

Love letters are a great way for couples to express their affection and devotion to each other. The sentiments expressed in love letters are as unique as the couples who write them. However, love letters often contain one particular turn of phrase regardless of their authors.

When signing a love letter, it's customary for writers to include at least one "XO" near their names. "XO" is widely recognized as symbolic of wishing "hugs and kisses" to a letter's intended recipient. This tradition is such an ingrained part of romantic letter writing that few may stop to pause and wonder just how the letters "XO" came to symbolize hugs and kisses.

The origins of "XO" are not definitively known, though many historians note that signing letters with "X" dates back to the Middle Ages. Few people could read and write in the Middle Ages, but signing "X" did not require either of those abilities. Christianity

played a big part in many people's lives during the Middle Ages, and "X" was seen as a representation of the Christian cross. So when people signed "X" on legal documents, they were essentially stating the contents of the document were true in the name of Jesus Christ.

While Jesus Christ's teachings are rooted in showing compassion for one's fellow man, signing a letter with "X" did not symbolize love in the Middle Ages. In fact, that development did not come about until much later. The Oxford English Dictionary attributes the first use of "X" to symbolize love and/or kisses in a letter to English naturalist Gilbert White. However, some historians debate the accuracy of that attribution, saying White's use of the letter "X" in his letter was likely meant to convey blessings on the letter's recipient.

Researcher Stephen Goranson found many uses of the letter "X" to convey

love and/or kisses in or after the 1880s, so it's very likely that this was the first time that including the letter "X" at the end of a letter took on the meaning so many people give it now.

As for "O" symbolizing hugs, even less is known about how that came about. The late American writer Leo Rosten, whose writings included 1968's "The Joys of Yiddish," suggested that including "O" at the end of a letter might have

a similar origin story to "X." Rosten theorized that "O" was used by Jewish immigrants who did not want to sign a document with "X," which they, like the people in the Middle Ages, interpreted as symbolic of the Christian cross.

Exactly when "O" was paired with "X" and came to symbolize hugs is unknown, though various historians suggest the two were not paired until the latter half of the 20th century.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SPIRITWOOD: Wapiti Regional Library - Tuesday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, Wednesday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm & Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 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.

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CREDIT UNION

Battlefords AA PeeWee Barons visit Spiritwood for the second time

By Tera Fisher

Spiritwood's first introduction to the AA PeeWee Barons was Dec. 1, when they hosted a league game at the Spiritwood Arena vs the Warman Wildcats where they pulled 2 points from a 7-3 victory.

Jan. 25, they returned with the Warman Wildcats, Saskatoon Fury and Saskatoon Titans for a mini tournament. Game 1 was an exciting matchup between the Barons and the Titans. The Barons were down 3-2 nearing the end of the third and made a last attempt to tie up the game by pulling the goalie but the Titans scored an empty netter with 1:20 left in play to seal the win, 4-2.

Game 2 saw the Wildcats matched up with the Fury for a close game that went into overtime. The Fury pulled out one more goal to take the win 5-4.

The third game had the Titans play the Wildcats who they took down 8-1. In Game 4, the Barons took on the Fury and ended the mini series with a 9-2 win.

The highlight of the day for players and fans was the Blind Shootout Calcutta. Each player was sold for \$20, but the buyer did not know who was behind their pick. The barons excelled in this event and swept 1st and 2nd in both of their games. Game 1: Barons vs Titans, 1st Place: Goaltender, Nicholas Grunerud of Battleford (Buyer: Coach Todd Parker) - 2nd Place: Defence, Hunter Schwartz of Meadow Lake (Buyer: Joel Bernier). Game 4: Barons VS Fury, 1ST Place: Defence, Linken Fisher of Spiritwood (Buyer: Coach Todd Parker) - 2nd Place: Goaltender, Brady Carr of Vawn (Buyer: Damianne Turgeon). Fun was had by all!

The tournament rented the bowling alley for six hours of free bowling and shoe rental for fans and players to pass time when off the ice. The facility and businesses around town were a busy place on the stormy January day. Martodam Motors and High Octane welding of Meadow Lake sponsored a \$500 guaranteed 50-50 payout.

