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Thursday, January 19, 2023

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Spiritwood High School stages Christmas comedies



The Spiritwood High School Junior Drama crew staged two Christmas-themed productions at the Spiritwood Civic Centre on Jan. 13. The cast and crew, back row, left to right: Cairo Demencuik-Angus, Janaya Thomas, Arrianna Scott, Katherine Follack, Mia Haryung, Rylee Price, and Ciara Conacher. Front row, left to right: Cia Demencuik-Angus, Summer Carlson, Abby Swistun, Emilie Gray, and Quinn Williams.

By NATASHA CABASE Spiritwood Herald Reporter

The Spiritwood High School Junior Drama crew presented two short comedies as part of a show entitled *Friday the 13th Freaky Flashback to Christmas 2022* on Jan. 13. The show was held at the Spiritwood Civic Centre at 7 p.m., with desserts and beverages served during the event.

The two short comedies, entitled *The Elf's Rebellion* and *Gangsta Claus*, were written by Don Zolidis and come from Billy Shakespeare's Christmas Extravaganza and Travelling Freak Show.

Most of the students who appeared in the productions were in Grades 7 and 8, except for two who were in Grade 10.

For *The Elf's Rebellion*, characters were played by Emilie Gray as Dipsy, Abby Swistun as Doodle, Summer Carlson as Sid, Cia Demencuik-Angus as Santa, Quinn Williams as the girl, and Ciara Conacher, Mia Haryung, Katherine Follack, and Rylee Price as the Oompa Loompas.

For *Gangsta Claus*, characters were played by Arrianna Scott as Mrs. Claus, Cairo Demencuik-Angus as Rudy, Janaya Thomas as Santa, Cia Demencuik-Angus as Paco, and Quinn Williams

as the Clerk.

The shows were directed by Mrs. Swistun, Ms. Petersen, Mr. Demencuik, and Mrs. MacFarlane, and the tech crew was composed of the actors and directors themselves.

Although the original plan was to put on both productions before Christmas, the drama crew ran into some issues with kids being out sick. There were also days where the weather didn't cooperate, resulting in buses being cancelled and the time for rehearsals being limited.

The crew was also hoping to film the production and have it streamed, but it turned out to be a too complicated pro-

cess for them. And there was also a senior play in the works, but for many of the same reasons, the club just couldn't get enough practice in.

Nevertheless, all four directors said that they were very excited and proud of their group, and that it felt great to perform at the Civic Centre again.

Moreover, the drama crew will be putting together another play that will be going to the Drama Festival by the end of March this year. The crew plans to start rehearsals at the beginning of the second semester (Jan. 31), as right now Grade 10 to 12 students are busy working on final projects and studying for the final exams.



Variety Night raises \$5,569 for Battlefords church

By JORDAN TWISS Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Whether they're operating the regional food bank or helping out families with other needs. churches in Shellbrook and the surrounding area are vital pillars of support in the communities they serve.

On Saturday night, the Shellbrook Pentecostal Assembly turned its gaze beyond the community, supporting North Battleford's Life Church (formerly known as Emmanuel Pentecostal Assembly) in its quest to

purchase or build a new church for its fellowship, by hosting a variety night and silent auction fundraiser.

Performers on the evening included, Pastor Paul Israelson, D'Anne Mullin, Lesli, Hazel, and Willow Bodvarson, Pastor John Slemming (a reading), Marlene Bodyarson and Marlene Smart, Pastor Ches Jacobs, Carl Crane, the Battleford Band, featuring Kent Slemming, and Madison, Oliviah, Moriah, Bronson, and Octavia Hemmerling, and Pastor Dale and Jackie Bragg.

With a strong showing of support from local and area churches, the Shellbrook Pentecostal Assembly was packed with people and auction prizes donated by individuals and businesses, raising \$5,569.75 for the Life Church's Capital Fund. Of this total, \$1,216 was raised through the silent auction, with the remaining \$4,353.75 coming from personal donations (and more expected to trickle in over the next couple of days).

"It really warmed my heart," Pastor Dave Bodvarson of the Shellbrook Pentecostal Assembly said. "The longer I pastor, the more I want to be a kingdom builder, not just of our own little patch or vineyard, but to think a little bit broader. It really warmed my heart to see people come."

Bodvarson added Variety Night organizers, from left to right: Pastor Lorne and Donna Valuck,

Pastor Brian Lane, Pastor Paul and Tammy Israelson, Pastor Bob Wrench, Pastor Kevin and D'Anne Mullin, Pastor Ches Jacobs, Pastor John and Susie Slemming, Duncan and Debbie Hemmerling, and Pastor David and Marlene Bodvarson.

that such fundraisers wouldn't be successful without people to organize and support them.

"It takes an army of people who are willing to work together. It's an effort that everyone should get credit for."

