

Locked out Unifor workers return to Shellbrook



A locked-out Co-op Refinery worker talks with an RCMP officer assigned to oversee the picket line.

As the Co-op Refinery lockout of Unifor 594 oil and gas workers stretches into month seven, union members made a three-day stop in Shellbrook to picket and get the word out.

About a dozen locked out workers were walking the line at the Co-op Card Lock along Highway 3, briefly stopping customers to share information. And though the lockout seems nowhere near a resolution, picket captain Mikki Shaddock says the workers still have the same primary goal in mind.

"We all want to get back to work, there's no question. It's just a matter of whether or not the deal is fair," he said. "None of us wants to be doing this. This has been highly disruptive to all of us."

According to Shaddock, the morale of

the locked out workers remains good as the lockout enters month seven, and Unifor 594 plans to continue picketing in communities across the province to send its message.

However, Shaddock says the union's cause isn't being helped by the spread of misinformation.

"There's this running narrative that this is some east villainy at work, but this is mostly farm boys from Saskatchewan, and guys who grew up in Regina," he said.

"Misconceptions or not, we just want to get back to work," he added.

While locked out workers peacefully picketed over the course of three days, they were in close communication with the RCMP and Staff Sgt. Chad McLeod, who served as a go-between for the work-

ers and the RCMP.

Along with McLeod, a handful of other RCMP vehicles were on site during the picketing to protect all parties.

"I move the vehicles out to the edge of the road, throw the lights on, and make sure that people slow down and nobody gets hurt," he said, adding that it's always beneficial to keep these channels of communication open.

"It keeps the atmosphere light. We can protect the rights of the people who are here picketing, because they have a right to picket, but there are healthy boundaries as far as how long they can hold up traffic for."

Having been with this particular group since they picketed in Porcupine Plain the week prior, McLeod had nothing but posi-

tive things to say about the workers' conduct.

"They've been really good," he said.

About 800 refinery workers have been locked out since Dec. 5, 2019.

Tensions between Unifor 594 and the Co-op Refinery began to mount at the beginning of 2019, when the collective bargaining agreement between the two parties expired.

Throughout the negotiations between the two parties, pensions have been the key sticking point. Namely, the union wants to keep the existing defined benefit pension plan, which is 100 per cent funded by Federated Co-operatives Limited (FCL), because it gives workers certainty for when they retire.

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Nordstrom retires from Spiritwood High School after 30-year teaching career

Spiritwood High School students and staff are congratulating retiring teacher Mr. Deon Nordstrom from a distance this year. Mr. Nordstrom first arrived at Spiritwood High School as an intern under the guidance of Mr. Glen Delisle in 1990. He then stayed in Spiritwood, teaching for his entire 30-year career at SHS.

Throughout his time at SHS, he has contributed in so many different as-

pects to ensure the students of SHS had valuable and exceptional experiences. Health classes would, under his guidance, organize the Terry Fox Run for cancer research every September. His construction classes built many impressive structures, such as the planters and gazebo in our new outdoor recreation area.

He coached extracurricular volleyball and badminton, helped with vari-

ous Student Leadership Conferences, activities and fundraisers, chaperoned dances, drama set construction, was always willing to step in and help with Graduation Ceremonies, and so many other school initiatives.

The students and staff of Spiritwood High School are going to miss Mr. Nordstrom very much, but are wishing him all the best in the next chapter of his life.



Deon Nordstrom taught at Spiritwood High School for his entire 30-year career.

Highlights of a town of Shellbrook council meeting

Shellbrook's town council met on June 15 via teleconference. Present at the meeting were Mayor George Tomporowski, councillors Lyle Banda, Bruce Clements, Lois Freeman, David Knight, Kathleen Northing, and Amund Otterson, and the town's administrator, Kelly Hoare.

Mayor Tomporowski called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m., and council began by approving the agenda for the evening, and adopting the minutes of its May 19 meeting.

With no old business arising from said minutes, council welcomed phone-in delegate Janaya Fuller for a brief discussion about the pool.

Fuller reassured council that she was ready to get staff trained fast and efficiently should the town choose to open the pool for the season. She added that she would be around in the fall, if the town wanted to keep the pool open longer to recoup any lost revenue from the delayed opening.

Finally, she told council that it wouldn't be difficult for the pool to abide by the COVID-19 guidelines set out by the Lifesaving Society.

In later discussion about the pool during council's monthly reports, Hoare said she was anticipating a date for outdoor pools to re-open at some point this week (outdoor pools are

part of the first stage of phase four of the Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan).

Council, meanwhile, felt it was imperative to open the pool if possible, with councillor Clements adding that it's important for council to keep the mental health of the community in mind, even if opening the pool costs the town money.

In other news out of reports, Hoare's report revealed that the Ahtahkakoop-Shellbrook RCMP detachment is down to six members, or just over half of its operational capacity of 11 members.

In hospital and clinics news, councillor Otterson reported that Shellbrook will soon have two new nurse practitioners. One may start as early as July, while the other isn't expected to start until August. Elsewhere, Shellbrook will also be benefitting from another locum physician starting in July.

Shifting gears to some

unfinished business, council struck down a long-delayed motion to have it suspend remuneration and redirect the money to full-time employees who had been impacted by COVID-19.

In new business, council began by carrying a motion to acquire titles to lands through tax enforcement. Hoare noted that a couple of the lands are vacant farm land, and could be added to the Field of Dreams.

Next, council unanimously gave three readings to Bylaw 2020-06, which will establish a mail-in ballot voting system for municipal elections. Councillor Knight voiced some concerns about checks and balances to safeguard against fraud, but Hoare assured him that guidelines would be given to the town.

Moving on, council carried a motion to stop charging \$20 for criminal record checks, as the RCMP is now charging \$25 for them. Hoare felt this was the most pru-

dent course of action, as the town can't police what the RCMP

is charging, and those seeking a check will have to drive to Ahtahkakoop anyway, if the clerk isn't in the Shellbrook office.

In other new business, council briefly discussed correspondence from an individual expressing interest in partnering with a local business to sell cannabis. Noting that the SLGA will only grant the town one retail license, council agreed that it needed to do more research before making any decisions.

In one last item of new business, council ap-

proved the Shellbrook Recreation Project Steering Committee's payment of invoices to Livewire Electric, in the amount of \$109,237.11, and Ainsworth, in the amount of \$26,862. The Livewire invoice represents half the cost to install the solar panels for the Shellbrook Recreation Complex, while the Ainsworth invoice is a late bill for the hot deck.

With no further business to discuss, council set Monday, July 20, as its next meeting and adjourned for the evening.

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Shellbrook holding parade, virtual grad

Graduation will look a little different for W.P. Sandin's Class of 2020.

With COVID-19 restrictions still in place — but gradually easing — this year's crop of 31 graduates will be celebrated by their school and the broader community in a parade and virtual ceremony.

"When the COVID rules came out, and grad was being planned mostly as a virtual event... the idea came to try to do something a little more personal," said Lyle Banda, a parent of one of this year's graduates. "A parade was the best way to obey COVID guidelines, and still give the kids a little human contact with the community and their families."

The parade is scheduled to take place on Friday, June 26 at 1 p.m., and will see a procession make its way around town starting from the Shellbrook Sports Grounds. The route has been designed to

accommodate the graduates and their families, including graduates who live out of town, and will also make its way down Main Street.

Following the parade, graduates will head home to watch the virtual graduation presentation with their families. That presentation, which is scheduled to go live on YouTube around 4 p.m., will include all the traditional graduation festivities, including photos of the grads and speeches.

In the meantime, Banda says his own graduate, daughter Alexis Banda, and her classmates have shown great perseverance since school abruptly ended in March, and it looked like they wouldn't get a traditional graduation celebration.

"They've been resilient. It was a real change to their lives. The excitement of a Grade 12 year being put to the end, it's made them realize that they're

strong and they're resilient, and they can figure out going forward what they have to do to survive," Banda said.

"It's taught them what real life's all about. It's a matter of rolling with the punches. You move on, you don't lay down and whine."



A map of the parade route. The parade will start at the Shellbrook Sports Grounds.

Locked out Unifor workers return to Shellbrook

Continued from 1

Meanwhile, FCL wants to switch to a defined contribution plan so that it knows exactly how much it has to pay — that, or allow workers to retain the defined benefit plan but ask that they chip in 11 per cent.

The union has opposed both options, arguing that they leave workers guessing about how much they'll have when they retire and that their overall pensions could drop by as much as 40 per cent.

Back-and-forth negotiations between Unifor 594 and FCL hit an impasse in mid-October, paving the way for the job action notice and eventual lockout in early December.

Unifor workers have been demonstrating ever since, setting up barricades outside the Regina Co-op Refinery and demonstrating across the province. The barricades have resulted in court injunctions and fines being levied against the Union and numerous arrests of union members, including Unifor national president Jerry Dias.

Back in February, the province appointed special mediators Vince Ready and Amanda Rogers in an effort to resolve the dispute. The Special Mediation process concluded with a report that included ten recommendations and significant roll-backs for union members.

Union members voted overwhelmingly to accept the report and get back to work, but the Co-op Refinery rejected the mediators' recommendations and tabled what it termed its "best

and final" offer.

That offer added even more concessions to the Mediators' recommendations and included a non-negotiable Return to Work agreement, and was rejected by 89 per cent of Unifor 594 members.

