

High school curlers reclaim provincial mixed title

The Spiritwood curling club was the lucky host of this year's Saskatchewan High School Athletics Association's (SHSAA) Provincial Mixed Curling Championships. The viewing area was packed with locals both Friday and Saturday cheering on the home team who were out to defend their title from the previous season.

The opening ceremonies started at 2 p.m. Friday with the traditional bagpipe entrance. Kim Bradley was on the pipes followed by RCMP, Matt Richard and Lindsey Mcdaid, who were in traditional dress and the eight teams competing in the event.

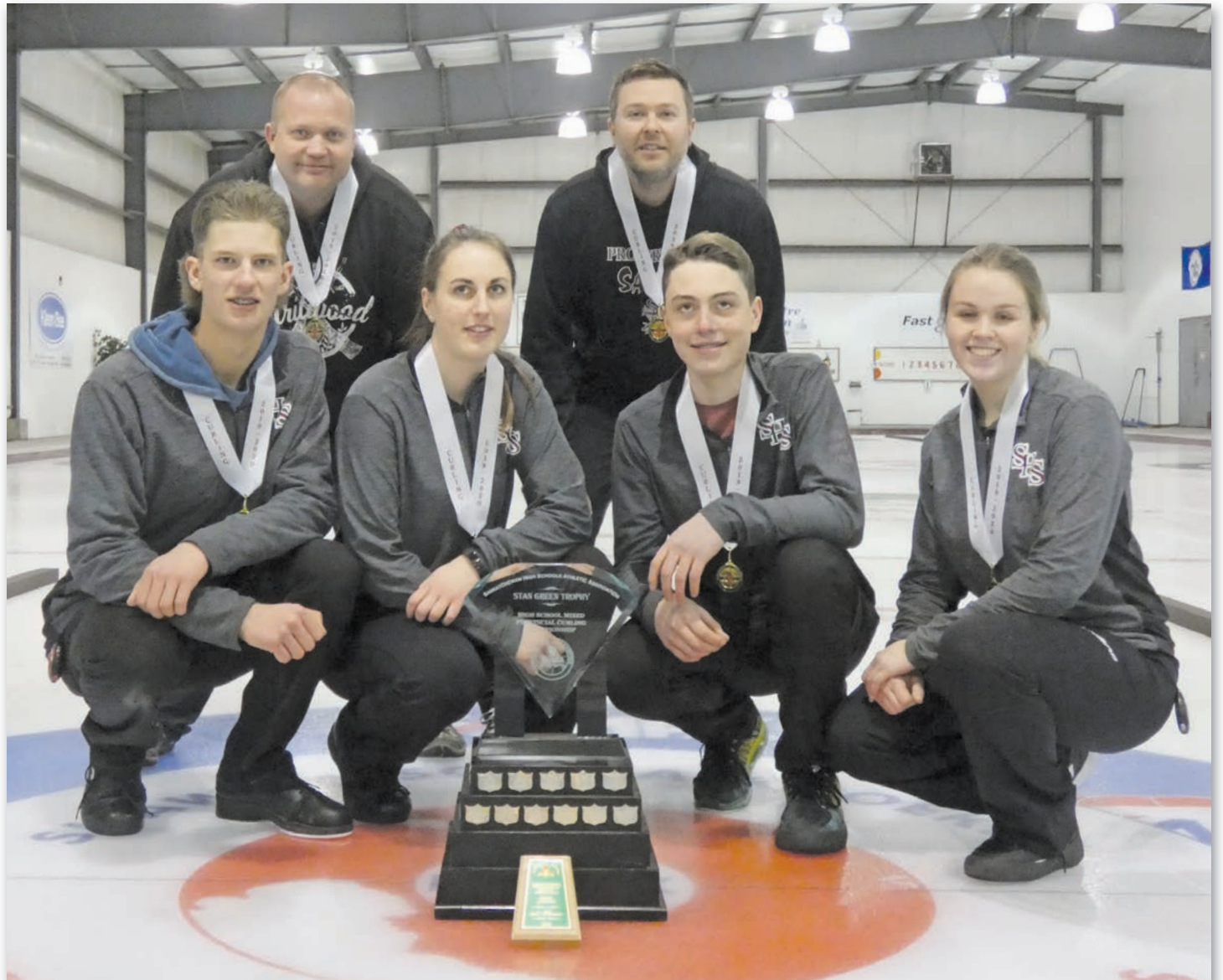
Each of the four regions of the province send their top placing team and their runner up. From region A came Swift Current and Rosetown, from region B came Whitewood and Regina LeBoldus, from region C came Tisdale and Quill Lake, and from region D came Aberdeen and Spiritwood.

Members of the Spiritwood High School Junior Team, and two curlers from the Senior Boys team, carried the flags for the teams.

The masters of ceremony were Glen Caffet and Claude Wasden, who were a part of the Provincial High School Mixed Bronze Medal Champion team alongside their sisters forty-one years prior. The team was coached by Dave Hyndman who attended the ceremony, straw broom in hand.

The pair welcomed everyone to the Spiritwood rink prior to the singing of the national anthem. O Canada was sung by Megan Nemish and students AJ Beuker, Kali Patoine, and Reese Wasden. Caffet and Wasden resumed with introductions of the colour party, the officials for the event, Terry Thompson and his son Craig, and acknowledged the hard work of ice makers Jason Reddekopp, Craig and Terry Thompson, and Dalton Wasden.

The teams and their hosts, Tyson Knot, Amber Simonar, Colton Balazsi, Jaida Jones, Karstin Booth, Payge Galambos, Kyle Brewer, and Aleah McNabb, were introduced before the honourable guests' greetings. Susan Fry, the principal of Spiritwood High



Back left: Coach Jason Reddekopp and Coach Brad Nemish; front left: skip Dalton Wasden, third Emma Beaulac, second Owen Beaulac, and lead Olivia Parker. The 2020 SHS Mixed Curling Team reclaimed their provincial title at home this year.

School, Gary Von Holwede, Mayor of Spiritwood, Tonya Lehman, Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction with Living Sky School Division, and Nathan Noble, Section 4 Rep with SHSAA each addressed the group. Olivia Parker, the lead for the Spiritwood team, then came forward to say the Athletes' Code of Conduct.

The opening ceremony concluded with three ceremonial draws to the button from the 2020 SHS Boys Curling Team, the 2020 SHS Girls Curling Team, and the 1979 SHS Mixed Curl-

ing Bronze Medal Team.

The spectators were treated to some excellent curling for the rest of the event. Teams were split into two pools for playdowns with Swift Current, Tisdale, Regina LeBoldus, and Spiritwood getting seeded into pool A and Whitewood, Aberdeen, Rosetown, and Quill Lake getting seeded into pool B.

Spiritwood came out ahead in their pool with 3 wins, followed by Swift Current with 2 wins and a loss.

Both teams moved directly to the semi-finals. Pool B had a three-way

tie with Whitewood, Rosetown, and Quill Lake each taking two wins and one loss. Quill Lake got a bye into the semifinals based on Last Stone Draw scores and Whitewood and Rosetown battled it out on Saturday morning.

Rosetown came out ahead and went on to play Spiritwood in the semi final while Quill Lake was up against Swift Current. Spiritwood and Swift Current sent Rosetown and Quill Lake into the bronze medal game where Quill Lake took the medal.

Continued on page 2

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High school curlers reclaim provincial mixed title

Continued from 1

Spiritwood and Swift Current had a final game worthy of a provincial championship.

Spiritwood scored points in the first two ends putting them ahead by 2 but not for long as Swift Current came back with a 2-point end leaving the score tied after 3.

The fourth end was arguably them most exciting of the game with excellent shots being made by skips on both teams. The Swift Current skip had managed to sneak one stone sitting shot behind a couple of guards and in front of two Spiritwood stones.

Spiritwood's skip Dalton Wasden made a shot that surely would have been on a SportsCentre highlight reel. An angled raise on a Swift Current guard that clipped just enough of the shot stone to



The team from Swift Current played an excellent game and went home with Silver Medals.

send both out of the rings leaving Spiritwood sitting three and going ahead 5-2.