For Pastor Bodvarson

and his wife, Marlene, the cause of the Life Church is a little closer to home than one might expect given the distance between Shellbrook and North Battleford. Pastored by Kevin Mullin, and his wife D'Anne, the Life Church is the congregation attended by Dave and Marlene's son daughter-in-law, and their children.

Through conversations, Pastor Bodvarson learned that the congregation had sold its original building and acquired an old convent. Unfortunately, this presented challenges, forcing the congregation to rent a worship space.

"Over the years, they just didn't seem to be able to grow into it," he said. "Pastor Kevin came in from Ontario with a fresh vision to get rid of the building and start new."

Though Pastor Bodvarson learned of the Life Church's situation through his family connection to it, he says what most inspired him to help was his own experiences while he and Marlene were pastoring in Saskatoon. During this time, they were pastoring a Native Church near the city's much larger Elim Church. One Saturday, members of the Elim Church congregation offered their support to the Bodvarsons and their congregation by painting the church for them.

"They just said they were going to come do it for us. They knew it was a need," Pastor Bodvarson said. "I thought why can't we do something like that? I was so glad that the Shellbrook leadership said, 'Let's do it. We can do it with the Lord's help."



Carl Crane (left) accompanies Pastor Ches Jacobs on a pair of songs.

Thank You

Thank you to all the volunteers who gathered the food and helped pack the 2022 Christmas Hampers. There were 44 hampers in total, which helped 68 adults and 76 children for a total of 144 individuals. The hampers this year were very generous and the support was overwhelming. Thanks to everyone who contributed in any way, large or small, in helping to make this Christmas a little brighter for those in need, to receive some love and support.

Shellbrook and Area Ministerial Association

Lesli Bodvarson leads her daughters, Hazel and Willow, in a rendition of "Amazing Grace."

Request for Contractor Equipment Rates

The RM of Big River No. 555 is requesting contractors interested in doing work for the RM on an "as need basis" to submit their equipment list along with their 2023 rates to:

RM of Big River No. 555

PO Box 219, BIG RIVER, SK SOJ 0E0

Email: rm555@rmofbigriver.ca

The list shall be accompanied by a letter of good standing with WCB and proof of liability insurance of no less than 3 million dollars applicable to their

Contractors doing work for the municipality are required to be compliant with the Saskatchewan Employment Act and the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 1996.

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 199 of the Planning and Development Act, 2007 for the sale of dedicated lands.

INTENT

The proposed bylaw will allow for the sale of a municipal reserve parcel with the sale proceeds to be deposited to the dedicated lands account for future expenditures on other dedicated lands.

AFFECTED LANDS

All that Municipal Reserve in Block MR4, Plan 102067635 as shown within the bold line on the following map.

REASON

The reason for the sale is to allow existing and proposed uses not currently permitted on lands designated municipal reserve.

PUBLIC INSPECTION

Any person may inspect the bylaw at the RM Office on any judicial day between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING

Council will hold a public hearing on February 13th, 2023 in the Big River Community Centre at 606 First Street North, Big River, SK at 10:00 a.m. Council will also consider written comments received at the hearing or delivered to the undersigned at the municipal office before the hearing.

Issued at Big River this 19th day of January, 2023.

Michael Yuzik Administrator



Shellbrook seniors ring in the new year

By JORDAN TWISS Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The Shellbrook Senior's Association invited the community to ring in the new year with it, when it hosted its Welcome 2023 Tea at the Shellbrook Senior Citizen's Centre on Saturday, Ian 14

The event was a brand-new idea for the local club, which is hoping to shake things up with new fundraisers and get back on solid financial footing after two years of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions left it struggling to cover the costs associated with operating and maintaining the senior's centre.

For a club of people who enjoy socializing and being active in the community, it was also an effort to bring more seniors into the fold, and grow the group beyond its current roster of about 45 members.

"The seniors used to have a lot more people come out to their card days. Over COVID, people adjusted. They're still playing cards, but sometimes they play at home or in very small groups," Shellbrook Senior's Association secretary Lorraine Thibeault said.

"A lot of the activities, similar to oth-

er groups, slowed down and we have to build up again. That's a struggle for us, because [it means] the hall's not being used as much."

As its name suggests, the Welcome 2023 Tea invited guests to socialize, sip some tea, and indulge in some delicious homemade goodies prepared by Senior's Association members. The event also included some special touches, such as place settings with optimistic quotes for the new year, and a board providing a look back at the significant events and deaths in 2022.

Guests were also invited to make a wish for Shellbrook for 2023 and put it in a time capsule. The capsule was sealed up after the Welcome 2023 Tea, and will be opened next year when the Senior's Association holds a Welcome 2024 event.

"It seemed like it went well, with everyone chatting and enjoying it," Thibeault said of the event, noting that the only way to improve it would have been to have more people come out.

As 2023 gets under way in earnest, Thibeault says she's hoping more seniors will start coming out to the Senior's Association events, and that the club will introduce more variety to its calendar of activities, like the Welcome 2023 Tea and upcoming 50/50 Bingos. She and other members are also hopeful for opportunities to get out, travel, and meet with senior's groups in other communities, like it did prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Beyond this, Thibeault says the club is also looking for ways it can give back to the community.