Since that vote, the union has countered with two alternative deals, both of which have been rejected by the Co-op Refinery.

In a memo sent to the media as the Shellbrook pickets were active, Unifor 594 decried the bargaining tactics being employed by the Co-op Refinery.

"It is abundantly clear that the Co-op Refinery is using the

lockout as a tool to bust the union and terminate union executives and other members without accountability. These are disrespectful tactics of a cooperative and not consistent with their values," the union said in its statement, calling on the province to take action.

"It is clear at this point, now six months into the lockout, that bargaining has utterly failed and the Government of Saskatchewan needs to protect oil & gas workers by legislating an end to this dispute."

R.M. OF SHELLBROOK NO. 493

STRAY HORSES

Found four Horses running at large 3 kilometers north of Shellbrook. If you have any info of who may be the owner of these animals or are missing these animals please contact the Municipal Office at 306-747-2158. These animals have been at large since May 28th, 2020.

Duane Storey
Acting Administrator

**NOTICE
TO OUR READERS**

**The Thursday, July 2nd
edition of the Shellbrook
Chronicle and Spiritwood
Herald will be *delayed*
by one day due to
Canada Day falling on a
Wednesday.**

**The paper will be
available the morning of
Friday, July 3rd instead.**

We apologize for any inconvenience.

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Notice is hereby given under *The Tax Enforcement Act* that unless the arrears and costs appearing opposite the land and title number described in the following list are fully paid before August 18, 2020, an interest based on a tax lien will be registered against the land.

Note: A sum for costs in an amount required by subsection 4(3) of *The Tax Enforcement Act* is included in the amount shown against each parcel.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY	Title No.	Total Arrears*	Costs	Total Arrears and Costs
LOT 8-BLK/PAR 2-PLAN M3438 EXT 0	150265481			
LOT 9-BLK/PAR 2-PLAN M3438 EXT 0	150265559	4,124.52	54.00	4,178.52
LOT 7-BLK/PAR 9-PLAN U390 EXT 0	141202628	4,590.28	54.00	4,644.28
LOT 14-BLK/PAR 2-PLAN Q508 EXT 0	145454913	2,055.24	54.00	2,109.24
LOT 15-BLK/PAR 2-PLAN Q508 EXT 0	145454957	5,111.83	54.00	5,165.83
LOT 9-BLK/PAR 44-PLAN 101306382 EXT 0	135867460			
LOT 10-BLK/PAR 44-PLAN 101306382 EXT 0	135867493	6,812.67	54.00	6,866.67
BLK/PAR 2-PLAN 75PA04440 EXT 1	146355969	2,124.17	54.00	2,178.17
LOT 16-BLK/PAR 39-PLAN 101944649 EXT 0	141333117	1,846.70	54.00	1,900.70

* Penalty is calculated to the date of the Notice and will continue to accrue as applicable.

Dated this 12th day of June, 2020

Kelly Hoare, Administrator

Our silence says it all

In all of Canada, there may be no group that is more protective of our democratic freedoms — or outspoken about them — than us prairie folk.

Recently, when Prime Minister Justin Trudeau introduced convoluted legislation to ban “assault style” weapons in Canada, few groups were more vocal about the vague and poorly-researched law than us.

And when Mr. Trudeau introduced equally convoluted pipeline regulations and the much derided carbon tax shortly after taking office in 2015, knowing that the prairie economy would bear the brunt of the impact, western Canadians led protests all the way to Ottawa with the United We Roll movement.

Whether we were on the right or the wrong side of these issues is immaterial. What matters is that we had the freedom to be outspoken and question our federal government — a freedom that is the envy of many people in many countries around the world.



JORDAN
TWISS
~
News Editor

And yet, if one recognizes how fortunate Canadians are to not know what true tyranny looks like, it's hard not to wonder why there has been complete silence in response to the latest piece of legislation introduced by Jason Kenney's United Conservative Party in Alberta.

Bill 1, also known as the Critical Infrastructure Defence Act, passed its third reading at the end of May and is now awaiting royal assent.

The law imposes strict legal limits on the locations at which protesters can demonstrate. And, in keeping with its name, the bill would outlaw demonstrations at “critical infrastructure,” including pipelines, oilsands sites, mining sites as well as utilities, streets, highways, railways, and telecom towers and equipment.

Violators who protest, trespass, interfere with operations, or cause damage around said infrastructure will face fines as high as \$10,000 or six months in jail, or both. Fur-

ther offences will garner fines of up to \$25,000 and jail time.

Mr. Kenney would never concede it, but it's transparently obvious that this law is an attempt to shutdown the First Nation protests that have resulted in the delay or cancellation of major oil and gas pipelines.

It's political posturing in defence of Alberta's sacred energy sector manifested into law, and an abhorrently unconstitutional infringement on the democratic freedoms of Canadians.

So why, then, are we hardly seeing any news coverage about this unjust law? Why are legal experts and First Nations communities the only ones being vocal about it?

Where is our usual outrage about threats to our democratic freedoms?

It's certainly not in the comments section, where far too many Canadians are celebrating Mr. Kenney's effort to punish the “criminal” First Nations people who are trying to “hold Canada's economy hostage.”

Granted, the demonstrations and blockades put up by anti-pipeline protestors have stepped outside the bounds

of the inherent Charter right to peaceful public protest, but there are already legal avenues for dealing with such activities.

In other words, Mr. Kenney's proposed law, which is really just an excuse for him to flex his government's muscles and intimidate Albertans, is useless at best.

At worst, though, Bill 1 is a dangerous and frightening attempt by a government to curtail the democratic rights and freedoms of those it disagrees with.

There's no denying that it's inconvenient when protestors take actions that disrupt our economy. Nobody wants to see that happen — First Na-

tions communities included, no doubt.

But the economy, and the desire of billionaires to make yet more money, shouldn't supersede the right of Canadians to fear and fight for the safety of their communities.

And, when consultation and peaceful public protest aren't enough to yield change, we must be able to engage in civil disobedience that steps outside the bounds of our Charter rights without the fear of prosecution or violence.

We don't have to agree with anti-pipeline protestors. But we should defend their right to protest.

On Bill 1, however, our collective silence says it all.



What do we truly know about eclipses?

Dear editor,

In my life time I have witnessed several partial eclipses. The moon coming between the earth and the sun. Or so I thought. Several years ago, I carried a welding helmet with me in my work truck and stopped several times during the eclipse to watch the progression.

Since then I have been investigating the flat earth theory as taught in the Scriptures. The flat earth model has a

motionless, flat earth with the sun and moon in horizontal circuits. Using the example of a pizza, the North Pole is in the center and Antarctica is an ice wall circling the outer edge keeping the waters from running off.

I have never seen the moon getting close to the sun. Usually the sun rules the day and the moon rules the night. However, we do see the sun and the moon in the sky at the same time, but they are a

great distance apart. One is leaving and the other is arriving. The sun and moon are very predictable in their circuits. Considering how much room is up in the sky, why do we not see hundreds of near eclipses for every real eclipse?

There are observations and calculations which would also prove the present understanding of eclipses to be in error. The last eclipse traveled away from the direction of the sun's circuit and cut the

United States in half. The next eclipse will be making an x with the previous eclipse and again cut the United States in half. The last eclipse darkened 7 towns or cities named Salem in the United States. Salem means Peace and is associated with Jerusalem. Maybe this is a sign that we are getting close to seeing the New Jerusalem coming down from heaven.

Laverne Isaac,
Saskatoon, Sask.

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Adult 12

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Eleanor Antoine
Joseph Antoine
Robyn Antoine
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Elmer Bear
Serena Fox
Vivian Fox
Drake Johnson
Jodie Kasokeo
Melanie Montour
Camila-Mireya Rojas

Debden

Tristin Arcand
Megan Peekeekoot
Meagan Thomas

Duck Lake

Kenneth Anderson
Steven Ballantyne
Telisha Bear
Fredrick Cardinal
Chance Caron
Ericka Gamble
Kynan John
Roy Mike
Priscilla Okemaysim
Keenan Rousseau
Draydin Taypotat

Leoville

Aaron Bouvier
Melanie Harris
Rene Morin
Sharleen Sakebow
Mike Thomas
Zachary Thomas
Shania Witchehan

Meadow Lake

Randall Bear
Crystal Cardinal
Frank Couillonneur
Savanna Desjarlais
Stephanie Evanchuk
Noreen Fiddler
Krystal Gower
Kara Hanson
Owen Iron
Alyshea Joseph
Keyano Kahpeaysewat
Shenneil Kahpeaysewat
Rheanon Kennedy
Amanda Laliberte
Rhonda Lapratt
Scott Littlebird
Heather Merasty
Samantha Merasty
Karl Nabess

Darcy Ochuschayoo

Carrie Struik
June Sylvestre
Deanna Thunderblanket

Mosquito First Nation

Priscila Moosomin

North Battleford

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Hanna Crespeigne
Darian Cutarm
Kody Dirksen
Waylon Fayant
Landon Genereaux
Abdel Khadrone
Karly Kohut
Joeseeph Larose
Michael McCarthy
Bernaleen Moccasin
Shaylyn Stick
Tashina Swimmer
Nathan Wakelin
Sarah Wegwitz

Business

North Battleford

Chloe Bulger
Sheldon Fox
Kyla Halter
Felisha Jimmy
Shane McCabe
Shelbee Mitchell-
Malinowski
Destiny Nesseth
Sushan Smith
Nikeda Stone
Eldon Thomas