The Barons currently sit 3rd in the Centre Four division of the Saskatchewan AA Hockey League with 7 games in hand. The Battlefords draw from a big area to form their AA teams each year. The PeeWee's roster includes 2007/2008 born players from the Battlefords, Meadow Lake, Edam, Vawn, Maidstone and Marsden. Many out-of-town communities were given the chance to host a home game in their hometown to show the appreciation and devotion of these traveling players.

Spiritwood currently has five locals on the Battlefords NorthWest AA teams: Caley Lehouillier, Barons AA Midget; Olivia Parker and Kolbie Parker, Sharks AA Midget; Linken Fisher, Barons AA PeeWee and Sarah McNabb, Sharks AA Bantam. We hope to see many more from the area in the program and look forward to having the opportunity to host these locals and their teams in the future.



The AA Barons, back row from left: Corby Lehman, Jace Borschneck, Mason LaClare, Kade Lehman, Colton Parker, Tanner Demarais-Corrigal, Carter Cole, Koby Bossaer, Millar Kramer, Todd Parker; middle row from left: Kash Alger-East, Hunter Schwartz, Lukamus Lehman, Linken Fisher, Ash Svandrik; front row from left: Nicholas Grunerud, Brady Carr, Noah Bernier



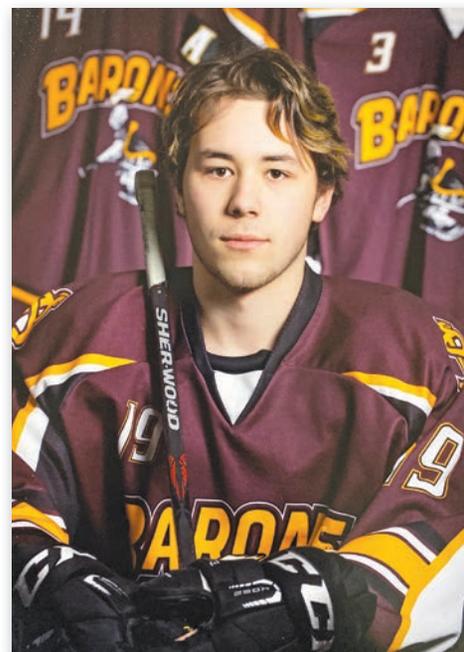
Linken Fisher plays for Barons Pee-wee AA.



The AA Barons in action on a stormy Saturday afternoon. The weather inside the rink was a little more forgiving.



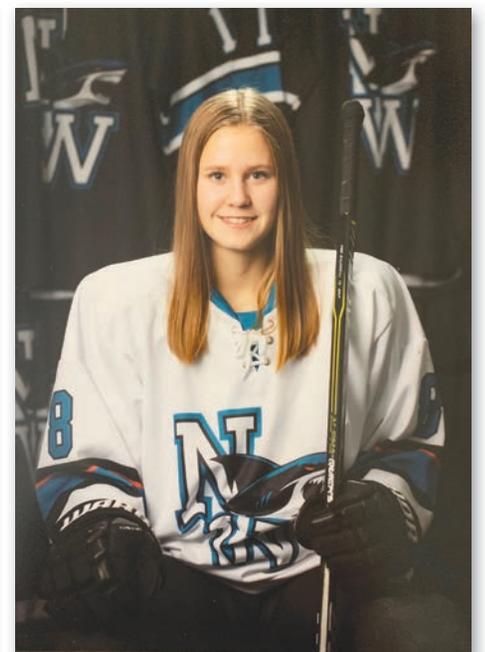
Sarah McNabb plays for Sharks AA Bantam.



Caley Lehouillier plays for Barons AA Midget.



Olivia Parker plays for Sharks AA Midget.



Kolbie Parker plays for Sharks AA Midget.

Astros face pressure to perform in 2020

Pitchers and catchers report to spring training sites in about two weeks and no team is facing more pressure to perform in 2020 than the Houston Astros.