Spiritwood picked up one more in the

5th before Swift Current got a couple of big points in the 6th, narrowing the gap to 6-4 for Spiritwood.

Another nail-biter end saw some more excellent shots with Spiritwood pulling out two points and spreading the score once more 8-4.

Swift Current made a good effort in the 8th end to keep something in the house, but Wasden kept the house clean and the game was called halfway though the end.

The Friday evening banquet was sponsored by Prairie Centre Credit Union and Hujbers Market on Main.

Other local sponsors of the event were Spiritwood Confectionery, Spiritwood Good Health Pharmacy, Town of Spirit-

wood, Boechler-Schira Auctioneering, Fast Genetics, Spiritwood Vet Services, Spiritwood Stockyards, 6S Cut & Style, Element Holistic Living, and SMK Design.

Overall the event was a success and was thoroughly enjoyed by community members who came out to support the local team.



The team from Quill Lake took home the bronze medal.



The Spiritwood team had an undefeated weekend at the Provincial Curling Championships.



Claude Wasden welcoming everyone to Spiritwood for the 2020 Saskatchewan High School Athletics Association's Provincial Curling Championships.

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Olivia Parker (left) and Emma Beaulac (right) were hot on the brooms all weekend.

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Belbutte Hall closes after almost 80 years

By Cheyenne Orange

In 2019, after a couple years and several meetings regarding necessary repairs and hall usage, the decision was made to close the Belbutte Hall. This year, the building will be 80 years old.

Plans to build a hall in the small community of Belbutte were already well underway in 1939, so it became a reality the following year. The lots and the transfer had been donated by postmaster Louis Zanatta, and he also paid for the registration of the hall. The hall was built on a co-operative basis, so shares were issued to anyone who had a credit of \$10 or more of work or materials donated. As of Dec. 31, 1940 the first shareholders were: Bellamys, Boons, Bolens, Clayton, Forrys, Barker, Francis, Hubbells, Hunters, Heyden, Johnsons, Kanes, Krueger, Lawrence, Larsons, Learmonth, Maiken, McKay, Overgards, Orange, Stolze, Stokes, Smith, Starlings, Thomas, Turples, Weidner, Wilson, Young, Zanatta, the Maple Leaf Club, and the United Progressive Club.

Hundreds of hours of donated labour built the hall, and many more kept it in good repair through the years. There have been many more shares purchased, but space does not permit me to list all the names through the years here. However, I thought it was important to note the first shareholders for their vision of a community hall in Belbutte.

Jack Heyden was recognized as keeping the hall up through many hours of carpentry work and planning, along with his wife Mary. When a job was too large for one person, a work bee would bring together community members to help.

In 1955, the hall was wired for power to arrive in 1956, replacing the gas lamps. However, the hall was resided in 1956, so Emmett Johnson loaned money to the hall to pay for the power.

In 1985, the sod was turned on an expansion of the hall, adding a modern kitchen and bathrooms to the south end. Work continued over the next few months with the excavations, pouring of foundations, installation of fiberglass tanks for water and sewer, framing, sheeting, shingling,

boarding and plastering, etc. Whew, lots of work! And all done by volunteers, except for plumbing and electrical installations.

The new facilities were in limited use for a New Year's Eve dance. A portable stage was donated by Gatzke Fertilizer, and a sound system was donated by the Belbutte Ladies Club.

In 1992, the old porch at the north end of the hall was replaced with a new structure which would accommodate a large vestibule, a storage room, and a furnace room. There were of course many other smaller renovations and changes made to the hall through the years as well, with most of it done through donations of money and labour by community members.

There have been many board members through the years, donating their time to serve the hall and community. Since 1966, the Belbutte Ladies Club started managing the hall, putting on many functions and donating money towards operating costs and capital projects.

The Hall marked the occasions of its 50th anniversary in 1990, its 60th anniversary in 2000, and more recently, its 75th anniversary in 2015. The hall saw many fun times, such as dances, breakfasts, suppers, entertainment nights, reunions, Christmas and Halloween parties, and saw many events in the circle of life for community mem-

bers — baby showers, bridal showers and wedding receptions, and funeral lunches.

Many will have their own fond memories of the hall and events they have attended

there. It is a sad thing to see it come to an end, to be sure, but local jack of all trades/antiques collector/piano plater extraordinaire Brian McGown has purchased the

hall and plans to use it for his own purposes. It will still be on the landscape for the foreseeable future to evoke many more memories each time you drive past.

Davin Hart recipient of multiple Witchekan Wildlife Federation awards



Davin Hart was out of town the weekend of the Witchekan Wildlife Federation's Wildlife Supper and was unable to collect his many awards. He is pictured here (left) with Fern Millar (right) receiving awards for Burbot, Junior Northern Pike, Junior Walleye, Junior Angler, and Youngest Sportsman.



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PA Hospital expansion marks a positive step

"It's about darn time," seems to be the general sentiment coming out of Prince Albert, the broader Prince Albert region, and much of northern Saskatchewan.

The sentiment was stirred up last Wednesday, with the Question Period revelation that the Sask. Party government was finally getting the ball rolling on a new hospital for the city.

But, for many, it probably didn't feel entirely real until the Saskatchewan Party government, and Premier Scott Moe, made the formal announcement on Friday.

That announcement promised a \$300 million-plus investment to build a multi-storey expansion of the Victoria Hospital, increasing its capacity by 69 beds (up to 242 from 173) and leaving room for further additions. The project also calls for a larger emergency department, a helipad, and enhanced medical imaging services, including an MRI.

"We are moving forward to address the health care needs of our growing population in Prince Albert and the north," Premier Scott Moe said in announcing the new facility. "This significant investment reflects the importance of Victoria Hospital in providing a wide variety of health services, not only to people in Prince Albert, but to patients and clients across northern Saskatchewan."

Conceding that the people of Prince Albert have been waiting "a long time" for the announcement of a new hospital, Health Minister Jim Reiter has said that the facility will be "different and unique" and serve



JORDAN
TWISS

~
Columnist

the healthcare needs of all residents of northern Saskatchewan.

Mr. Reiter also said that the government would explore Public-Private Partnerships (P3s), regular procurement models, and a whole variation of mixed methods, when it comes to building the new hospital.

This statement, however, runs contrary to the words of Mr. Moe, who said, during Wednesday's Question Period, that the government would fund 100 per cent of the facility.

Mr. Moe reiterated this point in the official announcement on Friday morning, stating that the government would fund all capital costs for the expansion. But it's hard not to wonder whether he's just trying to assuage any fears that this new hospital will resemble the unmitigated disaster that has been the \$407 million Saskatchewan Hospital North Battleford.

As Saskatchewanians no doubt recall, the North Battleford facility ran into issues before even opening its doors, when the P3 contractor was forced to delay completion of the project by a few months.

And, since accepting its first patients in November 2018, the hospital has been plagued by a seemingly unending procession of problems — starting with a complete roof replacement after the P3 contractor used an untested material to insulate the roof, and continuing with concerns over copper and lead levels in the facility's water systems.

Through these trials and tribulations, the Sask. Party government has remained

steadfast in its belief that the P3 model is the best way to go. It's even tried to spin the issues with Saskatchewan Hospital North Battleford as evidence that the model is working.

"Sure, there are completely avoidable and inexcusable problems with the facility," they say. "But the taxpayers aren't on the hook for fixing any of them!"

That's great and all. But, regardless of who's doing the building, a vital facility like a hospital shouldn't ever require a new hospital after only a few months of operations — and if this were anything but a government gig, someone's head would be rolling.

What's more, between Saskatchewan Hospital North Battleford, and the controversial Regina Bypass project, the Sask. Party's P3 legacy isn't exactly looking rosy.

As the Victoria Hospital expansion gets under way, let's hope that the Sask. Party holds true to Mr. Moe's words. Let us hope, too, that it heeds the advice of its NDP op-

position, which has been pushing for the project to be built by Saskatchewan-based people and companies.