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Karen Costello
Dawn Peters
Jackie Sarvas
Sari-Beth Skopyk

Community Safety Officer

Mistiwasia FN

Joyce Black
Leona Johnstone
Terry LeDoux
Joseph Watson

Continuing Care Assistant

Lloydminster

Paramjit Ataal
Martina Sumalinog

Meadow Lake

Mabel Angus
Kerry Corrigan
Charlee Gauthier
Tiffany Kennedy
Avery Soloway Swan
Laura Thomas
Hannah Vandenberg

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Ballesteros
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Annaly Natan
Natashia Nicotine
Mariano Ong
Larisa Paskiman
Mary Ponce
Anita Pistojo
Clarose Saril
Qamar Sultan
Julie Ann Villanueva
Serenity Weber
Bjerkness
Cheryl Weeseekase
Kendra Wuttunee

Spiritwood

Reva Booker

St. Walburg

Stacey Morgenstern
April Snakeskin
Rochelle Tracey
Liza Uhrmann

Early Childhood Education

Duck Lake

Marsha Cardinal
Caitlyn Gardipy
Sicily Jim
Lisa Smallchild

North Battleford

Naomi Barker
Cylee Chief
Addison Francis
Shaniah Swiftwolfe
Jhenna Van Metre

Electrician

Meadow Lake

Mathieu Alexander
Joey Aubichon
Gavin Beatch
Brennan Fiddler
John Jamero
Jake Kytwayhat
Landon Reimer
Tristin Tarasoff

Food And Beverage Service

Meadow Lake

Kaelyn Bell
Nadine Craig
Rebekka Gardarsdottir
Kylee Lasas
Brendan Mooswa
Jerrod Morningchild
Stephanie Roy
Charley Seright
Marla Villeneuve

Food Service Cook

Beardy's and Okemasis FN

Mary Jane Ananas
Telisha Bear
Sherri Brittain
Joseph Cameron
Jessie Mosquito
Deanna Smallchild
Sage Yahyahkeekoot

Big River FN

Sabrina Dreaver
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Beverly Jack
Kelly Keenatch

Rita Keenatch
Rachel Lachance
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Wapan Whitefish

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Ashley Emel
Ashley Hill
Karrissa Lariviere
Jessica Oborowsky
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Larissa Weenie

Heavy Equipment And Truck And Transport Technician

Meadow Lake

Tyler Illingworth
Dalton Ross
Austin Shumanski
Tylor Vandale

Office Administration

Meadow Lake

Melonie Bear
Kayla Derocher
Cynthia Dreaver
Mackenzie Meyers
Cathleen Oftedal
Joyce Ouellette
Taibat Salawu
Marla Degenstien
Ilse Moolman
Lynnella Odnokon-
Bischoff
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Meadow Lake

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Steve Caisse
Dion Pahtayken
Jonah Pritchard
Herman Wolfe

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Trenton Fiddler
Joanne Janvier
Edward Merasty
Krista Montgomery
Trent Nippi
Diane Ross
Zachary Zubiak

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Poundmaker

Dustin Baptiste
Celicia Pete
Merna Semaganis
Randy Semaganis

Forest to Fork

Meadow Lake

James Kytwayhat
Ryan Laliberte
Tamara Stock-Dickson

Welding

Meadow Lake

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Matthew Jordan
Walter Lonesinger
Arlan Lumgair
Ghelo Macapagal
Tysin Ross
Savanna Russell
Felix Stick
Brett Sundby
Cara Thompson
North Battleford
Kendall Kahpeaysewat
River Kennedy
Corey Kerluke
Elena Laprell
Steven Pritchard
Nathan Sattler
Jalyssa Stone
Ryan Weenie

Youth Care Worker

North Battleford

Gregory Barron
Dennis Falcon
Mitchell Lascelle
Jilissa Napachit

This list is not inclusive, it contains only those that have given consent to having their name published.
North West College would like to congratulate all 2019-2020 graduates!



North West College

For information on our programs please visit northwestcollege.ca

Report from the Legislature

Members of the Legislative Assembly are returning to the legislature after a three-month hiatus due to COVID-19. The 14-day sitting will allow our government to introduce and pass a provincial budget that invests in building a strong Saskatchewan while ensuring the document receives the legislative scrutiny that it deserves.

Prekindergarten to Grade 12 students will be returning to the classroom in the upcoming school year, which is set to begin as early as September 1. This comes after an indefinite suspension of in-class learning was announced in response to COVID-19.

While the classroom may look a little different, our priority is the health and safety



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

of students, staff and caregivers. The Chief Medical Health Officer will continue providing advice and recommendations as the planning and implementation process takes place.

I would like to congratu-

late all high school and post-secondary graduates in the Class of 2020. While this is certainly not how you imagined your year would end, I applaud your efforts to find innovative and safe ways to celebrate your achievements.

Our province recently entered Phase 3 of the Re-Open Saskatchewan plan which has seen restaurants, gyms and other personal care services take measures to resume serving clients within the guidelines set forth by our health authorities.

Included as part of Phase 3 is the re-opening of beaches and playgrounds. As the weather continues to improve, I am pleased that children and families will be able to enjoy our province's many amenities in a cau-



**NADINE
WILSON
MLA**
~
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saskrivers@sasktel.net

tious and responsible way.

While public gathering sizes have increased to 15 people indoors and 30 people outdoors, it is important to remember to practice physical distancing of two metres between each person as any gathering increases the risk of spreading COVID-19.

Saskatchewan's success in flattening the COVID-19 curve is the result of a collective and concerted effort that has been difficult at times, especially when it means distancing ourselves from seniors and those in long term care centres. Recently, we announced expanded visitation guidelines for Saskatchewan Health Authority facilities to allow residents to safely visit

and support their loved ones in care.

Our government recently announced the expansion of the Saskatchewan Temporary Wage Supplement Program to include a larger number of workers who are helping our most vulnerable residents, including all of the workers in our long-term care facilities. These workers have provided tremendous physical and emotional support to our seniors throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and it is important we recognize their great work.

Small businesses are a critical part of our economy and, as we settle into Phase 3 of our Re-Open Saskatchewan plan, it is important to ensure these businesses can continue to operate without the fear of being evicted. That is why we announced commercial eviction protection for tenants who have been impacted by the pandemic.

While every provincial economy has taken a hit – and Saskatchewan is no exception – 87% of workers in our province have been able to keep working through the pandemic and, as more businesses start to re-open, even more will be able to return to work.



**HON. JEREMY
HARRISON
MLA**
~
Meadow
Lake
Toll Free:
1-877-234-6669
jharrisonmla@sasktel.net

Together, we have proven that we can reduce the spread of COVID-19 and we can re-open safely. The latest Statistics Canada figures show Saskatchewan added 600 new jobs in May over April and has the second-lowest unemployment rate in Canada at 12.5%.

As we continue to re-open our economy, I encourage everyone to be careful and cautious. I also encourage you to find local businesses in your community to support so that we all can get through these challenging times together.

You can learn more about our Re-Open Saskatchewan plan online at saskatchewan.ca/re-open.

THANK YOU, SASKATCHEWAN.

You have proven you will always put the safety of the people in your community first. Your good choices meant there were fewer people killed or injured last year due to impaired driving.

Now that we can all go out again,
plan to get home safely too.



DON'T LET IMPAIRED FRIENDS OR FAMILY DRIVE.



TOWN OF SPIRITWOOD PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice is hereby given that the Council of the Town of Spiritwood intends to adopt a bylaw under the *Planning and Development Act, 2007* to amend *Bylaw No. 486/13*, known as the Zoning Bylaw.

INTENT

The proposed Zoning Bylaw amendment will:

- Create new definitions for "Cannabis Production Facility" and "Cannabis Retail Store";
- Establish "Cannabis Retail Stores" as a discretionary use in the C1 – Downtown Commercial District and the C2 – Highway Commercial District with appropriate development standards;
- Establish "Cannabis Production Facilities" as a discretionary use in the C2 – Highway Commercial District, C2A – Large Lot Highway Commercial District and M1 – Industrial District with appropriate development standards.

REASONS

The reasons for the Zoning Bylaw amendments are to:

- Create new definitions for clarity purposes within the bylaw;
- Provide for the development of "Cannabis Retail Stores" and "Cannabis Production Facilities" in appropriate locations along with standards for their development.

PUBLIC INSPECTION

Any person may inspect the bylaw which is posted to the front door at the Town Office, located at 212 Main Street in the Town of Spiritwood. Contact the Town Office by email to get a copy of the proposed bylaw at tos@sasktel.net.

PUBLIC HEARING

Council will hold a public hearing on July 14th, 2020 at 6:30 PM at the Town Office. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, written submissions to Council pertaining to this bylaw are strongly encouraged. Written submissions must be received by July 10th, 2020 at 4:00 PM either by email, mail or dropped off at the Town Office when open to the public on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays. Anyone wishing to make a verbal submission to Council must do so by phone. Please contact the Town Office by July 10th, 2020 at 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 18th day of June, 2020.
Rhonda Saam, Chief Administrative Officer

Electric era still on farming's horizon

While the dream of some to see the taps of oil and gas to be turned off completely is largely hyperbole on their part, any reduction on the reliance of those resources should be seen as generally positive.

