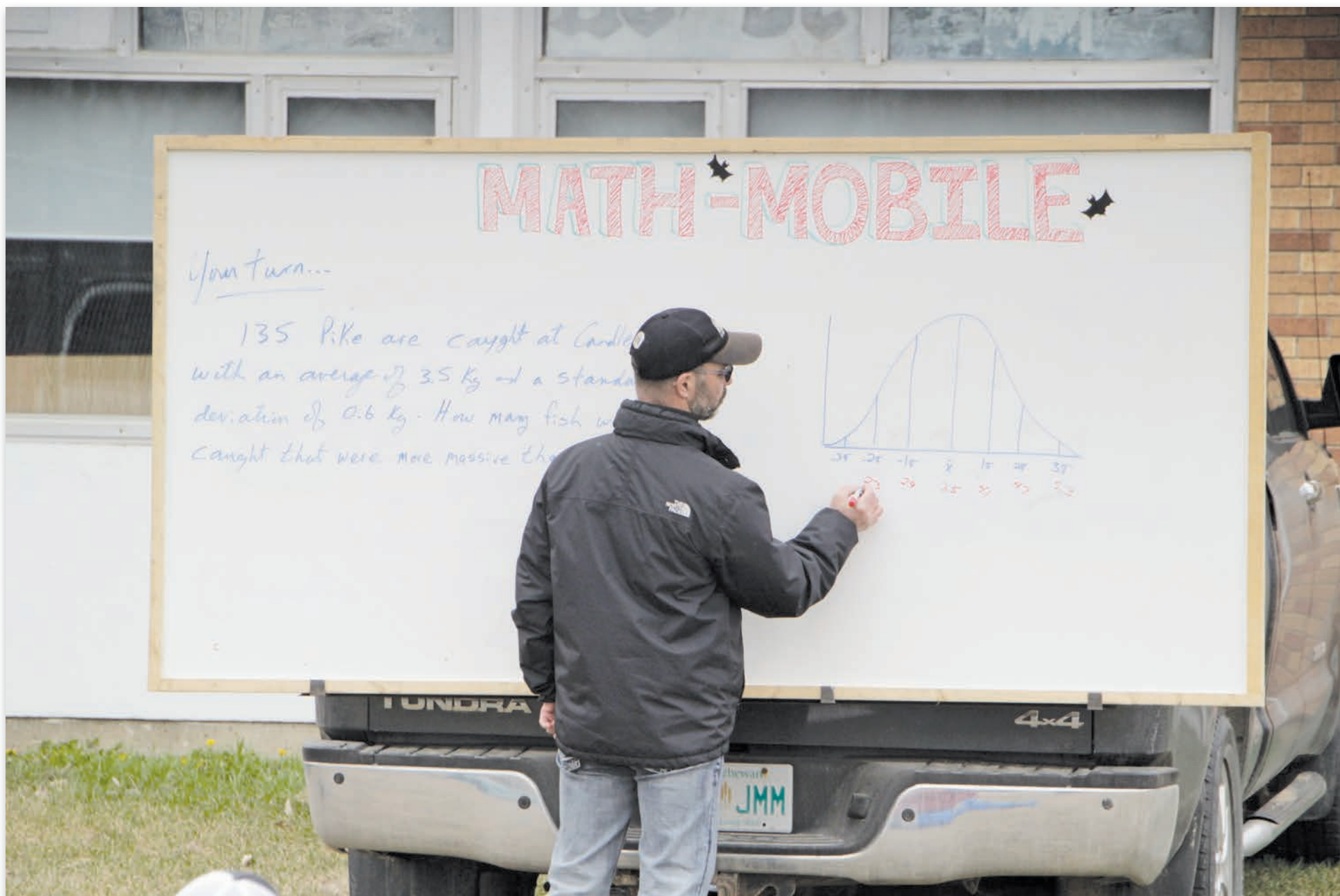




Shellbrook teacher adapts to COVID-19



W.P. Sandin High School teacher Lindsay Kyliuk writes on the whiteboard attached to his Math Mobile. The novel teaching method was devised as a way to teach students in person while practicing proper physical distancing.

It's been nearly two months since students and teachers across the province had to get up early in the morning to go to school — and, unless COVID-19 disappears overnight, it's looking like they won't have to do so again until at least the fall.

But the fact schools are closed doesn't mean that students and teachers haven't been keeping up with their learning.

Whether they're being homeschooled by their parents or taking classes posted online by their regular teachers, students are finding ways to maintain their study habits. And teachers, meanwhile, have been finding new and unique ways to instruct their students in this age of physical distancing.

Take Lindsay Kyliuk, a local teacher at W.P. Sandin High School.

Like many of his colleagues, he's been

teaching math and science online by posting videos for all of his usual lessons. However, he says that adapting to teaching digitally has been as much of a learning experience for him as it has been for his students.

"I've had some Grade 11s say do not make any more 40-minute videos," he said. "I'm learning, as we go, what's working and what's not. I'm looking for a lot of feedback from students about

how I can help them."

Feedback is something that came up often when the *Chronicle* stopped by W.P. Sandin High School on Friday afternoon. There, Kyliuk was making use of a giant white board welded to the tail end of a truck (appropriately called the Math Mobile) to teach a math lesson to a handful of Grade 10 students while maintaining physical distancing.

Continued on page 3



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Hidden Hills ready to tee off May 15

When the Hidden Hills of Shellbrook Golf Course is permitted to reopen on May 15, general manager Larry Ritchie says he and his fellow staff members will be following the provincial regulations to the T (no pun intended).

However, for all the ways in which COVID-19 will change the golf season, Ritchie says his spring was still very much business as usual.

"I always had suspicions that if they opened up anything, golf courses would be the one thing people could get out and enjoy for the summer," he said. "I pretty much followed the same things I do every spring, except I didn't bring any staff in."

With opening week-end just over a week away, Ritchie adds that the golf course is already in great shape. He does note, however, that there's still some work to be done before golf season begins.

For starters, the tee boxes, roughs, and fairways need to be trimmed, and the water needs to be hooked up for the irrigation system.

The Town of Shellbrook was expected to lend a hand with that second task at



some point this week, and Ritchie says new superintendent Matt Harris might have a few more things he wants to get done to ensure the course is in tip-top shape for May 15.

As far as all the behind the scenes work goes, Ritchie says everything's all ready to go and that disinfectant and protective equipment has been ordered for staff. And, in an encouraging sign, there appears to be plenty of interest in golfing — even during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I've never had to come in this early in the morning and start taking bookings

like this," Ritchie said when the *Chronicle* spoke with him Monday morning. "It's kind of different and kind of fun."

"We're going to be busy. People are going to want something to do to entertain themselves, and it seems like golf is one of the few

things we can do."

Where the offseason was mostly business as usual, Ritchie says the upcoming golf season will, without a doubt, be impacted by COVID-19 and the provincial regulations that are in place to prevent its spread.

Chief among those, Ritchie notes, is the limit on group sizes and the prohibition on events like tournaments.

"Tournaments and men's night, especially, are a big money maker for us over the year. If we can't do any of those kinds of things, it's definitely going to hurt our financial situation," Ritchie said.

"Hopefully, maybe later in the season, if things don't get any worse, maybe we can."

Beyond the prohibition on tournaments, key restrictions include:

- golfers must maintain proper physical distancing;
- no access to the pro shop

(except for washrooms), payments must be made via e-transfer, or over the phone with a credit card;

- outdoor bathrooms on holes 5 and 8 must be closed
- one person per golf cart, unless the occupants reside in the same household;

• all golfers must have a tee time, and tee times must be a minimum of 20 minutes apart to avoid congestion of the golf course;

• all rakes and ball washers must be removed from the course; and

• all retail, food, and beverage services are restricted to curbside pick-up

While these restrictions may make for a less than ideal season, Ritchie says he hopes that golfers will comply and that the restrictions will soon be eased.

"Until things change, and they allow us to have bigger groups, we'll have to live with it and just be happy that we actually can golf."

Leask twins celebrate 80th birthdays



Twins Derril Rogerson of Leask and his twin sister Donna Dobson, formerly of Leask and now resident of Saskatoon, celebrated their 80th birthdays on April 23, 2020. The two have not missed a birthday celebration together in 80 years, although this year was unique in that they had to practice social distancing for the event.