Of course, with a provincial election coming, in Mr. Moe's own words, "sooner than soon," it's hard to ignore the very convenient timing of this announcement. The promise of a new hospital is sure to win the Sask. Party a lot of votes in this area.

Political opportunism aside, there's no way to look at this announcement as anything other than a positive for the region.

The construction of the expansion, alone, will bring a flood of economic activity to the city and the broader region. Then, there are the obvious local and regional benefits from a healthcare services perspective, and the good jobs that will be created by the expansion.

After years of budget austerity from the Sask. Party government, this is a breath of fresh air. But we must remember that it's only one step in the right direction.



A walk around town: The Bones Game

There is only one place you will find the locals of Rabbit Lake on a Wednesday winter evening, down at the old Community hall for burgers and bunnock. Burger and bunnock nights in Rabbit Lake serve as a small community fundraiser that help keep the power on and the water running.

Bunnock is a game believed to have been invented by Russian soldiers stationed in Siberia to pass time. The game made its way to Canada via Russian-German immigrants who settled mainly in the west. Joseph H. Gartner of Edmonton Alberta is credited with laying out the official rules of the game in the

1960s, after requesting to salvage the ankle bones of the horses at the rendering plant he worked at the time. He wanted to make a set of bunnock bones for his dad and decided that 52 bones would make a set.

And so, it stuck, 20 soldiers a side, 2 guards a side, and 8 throwing bones. Teams of 1-4 players would line up their soldiers in a row with a guard on either end of the line opposite to the opposing team. They would then take turns chucking the throwers at each other's bones. The guards needed to go down first then the soldiers were game. Last team with bones standing was the winner.

This is still the way the game is played down in Rabbit Lake every week. It is an excellent time for a little exercise and some community fellowship. Spiritwood's English Conversation Circle even took a trip down a couple of weeks ago to try their hand at the game and had a great time. It is an easy game to learn and can be fun for people of all ages.

Personally, I like going down to chat with the folks in Rabbit Lake on a Wednesday evening and grab a burger. Oh, and the best part, coming from someone who needs to be in a barn early every morning, is that I'm always home by 8:30.



A line up of bones ready for some action at the Rabbit Lake burger and bunnock night.

YOUR TWO CENTS

Promoting “small” nuclear reactors is just another diversion from Saskatchewan’s high carbon emissions

Dear editor,

Premier Moe has announced he will work with Ontario and New Brunswick to bring small nuclear reactors into their energy mix. They claim this is “to mitigate the effects of climate change”. This is not only wishful thinking but very flawed and hypocritical. The premiers fiddle away, while the UN conference in Madrid confronts a planet already starting to burn.

There is no demand or market for these “small” reactors; it is the industry and those who directly benefit that are promoting them. To become a viable industry these “modular” reactors would have to be mass produced and then transported elsewhere. Otherwise they would be uncompetitive. And there would have to be some agreement on design, whereas at present, there are over 100 designs circulating.

Meanwhile the role of nuclear power is shrinking globally and there is no secure capital for such a high-risk industry. So, once again, the industry is trying to get government financial and ideological backing. Unfortunately, there will always be naive politicians who want to appear forward thinking,

and opportunistic academics who will gladly take from the public purse.

These small reactors will never be cost-effective. They would be far less cost effective than larger reactors that have the advantage of economies of scale, but face long-licensing periods, have continually overshoot construction timelines and had massive cost overruns.

Proponents will cloud these problems by exploiting the climate emergency with more greenwashing. The fatal flaw of nuclear reactors, whether large or small, is, however, that they couldn’t contribute to carbon reduction for decades, and we must reduce emissions before 2030. Meanwhile there are much cheaper and faster ways to produce electricity that can quickly reduce greenhouse gases (GHGs) by replacing coal plants and electrifying transportation. The mainstream International Energy Agency (IEA) recently reported that offshore wind turbines could produce eleven times the electricity that the world presently uses globally each year. Yes 11 times!

Wind and solar energy are both growing globally. Meanwhile, while promoting these “small”

reactors, Ontario’s Ford Government has scrapped all investments in renewables, while putting billions into refurbish old reactors. And the Sask. Party is deliberately undermining the solar industry. It should be supporting the growing number of small solar businesses, as one way to lower carbon and create green jobs. Instead, it recently undercut the Net-Metering Program.

SaskPower should also be creating Feed-In Tariffs. With advances in battery and other renewable storage it should be promoting Microgrids, which would reduce transmission costs and create a more reliable, resilient, decentralized electrical system. This will be needed as we face more extreme weather. And, the fastest and cheapest way to reduce GHGs remains investments in energy efficiency.

We shouldn’t be surprised, though, since the Sask. Party has a terrible track record on climate. It invested nearly two billion dollars in Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) to try to save coal plants. It never met its targets and the carbon is used to extract more oil, which in turn just adds more carbon to the atmosphere. If the

government had directly invested this money in renewables it could have shut down a polluting coal plant. Investing in small nuclear reactors would just be another financial boondoggle that postpones serious climate action.

Small reactors are another distraction from Saskatchewan having the highest levels of GHGs on the planet (nearly 70 metric tonnes per capita). While the rest of Canada has been lowering emissions, those here, along with Alberta, with its high carbon tar sands, have continued to rise. Saskatchewan and Alberta’s emissions are now almost equal to all the rest of Canada. Shame on us!

Meanwhile, the Sask. Party vehemently opposes carbon pricing, one way to lower carbon. The Sask. Party has done little concretely to show it truly cares about the climate emergency and promoting these small nuclear reactors is just another ill-informed diversion. Premier Moe is squandering precious time, when we must act now to prevent irreversible climate change from undermining our grandchildren’s future.

Other motives are probably at play. These small reactors can be a back-door for bringing

nuclear wastes to Saskatchewan. They will not require more uranium mining, which is already in economic trouble here, since Japan’s Fukushima nuclear accident in 2011. They would initially use enriched uranium which presents its own proliferation risks, and could end up using unused uranium in spent fuel and/or reprocessed spent fuel from existing reactors, such as the CANDU reactors in Ontario and New Brunswick. The nuclear industry clearly has a “radioactive waste problem”, which it doesn’t know how to solve, and so it would love to have the government offer us up as guinea pigs. Other Canadians may rightly be asking what is going on here that we are seemingly so gullible.

Finally, these reactors are not really small. This is just another marketing strategy (“small is beautiful”) to try to make nuclear power more palatable. It is most notable

that they are referred to as SMR’s or Small Modular Reactors, with the “nuclear” taken out. These proposed “small” reactors would likely be around 300 Megawatts, not much below those that Grant Devine and Brad Wall promoted. And the smaller they get the more cost-ineffective they would become.

Premier Moe has no mandate to risk public money on this high-risk industry, when there are cheaper, and faster ways to reduce our extremely high carbon. After his election in 2007, Sask Party Premier Wall launched his pro-industry Uranium Development Partnership, to try to steamroll us to build nuclear power plants and take nuclear wastes from abroad. Public consultations showed deep and broad opposition. So why is Premier Moe such a nuclear promoter? No means “no”, Moe!

Jim Harding,
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Premier announces new Prince Albert hospital project

Residents of Prince Albert and northern Saskatchewan will have access to improved and expanded health services, through a renewed and expanded Prince Albert Victoria Hospital.

The provincial government has announced a commitment of more than \$300 million to a new multi-storey addition to Victoria Hospital. The approved project concept includes a new acute care tower, replacement of the existing adult mental health space and renovations to the current facility.

"We are moving forward to address the health care needs of our growing population in Prince Albert and the north," Premier Scott Moe said. "This signifi-

cant investment reflects the importance of Victoria Hospital in providing a wide variety of health services, not only to people in Prince Albert, but to patients and clients across northern Saskatchewan."

The project is anticipated to increase the number of beds in Victoria Hospital to 242 on opening day, up from the current 173 beds, an increase of 40 per cent, with space to expand further as needed. It includes a larger emergency department, a helipad and enhanced medical imaging services, including an MRI.