Of course, such steps have to be taken with a view to the larger picture.

In terms of energy there is the element of preserving stocks for key sectors over the longer term, and of course the environmental impact of extracting and processing oil and gas

reserves versus whatever technologies develop as an alternative.

Nothing we do as human beings happens without it having some impact on the natural environment we live in, and that is a fact of life that cannot be overcome completely.

What we do need to do as a species is limit our impact, because we rely on this planet to produce food, to supply water and have clean air to breathe.

For agriculture that will mean looking to adopt new technolo-



CALVIN DANIELS

gies as we move forward.

One area that is intriguing for farmers is the idea of electric powered machinery.

On-road electric vehicles and hybrids, think

cars being at the forefront, have become if not common, at least on the radar these days. Most consumers may not look at an electric car as their first choice to purchase, but they know they exist as an option.

The off-road market that includes agricultural applications, think tractors, is not as developed.

It might never be as widely reasonable given the power required, but there are going to be farm applications where electric is a viable option in the future.

The agriculture machinery sector has always been an innovative one, with an ability to go into the shop with a problem in mind, and emerge sometime later with a viable solution that could be manufactured for farmers to use.

One only needs to look at the zero-till equipment of today. There was a time when producers could not envision being able to seed directly into heavy trash cover, but today it is an accepted practice.

We will see the same evolution in terms of

electric power for farm equipment, although at present it is difficult to envision exactly the scope the development will encompass, and of course the timeframe of the arrival of various elements to the marketplace.

Certainly, in this era we are aware development can often happen far more quickly than we might imagine.

Increasingly, technology is moving forward at a startling pace, and we are likely to see that in the case of electric equipment for the farm.

Medstead to fête grads with parade

In a normal June, Grade 12 students from across Saskatchewan would be dressing to the nines to walk across the stage and receive their high school diplomas right about now.

But 2020 has been anything but an ordinary year thus far, and, thanks to COVID-19, this is no normal June. And, though the province has eased restrictions on graduation ceremonies to allow up to 30 graduates and up to 150 guests to attend an outdoor celebration, schools and their communities have already found ways to improvise.

Case in point, Medstead Central School and the broader community of Medstead, where grads will be fêted with a parade and short ceremony this Saturday, June 20, at 5 p.m.

The idea to host a parade came out of discussions between parents, community members, and local teachers, who still wanted to find a way to honour the grads.

"I've been a school teacher for 35 years, and a principal for 20. I know how much a graduation means," said community member Kelly Schneider, who has been helping to organize the big day. "For old farts like us, I've seen 30 of them. But for them, they get one shot at this. To have an entire class lose out on that big day, it just broke too many hearts"

In addition to the parade, Medstead Central School will be putting up a display in front of the building to recognize the class of 2020. And, prior to the parade, the graduates will be brought to-

gether in their dresses and tuxes for a class photo.

"It's important that the kids feel honoured, and that they've achieved something, and that the community loves them and is proud of them," Schneider said. "That's what we're all going to do."

While COVID-19 has made this a tough year for many, Schneider says he hopes the graduates will walk away from this year with a positive outlook.

"The common thing we've been saying is what an incredible life lesson this is. You can't choose what happens to you

sometimes, but you can choose how you react to it," he said.

"What's the positive out of this? I don't know. But you should be able to come out of this, and instead of being negative be thankful for what you're given."

As previously mentioned, the parade will be held Saturday, June 20, starting at 5 p.m. Following the parade, a short ceremony will be held on Main Street in front of the post office.

Though he can't name names, Schneider says the festivities may even include a special guest.

Wind and rain slowing down tasks on Town Square

The Town Square in Spiritwood has been an ongoing project since last spring, with a projected end date of July 1, 2020. Coordination of the project is headed up by the Northern Lakes Economic Development Corporation (NLEDC) with funds coming from local businesses and residents.

The Fast Genetics Silver Buckle Bandstand is completed and awaiting the installation of a sign.

The sign itself has arrived but strong winds and rain keep pushing the installation date.

The ground has been prepared for sod, which has yet to arrive, to be laid down. Josh Summers will be leading the installation of the sod. Once it is in place, it will allow for the finishing touches to be put on the little green space in the centre of town. Markers have been placed around the square for trees and

benches while a sponsor has committed to a picnic table. The last large structure to be installed will be a fountain, which will go in after the sod has been laid.

NLEDC is still accepting donations for the town square from any business or person wanting to contribute. They hope to raise enough funds to purchase an electrical pedestal for behind the bandstand.

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Sask. budget forecasts \$2.4 billion deficit

Nearly three months after it presented streamlined spending estimates in the wake of a burgeoning COVID-19 pandemic, the Saskatchewan government has tabled its formal 2020-2021 budget.

As expected, the economic impacts of the pandemic are visible in the budget's bottom line. Where the government had anticipated delivering a balanced budget this year and next, it's now predicting a \$2.4 billion deficit, thanks to a \$1.2 billion drop in revenues and \$1.1 billion increase in expenditures.

Due to the provincial, national, and global economic shutdowns prompted by COVID-19, overall revenues are expected to be \$13.6 billion, with expenditures pegged at \$16.1 billion.

About \$900 million of that spending is on measures to combat COVID-19 and supporter businesses and workers, including the first year of the province's \$2 billion capital stimulus plan (\$375 million) and a COVID-19 Health and Safety Contingency (\$200 million).

While conceding that the deficit is significant, Saskatchewan Finance Minister Donna Harpauer remains confident that Saskatchewan is in a stronger position than most other jurisdictions to recover.

"This is a pandemic deficit, not a structural deficit," Harpauer said in tabling the budget. "Prior to the pandemic, Saskatchewan was on track for balanced budgets last year and this year, and I

am confident that as Saskatchewan's economy recovers, our revenues will also recover and we will get back to balance in the coming years without having to cut programs and services."

A key part of the recovery, as outlined in the 2020-2021 budget will be the province's broader two-year \$7.5 billion capital plan, which the province says will stimulate the economy and create jobs.

The province plans to spend \$3.1 billion of that total this year (including the \$375 million in COVID-19-related capital stimulus), to build hospitals, schools, highways, and municipal and Crown corporation infrastructure.

"These are projects that will result in much needed economic activity and jobs," Harpauer said. "Saskatchewan is fortunate to be in a strong financial position to make these kinds of important capital investments in every part of our province."

The budget also includes record healthcare spending of \$6.18 billion, a slight increase from the original budget estimate of \$5.77 billion.

Aside from the COVID-19 related spending, that funding also includes a record \$435 million in mental health and addictions funding, and \$118 million in spending commitments on hospital equipment, testing equipment, personal protective equipment and operating costs to address the pandemic.

Combined, the education budget for pre-K

to Grade 12 and post-secondary education is forecast at \$3.36 billion, marking a \$79.4 million increase compared to last year. This includes a \$42 million boost to school operating funding, and \$20 million to fund the ratified teachers' collective bargaining agreement.

In social services, meanwhile, the province is predicting expenditures of \$1.49 billion, an increase of \$58 million over the 2019-2020 budget. That includes a \$30 million increase for child and family services to enhance the range and delivery of services that keep children safe, and \$10.9 million for third-party service providers that help the province's most vulnerable.

In response to the pandemic, \$6.4 million has been dedicated to a number of measures to address the province's most vulnerable people, including one-time payments of \$50 to all adults in receipt of income assistance. The government is also providing \$100 monthly respite payments from June through September to about 2,800 individuals caring for people with intellectual disabilities, at a cost of \$1.1 million. And, finally, there is \$171,000 for additional support to emergency shelters, and one-time \$300 payments to foster and extended family caregivers.

Elsewhere, the budget focuses on boosting the economy's recovery with measures targeted at increasing competitive-

ness. These measures include a full indexation of personal income taxes, beginning with the 2021 tax year, to safeguard taxpayers from bracket creep and inflation, and a PST rebate of up to 42 per cent on new home construction for homes purchased after March 31, 2020 and before April 1, 2023.

Meanwhile, the Oil Infrastructure Investment Program, a SaskFirst new growth tax incentive administered by the Ministry of Energy and Resources, has been introduced to support new and expanded pipelines, as well as new pipeline terminals, to flow oil to markets.

The budget also introduces the Saskatchewan Chemical Fertilizer Incentive, which provides a 15 per cent tax credit to encourage investments in Saskatchewan's value-added sector, and earmarks \$4.2 million to establish trade and investment offices in Japan, India, and Singapore and grow Saskatchewan's export markets.

"Strengthening Saskatchewan and helping our economy recover requires being competitive, keeping taxes low for Saskatchewan people and businesses, particularly in these challenging times while seeking new markets, growing trade and exports, as well as adding value to Saskatchewan products that are sold around the world," Harpauer said.

"This budget contains a number of targeted tax measures, encouraging new activities in areas like pipeline develop-

ment and fertilizer production."

Finally, as promised in March's spending estimates, the budget calls for Municipal Revenue Sharing to increase to \$278 this year (a jump of \$27 million).

This is part of the province's \$571 million investment in municipalities for the budget year, which also includes the Municipal Economic Enhancement Program (\$150 million), and \$14 million to fund the operations of community-service organizations that make vital contributions to their communities.