Submitted by Colleen Prosser

The **Canwood Regional Park** and the **Canwood Golf Club** would like to thank all of the individuals and businesses that generously donated to the annual Silent Auction that was scheduled for March.

Unfortunately this year's event needed to be postponed.

At its April 26th meeting, it was decided that the Silent Action will be held in March 2021. All donated items this year will be held over for the 2021 Silent Auction. However, if you have donated items that you would like back please contact Terry Hamborg at 306-468-4425 to arrange for pick up.

**Thank You
Canwood Regional Park**

TOWN OF SHELLBROOK PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice is hereby given that the Council of the Town of Shellbrook intends to adopt a bylaw under the *Planning and Development Act, 2007* to amend Bylaw 2018-01, known as the Zoning Bylaw.

INTENT

1. The proposed Zoning Bylaw amendment will:
 - Allow "Cannabis Production Facilities" to erect fences up to 2.0 metres in height in any zoning district provided the fences do not obstruct views to the site from the street or adjacent properties (e.g. chain link fence); and
 - Exempt fences for "Cannabis Production Facilities" from the height restrictions in a Sight Triangle.

REASON

1. The reasons for the Zoning Bylaw amendments are to:
 - Facilitate the development of fences for "Cannabis Production Facilities" and
 - Bring regulations for "Cannabis Production Facilities" in compliance with federal regulations related to site security.

PUBLIC INSPECTION

A copy of the proposed bylaw is posted on the Town's website: www.townofshellbrook.ca. A copy of the proposed bylaw will be posted on the front door of the municipal office (which is closed to the public) or can also be obtained by sending an email request to: cao@townofshellbrook.ca.

PUBLIC HEARING

Council will hold a public hearing on May 19th, 2020 at 5:00 PM at the Town Office to hear any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed bylaw. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, written submissions to Council pertaining to this bylaw are strongly encouraged. Written submissions must be received by May 18th, 2020 by 2:00 PM either by email or deposited into the mail slot at the Town Office. Anyone wishing to make a verbal submission to Council must do so by phone. Please contact the Town Office before May 18th, 2020, 2:00 PM to schedule a time slot in which Council will phone you directly to hear your concerns or suggestions.

Issued at the Town of Shellbrook this 30th day of April, 2020.
Kelly Hoare, Chief Administrative Officer



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R. M. of Leask No. 464 NOTICE ASSESSMENT ROLL

Notice is hereby given that the Assessment Roll of the Rural Municipality of Leask No. 464 for the year 2020 has been prepared and is open to inspection by contacting the Office of the Assessor from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the following days: Monday to Friday, April 29, 2020, to June 29, 2020. Currently the office is closed to the public as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic; however, the assessment roll will be made available to the public by appointment or through electronic means.

A bylaw pursuant to section 214 of *The Municipalities Act* has been passed and the assessment notices have been sent as required.

Any person who wishes to appeal against his or her assessment is required to file his or her notice of appeal, accompanied by \$50.00 appeal fee per roll number with The Assessor, R.M. of Leask, Box 190, Leask, SK, S0J 1M0, by the 29th day of June, 2020.

Dated at Leask, Saskatchewan, this 28th day of April, 2020.

Judy Douglas
Assessor

Town of Shellbrook shuts down playgrounds

As the province prepared to enter phase one of the Re-Open Saskatchewan plan on Monday, the Town of Shellbrook made the decision to formally prohibit access to all local playground structures and sports fields.

The town made the announcement on its website and Facebook page on April 29, citing concerns that the use of shared high-touch surfaces could help the spread of COVID-19 and endanger the health and safety of residents.

The closure applies to the playground structures in Kinsmen Park and Centennial Park, the skate park in Centennial Park, the playground structures at both Shellbrook Elementary School and W.P. Sandin High School (these



closures were made by the Sask. Rivers School Division), and the Shellbrook Sports Grounds.

Signs have been posted at all locations.

In addition to restricting access to local playgrounds, the town is also prohibiting group activities and organized sports on local sports fields — though,

Town of Shellbrook CAO Kelly Hoare says that people who live in the same household can go play ball at the Sports Grounds.

Echoing the advice of the medical community, the town is urging ratepayers to stay two metres (or six feet) apart while out in public, and to refrain from participating in any activities or games that bring them closer together than physical distancing guidelines.

While local parks technically remain open to the public so long as physical distancing guidelines are followed, people who are sick are cautioned not to use them.

Though the restrictions were put in place to

protect ratepayers, they weren't fondly greeted. Less than 24 hours after the signs went up, the Town of Shellbrook was forced to caution ratepayers against vandalizing them.

"These signs are posted for public safety as the playground structures are not sanitized and can potentially pose a risk to the health of our residents," the statement read.

"We ask that you please refrain from damaging town property and govern yourself accordingly."

On a similar, albeit separate, note, the Town of Shellbrook is also prohibiting all local garage and yard sales until further notice in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The decision was made to prevent ratepayers from exchanging touched goods and money.

Shellbrook teacher adapts to COVID-19

Continued from 1

After nearly two months of teaching almost exclusively online, Kyliuk says the lack of student feedback has been the hardest part of teaching his students.

"If you don't have face-to-face interaction, you don't know where they're struggling, or what extra information you have to give them," he said. "It's a slow process to learn how to teach online without the feedback."

This challenge, in part, is what paved the way for the idea of the Math Mobile. Though, Kyliuk gives much of the credit to principal Karisa Klaassen and Grade 12 student Alexis Banda.

Kyliuk explains that Banda was hoping to study calculus, which wasn't offered

by the school this academic year. With her graduation only a few short months away, he knew he'd have to come up with a novel way to teach the dense subject.

"Doing things online, one of the challenges is that it's so slow," he explained. "A teacher from Leask told me take whatever you're going to teach and divide it in half, and then divide it in half again. That's about the pace you can maintain digitally."

That brainstorming led to the creation of the Math Mobile (thanks to some help from Kyliuk's father, who loves to weld), which, as of Friday, had been used to teach students at the school on two occasions.

Based on the response of the students who have attended the lessons thus far,

it's looking like the Math Mobile will become a weekly thing — weather permitting, of course.

Daniel Vidal, one of Kyliuk's Grade 10 students, says it's been difficult not being in school and seeing his friends every day, and that he's been trying to keep up with his studies.

Like Kyliuk, however, he says that learning online has required some adjustment.

"It's hard not having a teacher right in front of you," he said, adding that he enjoys Kyliuk's in-person lessons and being able to see his teacher face-to-face.

Fellow Grade 10 student Amy Larsen echoed these sentiments, adding that it's helpful to get instant clarification from Kyliuk, and

gives her reassurance and confidence that she's doing her work correctly.

"It's getting back to something they're more familiar with," Kyliuk said. "It's also the camaraderie and being here with friends. And it's the feedback."



A handful of Grade 10 students showed up to Mr. Kyliuk's math lesson on Friday afternoon.

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PUBLIC NOTICE TOWN OF SPIRITWOOD NOTICE OF ROAD CLOSURE

Public Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 13 (4) of *The Municipalities Act* that the Council of the Town of Spiritwood is considering the adoption of a bylaw to proceed with all necessary actions required to obtain approval to close a portion of the lane within Registered Plan No. BH2038 ext. 0, as shown crosshatched on Sketch "A" below, and tie it to Lot 10, Block 6, Registered Plan BK212 and Lots 11, 12 and 13, Block 6, Registered Plan 63B06663, which are located east of and adjacent to that portion of the lane that is being closed.

The reason for the proposed lane closure is to facilitate the development of a gas bar with a convenience store and restaurant.