Embroided in a technologically-driven cheating scandal that goes to the heart of their 2017 World Series title, the Astros will be facing extreme scrutiny this summer as they try to win their fourth consecutive American League West pennant and third A.L. championship.

With the talent on the Houston roster — Jose Altuve, Alex Bregman, George Springer, Carlos Correa, Justin Verlander, et al — winning 95 games or so to top the A.L. West should be easily within the Astros' wheelhouse. But if they hit a slump — and a key injury here, or a cold hitting spell there can easily happen — then the skeptics are going to be out in full force.

Did they win the last few years only because of cheating? Did knowing that a fastball and not an off-speed pitch was on its way give the Houston hitters an un-

fair advantage? If the Astros fall back into the middle of the pack in their division, or hover around .500 for a spell, they will undoubtedly be found guilty in the court of public opinion.

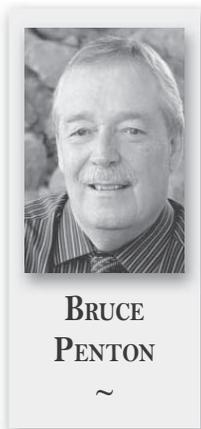
Naturally, Houston players want this cheating scandal to go away. As if.

"The commissioner made his report, made his decision and the Astros made their decision and I have no further comment on it," Bregman said at a recent fanfest event, and reported by NBC Sports.

Pressed to elaborate, Bregman said: "I think in the 2020 year our actions will speak louder than our words."

So true. If the Astros' actions are positive, the heat will be reduced. If the team slumps, the wolves will be out in full force. Calls for Houston to be stricken of its 2017 World Series' title, as called for recently by Blue Jays' outfielder Randal Grichuk, among others, will get louder and more vociferous.

Stealing signs the old-fashioned way, by guile, or by a runner peering in



BRUCE
PENTON

from second base, have long been accepted as part of the game. Using electronics and technology to cheat is verboten, and the fallout from the Astros' actions has only just begun.

• Spotted in Dallas on the readerboard of the Truck Yard bar: "Had a funny sign planned for this week, but the Astros stole it."

• Dwight Perry of the Seattle Times: "Roy Williams labeled his 8-8 basketball team as 'the least gifted team I've ever coached' in his latest tenure at North Carolina. The Society of Those Feeling Sorry for Roy convenes at noon Wednesday in the back seat of a Kia."

• Comedy guy Brad

Dickson of Omaha, on Twitter: "I just hope now Kansas City Chiefs fans don't get cocky and expect to make it to the Super Bowl every 50 years."

• Sportsnet colour guy Garry Galley, after Blue Jackets' goalie Elvis Merzlikins made a couple of quick glove-hand saves against the Jets: "He's got a hunk of burning glove."

• Scott Ostler of the San Francisco Chronicle, on Kansas City and its love for barbecue: "Kansas City also calls itself 'City of Fountains' ... admired for their beauty as well for their effectiveness in washing barbecue sauce off your hands."

• Norman Chad of the Washington Post: "The L.A. City Council passed a measure asking MLB to award the Dodgers the 2017-18 World Series titles in the wake of the sign-stealing scandal. The council — time permitting — will address homelessness, traffic, housing affordability and corrupt city agencies at its next session."

• Comedy writer Brad Dickson, on Twitter: "BREAKING: President

Trump just announced he'll be sending peace-keeping troops to the next Kansas-Kansas State men's basketball game."

• Comedy writer Jim Barach: "The identity of the Hall of Fame voter who snubbed Derek Jeter may never be known. Although it can be narrowed down by finding out who had the ballots that were cast in Boston."

• From a yahoo.com headline: "The Patriots DB arrested on drug charges, Joejuan Williams, was a high draft pick. Well yeah, obviously."

• Comedian Argus Hamilton, via Twitter, on the 49ers jumping to a 27-0 halftime lead over the Packers in the NFC Championship Game: "If Aaron Rodgers were

covered by Allstate instead of State Farm, he would be protected from mayhem like this."

• Another Barach offering, after Dennis Kelly, the Titans' 321-pound tackle, became the heaviest player to ever score an NFL playoff touchdown: "They got him used to being a receiver by throwing him cheeseburgers at lunch every day."