"Our net debt-to-GDP is among the lowest in the country," Harpauer said. "We have the ability to invest in the priorities of Saskatchewan people. Our people are strong, our economy is resilient and we have the solid base we need to bring our budget back to balance over time. We will develop a plan to

move forward. We faced the pandemic, together. Now we are re-opening our province, together. And we will rebuild and recover together."

Predictably, Monday's budget announcement was met with criticism from the Saskatchewan NDP, which accused the Sask. Party government of hiding much of the budget, and failing to deliver a recovery plan that works for all Saskatchewan residents.

"This is not a plan," said NDP leader Ryan Meili. "This budget shows that Premier Moe has no idea how to bring about a recovery that works for people. There's nothing here for seniors, nothing for childcare, no money for safely re-opening and resourcing schools for a pandemic, falling per-student funding for students, and no commitment to hiring Saskatchewan workers and Saskatchewan companies to build our infrastructure."

Highway 3 crash claims young woman's life

A 25-year-old woman is dead, following a single vehicle rollover just east of Shellbrook last Thursday evening.

According to the RCMP, the rollover occurred around 6 p.m. on Highway 3 near the Shellbrook Airport. Speaking with *paNOW*, Sgt. Rob King said the woman was ejected from the vehicle and pronounced dead at the scene.

The cause of the rollover remains under investigation.

Saskatchewan Economy On The Rebound

Saskatchewan's workforce is still affected by COVID-19 but there are a number of signs showing that our economy is recovering faster, and was less impacted, than other provinces.

Saskatchewan has the **second lowest unemployment rate in Canada** and the **number of people working rose in May**, which is a strong, positive sign in the COVID-19 era.

The Saskatchewan economy is positioned to strongly improve as we move forward with the Re-Open Saskatchewan plan. Learn more at Saskatchewan.ca/re-open



Nadine Wilson

MLA for Saskatchewan Rivers
saskrivers@sasktel.net

Hon. Jeremy Harrison

MLA for Meadow Lake
jharrisonmla@sasktel.net

Hon. Scott Moe, Premier

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

Recreation news from PIHC

By Trina Chamberlain
We are so very thankful! So many wonderful heart-warming opportunities have occurred during these “new normal” times! One of the biggest announcements was: Outdoor family visits and window visits (with window open) while respecting the six-foot social distance and screening. The first week was a trial with room for improvements. Many residents and

family have already requested longer visit times and we are happy to offer one hour visits starting June 16, 2020. Our outdoor space enables 4-5 family and resident groups to visit at the same time. If the weather is not favourable, the visit will be offered virtually rather than out of doors. The second big opportunity was the ability to enjoy a Dairy Queen ice cream while

on a country drive! Appreciation to the Dominique Provencher family for the DQ gift card and soda pop (to be used for ice cream floats celebrating Dad’s day). Once a week three people at a time go cruising in the country. Now that’s a treat! DQ ice cream and sightseeing after being cooped up for several months. Want to make a difference? Prepare to start your engines! Join us for a DRIVE

BY PARADE to honor our gentlemen on Friday, June 19 at 3 p.m. Our elders will be outside (social distancing) waiting to cheer you on. All are Welcome: older vehicles, horse and buggy, farm equipment, flat deck, golf cart, bicycle, quad and wagon, etc. Have fun selecting your music, decorating and showing your choice of transportation! First car to meet at the pylon at the corner of Dr. J. R. Spen-

cer Drive. Social Distancing in effect. Please confirm your entry by calling Trina at 306 747 6841 by Friday, June 19 at noon. That’s all for this time. Keep healthy and stay safe. Direct you suggestions, feedback, questions or concerns to: recreation therapy office 306 747 6841 or recreation room 306 747 6833, or Trina. Chamberlain@saskhealthauthority.ca.

What is the future of the media in Canada?

By Kevin Waugh, MP, Saskatoon-Grasswood
A free and independent press is the lifeblood of any democracy. Here in Saskatchewan, the media landscape continues to change and evolve. For many these differences are barely noticeable, but for those who grew up in small communities it has never been the same. Let’s start with the television market, which is dominated by our province’s two major centres: Regina and Saskatoon. It wasn’t that long ago that Prince Albert, Yorkton and Swift Current each had viable bustling stations serving their regions. It was a place to start your career and work your way up in the

industry. Now, Swift Current is closed entirely and only a handful of employees are left in Yorkton and Prince Albert. Smaller communities now rely almost solely on the two major hubs for their news. Much the same, the radio industry in the province has undergone significant changes. Radio still offers the most immediate information because it is live. However, for a number of stations in Saskatchewan, “live” is only 12 hours per day. Many stations now either pre-record their programming for evenings and weekends or even simply re-use their already completed daytime programming in these time slots, while others switch over to satellite radio

for night time programming. Then, there is the newspaper industry. Postmedia runs the two biggest daily papers in this province: the Regina Leader-Post and the Saskatoon StarPhoenix. The third daily, the Prince Albert Daily Herald, was set to close in 2018 when the staff decided to purchase the newspaper and continue their long-term service for the community. Print has seen the biggest shift to digital technology. Instead of getting the newspaper delivered to your mailbox, it’s far more practical on your mobile device. Even the StarPhoenix and Leader-Post recently announced their Monday editions would soon only be available online.

While this may be more convenient to the consumer, it’s a nightmare for the industry. In terms of ad revenue, which represents a significant portion of any paper’s income, digital is a mere pittance to the glossy print ads you see on paper. At the same time, subscriptions to papers are at an all-time low. The existential crisis that now faces newspapers is how to make up the lost revenue. Hundreds of papers across Canada have closed or about to close. Our own province has not been spared. The Davidson Leader sold for a dollar back in December, the

Kipling Citizen suspended publication for twelve weeks on April 3rd due to COVID-19, and the Moose Jaw Times Herald, a paper with more than 125 years of history, couldn’t withstand the challenges facing the industry. As a Member of Parliament I have the honour of sitting on the House of Commons Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage. This is a role in which my over forty years of experience in the media business has served me well. When I look at the media industry, I see it headed in the same direction

as the grain elevator—into extinction. Now, this is where the debate starts. How do we respond to this new reality? Is it the government’s responsibility to prop up news organizations that cannot turn a profit in perpetuity, or is the media industry in need of major rethinking? The future of our democracy may depend on the answer to this question. Kevin Waugh is the Member of Parliament for Saskatoon—Grasswood and the Chair of the Conservative Party of Canada’s Saskatchewan Caucus.

Public Notice – RM of Leask

Public notice is hereby given that the Council of the RM of Leask intends to consider the adoption of three bylaws under *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*. The RM will establish a new Official Community Plan, Zoning Bylaw, and Fees Bylaw.

Intent: The proposed Official Community Plan bylaw will establish municipal land use policies, goals and objectives for the RM. The proposed Zoning Bylaw will implement land use regulations, establish zoning districts, prescribe permitted and discretionary uses within each zoning district, establish a development permit process, prescribe a process for appeals and provide a provision for amendments. The proposed Fees Bylaw will establish fees for municipal planning and development services.

The following alterations have occurred to the proposed Zoning Bylaw since receiving first reading from Council on March 18, 2020.

- The permitted and discretionary use listings in the Resort Commercial District have been altered to identify motels and hotels as a discretionary use.
- The discretionary use criteria and standards for tourist cabins in the Resort Commercial District have been altered and will apply to motels, hotels, and tourist cabins.

Affected Land: The proposed bylaws will affect all land within the incorporated area of the RM.

Reason: The Fees Bylaw will provide a schedule of fees to be charged for services provided by the RM. The Official Community Plan will provide the RM with direction on development decisions and municipal goals. The Zoning Bylaw will help direct and manage growth and development within the RM.

The proposed Zoning Bylaw alterations will allow consideration and regulation of the density, size, height and location of proposed motels or hotels in the Resort Commercial District and apply consistent criteria and standards for motels, hotels and tourist cabins.

Public Inspection: The bylaws and associated maps are posted on the RM’s website at <https://rmlask.ca/zoning-bylaws-and-building/>. Hard copies of the bylaws may also be made available at a cost. Please contact the RM office to make arrangements to receive a hard copy of the bylaw or to receive a copy by email.

Public Hearing: Council will hold a public hearing on August 12, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. at the Leask Community Hall located at 169 Railway Avenue in the Village of Leask. The RM will be implementing an alternative format for this public hearing in response to COVID-19. Any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed bylaws is encouraged to submit written comments prior to the meeting. Written submissions may be sent by email to admin.464@sasktel.net, by Canada Post a minimum of 4 business days in advance of the hearing, or by the drop box located beside the RM office door. For anyone wanting to attend and submit verbal comments, please contact the RM office by August 6, 2020 to make arrangements. Verbal submissions will be accommodated through prescheduled in-person times.

Issued at the RM of Leask 11/June/2020

Judy Douglas
Administrator

PUBLIC NOTICE Rural Municipality of Big River, No. 555

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

INTENT
To amend zoning district map by rezoning land from LR2 – Medium Density Lakeshore Residential District to LR1 – Low Density Lakeshore Residential District.

AFFECTED LANDS
In SW-15-57-07-W3, Lots 2, 3 & 4, Block 4, Plan 84B11865 Michel’s Beach in the RM of Big River, No. 555 shown in the sketch below within the bold line and shaded area.

REASON
The reason for the amendment is to accommodate a landowners request to consolidate titles.