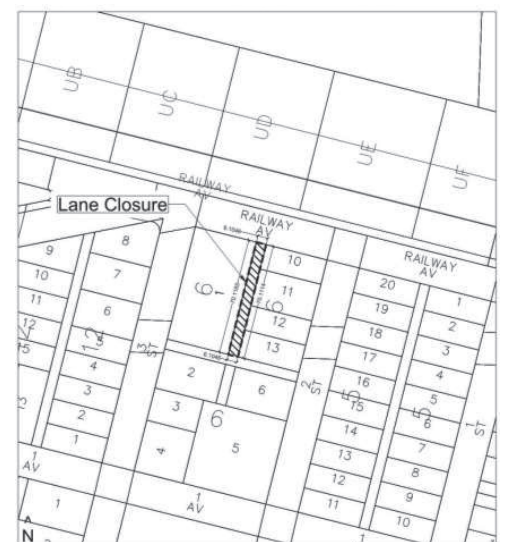
PUBLIC HEARING

Council will hold a public hearing on May 26th, 2020 at 6:30 PM at the Town Office, located at 212 Main Street. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, written submission to Council pertaining to this bylaw are strongly encouraged. Written submissions must be received by May 22nd, 2020 by 4:00 PM, either by email (tos@sasktel.net) or by regular mail. Anyone wishing to make a verbal submission to Council must do so by phone. Please contact the Town Office before May 22nd, 2020, 4:00 PM to schedule a time slot in which Council will phone you directly to hear your concerns or suggestions.

Issued at the Town of Spiritwood this 7th day of May, 2020.

Rhonda Saam
Town Administrator

Sketch "A"



A universal income? There are worse ideas

As a news editor, one of the more difficult aspects of my job is reviewing letters to the editor and op-eds, and judging whether or not they're worthy for publication.

In the interest of being fair to all political, religious, and philosophical beliefs, I have only one guideline when it comes to submissions: don't publish anything containing misinformation that could prove harmful to readers.

You might think that makes the job pretty easy, but the tightrope walk between protecting the public interest and censoring people's opinions can make for a difficult balancing act from week to week. And, at times, I'm left with no choice but to publish submissions that aren't based on any verifiable facts, because they don't cross the threshold into being dangerous.

Take this week's submission from Saskatoon-West MP Brad Redekopp, who seems to be worried that the COVID-19 pandemic



JORDAN
TWISS
~
News Editor

will start new conversations around work culture in Canada and breathe new life into the radical idea of introducing a universal basic income.

While Mr. Redekopp states early on in his piece that he agrees "that staying home right now is the right thing to do," he spends the rest of his piece subtly implying that the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) is an example of how a universal basic income will create a society of useless freeloaders.

"One thing is certain," he

writes, "having guaranteed monthly income has caused people to stay home even when they had an option to work."

So which is it, Mr. Redekopp?

Should Canadians be staying home to help flatten the curve? Or should they keep working, pandemic be damned, and potentially risk their own health as well as the health of others?

Mr. Redekopp never explicitly articulates where he stands on the matter.

But if he does truly believe that people should be staying home, he seems to also be of the opinion that the federal government shouldn't be offering them any financial assistance to keep their heads above water, or else they'll never work another day in their lives.

Granted, Mr. Redekopp isn't wrong to suggest that there are those who will take advantage of the CERB or a hypothetical universal basic wage to make a quick buck

without having to work for it. Such people have always existed, and they will always exist.

He's not even mistaken to extol the virtues of having a job, as he does so eloquently in his op-ed — though, he does conveniently ignore the reality that decades of wage stagnation and a rise in low-paying and precarious work has left many Canadians financially and mentally worse off than their predecessors.

But he clearly has a cynical view of human nature, if he thinks a universal basic income would make Canadians decide to give up their jobs and lounge around all day.

He also seems to misunderstand the purpose of a universal basic income.

It's not about allowing people to live a luxurious lifestyle by giving them \$2,000 per month like the CERB does.

The aim of a universal basic income is (or should be)



to provide Canadians with a guaranteed minimum level of dignity and financial security to meet their fundamental needs.

For most, a universal basic income would serve as a supplement to the regular income from their jobs, giving them greater power to participate in the economy (which is good news for everyone).

A better quality of life would also have the added benefit of improving health and mental health outcomes, reducing the burden on our healthcare system.

Of course, offering a uni-

versal basic income to every Canadian adult wouldn't be cheap. And I can understand why some might be leery of those numbers.

But consider, for a moment, the fact that Canada subsidized the fossil fuel industry to the tune of about \$60 billion in 2015 (\$1,650 per Canadian).

I'm willing to bet that Mr. Redekopp voiced few objections to this corporate welfare for multi-billion dollar companies.

So why, then, is he so opposed to offering a hand up to Canadians who could truly use it?

Op-ed: Job or Universal Basic Income?

**By Brad Redekopp,
MP, Saskatoon-West**

Canada is in the midst of an unplanned and massive universal basic income experiment. We are spending \$24 billion (and counting) to provide basic monthly income via direct payments to Canadians. This effectively means Canadians are not working in their jobs but are getting paid by the government to stay home.

The COVID-19 pandemic is the catalyst for this and I fully agree that staying home right now is the right thing to do. There will be

future debates about government's actions during this crisis and, more importantly, how we are going to pay for them. There will also be debate about universal basic income with voices touting the pros and cons. One thing is certain: having guaranteed monthly income has caused people to stay home even when they had an option to work.

An aspect often forgotten when discussing universal basic income is the importance of the job itself.

The late Ronald Reagan famously said "The best social program is a job". I realize

this statement is overly simplistic since not every person is always capable of working. But the basic premise is still correct for most people, most of the time. Why is that?

The most obvious purpose of a job is to provide income. But a job provides far more than that. A job teaches work ethic, useful for many aspects of life. A job provides routine, meaning and purpose. A job offers challenges and causes growth. A job provides important social connections along with physical and/or mental exercise.

People who lose their job experience grief,

uncertainty and self-doubt. Not having a job causes people to feel like they aren't productive, like they are falling behind their friends and lacking purpose in life. Not having a job can exacerbate mental health problems which can lead to depression, alcohol and drug abuse and even suicide.

I am not in favour of universal basic income. Businesses and charities are struggling to find workers. Government programs should be matching Canadians with available jobs, not just providing billions in aid.

Shellbrook Chronicle

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Spiritwood Herald

Serving the Communities of Spiritwood, Shell Lake, Leoville, Chitek Lake, Mildred, Rabbit Lake, Medstead, Mayfair, Bapaume, Belbutte, Glaslyn

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: In the interest of readers of this newspaper, we will publish opinions of our readers. Letters To The Editor are most welcome; however, they must be signed and include writer's contact information and will only be published with the writer's name on it. Letters should be limited in length and be typed or clearly written. We reserve the right to edit letters depending on available space.

Member of



Tasty treats to try

By Alison Sullivan

Most people are probably getting a little stir crazy by now, having been cooped up at home for the past couple of months. The warm weather seems to beckon us outside to enjoy all its splendor and has many anticipating reuniting with family and friends. Despite ongoing plans to reopen the province, social and physical distancing are still of paramount importance to keep the curve flat.

On the bright side, the nice weather has opened the doors to some additional activities which can either be done at home or while keeping an appropriate distance from one another. Getting to work cleaning up the yard, firing up the backyard grill, or taking a nice stroll or bike ride around town are just a few options now on the table and they can all be done solely with members of the immediate household.

Personally, I have been keeping busy cleaning the yard and spending more time in my favourite part of the house, the kitchen. Trying out new desserts, revisiting past favourites, and anticipating the arrival of fresh garden produce, the stove likely has not seen so much love since, well, probably before I took up the position of reporter for the *Spiritwood Herald*. The lack of events that normally keep me running around town has given me more time to focus on the main love in my life, food.

So, while I cannot share the food coming out of the kitchen, I figured I could share a few recipes and maybe encourage others to give something new a shot. Here is a new favourite, an old love, and a garden delight for anyone willing to try.

I decided to try my hand at an Italian dessert a few weeks back that I always thought was daunting. As it turns out it's quite simple, a master chef's joke on the rest of the world if you will.

Panna Cotta (with Raspberry sauce)

Ingredients

Panna Cotta

2 cups heavy cream (35%)

¼ cup white sugar

1 tsp vanilla

1 pack of powdered gelatin

3 tbsp cold water

Raspberry Sauce

1 pint raspberries (fresh or frozen)

¼ cup sugar

¼ cup water

½ tbsp corn starch

Directions

1. Heat heavy cream, sugar, and vanilla in a saucepan over medium heat, stirring occa-

sionally until the sugar is dissolved and the cream begins to steam slightly.

2. While the cream mixture heats, put cold water in a bowl and sprinkle powdered gelatin over top. Allow the gelatin to rehydrate for 5 minutes.