• Vancouver's Torben Rolfsen (Twitter: @vanguy), on the NFL draft planned for Vegas, with the stage set in the middle of the Bellagio fountain and the players being ferried to the stage by boat: "The Detroit Lions war room can be decorated in a Titanic theme."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

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Pauls wins Shell Lake Open

The Shell Lake Curling Club was a hopping place from Jan. 31 through Feb. 1 for the Shell Lake Open Bonspiel. The kitchen was stocked with all kinds of pies, soup, and burgers and the sheets were busy with games all weekend.

10 teams were entered into the two-day bonspiel where the ice was perhaps the biggest challenge of all.

Part of the charm and allure of older small-town recreation facilities is the character that those facilities possess. Heavy ice, small ruts, and the occasional hump on the sheet keeps the game interesting and even the most experienced curlers need to stay on their toes.

The weight of the ice didn't drag down spirits at all though as the viewing area was lively with conversation and laughter all weekend long. A team from Spiritwood, skipped by Wayne Pauls, had a three game sweep to take the top spot in the tournament.



From left: Wayne Pauls, Alison Sullivan, Don Tipton, and Glen Caffet won the Shell Lake Open Bonspiel.

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Spiritwood Herald

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OBITUARY

Heather Jane Boyer



BOYER – Heather Jane
Born January 19, 1951, Regina, SK

Died December 13, 2019, Saskatoon, SK

Age 68 years
She leaves to cherish her memory:

Her loving husband of 53 years, Wayne Boyer;

Her children, Darla (Reg) Leask of Lloydminster, AB., Jason Boyer of Chitek Lake, SK., Shane Boyer of Vermilion, AB., Tannis (Tim) Edwards of Martinsville, SK.;

Her grandchildren, Ashley Leask, Kiana (Korben Olynnyk) Leask, Preston Leask, Dustin (Jaci) Leask, Chad Leask, Christian Dunn, Patricia Began, Chelsea Began, Breyton Schamber, Caiden Millions, Brooklyn Edwards, Linden Edwards;

Her great grandchildren, Donovan Belcourt, Brax Leask, Ryker Leask, Kyla Leask, Shiloh Leask;

Mother-in-law, Helen Boyer;

Niece Cheryl (Howard) Puckey, nephew Rocky (Peggy) Sproxton;

Brother and sister-in-laws: Clint (Gail) Boyer, Eugene (Linda) Boyer, Valerie (Dennis) Olekson, Billy Lafleur, Pam (Russel) Wilson, Brenda Lavigne, Robert (Jodi) Boyer, Keith (Daphne Boechler) Boyer, Warren (Fern Weal) Boyer, Teresa (Ryan) Rowland;

Numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

She was pre-deceased by: Infant daughter Tracey Lyn Boyer, her parents Eldon and Dorris Sproxton, brother Wade Sproxton, sister-in-law Esther Sproxton, father-in-law Euclid Boyer, brother-in-law Myron Boyer, sister-in-law Leora Lafleur, brother-in-law Rick Lavigne, nephew Aaron Boyer, grandson-in-law Gerald Belcourt, and granddaughter-in-law Brandi Leask.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that a donation can be made to the Cancer Society.

There are many ways to say, “I love you.” For Valentine’s Day celebrants, various sentiments may be expressed with candy - particularly candy hearts.

Candy hearts, also called Conversation Hearts® and Sweethearts® (similarly Love Hearts in the UK), are sweet, chalky confections that have been around for more than 100 years. The conversation about candy hearts began back in 1847 when Oliver Chase, a Boston pharmacist, wanted to get in on the apothecary lozenge craze that was popular at the time. Lozenges were common remedies for sore throats and bad breath, and were growing in popularity as a convenient medical treatment. Chase invented a machine that could roll out lozenge dough and press it into perfect discs, a time-saving improvement on the manual process used until then. Chase eventually abandoned making lozenges and the pharmacy business, ultimately realizing his machine could be used to make candies. He formed the New England Confectionery Company and began producing what would eventually be known as NECCO wafers.