PUBLIC INSPECTION
Any person may inspect the bylaw by contacting the RM Office by phone 306-469-2323 or email rm555@sasktel.net during regular office hours between 8:30 a.m. & 4:30 p.m. A copy will be sent to you at no cost.

PUBLIC HEARING
Council will hold a public hearing on July 13th, 2020, at the Big River Community Centre at 606 First Street North, Big River, SK at 3:00 pm. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, written submissions to Council pertaining to this bylaw are strongly encouraged and may be submitted by mail to RM 555, Box 219, Big River, SK, S0J 0E0, email rm555@sasktel.net or by calling and arranging for a drop off during regular office hours in advance of the hearing date. Anyone wishing to make a verbal submission to Council can contact the RM Office during regular office hours prior to the hearing date to schedule a time in which Council will phone you directly to hear your submission.

Issued at Big River this 18th day of June, 2020.

Donna Tymiak, RMA



Roots and Wings

By Norma Galambos

A Sunday afternoon drive had me gazing intently at the abandoned farmyards that dot the prairie landscape. There are thousands of similar places scattered across this country. Each one holds a place in the history of their communities.

Most of the time I casually glance at these old yards without giving them a second thought. When people drive by the farmyard where I grew up, with only the barn remaining, they probably don't think much about it either. When I stop and think about these places, I realize that every one of those properties has roots that trace to someone.

At some of the yard sites, shells of houses, granaries or barns remain. The only indication to others that life once abounded there are the rows of trees that were planted for shelter. Perhaps an ageing outhouse listing to one side, an old rhubarb plant, lilacs, caragana bushes or roses are hiding in the long grass.

I think about the lives that were lived there. I wonder about the stories of the people from these seemingly forgotten places.

In my mind, I imagine:

- Love stories and babies.
- A wooden rocking chair.
- Smoke wafting from the chimney.
- Laundry drying on the clothesline.
- The glow of a light in the window.
- The smell of bread baking in the

wood stove.

- A pie cooling in the breeze by a window.
 - Children playing in the yard.
 - Cats and dogs roaming about.
 - A woodpile visible in the back-ground.
 - A farmer getting up in the night to check his livestock.
 - A weary homemaker hauling water in from the well.
 - Multiple children in each bedroom of the small home, tucked in their beds under the sloped upstairs ceiling.
 - The heat from a wood stove provided warmth until the coals burned out early the next morning.
 - Home-cooked meals shared around the kitchen table. Stories were told and problems solved.
 - Roasted meats and gravy, boiled potatoes, vegetables and fruit.
 - The many gardens that flourished.
 - Snowstorms, droughts and lightning as it lit up the night sky.
 - A farmer working to repair an old piece of machinery, hoping it will last another year.
 - Visitors or a salesman knocking on the weathered wooden door.
 - Weddings, anniversaries, wakes and reunions that were held there.
- I am filled with many questions. Somewhere there are the answers, but I will never know most of them.
- Who lived there?
 - Where did they come from?

- When did they arrive?
- How did they end up in that exact spot in the world?
- What were their hopes and dreams, triumphs and sorrows?
- What type of farming operation did they have? Seeing a barn suggests they had livestock, as most farms did back in the day. Granaries meant grain farming. They had to be self-sufficient to survive. The grain harvested provided income and feed for cattle, horses, pigs and chickens.
- What were the circumstances that prompted their decision to move away? Many things could have been contributing factors including finances which could have made it necessary to take a job off the farm, weather, pests in the crops, ageing or illness.
- Where are their ancestors now?
- Do they visit the old place or think about it?

On their last day there, did they feel sad and defeated or excited to be moving on? I would love for just one day to turn back time and stop in at some of those farmyards and talk to the people about their histories.

Some of these yards have come full circle. They started as grass and scrub brush and nature has reclaimed the land. Others have been erased by industry, progress I suppose.

To some extent we are where we grew up. Deep roots help us weather life's storms, but it is okay to have wings too.

Shell Lake Legion observes Decoration Day



The Shell Lake Legion held Decoration Day on Saturday June 13, 2020 with Legion and family members in attendance. This year was altered from previous years due to the pandemic, but we felt it was especially relevant to hold our program to honour our Veterans of the community. Our experiences with self-isolating and social distancing brought home to each of us only a little of what they had endured. As in other years the Colour Party was an important part of the ceremony. We heard inspiring messages from Comrade David Jensen and our village Mayor, Her Worship, Anita Weiers. Wreaths from Remembrance Day 2019 were laid at each of the Veterans' crosses in our Veteran's plot at the cemetery. We Shall Remember Them.

At last, a prairie-hardy sugar maple

By Erl Svendsen

I spent most of my childhood on a coast where autumn was painted with a vivid mixed palette of mostly oranges and reds with a few yellow highlights. When I moved to the Prairies, the opposite was true: the fall colour scheme here is muted and dominated by shades of yellow. A few reds and oranges dot the landscape from introduced species like the Amur or ginnala maple (*Acer tartaricum* subsp. *ginnala*) or mountain ash (*Sorbus*). But these are smaller trees, usually hidden under and among the more dominant canopies of the larger elm, green ash, Manitoba maple and poplar. Their fall displays are short-lived as their red leaves fall within days after they make an appearance. What I missed were the larger shade trees like sugar maples with their vivid red leaves. Alas, there were no Prairie-hardy sugar maple varieties available then. But that has now changed.

After 8 years of testing, results from the Western Nursery Growers Group-Trial of Rural and Urban Shade Trees (TRUST, www.prairietrees.ca) are now available. Tests sites in Strathmore (Alberta South), Edmonton (Al-

berta North), Saskatoon (Central Prairies) and Portage la Prairie (Manitoba South) represented the climatic range in our region. One of the recommended trees for the Prairies for all but Alberta South is the Inferno sugar maple (*Acer saccharum* 'Jeferno').

So let's cut to the chase: Inferno sugar maple is ablaze in fiery orange and red leaves in the fall. During the growing season, the thick leaves are green with lighter undersides.

The variety was selected from among sugar maple seedlings from the northern edge the species' natural range by Jeffries Nurseries (Portage la Prairie, MB). It has the familiar 5-lobed maple leaf seen on our coins and flags. The flowers and double-winged maple seeds are not showy. But it is a large tree, reaching 12 metres (40 feet) with a 9-metre (30-foot) wide oval crown. It needs to be grown in full sun and prefers well-drained rich soil (avoid compacted soil or where water pools in spring). Do not allow the soil to dry out as sugar maples prefer average to moist conditions.

Inferno is a slow-growing, long-lived tree (80 years) and is relatively maintenance free with few

pests. If you must, prune it in mid-summer after leaves are fully formed to avoid excessive 'bleeding' from the cut wounds. As the tree grows, you can remove the lower branches to create a 2-metre (7-foot) clearance – allowing most people I know to walk underneath without getting their eyes poked out. Because of its mature size, avoid planting it too close to driveways, paths or under powerlines.

Once mature, as a fun project, learn how to tap the new tree to

make your own maple syrup!

Tips for planting a tree:

1. Locate and avoid underground and overhead utilities.
2. Dig a hole as deep as the root ball and 2 to 3 times wider. Break up the bottom of the hole slightly to avoid creating a hardpan.
3. Amend the soil from the hole with 20% organic matter (compost, peat).
4. Partially fill the hole with water and allow it to drain.
5. Remove the plant from the

container.

6. If there are circling roots on the outside of the rootball, try to straighten them or remove them.

7. Place the rootball in the hole, ensuring the tree is straight and the top of the rootball is at the same level as the original soil. Backfill, firming the soil gently as you go.

8. Around the outer edge of the planting hole, make a 15-centimetre (6-inch) soil berm or "dam" to make initial watering easier.

9. If you must, stake the tree with flexible ties halfway up the trunk to sturdy posts or t-bars installed into undisturbed soil to the outside of the rootball on opposite sides of the tree. This is a temporary measure until the root system is established (one year).

10. Apply a 10-centimetre (4-inch) deep organic mulch layer.

11. Water thoroughly once a week for the first year.

Erl gardens in Saskatoon and tweets about on occasion @ErlSv.

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).



Inferno maple in fall splendor. Photo courtesy of Jeffries Nursery.

Baseball stuck in the on-deck circle

In baseball, it's three strikes and you're out.

Two out, bottom of the ninth. ...the count is 0-and-2. Here's the windup ... the pitch ... it's a low fastball on the corner the batter swings ... he makes contact ...

Who knows if that ball will fall into for a single, or a double off the wall, or maybe a home run. What we do know is that it could also be a popup to first base and put Major League Baseball in its most precarious situation since the 1994 lock-out.

Like every other sport, and every other facet of society, baseball was shut down in mid-March due to the coronavirus pandemic. A date for a fresh start of the season has been in constant negotiation and, naturally, money is at the root of the discussions.

Major League Baseball owners have said games could be played without fans in the stands, but insist on financial concessions. Players have agreed to a pro-rated salary structure, meaning, for example, if they played an 81-game schedule, they would receive 50 per cent of their contracted salaries. No surprise here: the Players are calling for a schedule in excess of 100 games; the owners say a 51-game schedule will suffice. Neither side is happy. They will probably meet somewhere in

the middle, with a truly irregular 'regular' season starting sometime in July and running through October.