"Seniors are important because of all the things they did before this time. They built up the community, and they still participate in many other organizations and community events," she said. "They have a lot to give."

Recently, the Shellbrook Senior's Association formed a Service Committee. Its first project will be participating in

Valentines for Vets, an initiative run by Veterans Affairs Canada in which people are invited to send valentines to veterans in long-term care.

Looking ahead, the committee is also planning to take part in the YWCA's Homeward Bound initiative, which takes in donations of items for the homeless, collecting jeans for a group of quilters in Prince Albert who make quilts for the homeless, and gathering Christmas and Easter cards to send to inmates in the Prince Albert Penitentiary as the appropriate holidays come around.

"I'm considered one of the younger seniors, but I'm learning lots from the older members. They still have a lot to give," Thibeault reiterated.



A small group of guests gathered at the Shellbrook Senior Citizen's Centre on Saturday afternoon, as the Senior's Association rang in the new year with a Welcome 2023 Tea.

Online auctions for SLGA Retail Inc. permits set to begin Feb. 6

The auctions to sell the permits associated with SLGA Retail Inc. stores will begin Feb. 6. The auctions will be staggered, with the final auctions beginning Feb. 15.

"This is the next step in the process as we transition to a fully private liquor retail system," Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority Lori Carr said. "An online auction format is being used to ensure that permits are sold efficiently and transparently."

Auctions will be held on https://mcdougallauction.com/new in real time. Interested bidders must preregister and pay a \$5,000 deposit

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to participate in an auction. The auctions are for the permits only – there are no buildings, fixtures or inventory included in the sale. The winning bidder must also meet all terms associated with holding a retail store permit.

Once the auctions associated with SLGA Retail Inc. permits wrap up, auctions will be held

for communities that qualify for an additional permit under SLGA's population matrix, if someone has expressed interest in the permit. These auctions were suspended during the pandemic.

Please see the attached backgrounder for specific auction dates and other additional information or visit *slga.com*.





With a tough year ahead, empathy will be the key

Every political or social movement needs a slogan, a word or a phrase that clearly and emphatically states its cause and energizes its mem-

From Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous "I have a dream" speech in the 1960s, to the "We are the 99%" chant of the Occupy Wall Street movement in the early 2010s, there's no shortage of examples to choose from. And the proliferation of social media and hashtags has only en-

sured these slogans become enduring pieces of our society.

In 2017, #MeToo shone a spotlight on the dark underbelly of Hollywood and the sexual harassment of women by men in positions of power. The movement quickly grew beyond this context, giving girls and women from all walks of life the platform and the courage to speak out about their own experiences.

While imperfect, #MeToo has undoubtedly changed the way we discuss and frame the topic of sexual harassment and rape. Progress still needs to be made, however, especially when it comes to the acknowledgement that men can be victims too.

Around the same time as #MeToo, the Black Lives Matter movement emerged as a response to the disproportionate violence black people face in their interactions with law enforcement. Out of this movement, the term "white privilege" emerged and became the topic of much heated debate.

Of course, much like Newton's third law of physics, for every political or social movement, there is an equal and opposite political or social movement.

Thus, we have seen the rise of All Lives Matter, and the coining of the term "cancel culture," which serves as a criticism of society's seeming shift to condemn those accused of wrongdoing in the court of social opinion, before they are found guilty in a court of law.

There's no doubt that, in our attempt to swing society's pendulum towards equality and justice, it has at times swung too far (and at others, it hasn't struggling despite their best efforts. swung enough).



Twiss News Editor

If you've been browsing the

tend with.

news or scrolling through your social media newsfeeds of late, you've likely seen a lot of the term "nepo baby" (short for nepotism baby) in recent weeks. The latest term in the encyclopedia of societal injustices is all about recognizing that certain people have a leg-up on others by virtue of being born into better

But before we can right the

pendulum's arc, there's yet

another new slogan to con-

circumstances.

Though we'd all like to cling to the American Dream, and the notion that everyone has equal opportunity to succeed so long as they put in the work, the claim that we live in a meritocracy isn't and never has been based in reality.

Case in point, the appointment of Delphine Arnault as CEO and chair of luxury fashion house Dior. Ms. Arnault is the daughter of Bernard Arnault, the world's richest person and the CEO of Dior's parent company.

While Ms. Arnault has built her own resume in fashion, her path to the pinnacle of the industry was without a doubt paved by her connections – connections that an individual who grew up in a single parent home will never have, regardless of how much hard work and dedication they pour into their career of choice.

Should those born into advantageous circumstances be condemned for using them to get ahead? Certainly not.

But it's important to recognize that hard work is not the only factor that determines one's standing in life.