The province will pay 100 per cent of the capital cost of the project. The local community and Victoria Hospital Foundation will raise funds for furniture and

equipment.

"Prince Albert is a major hub of essential health care services for the north central region of Saskatchewan," Prince Albert Mayor Greg Dionne said. "Victoria Hospital is an aging facility. We welcome new funds that will improve our capacity to respond to the health care needs of our residents."

"The 12 First Nations of the Prince Albert Grand Council (PAGC) look forward to a hospital that will be comfortable, culturally inviting and culturally responsive to the needs of all First Nation membership and communities," PAGC Grand Chief Brian Hardlotte said. "This will be a hospital First Nations will have pride of ownership in



because of our considerable involvement with the Government of Saskatchewan, helping create a hospital that is truly healing for all."

"On behalf of the Saskatchewan Health Authority, I want to thank the Government of Saskatchewan for their support of improving access to health care for the people of Prince Albert and northern Saskatchewan," Saskatchewan Health Authority Board Chair R.W. (Dick) Carter said. "The Victoria Hospital and its

staff members, physicians and volunteers, are an important part of the provincial health system. An expanded and renovated Victoria Hospital will provide improved space to care for our patients as close to home as possible."

Detailed designs will be developed during the next phase of the project and in consultation with key partners.

"We are committed to working with Indigenous partners to make sure that culturally appropriate services and

spaces are part of this project," Crown Investments Minister and Prince Albert Carlton MLA Joe Hargrave said. "Our government is proud to invest in this project, which will allow us to meet the needs of a growing population and support our evolving health care system."

Premier Moe expressed appreciation to the City of Prince Albert, surrounding Rural Municipalities, local Indigenous leaders and community partners for their ongoing support.

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- 3 Make a plan for how to vote**
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- To be a working Foreman and equipment operator when necessary
- Responsible for oversight of maintenance and repairs of equipment
- Tracking inventory

Skills And Abilities

Essential Skills

- Oral communication
- Working with others
- Decision making
- Critical thinking
- Job task planning and organizing
- Continuous learning

Credentials (certificates, licences, memberships, courses, etc.)

- Driver's licence

Work Setting

- Municipal government

Employment is to begin as soon as possible. The RM of Round Hill offers a competitive wage, a comprehensive benefits package and the MEPP (Municipal Employees Pension Plan).

Applicants are invited to submit a resume including job-related safety courses and certificates achieved to:

RM of Round Hill No. 467

Box 9

Rabbit Lake, SK

S0M 2L0

Fax: (306) 824-2150

Email: rm467@sasktel.net

Application Deadline: March 12th, 2020 by 4:00 pm

Current drivers abstract and references will be required for those selected for an interview.

The RM Council appreciates all applications but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Data helps, but price is always key

After attending an agricultural seminar in Yorkton recently, it fortified something that I have long held as a fundamental in the decision of what to grow.

The speaker that afternoon showed a myriad of graphs which tracked the prices of various grains through the years, often comparing local prices in Saskatchewan to those of its neighbouring provinces and across the line in the United States.

As graphs often do, the amount of comparative information that could be

mined was impressive.

But in the end there was one constant across all the commodities, prices go up to a point, then dive lower, reaching a bottom from which they bounce back higher.

The spikes are not always smooth as markets determine what price is too high to be sustained, or too low to be reasonable, but the overall trend is always there.

It is not something unique to grain commodities, but all commodities from oil to copper.

What access to the



CALVIN DANIELS

piles of information now available at their fingertips — whether at work at their desk, in the combine seat, or on holidays in a warmer climate — does, is help farmers de-

termine what they see as the right time to add or subtract acres of a particular crop.

While farmers have more immediate data to influence decisions, in the end it often will come down to the simplest of signals, the price the marketplace offers.

Farmers do all the modern technology that is out there to aid marketing, in the end become price takers. They cannot set prices for what they sell, ultimately taking what they see as the best price they can achieve.

Naturally when a price jumps, farmers take notice and start to scribble some numbers to see if they might opt for that crop in the spring.

When prices hit the skids, farmers consider paring back acres.

It is often the decisions producers make to alter acres being planted that sends the message to the marketplace which can topple high prices or bolster low. That is particularly true in niche crops, which realistically on the Canadian Prairies is all crops beyond hard spring

wheat, barley and canola.

The jumps in and out of a crop may be more limited today because of farmers adherence to long term cropping rotations, but the need to find a crop which can generate a positive margin over the cost of production does influence even the most stringent rotation plans, especially at times when farm incomes are pinched.

Charts and information are of course an asset, but, ultimately, price often is the key signal for farmers.

Helping Saskatchewan farmers cope with stress

Innovation Saskatchewan, in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, is asking technology entrepreneurs to develop a way for farmers, ranchers and agricultural workers to monitor their mental health. This latest Innovation Challenge aims to address a growing concern within Saskatchewan where calls to the farm stress line in 2018-2019 doubled from the previous year.

"Mental health is a concern within every industry but particularly acute in agriculture," Minister Responsible for Innovation Saskatchewan Tina Beaudry-Mellor said. "Our government believes technology can provide help to farm families dealing with this complex and demanding issue."

The Innovation Challenge, launched on March 5, asks for expressions of interest from Saskatchewan-based companies and entrepreneurs to answer the following:

What technological solutions can assist Saskatchewan farmers in actively monitoring their mental health? A survey of Canadian farmers released in 2016 found over half the respondents met the classifications for anxiety and one third met the classifications for depression, which is significantly higher than most Canadians.

"There's a lot you can't control on a farming operation and you're usually working in an isolated environment—both can take a toll on the mental health of farmers and ranchers," Agriculture Minister David Marit said. "This year's Innovation Challenge is another way the Government of Saskatchewan can support its producers and agribusinesses. Mental health in the agriculture industry is incredibly important, and I'm looking forward to seeing the innovative ideas that come from this pro-

cess."


Solutions could take many forms including, but not limited to, a mobile phone app, website program, artificial intelligence interface or offline sensor linking to the internet. Selected submissions will be shortlisted, and a pitch competition will determine a winner. Winners will receive \$10,000 in funding and a 16-week collaboration with government to develop their concept. The deadline for submissions is April 30.

Public information sessions will be held in Saskatoon and Regina, on March 17 and 19 respectively, as well as online on March 24. Further information on times and lo-

cations will be posted on Innovation Saskatchewan's website.

"Innovation Challenges find inventive answers to public issues," Beaudry-Mellor said. "We have successfully collaborated with our province's tech sector to combat rural crime, grant permissions for hunting and fishing on private land and track the waste that ends up in our province's landfills."

Find previous Innovation Challenge winners and program information at <https://innovationsask.ca/initiatives/innovation-challenge/previous-innovation-challenges>.



Junior Citizen of the Year Scholarship

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


These prestigious awards are given to youth who:


- Have a positive lifestyle
- Have had the ability to overcome life's challenges
- Have a strong sense of caring and responsibility
- Are dedicated to community and school
- Inspire others
- Are between the ages of 8 to 18


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







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Enhancements to 2020 Crop Insurance Program announced

Federal Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau and Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister David Marit have announced enhancements to the 2020 Crop Insurance Program.

This year, Saskatchewan producers will continue to access high coverage while seeing a decrease in premiums. The Crop Insurance Program continues to adapt to the changing agricultural landscape in the province.

"Our hardworking farmers have faced difficult weather throughout 2019 and we

are committed to help them manage these risks," Bibeau said. "Through the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Program, we are helping give Saskatchewan farmers the tools needed to deal with unpredictable weather, so they can continue producing high quality food for the world, while supporting our communities and livelihoods."

"We are dedicated to maintaining a strong, growing agricultural economy," Marit said. "That is why we invest in business risk management programs

to provide producers with protection against the unexpected. In these times of market uncertainty and adverse weather conditions, support through a comprehensive suite of programs is important for Saskatchewan producers."