Proposals by the owners call for 14 teams to make the playoffs, with much of November used to whittle down the survivors to determine a World Series champion

It won't seem real to avid ball fans, this proposal of a bastardized season. No roaring crowds. Designated hitters will be used in both leagues. A pitcher winning 10 games might earn credentials for a Hall of Fame claim. But despite the truncated season and all the other abnormalities of 2020, games will apparently be played and Canada's Sportsnet, owned by Rogers Media, which also owns the Toronto Blue Jays, will beam all of the Jays' games across the country. It will help to alleviate the financial pain experienced by Sportsnet, not to mention easing fans' pain of sports-watching withdrawal.

Let's hope that ball fell in for a ground-rule double. The rally is under way. Let's keep it going.

• Bill Plaschke of the L.A. Times, on MLB's financial squabbles not being a good optic: "Baseball is engaged in a bench-clearing brawl with itself."

• Bob Molinaro of pilotonline.com (Hamp-



BRUCE
PENTON

ton, Va.): "Major League Baseball's offer of a 50-game schedule has to be a joke. It takes more than 50 games for a baseball season to clear its throat."

• Dwight Perry of the Seattle Times: "Some sports movies we'd like to see: 'Sitting Out The Last Dance': Post-Jordan Bulls fail to reach NBA Finals for 21st straight year; 'Moneybowl': Pay squabbles scuttle 2020 baseball season; 'Chariots Afire': NASCAR adds another division featuring Corvairs and Pintos."

• Comedy writer Alex Kaseberg: "In the off-season, the NFL is considering a number of rule changes including new rules on touchdown celebrations. 'What is a touchdown celebration?' asked the Cincinnati Bengals."

• Greg Cote of the Miami Herald: "A bat used by Lou Gehrig sold for \$1 million. There is only one baseball bat in the world worth \$1 million. It's the

one with a cheque for \$999,000 taped to the barrel."

• Broncos RB Melvin Gordon, via Twitter, on how playing for the Chargers in L.A. was good preparation for this year's pandemic-altered NFL season: "Bro, we didn't have fans anyway . . . So I'm not missing anything."

• Dave Spect, via Facebook, after the girlfriend of Yankees outfielder Aaron Judge asked officers 'Do you know who my boyfriend is?' when she was arrested for DUI: "Soon she'll know two judges."

• Patti Dawn Swanson, aka the River City Renegade: "Whichever

outfit wins the Stanley Cup, it'll be the first time in history that no one from the winning outfit will shout, 'We couldn't have done this without our fans!'"

• Alex Kaseberg again: "The Minnesota Vikings have to sign Colin Kaepernick."

• RJ Currie of sports-deke.com: "The PGA cancelled the July, 2020, John Deere Classic due to the coronavirus pandemic. Yes, Dear — No Deere."

• From fark.com: "Bills rookie quarterback Jake Fromm apologizes for texting that 'only elite white people' should be able to afford guns. Will be punished by having to

play for the Bills."

• Dwight Perry again: "A two-year-old colt named Fauci finished second at Belmont Park's belated opening day of racing, by 4¾ lengths. Or for you social-distancing fans, roughly 38 feet."

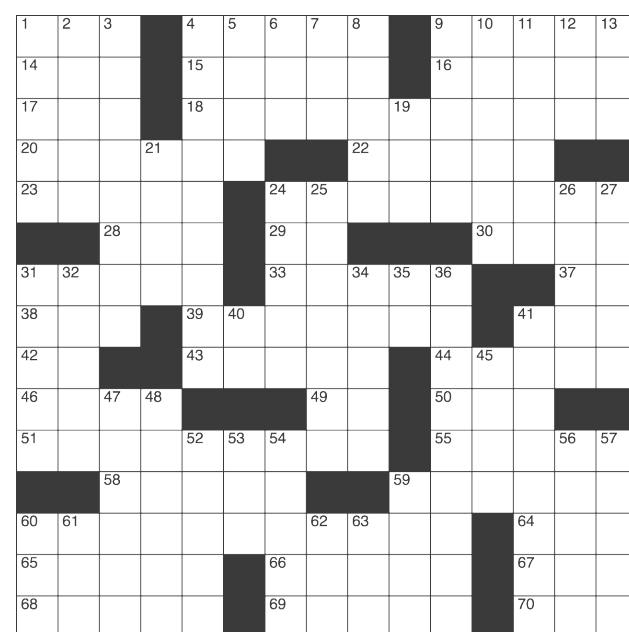
• Comedy writer Brad Dickson, via Twitter, after Cornhuskers football coach Scott Frost taped a public-service announcement endorsing medical care during the pandemic: "After listening to his deadly dull monotone, I now know why Nebraska usually plays bad in the third quarter."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

1. Japanese classical theater
4. Chess pieces
9. Pieces of writing
14. Doctors' group
15. Capital of Guam
16. Type of turtle
17. Swiss river
18. MLB Hall of Famer
20. Places to sit
22. Fancy rides
23. One of Washington's Tri-Cities
24. Without class
28. Male child
29. Keeps you cool
30. Biblical place
31. Italian city
33. District in central Turkey
37. Job for a grad student
38. Central nervous system
39. Arrange in steps
41. Witch
42. Promotional material
43. Having certain appendages
44. Approaches
46. One who did it (slang)
49. Of I
50. Blood relation



51. Works out
55. Female given name
58. Isaac's mother (Bib.)
59. Makes someone happy
60. Creative
64. Small, faint constellation
65. S. American trees
66. Makes simpler
67. Neither
68. We all need it
69. Unique plastic utensil
70. Thyroid-stimulating hormone (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN

1. Civil Rights group
2. Metropolis
3. Badgers
4. Regular business given to a store
5. Gets older
6. A bundle of banknotes
7. Midway between north and northwest
8. Takes to the sea
9. Prestigious film prize: ___ d'or
10. Baltimore ballplayer
11. Removed
12. Term of respect
13. Genus containing pigs
19. Illumined
21. One who symbolizes something
24. Member of a Turkic people
25. The academic world
26. "Key to the Highway" bluesman
27. Hang-ups
31. Long, leafless flower stalk
32. Categorize
34. Loads
35. Indicates position
36. Unreasonable
40. Dorm worker
41. Dweller
45. Welsh female name meaning "snow"
47. Offering again
48. National capital
52. Firm, dry and brittle
53. 007's creator
54. Allied H.Q.
56. Mackerels
57. Month of the Hindu year
59. Not odd
60. Belonging to a thing
61. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
62. Religion
63. Equal, prefix

Answers on page 14

Big River RCMP investigating house fire

The Big River RCMP Detachment is seeking the public's assistance as it investigates a house fire that occurred on the Big River First Nation.

According to an RCMP press release issued Tuesday Morning, the detachment received a call about the house fire at around 10 p.m. on Saturday, June 13.

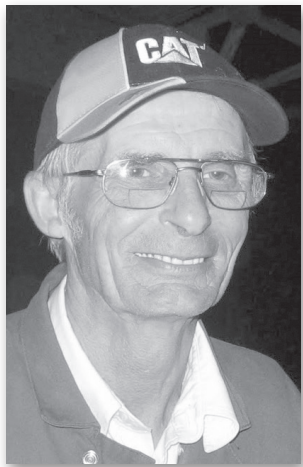
Officers attended the scene and found the residence fully engulfed,

but report that no one was inside the home at the time of the fire.

As of Tuesday, the fire was considered suspicious and was still under investigation by the RCMP and provincial fire investigators.

Anyone with information or tips to report can call 310-RCMP, their local RCMP detachment or police service, or call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-8477.

OBITUARIES

Orville Cyrus Leach

LEACH, Orville Cyrus
September 28, 1944 –
June 8, 2020

It is with deep sadness we announce the passing of Orville at 75 after a long battle with cancer. He passed away

peacefully in Olds Alberta Hospital on June 8, 2020.

Orville was born on September 28, 1944. His parents Ella and Ivan Leach raised 9 children. He was married to Carolyn Martodam for 47 wonderful years and raised 6 children and 14 grandchildren.

Orville was a hard working man who never stopped working; even in his spare time he was always working on an old Tractor or Jeep.

Orville was a strong, positive and humorous person, and despite his low vitality at the end, those around him were

surprised by his perseverance.

He is predeceased by his father Ivan, father-in-law Clarence Martodam and mother-in-law Ione Martodam, sister Jeanie and husband Joseph, nephews Kent and Joshua, and brothers in law Lee, Marty, Ted and Ken.

A celebration of Orville's life will be held on August 21st, 2020, when family and friends can meet and honour his life. Details will be shared closer to the date.

Condolences may be left for the family at www.cochranecountry-funeralhome.com Ph: 403-932-1039.

Mary Schira

MARY SCHIRA

June 1st, 1924 – June 12th, 2020

Mary Elizabeth Schira, aged 96, died peacefully on June 12, 2020 at Battlefords Union Hospital in North Battleford, Sk. Mary was born on June 1st, 1924, in Hercegfalva, Hungary, first child of Theresa (Tell) Botzang and Frank Botzang.

Mary thoroughly enjoyed painting, gardening and cooking. She learned to cook at an early age,

and we all loved her ability to create new dishes often using her imagination. Despite her hectic schedule, family and friends were Mary's passion and delight.

In 1946, Mary married the love of her life Steve Schira, when he returned from WWII. In addition to being a farm wife and raising their five children, Mary took art classes from 1977 to 1981. She won awards for gardening and painting.