Wanting to get in on his brother’s candy empire,

Popular candies share sweet words of love



and “Text me” have replaced some less modern sentiments.

At the height of the candies’ popularity, NECCO estimated that it made nearly 100,000 pounds of the hearts each day throughout the year in preparation for Valentine’s Day.

In 2019, NECCO filed for bankruptcy and did not produce the iconic candy hearts while it was being purchased

Daniel Chase saw an opportunity to build on the growing popularity of Valentine’s cards by printing words on candy with vegetable dye during the cutting process. In 1866, conversation candies began as round confections and were much bigger than today’s heart varieties. It wouldn’t be until 1902 that conversation candy hearts became available.

Through the years, the candies became smaller and the sentiments expressed on the hearts have been updated to stay current with the times. Phrases like “LOL,” “BFF”

by an investment company called Round Hill Investments, LLC. Round Hill decided to sell NECCO to another candy company. Fortune magazine reported Spangler Candy Co., which took over rights to NECCO’s iconic brands, would manufacture candy hearts in 2020. Similar conversation hearts also are available through Brach’s candy company.

Candy hearts have long been a way to share sweet words of affection and a sugary treat with the ones you love.

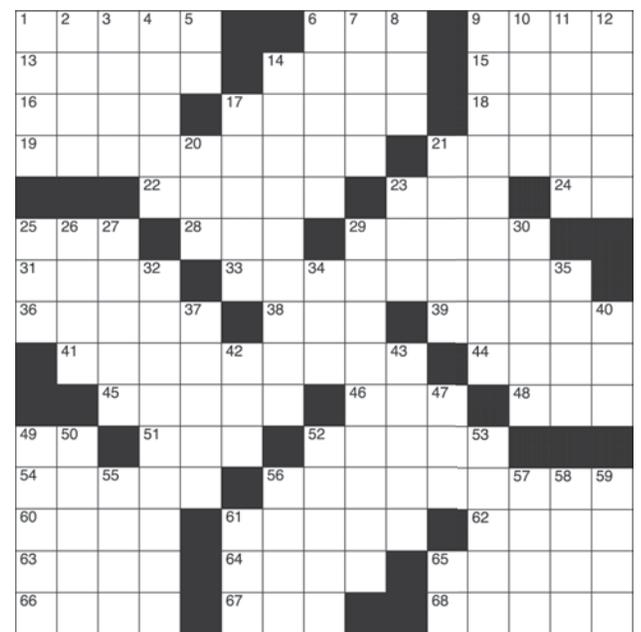
CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Indicates number of days
- 6. When you hope to get there
- 9. Hairstyle
- 13. Black (Spanish)
- 14. Expresses pleasure
- 15. Away from wind
- 16. Tech pros organization
- 17. Wile E. Coyote is familiar with it
- 18. Clean
- 19. Saints’ signal caller
- 21. A way to hunt
- 22. Poetries
- 23. Automobile
- 24. Secondary school (abbr.)
- 25. Indicates before
- 28. Male parent
- 29. Short-billed rails
- 31. It pays to keep yours
- 33. On occasion
- 36. David __, US playwright
- 38. Slang for cigarette
- 39. Vaccine developer
- 41. Returned to health
- 44. Toni Morrison novel
- 45. Period between eclipses
- 46. Veterans battleground
- 48. Gang
- 49. A radio band

CLUES DOWN

- 1. __ Blyton, children’s author
- 2. Colleague
- 3. “The African Queen” writer
- 4. Crater on the moon
- 5. Toward
- 6. Overhang
- 7. Identifies something close at hand
- 8. Sign language
- 9. Unbroken views
- 10. Ancient Greek City
- 11. Stretch out to grasp
- 12. Alcohols that are unfit for drinking
- 14. Humorous stories
- 17. Long song for a solo
- 20. Barrels per day (abbr.)
- 21. City of Lights
- 23. A place to sleep
- 25. Advanced degree (abbr.)
- 26. The back
- 27. Furniture-makers Charles and “Ray”
- 29. Songs to a lover
- 30. Gland secretion
- 32. 10 meters
- 34. Disfigure
- 35. Stores grain
- 37. Sacred book of Judaism
- 40. Catch
- 42. Promise
- 43. Challenges
- 47. Russian space station