3. Once the cream is steaming and the gelatin has rehydrated, add the gelatin to the cream mixture and stir until gelatin is dissolved.

4. Pour cream mixture into glasses or molds, cover with plastic wrap and place in the fridge.

5. Allow cream to set for at least 5-6 hours (best if set overnight).

6. To make the raspberry sauce, crush raspberries in a saucepan then add sugar and water.

7. Heat raspberry mixture over medium heat, stirring occasionally until it begins to boil.

8. While raspberry mixture is heating, add 1-2 tbsp of water to corn starch in a bowl and mix up.

9. When raspberry mixture has reached a boil, pour in corn starch and whisk. All it to boil for 2-3 minutes.

10. Remove from heat and refrigerate.

11. When panna cotta has set, top with cooled raspberry mixture. Garnish with a mint sprig if desired and serve.



Panna cotta with raspberry sauce

Back in my college days, I was constantly daydreaming about dinner and was forever trying out new ways to cook with pork. I had a pork roast and half a bag of spinach that needed using, so with a little cream cheese and a dash of bacon, Cole Road's favourite entrée was born.

Cream Cheese and Spinach Stuffed Bacon Wrapped Pork Roast

Ingredients

Pork loin roast (1 kg works best)

¾ cup cream cheese

1 clove garlic, minced

½ medium onion, finely chopped

Small bag of spinach

300-500g pack of bacon

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350°F.

2. Spiral cut the pork roast. Place the roast upside down on a cutting board and start cutting down into the roast 1" from the edge of the roast. Allow the larger part of the roast to roll as you continue cutting 1" from the outer edge until you have a rectangular 1" sheet of pork.

3. Spread cream cheese in an even layer all over the sheet of pork.

4. Sprinkle garlic and onion evenly over cream cheese and press in.

5. Spread spinach leaves over cream cheese until it is covered.

6. Roll the roast back up as tightly as possible starting from the end that was originally the middle of the roast.

7. Lay strips of bacon out side by side, slightly overlapping, until the width of the bacon mat is the length of the pork roast.

8. Place the pork roast in the centre of the bacon strips and fold the strips over the roast, stretching them slightly so that the ends of each strip overlap.

9. Secure strips with a toothpick.

10. Cook for 45-60 minutes or until the roast has reached an internal temperature of 160°F. Cooking time may vary depending on size of roast.

11. Slice up the roast and enjoy!



Cream cheese and spinach stuffed bacon wrapped pork roast

A summer dish I always look forward to is ratatouille. Made from ingredients I can almost exclusively find in my own garden, this dish is full of flavour and a gardener's dream.

Ratatouille

Ingredients

Sauce

2 tbsp olive oil

1 medium onion, diced

1-2 bell peppers, diced (any colour)

2 cloves garlic, minced

1 28oz can diced tomatoes

Salt and pepper

Veggies for layering

1 medium green zucchini

1 medium yellow zucchini

1 medium eggplant

5-6 roma tomatoes

Drizzle

4-5 tbsp oil

1 tbsp fresh basil, chopped

1 tbsp fresh parsley, chopped

1 tbsp fresh oregano, chopped

Salt and pepper

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 375°F.

2. To make sauce, heat olive oil in a pan and cook onions and peppers until tender.

3. Add garlic and cook for 1-2 minutes until garlic is fragrant.

4. Dump in can of diced tomatoes and bring up to a boil.

5. Cook for 10-12 minutes or until sauce has reduced and become thick.

6. Season with Salt and pepper.

7. Spread sauce into the bottom of a pan (a glass baking dish, a cast iron pan, or any other oven safe dish works).

8. Thinly slice zucchinis, eggplant, and tomatoes. The more even the slices, the better the dish will look (a mandolin helps if you have one).

9. Place the vegetable rounds on a raised diagonal in the sauce, alternating as you go until you cannot see any more sauce. The more tightly packed the veggies are the better.

10. The make the drizzle, mix all the ingredients together, seasoning with salt and pepper to taste. Drizzle the mixture over the top of the ratatouille.

11. Cover with aluminum foil and bake for 40-45 minutes. Uncover and bake for another 15-20 minutes or until the vegetables are soft.

12. Serve warm.



Summertime ratatouille

COVID-19 Long-Term Recommendations Remain in Place

As the weather warms, **we must not become complacent with recommendations** to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in Saskatchewan.

To reduce the spread, please continue to:

- Practice good hygiene by washing hands regularly and maintaining physical distancing (two metres apart wherever possible);
- Stay home whenever possible;
- Abide by provincial and local travel, self-isolation, event and gathering restrictions;
- Avoid visiting hospitals and long-term care facilities unless there are compassionate reasons for doing so.

For the latest COVID-19 updates, visit www.saskatchewan.ca/COVID19

Hon. Scott Moe, Premier

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

Hon. Jeremy Harrison

MLA for Meadow Lake
jharrisonmla@sasktel.net

Nadine Wilson

MLA for Saskatchewan Rivers
saskrivers@sasktel.net

Rink solar project slated to begin soon

A Shellbrook-based company is going to be contributing in a big way to the final phase of the project to upgrade the Shellbrook Recreation Complex.

Curtis Bloom's Livewire Electric was selected from a pool of 27 companies to complete the installation of the rink's solar panel array. His company could begin work on the project as early as May 15, depending upon soil conditions on the property that was once the Parkland Terrace nursing home.

Amund Otterson, project manager for the Shellbrook Recreation Project Steering Committee, says the committee's decision to go with Livewire Electric came down to a few major considerations.

With bids ranging from \$200,000 to \$330,000, Otterson says that Livewire's competitive pricing (closer to the \$200,000 mark) helped

give it an edge over the decision.

Next, there was Livewire's previous experience with solar projects in the area, and the fact that customers had nothing but good things to say about the installation and follow-up services the company provided — services that Livewire has promised over the long-term for the rink's solar array as part of the contract.

Finally, there was also the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic to take into account.

"In this sort of work environment, with the virus, it's a consideration that we can get the work done expediently because of his location nearby," Otterson said.

"That's one of the fortunate things of having a local contractor. As soon as he has the materials in place, and when the ground conditions allow



The property that was once the Parkland Terrace nursing home will soon house an array of solar panels for the Shellbrook Recreation Complex. Work on the installation could begin as soon as May 15.

it, we'll start."

Once installed, the array will include three rows of south-facing solar panels with a total of 250 400w modules, for a total capacity of 100kW.

The array will generate an estimate 120,000kW per year, or about \$16,800 of electricity at today's

prices.

And, most important, it will significantly reduce the rink's carbon footprint to bring the facility in line with the requirements for the \$750,000 Municipalities for Climate Innovation Program grant from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

The Steering Committee had originally budgeted \$300,000 for the project, factoring in the need for fencing and an internet connection so the array can be monitored from the town office.

With the project carrying a price tag closer to \$200,000, the Steering Committee will have less fundraising to do once everything is completed.

"There will be minimal debt [left at the end of the project]. Maybe 5 per cent of the project, or \$100,000," Otterson said.

In other good news, the Steering Committee applied, and was accepted to, the original incarnation of SaskPower's net metering program, meaning the solar array will receive full-retail value for the electricity it generates rather than the 50 per cent under the current net metering program.

While this limited the array's capacity to 100kW, Otterson says that being part of SaskPower's net metering program made the solar project possible, as it will allow the panels to produce electricity in

the summer and use it in the winter without having to store it directly.

Otterson adds that another key contributor to the viability of the project has been the Town of Shellbrook, which helped ready the old Parkland Terrace property for installation.

"The Town of Shellbrook, through the efforts of the public works group, made this possible by eliminating the former nursing home and freeing up that property," he said.

"That's strictly out of the town's efforts. It didn't cost the project anything directly. It's a great contribution on behalf of the town."

The installation of the solar panel array is the last step of the three-phase, \$2 million rink renovation project.






Phase one of the project included the installation of a new ice plant and the purchase of a new ice resurfacing machine, while phase two's major upgrades were the ice surface, the boards and glass, and a low-emissivity ceiling.

Phase two also included a number of minor upgrades, including new exterior and interior doors, new insulation, upgrades to the lobby and bathrooms, and an improved viewing area from the lobby.

Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan

On May 4, the province will begin cautiously re-opening some services.