The success of Saskatchewan's crop production allows the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) to keep premiums low and average coverage strong for producers. On average, Crop Insurance coverage holds steady at \$224 per acre, only slightly decreasing from \$230 per acre in 2019.

Premiums will see a decrease to an average of \$7.40 per acre, down from \$8.61 in 2019. For 2020, the insurable region for soybeans is expanding to the entire province. Coverage is based on a soybean producer's individual insured history instead of the regional average. Their experience discount or surcharge will be applied to premiums for soybean crops. Irrigation coverage is also now available.

"We are pleased with this year's improvements and the ongoing commitment toward Saskatchewan agriculture," Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities Division 2 Director Norm Nordgulen said. "As we continue to see diversification throughout the industry, this year's changes to soybean coverage, along with last year's forage and weather-based enhancements, speaks to the relevancy of SCIC's programs."

"It's very encouraging to see the enhancement to the program," Saskatchewan Irrigation Projects Association Chairman Aaron Gray said. "With the interest we have seen in expanding the

industry in the province and the province's growth plan including expanding irrigation by 85,000 acres in the next 10 years, changes like this help an industry to grow to its potential in Saskatchewan. Including Soybeans in the Enhanced Irrigation Program will be of benefit to irrigators. Saskatchewan irrigators can now make their decision on crop rotation based on their operations and not be penalized. Soybeans fit very nicely in an irrigators rotation. We look forward to working with SCIC on releasing the information to our industry."

For those customers looking to return to the Crop Insurance Program, SCIC is making an administrative change. Producers now have up to seven years to re-join the program to continue with their previous premium discount/surcharge and yields. Working with the Saskatchewan Vegetable Growers' Association, SCIC is enhancing the Vegetable Acreage Loss Insurance Program. Insured value of vegetable crops are updated to better reflect the production costs. To allow for a longer growing season before harvest begins, SCIC is extending the fall cut-off dates. For 2020, asparagus is added as an eligible crop.

For 2020, SCIC has a new approach to the Organic Option to ensure it remains relevant to Saskatchewan producers. Premiums and coverage are updated using information from organic customers. Previously, the Organic Option was based on a combination of conventional and organic crop experience. With this change, organic insured prices are higher and premium rates are lower. Average coverage is also lower; realigning

to current organic risk. The impact of this change will depend upon each producer's production experience. Organic customers are encouraged to contact their local SCIC office to review the impacts to their individual coverage.

"We have been working with SCIC to ensure the program meets the needs of organic producers," SaskOrganics President Will Oddie said. "This is an important insurance program for our organic growers and it is now more relevant with SCIC using historical organic information."

Producers faced a variety of challenges throughout the 2019 growing season. Dry conditions challenged summer growing and wet conditions, coupled with early snowfall, delayed harvest. With approximately 1.3 million insured acres left out over winter, compensation for producers is estimated to reach \$350 million in claims. Crops left out over winter are covered under SCIC's Wildlife Damage Compensation Program.

This program is available to all Saskatchewan producers; Crop Insurance participation is not required. If producers notice any wildlife damage, they should contact SCIC as soon as possible. Producers with unharvested acres must contact SCIC prior to harvest, feeding or grazing any damaged crop so it can be assessed.

Ministers asked officials to change the treatment of private insurance for the 2020 program year. Private insurance revenue will be excluded when calculating a producer's program year margin. This increases the potential for an AgriStability benefit as private insurance revenue is not factored

into the producer's allowable income. Premiums for private insurance will remain included as allowable expenses.

Minister Marit reminded livestock producers, under the Western Livestock Price Insurance Program, calf price insurance policies are now available for purchase. Producers can choose from a range of coverage options every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

While Feeder and Feed price insurance policies are available year-round, the deadline to purchase a calf price insurance policy is May 28, 2020.

SCIC encourages producers to review their business risk management plans annually. SCIC has 21 local customer service offices across the province with knowledgeable staff available to discuss the insurance options best suited for each farming operation. March 31, 2020, is the deadline to select insured crops and coverage levels or make additional changes to their Crop Insurance contract. Producers need to also apply, reinstate or cancel by this date.

For more information about the 2020 insurance options, call 1-888-935-0000 or visit www.scic.ca.

Crop Insurance is a Business Risk Management program supported through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership. Under Crop Insurance, premiums for most programs are shared 40 per cent by participating producers, 36 per cent by the Government of Canada and 24 per cent by the Government of Saskatchewan. Administrative expenses are fully funded by governments, 60 per cent by Canada and 40 per cent by Saskatchewan.

Request for Proposal

The Village of Canwood has a fully equipped restaurant available for lease as of April 2020. The seating capacity of the restaurant is approximately 40 to 50 guests and is equipped with large coolers, deep freeze, grill with 4 burner stove and oven, deep fryer, some pots, dishes, cutlery, etc.

The lessee will be responsible for the monthly rental of \$400.00, natural gas and power. The lessee is also responsible for acquiring a tenant legal liability and contents insurance package and applying for licensing with the Public Health Office to ensure that the business meets all health codes as required from the Public Health Inspector.

The Village of Canwood population as of 2016 census was 332 and supports a large surrounding rural community, lake lot developments, and neighbouring Ahtahkakoop First Nation. The Village boasts many services that draws potential patrons into the Village. Some of these services include a public school (Pre-K to 12), credit union, pharmacy, medical clinic, grocery store that is open 7 days a week, gas bar with cardlock, bowling alley, skating rink and Canwood Regional Park with a 9-hole grass greens golf course, ball diamonds and camping.

Request for Proposal

Our Committee is accepting Requests for Proposal until March 27, 2020, that should detail a proposed business plan to lease the restaurant. The business plan, at a minimum should include:

- » Hours of operation
- » Business ideas you may have to ensure viability (specials, steak nights etc.)
- » Any other relevant information you can provide
- » Related previous work experience
- » Must have one appropriate reference

Please note that applicants are subject to an interview process with our Committee and may also be subject to a credit check.

The successful applicant would be required to sign a lease agreement allowing them to utilize the equipment that is currently in the restaurant, stock supplies and carry out their business plan.

If you have any questions, or are interested in viewing the building, please do not hesitate to contact the Village office at (306)468-2016. Please note that only serious Requests for Proposal will be considered and contacted. The Village reserves the right to reject any or all submission.

Sincerely,
Erin Robertson
Administrator, Village of Canwood

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Hon. Scott Moe, Premier

MLA for Rosthern-Shellbrook
scottmoe.mla@sasktel.net

Hon. Jeremy Harrison

MLA for Meadow Lake
jharrisonmla@sasktel.net

As hospital woes continue in North Battleford, NDP calls for public hospital in PA

The Saskatchewan Hospital in North Battleford is currently on a boil-water advisory and sewage has flooded the basement, according to an internal memo obtained by the Saskatchewan NDP.

"This new facility has been an unmitigated disaster because of the Sask. Party's embrace of a P3 model that rewarded shoddy construction by out-of-province

companies," said NDP Leader Ryan Meili. "The walls, roof, and plumbing have all needed to be redone. There has been extensive flooding leading to mould damage. Staff and residents have been left drinking poisoned water. And now the basement has been inundated with raw sewage and patients are unable to use the water to bathe. What is the Sask. Party

doing to address these failures, and how can we expect that their promised PA hospital rebuild will turn out any better?"

The year-old facility is still not operating at full capacity months after its opening, and the company managing the P3 facility recently had its credit rating downgraded by Moody's credit agency. Moody's indicates that in addition to the roof re-

placement, the facility requires "significant remediation work for water damage as a result of faulty shower assemblies that leaked behind the walls across the facility."

"One company has already gone bankrupt while building this facility, now another one is facing financial stress, and the Health Authority appears to have bypassed the opportunity

to reduce the value of the contract," said NDP Health Critic Vicki Mowat. "This P3 model isn't working for North Battleford, and it won't work for the promised hospital in Prince Albert."

"New Democrats would ensure a new hospital for Prince Albert, and we'd build it right the first time, with our companies and our workers."