None of this is to offer an excuse for those who choose not to advance their station and instead rely on government handouts (though, the cost to support these people surely pales in comparison to the billions lost to unpaid taxes, and corporate subsidies and tax breaks).

The purpose of the "nepo baby" conversation is – or should be – to raise awareness, and, more importantly, foster empathy for those who may be

Inequality will always exist. But the



fact that Elon Musk can lose \$182 billion in net worth and only fall to second place in the standings of the world's richest people, while more than 40 per cent of the global population scrapes by on less than \$5.50 per day, is mind-bog-

For many, 2022 was a difficult year. A sucker punch after two years of hardships caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As inflation gradually cools and interest rates climb, there's plenty of reason to believe that 2023 will be a year of things getting worse before they get better – especially if the economists who predicted Canada would hit a mild recession this year are proven correct.

Just last week, for instance, Scotiabank's CEO said as many as 20,000 customers could be vulnerable to defaulting on their mortgages, and countless others will have to make adjustments to their spending if they want to

Meanwhile, in Saskatchewan, families can expect to continue paying more at the grocery store throughout 2023.

According to Sylvain Charlebois, the director of the Agri-Food Analytics Lab at Dalhousie University, food prices first half of the year.

"For an average family of four, we're expecting that food bill to increase by about \$1,000, which is the largest increase we've ever predicted in 13 years," Mr. Charlebois said.

Currently, food inflation in Canada is pegged at 10.3 per cent, which, according to Mr. Charlebois, means the country is faring well in relation to the rest of the world (only Japan has a lower food inflation rate).

Even still, a newly released Statistics Canada report offers important insight into how prices for some food items have soared.

For example, beef striploin cuts cost \$22.41 per kilogram in July 2022, before jumping up to \$26.93 per kilogram in November. In the same time frame, the price of lettuce doubled, forcing some restaurants in Saskatchewan to take salads off the menu or eat the increased costs.

In the absence of further supports from the provincial and federal governments, many of us will be asked to make difficult decisions about what we can do without in the coming weeks

This year, more than any year before it, needs to be a year of empathy and could rise five to seven per cent in the togetherness. For we are all stronger when we work as one.

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Governor general's extravagance must be contained

By FRANCO TERRAZZANO

CTF Director

In a rare show of unity, members of Parliament from all parties are angrily demanding answers about sky-high expenses racked up by Governor General Mary Simon and her team.

Curiously, Rideau Hall's rebuttal is essentially that the expenses are "not very extravagant." [Emphasis added].

MPs haven't bought that line since the moment the National Post broke the story about Simon and her entourage racking up nearly six figures on airplane food during a week-long trip to the Middle East.

Yet, government bureaucrats remain committed to misleadingly downplaying the wasteful spending and offering half-measures rather than meaningful reforms.

Here's a few examples of how Simon and her bureaucrats misled Canadians:

Simon said the "meals are not very extravagant on these trips" and "they're pretty much like airline meals."

At a Parliamentary committee, Simon's deputy secretary said the costs "were really shocking" because "we had eggs, we had omelettes."

The bureaucrats tasked with trotting the vice-regal around the globe repeatedly told the committee that they could not provide the in-flight catering receipts.

Here's the problem with their tale: the lost receipts were already found by the Canadian Taxpayers Federation. And the Post published the contents.

Yes, they had omelettes. But the omelettes came with "boursin cheese, sliced chives and sundried tomatoes, side of grilled artisan pork sausages and sauteed button mushrooms."

The flight menus included "beef Wellington with red jus" and "pan fried chicken scallopini in creamy mushroom wine reduction sauce." Buttery chicken tikka masala, apple and cranberry stuffed pork tenderloin, beef carpaccio and about \$190 worth of "VIP sliced fruit" were also on the menus. That's not exactly "like airline meals" that most Canadians are accustomed to, as Simon claimed.

After being dragged back to committee, the bureaucrats promised to reduce future flight costs. They say they will reduce meal options, limit special requests and offer "minimal" snacks.

"Drink garnishes will be eliminated from service," the government's chief of protocol Stewart Wheeler told the committee. No drinks with a twist? Oh, the sacrifice.

But that's too little, too late. MPs need to push for real change. Here are real reforms that can make that happen.

First, all receipts must be posted online and Rideau Hall should be subject to transparency legislation. As the Post explained, "the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General is not subject to access-to-information requests." That needs to change. Perhaps bureaucrats would think twice about splurging on beef Wellington if they knew taxpayers will inevitably see the bill?

Second, politicians should push for budget cuts. That's how a serious government would deal with frivolous spending. If bureaucrats have so much money that they can blow nearly \$100,000 on in-flight catering, then

Rideau Hall doesn't need \$34 million from taxpayers every year.

But here's what happening now. Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland just released her mid-year budget update. It shows that in just seven months, Freeland was already on track to spend \$20 billion over budget. What incentive is there for a bureaucrat to pass up beef Wellington when they know their budget is only going up?

Third, MPs need to shine a light on all government travel.