- 51. Jaws of a voracious animal
- 52. Elaborate garments
- 54. Chinese province
- 56. Checks
- 60. Horizontal passage
- 61. Steep hillsides
- 62. Fertility god
- 63. Dried-up
- 64. Signs a name
- 65. __ Winger, actress
- 66. German river
- 67. Gov’t lawyers
- 68. Take something somewhere

Answers on page 14

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Permaculture: a more sustainable earth

By Patricia Hanbidge

A new year, a new decade and thus some thoughts on ways to become more sustainable. So, let's chat about permaculture. It was in the seventies that this term was coined and simply means permanent agriculture. To take that definition a bit deeper, it is a system of agricultural and social design principles that simulate the patterns that can be observed in natural ecosystems. In fact, it is a creative design model that is based on whole-systems thinking.

When we think about any type of environment what we see a complex aggregate of nature - both plants, animals and humans along with other aspects of our world that co-exist and in fact affect each other in a multitude of ways. When we think permaculture is an important element of this environment, we adopt the ethics and principles that change us from being dependent producers to becoming responsible producers. Making this journey will build more resilience at home and at work and make us better able to prepare for an uncertain future with perhaps much different energy sources.

Depending on where we live geographically, our climatic conditions and in fact available resources are different, however we can still approach permaculture holistically. The ethics of permaculture are earth care, people care



and fair share. Join me in reviewing the guidelines that surround permaculture.

Permaculture is a philosophy. Within that philosophy it is important to take the time to engage with nature as it will give us insight into understanding what is happening in the system. It also should help us to embrace that in nature, there is no right or wrong but there is much variability and differences.

Another guideline is very much based in true prairie philosophy - make hay while the sun shines! What this means is that we have limited time to catch and store

energy so when resources are abundant, it is important to collect these resources to utilize when they are not so available. Secondly, everything is nature and our lives follows patterns. It is important to observe these patterns and understand the closer we get to something, the more distracted we are from the big picture. It is important to put things in the best place as the sum of a whole being is greater than the sum of its' individual parts. Also, it is important to recognize that to instigate good change, intervention needs to happen at the proper time.

The next guideline is a really great thing to remember. None of us work well on an empty stomach! We need to ensure that we do get some immediate rewards as those truly useful rewards allow us to continue that journey to true sustainable life. Now in saying that, we also need to

be selective in ensuring we reduce our natural tendency to consume and try to be less dependent on non-renewable resources. We cannot control nature in any way - not even with high technology and overuse of resources. Last but not least, a stitch in time saves nine. So timely maintenance and using what is available to us is always the best practice.

The final guideline is how important it is for us to discourage inappropriate activity if we wish to continue to function well. We need to be a self-regulating entity which responds efficiently to negative feedback as it is often very slow to appear. Diversity is always a great choice. Don't put all your eggs in one basket!

So, we hope that you take away some of these guidelines to not only embrace permaculture, but embrace quality of life. Move slowly but surely like the turtle and enhance diversity as well as all the appropriate decisions to make your path the right path!

Hanbidge is the lead horticulturist with Orchid Horticulture. Find us at orchidhort.com



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141846464 \$3,329.80
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| S | E | S | T | A | | D | O | W | | H | E | P | O |
| | | | | | S | I | H | S | | M | W | M | C |
| B | O | W | | | M | N | | S | O | R | V | S | |
| V | T | U | S | | E | D | | E | L | O | C | E | R |
| N | I | B | A | S | | R | V | T | | E | M | A | M |
| | | | | | S | E | M | I | T | E | M | O | S |
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| S | H | | R | C | | S | O | I | | P | E | | |
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Municipal Revenue Sharing climbs to \$278 million

In his annual speech to the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA) Premier Scott Moe announced Saskatchewan municipalities will receive record revenue sharing. The Premier also addressed the ongoing labour dispute between Unifor 594 and Federated Co-op Limited (FCL), offering the conditional appointment of a special mediator if Unifor 594

ceases illegal activities immediately.