To support our ability to progress through the plan's 5 phases, we need to keep the curve flat. It's important that Saskatchewan residents continue practicing the following:

-  Physical distancing of 2 metres.
-  Fewer than 10 people in a gathering.
-  Frequent handwashing and cleaning of surfaces.
-  Stay home if you're sick and call 811 if you have COVID-19 symptoms.
-  Keep household contacts to a small, consistent group of family or friends.

On May 4, 2020, the following previously restricted medical services are permitted to re-open: Dentistry, optometry, physical therapy, optician services, podiatry, occupational therapy and chiropractic.	Boat launches	May 4, 2020
	Fishing (South zone only)	May 5, 2020
	Golf courses	May 15, 2020
	Parks and campgrounds	June 1, 2020

Child care accessibility expanded as of May 4 for working parents

The Government of Saskatchewan has announced that anyone working now or returning to work under Phase I and Phase II of the Re-Open Saskatchewan plan will have access to licensed child care services located within Saskatchewan schools.

Following the closure of school-based child care facilities last month, more than 2,100 of those spaces continue to operate as part of a reserved supply for pandemic response workers, and there is now capacity within that supply to expand accessibility to other workers.

"As we move to gradually re-open Saskatchewan, we know that parents, caregivers and families returning to work will need child care support, and we are helping them by ensuring their children are safe and well cared for," Deputy Premier and Education Minister Gordon Wyant said. "I want to recognize and extend my sincere appreciation to child care centres and staff who have continued to operate to provide this important service."

The centers will continue to operate within the guidelines provided by the Saskatchewan's Chief Medical Health Officer, Dr. Saqib Shahab, which include a maximum of eight children per room along with increased sanitization measures.

In addition to the 47 school-based centres operating as a part of the reserved supply, approximately 350 non-school based child care centres and homes continue to operate. Parents can access the application form for in-school child care centers on the Government of Saskatchewan website at www.saskatchewan.ca/covid19-childcare.

Another Earth Day, another missed opportunity

A day which should be more significant than it is came and went recently with hardly any notice at all.

You might blame COVID-19, but honestly the pandemic is not the only reason Earth Day generates limited interest.

Sadly, amid the naysayers and the vehement voices warning of climate change, the desire of some to end the disposal of plastics by offering alternatives, and those that seem blissfully not to care, and all the other arguments and debates

about the ills of our world, most people seem at best ambivalent.

Perhaps it's a case where as individuals we feel ill-suited to impact the changes that are being suggested.

The idea of taking a baby step and ending the use of plastic straws is met with much derision on social media as being folly against the mountains of plastics our society creates, uses, and then tosses to landfills and oceans where they exist as waste for years.

In many ways the efforts to end the plastic straw



CALVIN DANIELS

does seem like emptying an ocean with a thimble, but then again we need to start somewhere. We need to remember the old story of how does one eat an el-

ephant? The answer is one bite at a time.

The move away from plastic straws is a small first bite in dealing with a huge plastic elephant, and to extend the analogy just one step further, plastics are one of the 'elephants in the room' when it comes to what we are doing to our environment.

That is why the idea of Earth Day was first brought forward a half century ago, to get the world thinking about the baby steps we need to take to protect our planet. It was in 1969 at a

UNESCO Conference in San Francisco, peace activist John McConnell proposed a day to honor the Earth and the concept of peace.

The eventual result was Earth Day, an annual event celebrated around the world on April 22 to demonstrate support for environmental protection. It was first celebrated in 1970, and now includes events in more than 193 countries.

But the events seem low key, especially here on the Canadian Prairies where wide open spaces make it easy to discount human-

ity's impact on the natural world.

So why should we care? Why is this worth space in a column on agriculture? The answer is simple really, we all rely on the earth and what it provides. Farmers are perhaps more aware of this than most, since they seed into the earth to reap the crops we consume to live.

Maybe next year we will pause to think of the day and its importance just a little more, even undertaking a project to make our own baby step.

Effects of COVID-19 on animals

There is no evidence to date that domestic livestock and most pets can be infected with or transmit COVID-19; however, this has also not been ruled out. There have been recent reports that cats and ferrets may be susceptible to infection, as well as limited reports of cats with mild clinical signs, but there is no evidence that the disease can spread from cats or ferrets back to humans. Anyone who has COVID-19 should avoid contact with animals, just as they should with people, until more information is available. If there is already an animal in the household, that

animal should remain in isolation along with the patient.

The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association has released the following statement regarding anyone who has COVID-19 and pets:

- Avoid close contact with them
- Do not snuggle or kiss them, let them lick you, sit on your lap, or sleep in your bed
- Practise good cough etiquette
- Avoid coughing or sneezing on your animals
- Have another member of your household care for your animals
- Always wash your hands before touching or feeding your animals

- Limit your animal's contact with other people and animals - This may mean keeping them indoors

An additional risk to animals is what will happen to them if their owners become ill and are unable to take care of them. In these situations, humane societies, boarding kennels and veterinary clinics may not be willing to care for your pet due to the uncertainty around animals and COVID-19. You can help reduce these concerns by planning for your pet's care in advance. This includes identifying a family member or friend who will care for

your animals if you become ill or are hospitalized. Animal owners should also keep crates, food, and extra supplies on hand in case you are required to stay home for an extended period of time. As always, help protect your animals by making sure all vaccinations are up to date and that pets have a collar and identification tag. This will help ensure your pet is returned home safely, should it need to be moved from your home because you are unable to care for it yourself.

Livestock and poultry producers have similar concerns about caring for their animals if they

or their staff become ill. Producers should be having discussions with their families and employees about who can help care for the animals should someone become ill. Producers should also arrange alternatives for animal care when employees are sick or required to self-isolate for a period of time. Planning should include identifying the minimum level of care that is necessary to maintain the health and welfare of the animals, and making arrangements in advance with friends, family or neighbours for getting a "helping hand" when needed.

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Wed., May 20, 2020
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Regular Sale 1:00 p.m.

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Office 306-763-8463 ~ Fax 306-763-4620

For market info visit: www.northernlivestocksales.ca

COVID-19 cases spike as Sask. re-opens

As Saskatchewan entered phase one of the Re-Open Saskatchewan plan on Monday, the COVID-19 pandemic signalled that it is far from done with the province.

There were 34 new Confirmed cases of the virus as of Monday afternoon, the highest single day total recorded by Saskatchewan since the pandemic began. What's more, in the week from April 27 to May 4, the province added 102 confirmed cases of the virus, growing the provincial total to 467 from 365.

During that same period, there were two virus-related deaths, bringing the total number of casualties up to 6.

The majority of Monday afternoon's new cases came from La Loche and the surrounding area, as the community continues to grapple with a widespread COVID-19 outbreak. And similar outbreaks are currently being experienced in Lloydminster, Beauval.

Currently, 76 of the province's total cases, including a single case that resulted in a declared outbreak at Prince Albert's Victoria Hospital, can be accredited to the La Loche outbreak.

"While that number is very concerning, it means that increased testing in that area is working," Premier Scott Moe said at the province's daily update, urging Saskatchewan residents to exercise caution.

"This virus can and will spread quickly if we let our guard down even for a moment."

While La Loche and Lloydminster have been excluded from phase one of the Re-Open Saskatchewan plan, the Sask. Party government has given no signals that it plans to pump the breaks or divert from its course.

As previously reported, Phase one of the plan entails the re-opening of medical services restricted under the current public health order, includ-

ing dentistry, optometry, physical therapy, opticians, podiatry, occupational therapy and chiropractic treatment.

Low-risk outdoor recreational activities, such as fishing and boat launches, will also be allowed starting May 4, while golf courses will be permitted to open starting May 15, and parks and campgrounds have been given an opening date for overnight stays of June 1 (though, online reservations opened up May 4).

The province cautions that this first phase, and all subsequent phases, could be subject to change depending on how the pandemic plays out in Saskatchewan in the coming weeks.

Throughout all phases, Saskatchewan residents are urged to maintain proper physical distancing and handwashing practices, continue to wear masks and gloves, work from home where possible, and stay home when sick. And,

other than in an allowable businesses, the size of public and private gatherings will remain at a maximum of 10 people.