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 Volunteering Program – Evergreen Health Centre, Leoville (306) 984-2136

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

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

Volunteers with well-trained, friendly pets may visit the residents at the Nursing Homes. The pets must meet the necessary requirements prior to visiting.

Shifts: Once or twice per week: Flex-

ible hours.

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

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 1/2 hrs. Once per month

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.

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.

SPIRITWOOD: Spiritwood Skating Club presents 'Fire & Ice'. Sunday, March 15, 2020 – 2:00 pm, Spiritwood Arena. Silver Collection.

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Nominations

Nominations for the Board of Directors are being received from March 9th to March 20th, 2020.

Members of the Prairie Centre Credit Union (2006) Ltd. are informed that there are five vacancies on the Board of Directors in the following districts:

DISTRICT 1 - Eatonia & Eston
1 Vacancy

DISTRICT 2 - Harris & Rosetown
1 Vacancy

DISTRICT 3 - Beechy, Dinsmore, Elrose & Kyle
1 Vacancy

DISTRICT 6 - Spiritwood
2 Vacancies

Blank nomination forms will be available from March 9th through March 20th at any Prairie Centre Credit Union branch, as well as online at www.pccu.ca. Completed nomination forms can be submitted to any PCCU branch beginning March 9th up to the close of business on March 20th.

Prairie Centre Credit Union (2006) Ltd.
By-law 4(c) Nominations

iii. A nominee must sign a nomination paper confirming that he or she consents to their nomination and qualifies under the eligibility requirements stipulated in the Act and Bylaws.

iv. Nomination papers must be signed by the person nominated for the position of director (nominee) and be endorsed by the signatures of at least five members of the Credit Union who have accounts at a service outlet situated within the nominee's District.

v. The Credit Union shall advertise for nominations for position of director for a period of two weeks beginning six weeks prior to the week of the Annual Meeting.

vi. Names of the nominees for position of director shall be placed with a Nominating Committee by noon on Monday of the week four weeks preceding the week of the Annual Meeting.

ANNUAL MEETING

MONDAY, APRIL 20TH 2020
Rosetown & District Civic Centre

Supper: 6:00 p.m.

Meeting 7:00 p.m.

*Tickets available at any
PCCU branch*



Spirited Players get crowd snickering with production of “Gladys Nights”

Three nights of comedic drama and two nights of delicious food. Spiritwood's cure for the winter blues as prescribed each year by the Spiritwood Spirited Players. Director Cari Cross announced that despite having thought it was the 35th year of the production, she realized when Marylynn Cross dug up the newspaper clipping from the first installment “Phantom of the Op'ry” that this was the 37th year.

The cast, which was about half the size of last year's, has been busy rehearsing for this year's production, “Gladys Nights” by Becky Kismet, since the beginning of February. Opening night was the usual Thursday rush seating followed up by two nights of dinner theatre. Catered by Ronnie's Catering, there was a variety of goodies adorning the table, from Greek salad to cauliflower and broccoli salad, Greek riblets to chicken alfredo, there was something for everyone to enjoy.

The production was moved along by narration done by Ginelle Olson who played the main character, Gladys. The opening scene set the stage for a flashback story to discover how Gladys came to be firing a shot at some guy outside of a night club. The audience is taken back a few days to see Gladys at work, on call with a customer, with a hovering manager, played by Tanner Gaboury,

who seems to enjoy beating everyone down. A bored and tired Gladys then receives an unwelcome visit from her old childhood friend Pepper, played by Taylor Kuffert, who comes cartwheeling on stage, full of spunk and energy. She is joined occasionally by a mute Ryan Steinhilber, who is constantly trying to get props on and off the stage without an altercation with Pepper.

Pepper does a lot of arm twisting and perhaps a bit of bullying to get Gladys to agree to fulfill her childhood dream of becoming an assassin. The two post an advertisement on the Northern Lakes Bulletin Board and soon enough requests start flooding in. Pepper becomes agitated as the various clients, played by Jennifer Epp and Grant Lavoie, are continuously being talked out of getting the nuisances in their lives bumped off.

After a little pep talk from a peeved Pepper, Gladys sits down to meet Ray, played by Brett Goller, who initially seems confident in what he is doing. After a short peppering of questions from Gladys, who is suspicious as to why the target needs to die, Ray seems to get a little squeamish and calls the deal off. He then decides to ask Gladys out on a date.

The audience then learns that Ray is a detective working on bringing Gladys to justice for crimes that the



The cast for this year's Spirited Players Production “Gladys Nights” included (from left) Ryan Steinhilber, Jennifer Epp, Ginelle Olson, Taylor Kuffert, Tanner Gaboury, Brett Goller, and Grant Lavoie.

audience knows she has not committed. Gladys later learns the truth about her date, and decides she is going to get even by making him fall in love with her.

A wrench is thrown in her plans however when her boss's wife, played again by Epp, comes calling, looking for a way out of her abusive marriage. During their date, a flustered Gladys knowingly makes Ray believe that the carpet cleaning company she

works at is in fact a front for a band of assassins.

After work the following day, the audience sees Gladys again where they met her at the beginning of the play. As it turns out, the man she shoots is her boss. After being handcuffed by an angry Ray, who doesn't understand why she had to do it, the boss, played by Grant Lavoie, started to move. It was a paintball gun Gladys had used.

Gladys then narrates a quick wrap of events, the boss went to jail for domestic violence, her manager and co-worker went to prison for embezzling money from the company, and she had started a consulting business to talk people out of taking drastic measures.

The crowd laughed a lot and had a great time as usual. Cari Cross thanked everyone for coming out and supporting the dinner theatre.



Ray (Brett Goller) and Gladys (Ginelle Olson) trying to enjoy a meal at restaurant where the waiter (Grant Lavoie) serves in slow motion with a hovering Pepper (Taylor Kuffert).



Director Cari Cross works hard every year to make sure the drama production is a hit.



Jennifer Epp (left) played a variety of women throughout the production, trying to hire Gladys (Ginelle Olson) to bump someone off.



Gladys (Ginelle Olson) talking a confused Ray (Brett Goller) out of doing a job for him.



One of Grant Lavoie's many characters was confused by Gladys's ad and prompted some horrified expressions from Pepper (Taylor Kuffert) and Gladys (Ginelle Olson).



Tanner Gaboury (left) had the role of Gladys's (Ginelle Olson) clueless and overconfident boss.

Ayres' 'Walter Mitty' story a hockey treat

The Secret Life of Walter Mitty came alive in late February in front of a nation-wide TV audience viewing Hockey Night in Canada.

In the blink of an hour or so on a Saturday night, David Ayres became a household name across Canada and by Monday, his "15 minutes of fame" splashed across North America.

And now, hockey analyst Brian Burke and other influential voices around the National Hockey League are saying they want to take steps to ensure it never happens again.

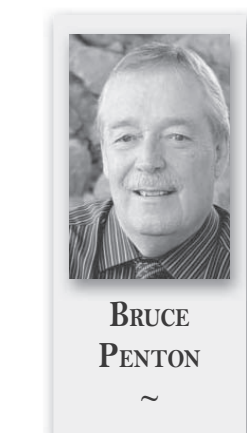
Why? It was the greatest story of the NHL season to date, shuffling to the side all the talk about concussions, injuries, assaults, suspensions and teams tanking.

Details of the story need not be told, but here's the Coles notes: If you're reading this column, dedicated to sports, you know all about Ayres, the Zamboni driver who was an emergency goalie in Toronto suddenly thrust into the middle of a Leafs-Carolina game. In true Walter Mitty fashion, he went on to win the game and

then did a whirlwind circuit of talk shows, sports interview programs and late night TV comedy programs on Monday.

He got paid \$500 for his approximate 30 minutes of work in goal for Carolina, plus he got to keep his Canes' jersey. He might also share in some of the royalties from "Ayres 90" jersey sales. As for the memories? Well, that was worth untold millions. Thirty years from now, his grandchildren will be begging him to quit talking about Feb. 22, 2020.