Mary was pre-deceased by her husband Steve, her parents Theresa and Frank, brother Frank, sisters Barbara and Theresa, and great-grandson Brett.

MARY IS LOVINGLY REMEMBERED BY: Her children: Ray (Dianne) of Kelowna, BC, Jim (Della) of Spiritwood, SK, Frank (Deb) of Shell Lake, SK, Diane (George) of Saskatoon, SK, Ken (Bernice) of Vermilion, AB,

11 grandchildren: Lisa (Mike), Rae (Murray), Rodney, Tracy (Wyman), Twila (Lorne), Kyla, Shawna (Kirby), Bradley, Tyler, Vicki (Jesse), and Shandra (Clem), 19 great-grandchildren, her brother, Nick and a number of other relatives and close friends.

The family wishes to thank all of those who cared for her during her last illness.

There will be a private graveside service for immediate family members at the Spiritwood Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be sent in her name to Rose Gill Lodge Resident Fund, Rabbit Lake, SK. Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit www.beaulacfuneralhome.com Family has entrusted Lori Saam, Beau "Lac" Funeral Home Ltd, Spiritwood, 306-883-3500.

Maureen May Sommerfeld

Maureen May
Sommerfeld

Maureen May Sommerfeld, age 82, passed away peacefully the morning of June 12, 2020. Born December 2, 1937 in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, to John (Jack) and Marsella Riddell, Maureen grew up as a prairie girl alongside her brother Jack and sister Betty.

Maureen was a selfless caring person who embraced life. She was kind and welcoming, but also able to draw on an Irish fierceness when the need arose. Family was central for Maureen, and she was a pillar of support and love for her children and husband.

As a master of hearth and home Maureen loved the art of cooking and baking, sewing, knitting, gardening and horticulture. In later years she enjoyed quilt making and was a proud member of the High River Quilting Guild. She was actively involved in the community, helping establish the first Kindergarten in her community in Calgary, and was an active Girl Guide leader. Maureen as a member of the Independent Order of Foresters also enjoyed many years of curling. Maureen worked as a secretary in the law office of John Diefenbaker, later she worked in the Bank and then a number of years at the Calgary Board of Education in the Library with elementary children, which she really enjoyed.

These words of Proverbs (31:27-28) are very fitting tribute to Maureen "She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her."

Maureen is survived by her loving husband Alfred, daughter Rondi Sommerfeld Newman, son Mark Sommerfeld, grandson Garrett Newman, granddaughter Jasmine (Michael) Nicholson, and great granddaughter Iona Nicholson, and sister Betty Inkster. She is also survived by her son-in-law Garry Newman and daughter-in-law Tamara Sommerfeld, and many nephews and nieces.

Outdoor service June 17, 2020 at 11:00am at the Highwood Cemetery in High River Alberta. Followed by a luncheon (boxed lunch) at the High River Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, by invite to control size of gathering. Donations can be made in Maureen Sommerfeld's name to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 910-12th Ave SW, High River AB, T1V 1B1. To express condolences please visit www.snodgrassfuneralhomes.com Com Arrangements in care of Snodgrass funeral Homes Ltd. (High River) 403 652 2222.

PRAISE & WORSHIP

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

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Re-opening delayed until further notice. Follow us on Facebook at St. John's Lutheran Church, Shellbrook/Zion Lutheran Church, Canwood. Live-stream worship service Sundays - 9:00 a.m. Rev. Emmanuel Aristide

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306-747-7235
Shellbrook (starting Sun., June 21) Sun., 9:30 a.m. & 11 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

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Leask 306-466-4498
Marcelin 306-226-4615

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Rev. Katherine Bretzlaff

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN

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Pastor Chris Dean

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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

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306-469-2258
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Pastor Bill Klumpenhower

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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.
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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the estate of CHARLES H. BATHER, late of Canwood, in the Province of Saskatchewan, deceased. All claims against the above Estate, duly verified by statutory declaration and with particulars and valuation of security held, if any, must be sent to the undersigned before the 15th day of July, 2020. Donna Lovberg, Executor Box 222 Canwood, SK S0J 0K0 2-25C

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S	E	L	V	T	E	H	V	H	V	S		
V	O	I	H	E	S	E	S	I	O	H	E	X
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Time is on the sign
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CATHOLIC SUNDAY

Spiritwood - 11:15 a.m.
Leoville - 9:30 a.m.
Chitek Lake - Closed for
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SATURDAY
Medstead - 6 p.m.
Shell Lake - Closed for the
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Father Peter Nnanga MSP

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Shell Lake - Sun. 10 am
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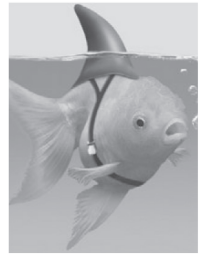
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Living Sky School Division recognizes our
AWESOME
Students

The LSSD Hall of Fame began in 2009 as a way to recognize high achieving high school students. It is the highest honour presented to a student based on outstanding accomplishments in academics, arts and culture/practical & applied arts, athletics, special projects and to individuals who have inspired others through their actions in school-based activities and/or in the community

The Living Sky School Division Board of Education congratulates the
2020 Student Hall of Fame Recipients
from Leoville, Medstead and Spiritwood

Spiritwood High School

Academics (Overall average of 90% and above):

Gracie Gaboury, Katelyn Majury-Pauls, Danielle Poulin, Avery Salisbury, Syjer Asuncion, Emma Beaulac, Kyle Brewer, Cairah Cabase, Shayla Chaykowski, Sara Francoeur, Jaida Jones, Joseph Laguyo, Caley Lehouillier, Aleah McNabb, Kolbie Parker, Hunter Peterson, Kahle Salisbury, Kylie Salisbury, Amber Simonar, Olivia Woytiuk, Olivia Parker, Amy Lafond

School Administration: Susan Fry, Principal; Sandy Emke-Kish, Vice Principal

Athletics (Provincial placement of gold, silver or bronze medal and/or receive the SHSAA Sportsmanship Award or Battle West Sportsmanship Award):

Senior Golf - Provincial Bronze Medal:

Brooklin Fry

Senior Golf Team - Provincial Silver Medal:

Brooklin Fry, Sara Francoeur, Jaida Jones, Jodi Myszczyzyn (McLurg High)

Senior Mixed Curling - Provincial Gold Medal:

Dalton Wasden – Skip, Emma Beaulac – Third, Owen Beaulac – Second, Olivia Parker – Lead

Golf Coach: Brad Nemish

Curling Coaches: Brad Nemish & Jason Reddekopp

Inspiration Award (An individual who has inspired others through their actions in school-based activities and/or in the community. They may inspire others through their leadership, giving of their time to others, or through exemplary attendance at school.):

Payge Galambos & Jaida Jones – Organized a tribute for Sports Week that included a video with interviews of students and staff about the importance that being involved in sport has played in their lives.

Staff Advisor: Megan Nemish

Shayla Chaykowski and Emma Beaulac - Organized a Remembrance Day program and it was the first time in Spiritwood's history that all three schools and community members were in one building for a Remembrance Day service. Thank you girls for your leadership, caring and cheerful attitude.

Staff Advisor: Deon Nordstrom

Samuel Burak - Samuel finds simple ways to brighten everyone's day. He gives genuine compliments, engages in conversation with everyone, and loves giving high fives. His attendance is very good, almost 100%.

Staff Advisor: Megan Nemish

Leoville Central School

Academics (Overall average of 90% and above):

Hadley Benson, Carli Cooling, Hayley Harris, Kayla Judge, Jayla McKelley-Scott, Carter Fee

School Administration: Adrian Poirier, Principal; Scott Haggarty, Vice Principal

Medstead Central School

Academics (Overall average of 90% and above):

Myles Harms, Gracie Hundt, Cain Klassen, Shaylin Knot, Cale Shiell, Paris Starr, Sarah Bagen, Emily Gatzke, Calvin Klassen, Jaelyn Kroeker, Thomas Martens, Ryann Short, Hanna Dzialo-Hansen, Sara Edwards, Jenae Knot, Madison Kohl, Brody Siemens

School Administration: Greg Knot, Principal; Stacy Hill, Vice Principal

Athletics (Provincial placement of gold, silver or bronze medal and/or receive the SHSAA Sportsmanship Award or Battle West Sportsmanship Award):

Sr. Girls Volleyball – Bronze Medal:

Emily Gatzke, Ryann Short, Kelsey Locke, Madelynn Wouters, Paris Starr, Hanna Dzialo-Hansen, Gracie Hundt, Rio Wiebe, Shaylin Knot, Reece Janzen, Jaelyn Kroeker, Sara Edwards, Austyn Hundt

Coaches: Kelly Schneider, Shawna Schira-Kroeker

Inspiration Award (An individual who has inspired others through their actions in school-based activities and/or in the community. They may inspire others through their leadership, giving of their time to others, or through exemplary attendance at school.):

Sara Edwards - Sara's energetic, positive and spirited personality draws others to her. She was captain of the volleyball team this year and proceeded to volunteer her time to coach the elementary volleyball kids when her season ended. She also helped lead the SLC. Sara displays commitment in everything she does.

Staff Advisor: Stacy Hill

We want to acknowledge and thank parents, caregivers and families. Our students could not achieve and succeed without your encouragement and support. To the school staffs who teach, mentor, support, coach, help and inspire our students every day, we owe you a deep debt of gratitude and thanks.



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