Re-opening services and businesses, meanwhile, must ensure that proper physical distancing can be maintained for staff and customers, and are advised to continue enhanced cleaning and disinfecting practices.

In an updated Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan, the government also ruled that community gardens can operate, so long as gardeners adhere to physical dis-

tancing guidelines, gatherings don't exceed 10 people, and frequently touched items, like water taps and garden tools, are properly cleaned and disinfected.

Where drive-in church services have been garnering headlines in other jurisdictions, the province says such services are permitted so long as they meet stringent guidelines.

Any services must be held in designated parking lots or staging areas, and organizers must have measures in place to keep people from exiting their vehicles. Additionally, ve-

hicles must be separated by a minimum of two metres, access to facilities, including washrooms, is strongly discouraged, and no food or beverage services are permitted.

Finally, organizers must provide proposals for any events to local public health officials, as well as be available to answer any questions, to ensure the event does not pose a risk of spreading COVID-19.

For more on the province's updated Re-Open Saskatchewan plan, visit www.saskatchewan.ca/covid19

NcMabb kids have fun with plants & animals



Memphis McNabb is spending time growing some plants indoors.



Marti-Beth McNabb at the GMACK Cattle Show in Lloydminster before social distancing measures took effect.

PRAISE & WORSHIP

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

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Zion - Canwood
Sunday School,
Worship Sunday, 11 a.m.
St. John's - Shellbrook
Sunday School,
Worship Sunday, 9 a.m.
Rev. Emmanuel Aristide

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN

Parkside
11 a.m. - Worship
Pastor Chris Dean

PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Parkside
10:30 a.m. Worship
Pastor Doug Hope
306-747-3572
Shellbrook
Sun., 10:30 a.m. - Worship
Pastor David Bodvarson
306-747-7235
Canwood
10:00 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Worship
Pastor Glenn Blazosek
306-468-2138
Leask Gospel Tabernacle
Sunday 11 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.
Pastor Lorne Valuck

SOVEREIGN GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

Currently meeting in homes on Sunday morning & Wednesday evenings
Parkside 306-747-2309
Leask 306-466-4498
Marcelin 306-226-4615

EVANGELICAL FREE

Big River
11:00 a.m. - Worship
Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.
Summer: 10:30 a.m. - 12
306-469-2258
Youth Nite: Fridays
Mont Nebo
Bible Study & Prayer
Sun., 11:00 a.m. - Worship
Pastor Bill Klumpenhower

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Debden
Sun. Mass - 9:30 a.m.
Fr. Michael Fahlman
Big River - Sacred Heart
Sun., 11:30 a.m. - Mass
Whitefish
Sun., 2:30 p.m. - Mass.
Victoire
Sat., 7:30 p.m. - Mass.
Fr. Michael Fahlman
Eucharist Celebrations
Muskeg
Sunday, 3 p.m.
St. Agatha's - Shellbrook
Mass - Sunday 11 a.m.
St. Henry's - Leask
Mass - Sunday - 9 a.m.
Mistawasis
2nd & 4th Sundays, 1:30 p.m.
Fr. Phong Tran

PRESBYTERIAN

Mistawasis
Sunday worship
11:00 a.m.
Rev. Katherine Bretzlaff

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

407-2nd Ave E, Shellbrook
Sat., 9:45 a.m. - Sabbath School
Sat., 11:00 am - Worship
Broadcast on
VOAR 92.1 FM
Pastor Liviu Tilihoi
306-313-8685

ANGLICAN CHURCH

Leask - All Saint's
Sunday, 9 a.m. - Service
St. Andrew's - Shellbrook
Sunday, 11 a.m. Service
Canwood - Christ Church
Sunday, 11 a.m. - Service
2 p.m. Service 2nd Sunday
of the month
Rev'd Eyad Ajji
306-980-5916

UNITED CHURCH

Shellbrook - Knox United
Sun., 10 am - Worship
306-747-3434
Student Minister
Jon Worrall
Big River
Sundays
10 a.m. - Worship
at Anglican Church
Rev. Dave Whalley
306-747-2804

MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH

Blaine Lake Gospel Chapel
109 Railway Ave. W.
Blaine Lake
306-497-3316
Pastor: Rick Schellenberg
Sunday, 10:30 a.m.
Worship

My adventures with orchids

By Jill Thomson
Orchids are an amazing group of plants: different types are found growing all over the world. Some orchids, like our native Ladyslipper orchid, have roots that grow in soil and are able to absorb water and nutrients from the soil. However, there are also orchids that are epiphytic, using aerial roots to attach themselves to trees. These roots are not parasitic on the trees: they are used for attachment and to absorb water and nutrients (gases) from the surrounding air.

There are basically three groups of orchids that have different temperature requirements – cool, intermediate and warm. Warm growing orchids include Phalaenopsis and Vanda species. These two species are good types to grow in centrally heated homes as they like temperatures of 21-29 °C in the summer and 18-24 °C in the winter.

My orchid adventures started several years ago when I was given a small pot containing a Phalaenopsis Orchid, with a “simple care” label. I am not an orchid expert but this article is about my experiences with my Phalaenopsis orchid.

The first instruction on the label told me to water with 1 ice cube per week, so of course I did not follow this instruc-



First orchid, third flowering stem. **Photo credit: Jill Thomson.**

tion because....orchids are tropical plants and I decided that they would not appreciate freezing cold water on their roots. Instead I gave the plant a small shot of room temperature water about once a week, when I remembered. The second instruction was to place in a bright, well-lit location, and to avoid direct sunlight. My kitchen windowsill was the only location available. My windowsill is south facing so it is well-lit, but it is also exposed to about an hour of direct sunlight until the sun is high enough not to shine

through the window. The third instruction was to keep the temperature between 65-85°F (18-30°C), never below 55°F (12-13°C), and no draughts. This was an instruction I could follow in our home.

The orchid flowered for several months, but eventually the flowers died and I was left with a green spike and several leaves. I didn't want to throw out a perfectly good plant so I left it on the windowsill and continued to water occasionally. After several months, much to my surprise, the orchid

flowered on a new spike. Obviously, it was happy with the conditions in my kitchen.

An overseas friend who has about six flowering orchids, advised me not to repot the orchid in any growing media, but to place it in a small glass bowl, with rocks or decorative pebbles in order to give the roots support. She also suggested that I should mist it every other day. I put my orchid into a glass vase with glass pebbles as support and with water covering the lower half of the pebbles: no water was touching the roots. It is very important not to have waterlogged roots as this will lead to root rot and death of the plant.

The second flowering spike eventually turned brown and dried up, so I cut the spike back to its origin. A new leaf emerged and then a new spike grew out from under the leaf, and the orchid is now flowering for the third time. I have enjoyed it so much that I have since bought

2 more orchids of the same species, but different colours, a solid purple and a lemony-yellow. I am hoping they will also be happy in my kitchen. If the roots remain plump and green/white, they are healthy. If they turn yellow or brown, I will remove these roots with sterile scissors after the orchid finishes blooming.

There are many websites that give advice on caring for Phalaenopsis orchids. I suspect my success so far is beginner's luck in supplying

the right growing conditions. No doubt I will need to consult the experts at some point.

Jill Thomson is a plant disease specialist (retired) who enjoys gardening in Saskatoon, with her family, including the dogs.

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).



New purple orchid. **Photo credit: Jill Thomson.**



New yellow orchid. **Photo credit: Jill Thomson.**

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

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald



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The rhythm of sports has been shattered

There is a rhythm to the world of sports that has been irretrievably shattered in 2020, the year of COVID-19.

Hockey and basketball start in October, as football season is in mid-bash. Spring brings warm weather and the beauty of baseball, and hockey and basketball fans hunker down in front of their TV sets to watch the long roads to the Stanley Cup and the NBA finals. Golf — Thursday through Sunday weekly, like clockwork — never ends. We feign interest in the Boston Marathon on a Monday in April. Sports fans eagerly await Wimbledon and the CFL in July, hockey camps and the NFL opening in September. And the perpetual circle of sports begins anew.