Less than 48 hours after Burke grouchy told TV viewers that the Ayres situation was an embarrassment to the NHL, governors reportedly started talking about a review of the "EBUG" (emergency backup goalie) situation. Hockey fans would never again have a chance to revel in the delight of a David Ayres if the owners follow through with a plan to force teams to carry a third goalie with them at all times — someone who is paid simply to be available in an emergency. That goalie would have to own some junior or collegiate experience and,



BRUCE
PENTON

oh, yes, be of an age that curmudgeons like Burke don't find embarrassing. Ayres, after all, was 42 when he stonewalled the Leafs with eight saves in the third period to cement a 6-3 Carolina win in front of shocked Leafs' fans in Toronto.

Meanwhile, the Secret Life of David Ayres goes onto the back shelf at the local library, fulfilling the wish of Brian Burke but spoiling one of the greatest Cinderella stories the NHL has ever told.

• Comedy guy Torben Rolfsen of Vancouver's TSN, the Rolfsen Report: "If the Zamboni driver had gotten injured, next in goal for the Canes would have been Drake."

• Headline in theonion.

com: "Victorious Patrick Mahomes Thanks Bears For Drafting Mitchell Trubisky"

• Norman Chad of the Washington Post, on the ever-growing allegations against the Houston Astros: "Eventually, we'll discover the Astros also had a hand in the Great Chicago Fire, the kidnapping of the Lindbergh baby and the Watergate cover-up."

• Another one from Chad, on inaction from Astros' owner Jim Crane: "Harry S. Truman famously had a sign on his desk that said, 'The buck stops here.' Crane's version of that is, 'The buck stops down the hall and to the right, in an office adjacent to the men's restroom.'"

• Bob Molinari of pilotonline.com (Hampton, Va.): "With scream queen Maria Sharapova announcing her retirement, women's tennis is less

glamorous. But a lot quieter."

• Comedy writer Jim Barach: "Reds pitcher Trevor Bauer says 70 per cent of Major League Baseball pitchers cheat. The other 30 per cent can throw the ball over 95 mph so they don't have to."

• RJ Currie of sports-deke.com: "The Christian Science Monitor estimated eight in 10 NFL players are bankrupt two years into retirement. This is different than CFL players, who are bankrupt two years into their careers."

• Comedy writer Alex Kaseberg: "A self-titled daredevil, 'Mad Mike' Hughes, tried to prove the earth was flat in his homemade rocket; sadly it crashed to the Nevada desert. Legally they had to then name the rocket the New York Knicks."

• Patti Dawn Swansson, aka the River City Renegade, reacting to Tony Romo's \$17 million CBS

contract: "Hmmm, I wonder how much it would take for Fox to get Terry Bradshaw to stop talking."

• Bob Molinaro again, on the Orioles playing split-squad games in spring training: "C'mon now. The Birds don't have enough big-league players for even one squad."

• Greg Cote of the Miami Herald, on NASCAR's Dixie Vodka 400 at Homestead. "Hmm. Should a bunch of guys driving 180 mph in heavy traffic be sponsored by vodka?"

• Joe Burrow, projected No. 1 draft pick, on Twitter, after measurements taken at the NFL Combine showed his throwing hand had a nine-inch span: "Considering retirement after I was informed the football will be slipping out of my tiny hands. Please keep me in your thoughts."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

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
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NEWSPAPERS CANADA

What you need to know about the Coronavirus

The dawn of 2020 ushered in many newsworthy headlines, but few have turned the heads of the masses as sharply as the arrival of a novel coronavirus that was first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. In late 2019, Chinese authorities identified the new virus, which has resulted in scores of confirmed cases in China, and additional cases identified in a growing number of international locations.

Both the World Health Organization and The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have closely monitored the coronavirus, which was named COVID-19 in mid-February 2020. The public is understandably concerned, but educating oneself about COVID-19 and coronaviruses in general can assuage some fears.

What is a coronavirus?

Medical News Today reports that coronaviruses typically affect the respiratory tracts of mammals. Corona-

viruses are responsible for between 15 and 30 percent of common colds. They're also associated with pneumonia and severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS.

Coronaviruses were given their name based on the crown-like projections on their surfaces (in Latin, "corona" means "halo" or "crown"). Coronavirus antibodies do not last or work for very long, so a person who becomes ill can catch the same virus again a few months later. Also, antibodies for one strain of coronavirus may not be effective against other strains.

What is COVID-19?

In 2019, a new type of coronavirus not previously identified was discovered in China. Like other coronaviruses, this virus, COVID-19, can be spread easily from person to person, particularly through respiratory droplets acquired when someone with the virus coughs or sneezes. Most of-

ten people need to be within six feet of the infected person for contraction. The CDC says that COVID-19 also is believed to be spread from animals to people. It's currently unclear if a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching his or her own mouth, nose or eyes.

Those confirmed as having the virus reported illnesses ranging from mild symptoms like fever, cough and shortness of breath to more severe illness. Reactions to COVID-19 can differ from individual to individual. It's believed that symptoms of COVID-19 can appear in as few as two days or as long as 14 after exposure.

Those who have been in China or around others who have visited from China and are experiencing cold or flu symptoms are advised to call their physicians.

Prevention and Treatment

The WHO says that if a person is healthy, he or she only needs to wear a mask if this person is taking care of another with a suspected COVID-19 infection. One also should wear a

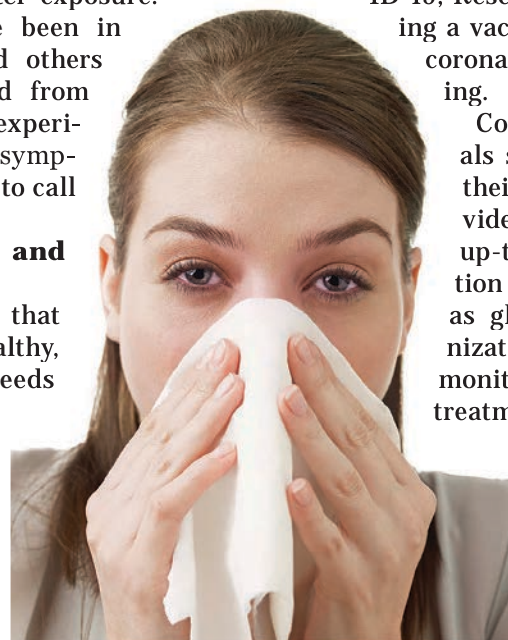
mask if he or she is coughing or sneezing.

Doctors advise that frequent hand-washing, and in the absence of warm, soapy water, alcohol-based sanitizers that are at least 60 percent alcohol can be effective in preventing transmission of COVID-19. Also avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.

Currently there is no specific antiviral treatment for the disease; people should receive supportive care for symptoms. However, research into antiviral drugs, such as those for HIV and influenza, are being tested for their potential efficacy against COVID-19. Research into developing a vaccine for this novel coronavirus also is ongoing.

Concerned individuals should speak with their healthcare providers for accurate, up-to-date information about COVID-19 as global health organizations continue to monitor conditions and treatments.

As of Monday morning, no confirmed cases of Coronavirus had been reported in Saskatchewan.