"This visit was in line with similar costs for high-level visits of this nature," said Wheeler.

That's an attempt to defend the misspending. But it's an indictment of the major problem.

Someone in the Trudeau government billed taxpayers \$6,000 per night for a single hotel room during the Queen's funeral. The government could've saved money by booking the Four Seasons, the Langham, the Savoy or the Shangri La.

Canada sent 276 delegates to COP26 in Glasgow in November 2021. Canada sent more delegates than any other G7 country, including the host United Kingdom.

Contrary to popular opinion in the capital, taxpayers aren't unlimited pools of cash. Canadians work very hard for the money they earn and the taxes they pay. Politicians must show respect for taxpayers by forcing bureaucrats to cut the extravagance.

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Over \$1 million dollars will be invested in 62 communities through the Provincial Traffic Safety Fund Grant to support traffic safety initiatives. A total of 557 community traffic safety projects have been funded since the Provincial Traffic Safety Fund was established in 2019.

Applications are open for the next round of funding; the deadline to apply is March 31, 2023. For more information, visit SGI's website: *sgi.sk.ca/community-grants-programs*.





Spiritwood U9 team tops two Edam teams

By NATASHA CABASE Spiritwood Herald Reporter

The Spiritwood U9 Timberwolves team started off the year right, by winning over two Edam teams on Jan. 8 in S.T.E.P. Hockey League action hosted at the Spiritwood Arena.

The Spiritwood U9 team was composed of Marshal Wingerter, Keatley Aumack, William Buswell, Huxley Kotun, Heath St. John, Sayge Lehouillier, Payten Caffet, River Andrews, Cameron Gaboury, Charli Caffet and goalie Aidan Smolinski. The Team was supported by coach Kendall Gaboury, assistant coach Jeff Caffet, and manager Stacey Gaboury.

On the other hand, the first Edam team, called the Edam 3 U9 Stars, was composed of Kimberly Lascelle, Thomas LaClare, Arie LaClare, Gavin Li, Austin Blaquiere, Bentley Corbeil-Craig, Jason Lascelle, Rylee Baillargeon, Jax Wellin and goalie Kayden Siegel. The team was

supported by their coaches Gilbert La-Clare and Chris Blaquiere, and manager Rachel Lascelle.

During the first period between Spiritwood and the first Edam team, Spiritwood scored 13 goals while Edam scored 9.

On the Spiritwood side, River Andrews was able to get the most points, scoring four, while Huxley Kotun and William Buswell got three points each. Heath St. John garnered two points, and Payten Caffet had one.

For Edam, Thomas LaClare, Austin Blaquiere and Arie LaClare accumulated two points each, while Rylee Baillargeon, Gavin Li, and Jax Wellin got one.

In the second period, Spiritwood garnered another seven points, while Edam scored just three, leaving the game with a final score of 20-12 in Spiritwood's favour.

Referees for the game were Corbin Wingerter and Logan Fisher. Stacey Gaboury was the official scorekeeper.

The next game saw the same players take the ice for Spiritwood, this time with Sayge Lehouillier in goal.

Meanwhile, the second Edam team was composed of Wyatt Grant, Ty Weitzel, Bree Svojanovski, Brooks Weitzel, Barrett Roach, Maddox Gateley, Jayden Collins, Noah Weber and goalie Jase Esquirol. This team was supported by coach Kyle Esquirol, assisted by Trevor Gateley and managed by Melissa Weitzel.

In the first period, the Spiritwood team outscored its opponents by a tally of 6-3. And in a busier second period, Spiritwood scored 10 goals to Edam's 6, ending the game with a 16-9 victory.

Coach Kendall Gaboury said that Edam is always a strong hockey community and that beating them is always a good feeling.



The Spiritwood U9 Timberwolves faced off against two Edam teams on Sunday, Jan. 8.



Spiritwood U9 Timberwolves players take it easy in the dressing room.

Big River 4-H donates to Debden seniors

Submitted by JENNIFER LEHOUILLIER

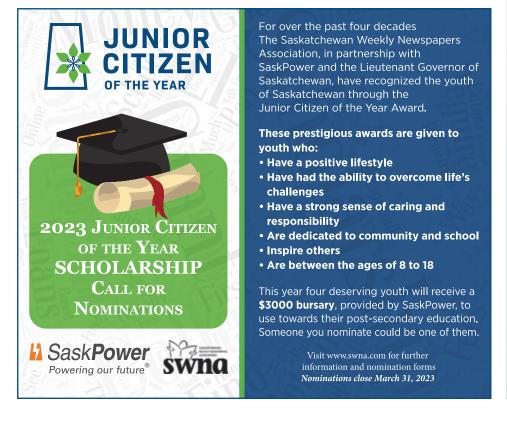
The Big River 4-H Multiple Club members gathered Nov. 20 to do some baking, as one of their Creative Combinations activities. From there, they decided they would sell the baking and with funds raised they would purchase some gifts for the residents of the Debden Heritage Manor.