Until now. Pro golf is talking about a restart in mid-June, with no fans. Don't bet on it. The NHL and NBA

bravely talk about concluding their 2019-20 regular seasons and playoffs in the summer, even if they butt up against what would normally be the start of next season. Don't bet on it. Baseball's talking about a wacky plan to have all of its 30 teams hunker down in Arizona and start playing its 2020 regular season with no travel required. Wimbledon's been cancelled. The CFL has postponed its training camps and a delayed start to the regular season, if it's lucky, is almost guaranteed. The NFL, the one pro sports entity that could financially thrive without fans, thanks to lucrative television contracts, hasn't even whispered that its 2020 season could be delayed, or cancelled. But it likely will be.

And we wait. We go for longer walks now that the



BRUCE
PENTON

weather has warmed up. Many golf courses are shuttered, on government order. We watch replays of old sports events when we're bored. We surf the net. We eat. We Zoom. We wear masks, even into banks on occasion.

Hundreds of thousands of people have died around the world. The sports fan's woes are immaterial. We can hope

for a return to sports action, but if it doesn't happen for another 12 months, well, at least we're alive to wait those 12 months. The economy can eventually recover. Dead people can't. Smart minds will help develop a vaccine and life will return to (almost) normal. Customs like the Stanley Cup end-of-series handshakes are probably gone forever, but the Stanley Cup will be presented again. Trying to establish a definite timeline for the full return of our rhythmic sports circle is a fool's game. But 'eventually' works. Bet on it.

• Jack Finarelli, found at theSportsCurmudgeon.com: "Any baseball player who allows walk-up music to be played for him should also expect to hear Chopin's Funeral March played for them every time they make an out."

• Janice Hough of left-

coastsportsbabe.com: "A Tiger Woods/Peyton Manning vs Phil Mickelson/Tom Brady charity golf match is planned for May, without spectators. Well, good to see in these tough times without sports that poor Brady is getting some attention."

• Omaha comedy writer Brad Dickson, on the NFL draft: "Traditionally Roger Goodell runs out of inspirational tragic stories in round four and resorts to stuff like telling us about a player from Western Kentucky who had to overcome getting his foot stuck in a toilet."

• Dickson again: "The first sports to return will probably be televised golf and televised baseball. Oh great, now we have to worry about being bored to death."

• From fark.com: "The 2020 Western Hockey League draft reveals positives and negatives. The positive: The virus of Brayden has passed its peak. The

negative: It has mutated into variations of Hayden, Aiden, Kaden, Jayden, Grayden and (deep breath) Teydon."

• Dwight Perry of the Seattle Times: "Baseball 101. New fundamentals to work on if baseball ever resumes spring training: Maintaining six-foot spacing during bench-clearing brawls."

• Brad Dickson again, on a sure sign that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is gravely ill: "He was only able to complete a marathon in 1 hour 55 minutes, and only scored 23 goals in a soccer game."

• Another one from fark.com, on Swift Current's seventh-round selection in the recent bantam draft: "Gotta keep an eye on that Joey Lies. He'll be telling people he went first overall before you know it. But then again, have to respect a guy whose name is a complete sentence."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Rural Connectivity and COVID-19: It's time to declare high speed internet an essential service

**Leonard Dales, Chairperson
Saskatchewan Agriculture and
Rural Life Committee
Saskatchewan NDP**

COVID-19 has highlighted the disparity between rural and urban Saskatchewan in available service providers and digital bandwidth. At a time when it matters most, internet connections have been slower and unreliable in rural areas (or non-existent), and this has had a negative effect on all our rural services. Health, education, business and public services all depend on connectivity. And our families do too!

Health care during the pandemic is being delivered by telehealth links. Appointments with specialists are being cancelled and replaced by telephone or by video-conferencing on various online platforms. These are proving to be effective. Unfortunately, many rural and northern residents do not have the bandwidth they need to access these health services.

In education, classroom instruction has been suspended and is being delivered through remote/distant learning. However, for parents and university students in rural areas to download educational materials and view supplemental resources, they require high-speed internet. Without it, our rural, Indigenous and northern students don't have equal access to educators and online supports. They are left behind. As one rural high

school student said recently: "Everything is online right now, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. People are relying more heavily on things being done online, and it seems really like no one is thinking about the people and families who don't have access to that." (CBC News, April 10, 2020)

Many businesses rely on the internet. Rural businesses are at a disadvantage when their connectivity is both unreliable and under capacity. If we want to support, retain and attract businesses in rural communities, let's recognize that they need reliable high-speed internet each and every day, but especially during crisis situations. During the coronavirus pandemic, online ordering and curbside pickup are the new normal. When we finally get through it, we have to ensure that our economic recovery includes providing the connectivity that rural businesses need.

Even at the best of times, public services rely on communication and require consistent, affordable high-speed internet and cellular services. The response to COVID-19 has required most of these offices to close and people to work from home, but the rural digital network is not capable of meeting this demand. Rural people should not have to hold meetings by holding cell phones next to speakers and microphones in order to participate in virtual meetings.

Finally, connectivity is essential for our

social wellbeing. Seniors in care homes and other vulnerable members of society need to be connected to family and friends. During quarantines and lockdowns, this means using social media, but inadequate bandwidth makes this impossible in many rural areas. Social distancing has resulted in social isolation for family members who have inadequate internet service or none at all. This is unfair.

For all of these reasons, the time has come for us to declare rural connectivity an essential service. There is precedent for this. In 1949, the CCF (NDP) created a crown corporation, Saskatchewan Power, with a mandate to provide electricity to every home in the province, rural and urban alike. Over the next decade, SaskPower brought electricity to 66,000 farms in rural Saskatchewan.

Much like rural electrification in the 1950s, rural connectivity is less profitable for private business due to lower population density in rural areas. Our provincial government needs to accept this responsibility. SaskTel, the crown corporation responsible for delivering telephone and internet services, should be given a mandate to provide connectivity as an essential service. SaskTel should ensure that equal and affordable cellular and internet services are made available to all rural, Indigenous and northern communities.

It's time to bring rural internet services into the 21st century!



**Michael Ross Clements
'Mike'**

December 10, 1985 – April 10, 2020

This is a heartfelt message of thanksgiving to all of Michael's extended family and friends for your support and prayers over the past 8 years. He accepted all your love for the true blessing that it was. He was humbly empowered by your encouragement to go out into the world and seek those places of spiritual serenity at the times when he most needed that reassurance. More importantly, you inspired him to live his life in gratitude and joy.

Our lives have been significantly spun upside down in the past several months. We are thankful for all who have offered kind words, sent cards, dropped off comfort food and gifts, formed the beautiful convoy procession in front of our home, and most importantly prayed. Thank you for showing us that we are not alone in our grief.

Thank you from Michael's wife Jennalee, and his family: Bruce and Diane; Carey & Brad, Karlee and Chase Lehner; Paula, Joshua and Samuel Stadnyk; Jaimie Clements & Rae Johnson; David & Rochelle, Arland and Ronarz Clements.

A Celebration of Michael's life will take place at a later date.

OBITUARIES

~

Lawrence Jonasson

Lawrence Jonasson
1936 - 2020

On April 28, 2020, angels came to get their son Lawrence Jonasson, of Canwood, SK, beloved husband of Elsa Jonasson. Lawrence passed away peacefully at his

grand-daughter, Melissa Sanders home in Prince Albert with family by his side. There will be a Memorial Service held for Lawrence at a later date, that will be announced.

In lieu of tributes, memorial donations may be made in memory of Lawrence to Whispering Pine Place in Canwood (Box 418 Canwood, SK, S0J 0K0). Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit www.beaulacfuneralhome.com Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home, Tammy Smart - Funeral Director, Shellbrook, SK 306-747-2828.

Henry Simonar

SIMONAR, Henry
April 23, 1931 – April 27, 2020

Henry Stephen Simonar passed away peacefully on April 27, 2020. He was 89 years old.

Henry was born on April 23, 1931 at home, near Shell Lake, SK. He was the 13th and youngest child of Eva and Louis Simonar. He attended school in Shell Lake until the age of 15 when he quit school to help on the farm. Henry farmed near Shell Lake, worked in Hinton, Alberta as a lumberjack beginning his life-long love of working with a chainsaw, he was a carpenter at Cory Potash Mine until they went on strike and he struck out on his own with Simonar Contracting. He built houses, cabins, decks, and garages for many people.