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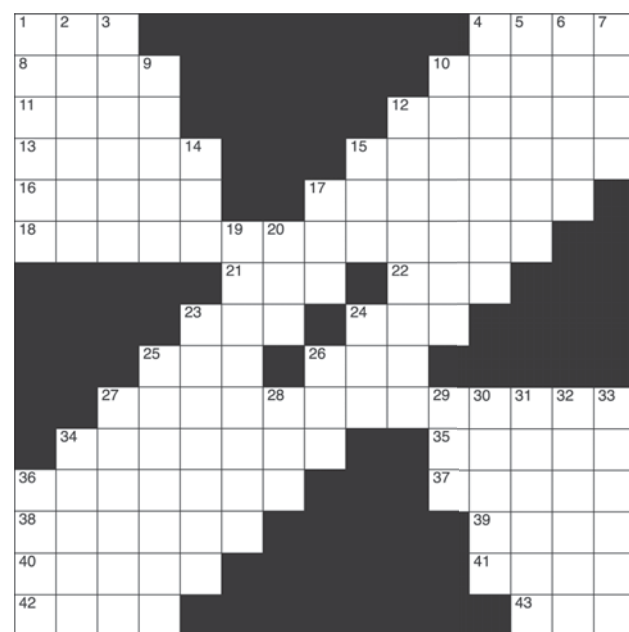
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CLUES ACROSS

1. A team's best pitcher
4. Designer Jacobs
8. Hip joint
10. A dialect of English
11. Portrays
12. Panic
13. The head of a team
15. High priest
16. League of Legends locale
17. Protective folds
18. Treats allergies
21. Voodoo spirits
22. Single unit
23. Unit of measurement
24. Brew
25. Burundian franc
26. Self
27. Bengals great
34. Making letters overlap
35. Piece of pizza
36. Illegal drug
37. Card game
38. The highest point in the development
39. Oh, God!
40. Wives (law)

CLUES DOWN

1. Warm climate tree or shrub
2. Silky case spun by larvae
3. Still in existence
4. Light, two-stranded rope
5. Wear away
6. Beginnings
7. Essence
9. American Standard Code for Information Interchange
10. Path
12. Repeated tones
14. Expresses surprise
15. Monetary unit of Burma
17. When you hope to get there
19. Brighten
20. Fifth note of a major scale
23. Dark brown timbers of tropical trees
24. We all do it
25. Scrounges
26. Unit of energy
27. Begin to be
28. Midway between northeast and east
29. Distinctive practice
30. Succulent plants
31. Performer
32. Gas station term
33. Required
34. Soviet monetary unit
36. Eating house



41. Monetary unit of Samoa
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43. Valentine's Day color

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Answers on page 14

Charge up your car battery knowledge

Vehicles consist of many essential components to keep them running efficiently and effectively. Car and truck owners should have an understanding of how their vehicles function so they can diagnose and address problems as they arise.

Car batteries are an important component of any vehicle. Even though engines are the powerhouse of any car or truck, without a battery, the engine wouldn't be able to work. According to Firestone Complete Auto Care, car batteries work by providing a jolt of electricity necessary to power all the electrical components of the vehicle. This is achieved through a chemical reaction that changes chemical energy into the electrical energy needed to deliver voltage to the starter. In addition to initially starting the car, the battery also keeps electric current steady to keep the engine running.

The battery also works in conjunction with the alternator to power the electronics in the car, according to the automotive information blog Auto-sessive. While the car is running, the alternator reverses



Learn the function of a car battery and how to keep it operational.

the current produced by the battery, recharging it as a result. This happens during long journeys, so people who drive for short bursts of time may find that their batteries will not have a chance to recharge and may not have the longevity desired.

There is quite literally a lot

riding on a functioning battery. No one wants to be caught stranded by a dead battery, so drivers may wonder if there are any indicators that may signal the battery needs replacement.

• Slow turnover: If a vehicle does not immediately start or if the cranking is sluggish and takes longer to start, it may

mean the battery is starting to fail.

• Frequent, short trips: Drivers who make frequent, short trips may find their car batteries do not have time to fully recharge. This, coupled with overtaking thanks to a lot of accessory use, may cause the battery and the alternator to

have shortened life spans.

• Low battery fluid levels: If the fluid level is below the energy conductor inside, it is often indicative of overcharging and excessive heat.

• Corrosion: Corrosion build-up, dust, dirt, and grime on battery connections may cause performance problems. Inspecting and cleaning the terminals can prolong the battery life.

• Odors and leaks: Battery leaks can produce a sulfur odor similar to the smell of a rotten egg. This can become problematic over time, and leaks may indicate an aging or damaged battery.

• Age: Most batteries have a finite life span. A well-maintained battery can last up to five years. Neglect can reduce that life expectancy considerably.

• Bloated or cracked battery case: Replace the battery immediately if the case is cracking, as it could be because excessive heat is swelling the battery.

Understanding how car batteries work can help drivers keep their cars running smoothly.



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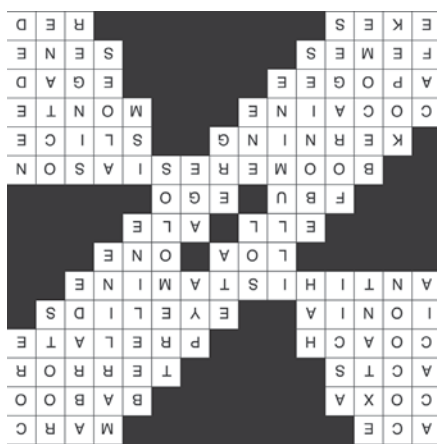
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Designing your first flower border

By Sara Williams

Too often we select plants at a nursery or garden centre, bring them home, and place them haphazardly wherever we happen to have space in our yard. Sometimes it works, but usually it doesn't. Having a plan, before you buy, is a better option. Winter is a good time to start planning.

Begin with a location

Study a potential location for a flowerbed from both your perspective and that of the plants. From your point of view, it should be where you'll see it – from a deck or patio, as you enter your yard, or from a window while washing dishes – horticulture therapy of the best kind. "Secret gardens," those tucked around a corner or hidden from immediate view, are fine, but they generally come later in one's horticultural evolution. Put your first flowerbed where it will give you the most pleasure.

From the plant's point of view, think about sunlight and shade, of soil, drainage, and root competition. There are a great number of flowers that adapt well to either sun or shade (although typically, plants prefer either one or the other). Almost all prefer good drainage. An

area in which water sits for long periods after snow melt, rain or irrigation makes an excellent site for a bog garden, but not a flower border.

Note whether there are elms, poplars, spruce or maples nearby. All of these trees have shallow, spreading root systems which efficiently (and somewhat ruthlessly) absorb water and nutrients at the expense of flowers planted below or near them. Keep flower borders well beyond the drip lines of these trees.

The external shape

If your landscape, home and spirit tend to be formal, then so should your border. Long rectangular ones are classic. Double borders, facing each other across a path, are very traditional. But these take space and may not be adapted to all gardener's personalities and properties.

If you're more comfortable with an informal design, use a garden hose and begin at ground level. Lay out a shape. Then step back and study it from where you'll be viewing it most often – a sitting area, the entrance to your yard, the back (or front) of your house. It may be as simple as a curved border in a corner of your yard, or a free-form bed enveloping your sitting area or



A small bermed border with pink and white plants. Photo credit: Sara Williams.

patio with an entrance to the lawn beyond.

Island beds are situated in a lawn and are meant to be viewed from all sides. They may be kidney-shaped or free form, conforming to the space available to them.

Finally, there are "walk-within" or "walk through" flower borders, not meant to be viewed from outside at all. These act as a "room" in themselves, one you stroll through, or enter and sit in, and from where you view the world and your border.

Study the shape created by your

garden hose over a few days and from various perspectives. Continue to make changes until you're comfortable with it. The final check is with a lawn mower. Will the mower fit the curves when cutting the adjacent lawn?

Soil preparation

You may have to remove existing vegetation, most likely lawn. Cover the proposed area with black plastic. As long as the air temperature is well above 20°C, the grass below the plastic sheet will be killed by light and water exclusion, and heat

build-up within two to three weeks. Once it's dead, cultivate it and incorporate it into the soil to increase the bed's organic matter content.

Dig the bed to a depth of 30 to 45 cm (12-18 in.), equivalent to the rooting depth of many perennial flowers. Once dug, add generous amounts of organic matter. A 10-cm (4-in.) layer of peat moss, well-rotted manure or compost, thoroughly incorporated, is not too much.

[Part Two next week: Plant selection]

Sara Williams is the author or coauthor of numerous books including Creating the Prairie Xeriscape, Growing Fruit in Northern Gardens, Gardening Naturally and Best Trees and Shrubs for the Prairies. Retired as the Horticultural Specialist, Extension Division, University of Saskatchewan, she continues to give workshops throughout the Canadian prairies. 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.

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