The bake sale was a success, raising \$530 after expenses. With the funds, members were able to purchase a stationary under the desk pedal bike, a stationary arm exercise machine, laundry baskets, an electric frying pan, and exercise bands.

All items were well received by the residents and staff.



Big River 4-H group leaders, Heritage manor staff and residents, and 4-H group members gathered as the 4-H donated a number of items to the long-term care home. Back row, left to right: Angela, Candis, Jessica, and Niki. Middle row: Eva, Rose, Viola, and Joy. Front row: Alix, Merris, Caybrie, Kassidy, and Londynn.



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Ag sector's great questions have no simple answers

When it comes to the environment, the poor cow has become one animal that is much maligned as being a problem.

Those who oppose eating meat, or basically using animals at all, can give you plenty of 'reasons' the cow should be on an environmental wanted poster. But as in most things, when a group with an agenda offers up opinions, it might be best taken with a grain or two of salt.

And yes, that includes checking what farm groups have to say.

We have a powerful tool called the Internet at our

disposal these days, which allows us access to any information we could desire. We should use it (carefully, because the Internet also contains plenty of misinformation) when determining how we feel about important issues such as the environment.

Look around. Check who is saying what, and cross reference things until you feel confident you can boil it all down to an informed decision.

So up front, reading this weekly column, you have to remember: having grown up on a mixed farm in Saskatchewan, and having



covered the farm sector for more than three decades, I am generally pro farming.

That said, of course there are things that can be done better in farming, and how cattle are managed is one area that agriculture always needs to be striving for better options in terms of protecting the environment.

But even as it is, there are a number of overlooked positives about cattle – you can lump sheep and goats in the following too.

For example, a recent www.producer.com article looked at grasslands, in particular native prairie and its role in preventing climate change.

"Climate change is happening and that's because of carbon in the atmosphere," said Cameron Carlyle, associate professor of rangeland ecology at the University of Alberta in the article. "Globally, rangelands hold 30 percent of soil carbon."

Take away cattle, sheep, goats and similar farm stock, and at least a chunk of those grasslands go under cultivation to grow grain, even though often it is marginal land better suited to growing grass.

You may also have noticed some recent social media posts pointing to how leather is a sustainable option with varied purposes

The reality is leather is an alternative for oil-based products, including plastics such as PVC and polyester and it is also a renewable material.

We should all be aware of just how massive an issue in terms of the environment plastics are. They basically never degrade in landfills, and our oceans have become dumping grounds with ocean life suffering as a result.

Sometimes we need to think of things with a broader lens. Cattle have issues, but there are positives to be considered too.

So, maybe it's time to go back to the Internet to research all the facts before vilifying or championing the cow.

Governments invest \$17.6 million in crop research

Canada's Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Marie-Claude Bibeau and Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister David Marit have announced total funding of \$17.6 million today for crop-related research in 2023.

Invested through Saskatchewan's Agriculture Development Fund (ADF), the announcement includes \$10.3 million for 49 research projects, as well as \$7.2 million in operational support over the next five years for the Crop Development Centre (CDC) in Saskatoon. Since being established in 1971, the CDC - a research organization with the Department of Plant Sciences at the University of Saskatchewan - has released over 500 commercial crop varieties in over 40 different crop types.

"Saskatchewan is a consistent and reliable supplier of agriculture products to today's growing and constantly changing global market, and investments like these enable us to be ready for the market of tomorrow," Marit said. "Encouraging this kind of research and innovation is the first step to staying competitive. Staying competitive means Saskatchewan producers can and will remain the best there is at what they do – sustainably feeding the world."

Examples of the individual research projects being funded include exploring the diversity of Fusarium root to species infecting pulse crops, insect response to climate change and ag inputs across the prairies, economic salinity remediation strategies for agriculture water using innovative desalinization minerals and a nutritionally balanced pulse-oilseed protein-based beverage.

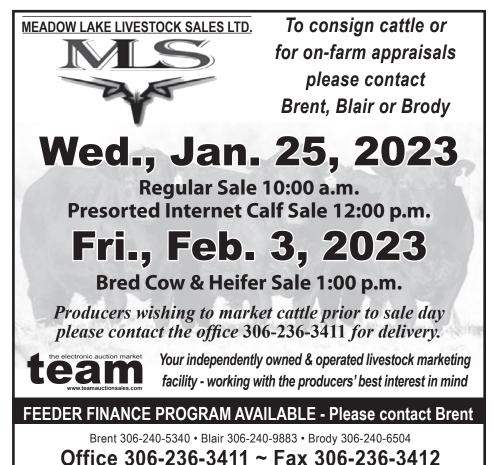
An additional \$4.6 million was contributed in support of this year's research projects by the following Saskatchewan-based industry partners: Saskatchewan Barley Development Commission, Saskatchewan Canola Development Commission, Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission, Prairie Oat Growers Association, Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association, Saskatchewan Pulse Growers, Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission, and Western Grains Research Foundation.