Overall funding under the municipal revenue sharing program will increase to a record of \$278 million next fiscal year – a total increase of \$27 million in 2020-21. The amount represents a nearly 11 per cent increase in 2020-21 from the current fiscal year, and is almost a 119 per cent increase from the 2007-08 fiscal year.

“This massive invest-

ment will position municipalities across Saskatchewan for the new decade of growth and to continue making key investments in their communities,” said Premier Moe. “Municipal revenue sharing has provided municipalities a stable and predictable source of provincial revenue, and I am proud to continue our commitment to supporting key local priorities that help lay the foundation

for a growing Saskatchewan.”

The Government of Saskatchewan’s municipal revenue sharing program is based on three quarters of one point of the provincial sales tax (PST) revenue collected from the fiscal year two years prior to the current year.

As introduced last year, \$1.5 million from the total municipal revenue sharing program will also be invested

in the Targeted Sector Support Initiative for municipalities.

The initiative is co-managed with municipal partners to support innovative ideas from municipalities that advance priority areas, such as good governance, regional planning, and inter-community collaboration.

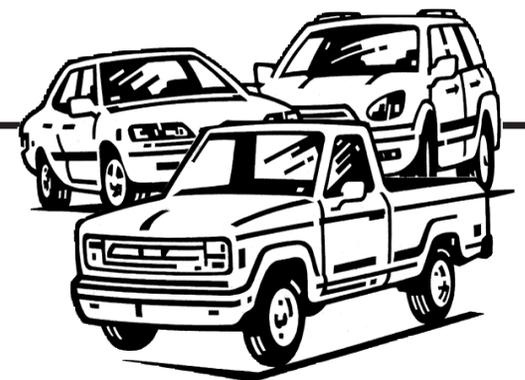
With this announcement, Saskatchewan municipalities have overall been allocated more than \$3.1 billion in provincial funding through the revenue sharing program from 2007-08 to 2020-21. More details will be available when the provincial budget is released.

Blaine Lake RCMP seek missing Shaun Woytiuk

On January 28, 2020, Blaine Lake RCMP was asked to complete a wellness check on 40-year-old Shaun Woytiuk. The complainant had not seen him in many years. Blaine Lake officers have not been able to locate him and want to confirm his well-being. Shaun may be in the Edmonton or Lloydminster areas, but this is not confirmed.

The description we have for him is: 5' 11" tall with blue eyes and blonde hair. We do not have a photo available.

We would like the public to contact us if they know of Shaun's whereabouts or if they have seen or been in contact with him recently. If you have information, please contact Blaine Lake RCMP at 306-497-3600 or contact your nearest police service.



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BILL 194 MAKES LOCAL GOVERNMENT LESS OPEN

Bill 194, the Miscellaneous Municipal Statutes Amendment Act, was recently given second reading in the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly and could soon become law. It recommends amendments to several Acts relating to the publication of official notices by city, town and rural municipalities.

In short, Bill 194 removes the requirement for city, town and rural municipalities to provide 'public notice' of valuable information that affects our daily lives, in exchange for 'public access' to that information.

It gives local government the option to post information only on its own website rather than using independent media to inform citizens of its actions.

If this bill is passed, it will be up to you to have to go and find out yourself if any land is being rezoned, or if your municipality has hired people without advertising that a position was available, or if there is a notice of an upcoming election.

Local government has said that the sections in Bill 194 that affect mandatory publishing of public notices in newspapers will be at the discretion of the council or municipality as to whether they will do that.

Bill 194 must be amended to keep public notice in independent media and to protect openness and transparency of local government.

BE INFORMED. BE HEARD. BE PART OF THE PROCESS

Call, write or visit your MLA to let them know you deserve
PUBLIC NOTICE not just public access.

Or contact the sponsoring minister Hon. Lori Carr, Ministry of Government Relations

Phone: (306) 787-6100 or Email: minister.gr@gov.sk.ca

Mailing address: Room 30, Legislative Building, 2405 Legislative Drive,
Regina, SK, S4S 0B3

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