Henry had a great sense

of humour and always had a smile for everyone. He was very athletic and enjoyed many summer and winter activities including golf, curling, fast-ball, hockey, water and snow skiing, as well as ski jumping. He had fun pulling skiers behind the boat attached to his water ski tow kite. Henry square danced and loved all types of ballroom dancing. He was known to dance with every woman at any dance he attended.

Henry is survived by his wife Marilyn, her children; Paula (Lyle) and Tim (Tracey) and his children: Judith (James), Stephen (Karen), Ron (Patti), Sandy (Jim); as well as his grandchildren: Shawna (Lee), Michelle, Brian, Breanne (Chris), Jillian (Scott), Drew, Brock (Erynn), Kodi (Piper), Simon (Lindy), and Rebecca; and his great-grandchildren: Tyson, Emily, Lexi, Tauran, Raine, Emily, Patrick, and Henry.

Henry was predeceased by his parents, first wife Lucille, daughter Jill and all of his siblings.

A celebration of Henry's life will be held in the Summer of 2021. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The Kidney Foundation or Saskatchewan Telemiracle.



Gordon Leo Moffat
April 5, 1941 – April 24, 2020

Passed away peacefully at Big River Health Care Facility on April 24 in the comforting hands of his caregivers.

Gordon was predeceased by parents Robert Bruce and Patricia Angeline (nee Church) Moffat and daughter Francis (nee Moffat) Harman.

He is survived by his Aunt Etta Ulmer; Daughter Trish McArthur; Son Robert Moffat; one Grandson; two Great-Grandchildren; Sister Grace Lund; Brother Gary (Jean) Moffat; One niece and three nephews. Numerous cousins in Canada

and United States.

Gordon leaves to mourn his family of close friends - Brian (Sylvia) Hoffart; Howard (Norine) Fonos; Kenneth (Ruth) Doucette and Dick Bradick.

He was born in Edmonton and raised in proximity to the Moffat homestead Marcelin, SK area where he received all formal education from his Mother, a teacher at nearby one room schools.

Gordon was an outdoorsman who loved dog sledding, raising horses, chuck wagon and barrel racing, guiding, working his trap line on snowshoes or snowmobile, wild rice harvesting and living in harmony with nature at his home in the forest.

Gordon was a passionate advocate for the environmental protection of our unique forests. During his years of employment in the lumber industry his purpose was forest protection regarding the preservation, prevention and control of damage to forests by manmade causes and conservation to

achieve forest health in managed forests where harvesting occurs. Until age 76 he was designated Lead Caterpillar Operator when forest fires occurred in his area.

He was a pioneer and one of the first commercial wild rice harvesters and growers in the district. Gordon sat on the Wild Rice Council and assisted in changing legislation which expanded the wild rice industry.

Gordon spent 35 years as a Fishing and Hunting Guide for numerous outfitters around Dore Lake, Green Lake, Sled Lake and Big River. He cherished lasting friendships and enjoyed sharing knowledgeable experiences of trapping and guiding.

Due to circumstances

beyond our control a celebration of life for family and close friends is to be determined. Those wishing to share memories and tributes are invited to visit www.beaulacfuneralhome.com

The family would like to express heartfelt gratitude to caregivers at Big River Health Care facility for their presence with Gordon during palliative care and at his time of passing; Reverend Foster Freed (Nanaimo) for comfort and prayers given at a distance. Sincere appreciation to Dr Smith, Helen Donald (Nurse Practitioner), caregivers and kitchen staff for support and home atmosphere given to Gordon during his stay within Big River Health Centre.

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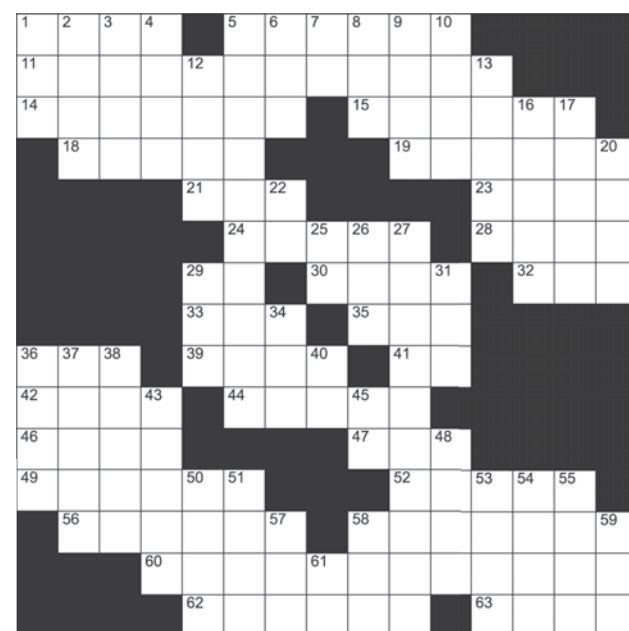
1. Expression of sorrow or pity
5. Not bad
11. NYC Mayor
14. Essays
15. Walk lightly
18. Those who utilize
19. Actress Judd
21. One-time community of nations
23. Norwegian river
24. Unconscious states
28. Make muddy
29. Unit of volume
30. Consciousnesses
32. Envision
33. When you aim to get there

CLUES DOWN

1. Defensive nuclear weapon (abbr.)
2. Instead
3. Gifts for the poor
4. A type of gin
5. Torments
6. One point south of due east
7. Actor Pacino
8. Feline
9. Chinese dynasty
10. Short cries for help
12. Straits can sometimes be this

35. Electronic data processing
36. Passports are some
39. Snake-like fish
41. Military flyers (abbr.)
42. Popular computers
44. Ecological stage
46. Wings
47. Used in combination
49. Laid back
52. Princess's headgear
56. Musical composition
58. Famed Falls
60. Reiterations
62. Eras
63. Track event

13. Further
16. Variety shows
17. Supernatural
20. A university in Connecticut
22. Atomic #27
25. Of I
26. We all have one
27. Religious guilds
29. This can sting
31. Sunscreen rating
34. Brew
36. Religious leader
37. Indigo bush
38. Burn with a hot liquid



40. Jr.'s father
43. Ray-finned fish genus
45. Morning
48. Straight line passing from side to side (abbr.)
50. S-shaped line
51. Small bunch of hay
53. Ripened
54. Crater on Mars
55. Humanities

57. Of the ears
58. To the ___ degree
59. Wood
61. Cools your home

Answers on page 14

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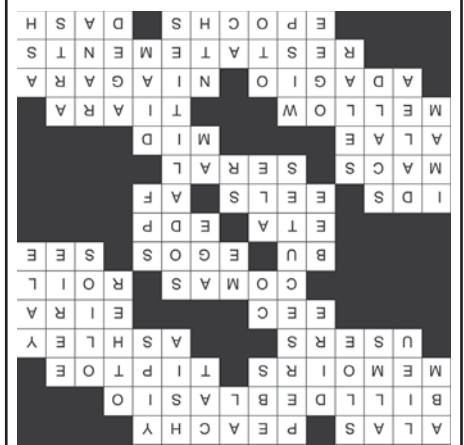
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Crossword answers



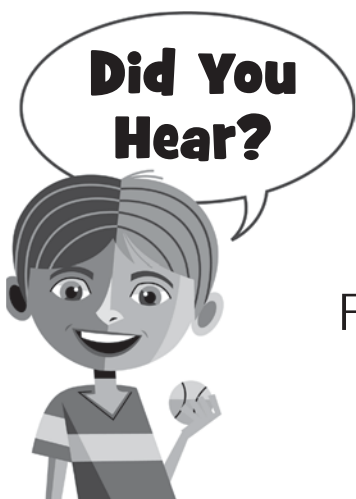
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Please join me in welcoming Ana Hein whose position is an administrative supportive role!

Safety measures remain implemented which are based on current advice from the Chief Medical Officer of Health which include:

- Meetings through phone or Skype • Utilizing our new no-contact drop off area
- Social distancing • Contactless payment including over the phone using credit card, cheque, debit or e-transfer

Our contact information remains as:

- **Phone:** 306-747-2244 • **Email:** andrea.webergaccounting@sasktel.net
- **Fax:** 306-747-2252

I want to take this opportunity to thank all customers for their business and understanding these decisions are made with the health and safety of everyone in mind.

Please feel free to contact me to arrange an appointment or with any questions/concerns.

Thank you and stay safe.

Weberg Accounting Services