Each year, on a competitive basis, the ADF awards support to projects focusing on research with the potential to create growth opportunities for provincial agriculture producers and enhance the sustainability and competitiveness of the industry in Saskatchewan. This annual investment helps generate new knowledge, information and technologies for producers and food processors, such as feed and nutrition information for ranchers and new crop cultivars and production information for farmers.

"For over 50 years, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture has been a strong

supporter of the Crop Development Centre," Director at the University of Saskatchewan's Crop Development Centre Dr. Curtis Pozniak said. "The renewed investment announced today reaffirms the provinces' commitment to the CDC's mission to improve the profitability of western Canadian producers and to our continued vision of being a world-class crop improvement organization."

The ADF is supported through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a five-year, \$3 billion investment by federal, provincial and territorial governments to strengthen the national agriculture and agri-food sector. This includes a \$2-billion commitment that is cost-shared 60 per cent federally and 40 per cent provincially/territorially for programs that are designed and delivered by provinces and territories, with a \$388-million investment in strategic initiatives for Saskatchewan agriculture.



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Highlights of a Shellbrook Town Council meeting

By JORDAN TWISS

Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Shellbrook's Town Council met for its first regular meeting of 2023 in person and via teleconference on Monday, Jan.

In attendance were Mayor Amund Otterson, councillors Larry Batten, Peter Halayka, Cheryl Ledding, Brent Miller, and Kathleen Nording, newly acclaimed councillor Bruce Anderson, and the town's CAO, Kelly Hoare.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Otterson, and council began with its customary recognition of Truth and Reconciliation. Immediately after this, it approved the meeting's agenda, adopted the minutes of its Dec. 12 meeting, and moved on to council's reports.

In a brief PARWU Board update, Mayor Otterson said the board is still awaiting the verdict on its application for an Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) grant. He also shared a recent meeting between the board and the City of Prince Albert, expressing guarded optimism that the city may be willing to negotiate a better price for water.

In a mixed bag of recreation news, Hoare said there have been issues with users not following rules for public skate, adult skate, and shinny programming at the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre. The recreation department is working with user groups to remind users that sticks and pucks are only allowed on the ice for shinny.

Elsewhere, Hoare also detailed a lengthy list of programming and events coming up at the rink, while Councillor Ledding said the new dressing room for the Parkland U18 AA Elks is coming along well and could be used as early as

this Friday

Closing out the reports with the hospital and clinics report, Mayor Otterson shared the good news that the town will be receiving another doctor, who could begin practicing some time in March. However, this good news was somewhat offset by the news that Dr. Adebayo will be leaving the community at the end of January.

Jumping into new business, council began with discussion about the hot water heater system in the zamboni room at the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre. The system recently failed, and council was presented with two options: wait six to eight weeks for parts to repair the system at a cost of \$7,000, or pay \$22,900 (plus tax) for a new and improved system. Noting that the current system has presented issues in the past, council voted to replace it.

Up next, council discussed and approved Policy 4030, the town's Performance Review Policy, which details how employee reviews, including the CAO's review, will be conducted. It then gave first reading to Bylaw 2023-01, the Council Code of Conduct bylaw, and made some revisions to council appointments.

Moving on, council carried a motion to purchase seven additional hours per week for the Shellbrook Library, which will allow it to be open on Saturdays. It also took care of the necessary house-keeping to ensure it is eligible to receive Municipal Revenue Sharing grant money from the province.

Following a lengthy discussion, council decided to include the Rayside School building in an online auction of the Shellbrook Museum's collection scheduled for March 12, with the caveat that the purchaser must move it to free up the land. Though he eventually

voted in favour of the decision, Councillor Miller wondered if it wouldn't be in the town's interest to keep the Rayside School building. Miller noted that the building is in good shape, and that the town would be hard-pressed to replace the current Tourist Booth for less than \$60,000 (the quoted price to move the school and put it on a foundation).

With the most contentious issue of the night out of the way, council took care of more housekeeping items, like authorizing TAXervice to proceed with tax enforcement on a number of properties, writing off tax enforcement charges of \$40 applied to tax rolls for which payments had been made, and writing off a pair of utility accounts, in the amounts of \$113.42 and \$18.71, that have been deemed uncollectable because the individuals moved away long ago.

With nothing further to discuss, council adjourned for the evening.

Shell Lake Legion hosts Christmas Party



Twenty-six members and guests were on hand to enjoy the Shell Lake Legion Branch #15's annual Christmas party. The evening began with a turkey and goose supper, complete with all the trimmings. The group was treated to a selection of desserts. They were then entertained by Patty Heisler, who played and sang Christmas Carols. December's lottery winner was Laura Lee Hatch. Submitted by CAROLYN LALONDE

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, Live-stream worship service on Facebook, Worship Sunday, 9 a.m. Rev. Emmanuel Aristide

PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Parkside
10:30 a.m. Worship
Pastor Lorne Valuck
306-747-3572
Shellbrook
Adult Study
9:30 a.m.
Sun., 10:30 a.m. - Worship
Pastor David Bodvarson
306-747-7235
Canwood
Summer: 10 a.m. - Worship
Pastor Bob Wrench

306-468-2138

Leask Gospel Tabernacle

Sunday 11 a.m.

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

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN Parkside

Parkside 11 a.m. - Worship

ANGLICAN CHURCH Leask - All Saint's

Sunday Service - 9 a.m.
St. Andrew's - Shellbrook
Sunday, 11 a.m. Service
Canwood - Christ Church
Sunday, 2 p.m. - Service
Rev. Wendell Brock
306-460-7696
H.C. Service with Rev.
Brock - 1st Sunday of the
month

MENNONITE RRETHREN CHURC

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

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
Sun. Worship - 11:00 a.m.
(10:30 a.m. June - August)
306-468-2525

UNITED CHURCH Big River

Sundays 10 a.m.. - Worship at Anglican Church Rev. Dave Whalley 306-747-2804

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Debden Sun. Mass - 9:30 a.m. Fr. Mariusz Zajac Sun., 11:30 a.m. - Mass Whitefish Sun., 2:30 p.m. - Mass. Victoire Sat., 7:30 p.m. - Mass. Fr. Mariusz Zajac St. Agatha's - Shellbrook Mass - Sunday 9 a.m. St. Henry's - Leask Mass - Sunday 11 a.m. Mistawasis $1^{\rm st}$ & $3^{\rm rd}$ Sundays 1:30 p.m. Fr. Tuan Doan

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 306-747-3398

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 1:30 p.m. Rev. Sarah Urano

UNITED /ANGLICAN

Worship Services Glaslyn Time is on the sign Rev. Kun Kim Rev. Don Skinner

CATHOLIC SUNDAY

Spiritwood - 11:15 a.m. Leoville - 9:30 a.m. Shell Lake - 2:00 p.m. SATURDAY Medstead - 6 p.m. Everyone Welcome Fr. Ramel Macapala

COWBOY CHURCH

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

LAKELAND COMMUNITY CHURCH

(Corner of 1st Ave. and 4th St., Spiritwood) Sun., 11 am - Worship Service & Sunday School Pastor Michael Kluthe 306-883-2380

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

MENNONITE BRETHREN

Glenbush 10:00 am - Sunday School Worship 10:50 am

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 Liviu Tilihoi 306-747-3398

BELBUTTE FULL GOSPEL

11 am Worship Service

PARTNERS IN WORSHIP

Shell Lake Worship Services Sunday 9:00 a.m. Pastor Sarah Urano 306-841-7333 **By JORDAN TWISS** Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Warning: Story contains details of sexual assaults

A man facing sentencing on 12 counts of sexual assault spanning between 2013 and 2021 has made an application to change his guilty pleas.

Cecil Wolfe, 61, was formally charged with the offences in 2022. According to police, Wolfe was working under the pretext of being a traditional healer or medicine man, when he committed the offences against women from Loon Lake, Blaine Lake, Muskeg Lake Cree Nation, Saskatoon and surrounding areas.

Wolfe initially pleaded guilty to the acts last April, and sentencing began in late October. The sentencing was put on pause in November, however, when Wolfe chose to fire his original lawyer, Loretta Pete-Lambert, and asked to instead be represented by lawyer Harvey Neufeld. No reason was provided in open court for why Wolfe fired Pete-Lambert mid-sentencing.

The sentencing proceedings resumed last Thursday, with Neufeld making the formal application for Wolfe to retract his guilty pleas. In order for the application to be successful, Neufeld will have to prove that Wolfe was not properly informed, didn't understand, or was under duress when he initially pleaded guilty.

A case management hearing to figure out the process of applying to change Wolfe's plea was scheduled for late January. Wolfe remains out of custody throughout the proceedings.

For the 12 charges against Wolfe, Crown prosecutor Lana Morelli is seeking a sentence of nine-and-a-half years.

Thus far, Court has heard Wolfe claimed to pull "bad medicine" from women by inserting his fingers into their vaginas and showing them "trinkets" he said he removed, such as snake skin, cat claws, and ribbon. Morelli says the women, who were suffering from ailments like depression and cancer, said they were scared of the "bad medicine" Wolfe said he found inside them, and consented to the touching because they trusted the treatments were "traditional and righteous."

The methods Wolfe used are not consistent with traditional practices and violated the women's sexual integrity, Morelli said when explaining why the touching meets the criteria for sexual assault. For his part, Wolfe has repeatedly denied touching the women for a sexual

nurnose

The identities of Wolfe's victims are protected by a mandatory court-ordered publication ban issued on the identities of sexual assault victims.

Investigators say they still believe there may be additional victims from over the past twenty years. The investigation remains active, and victims are encouraged to contact their nearest RCMP Detachment or Police Service if they have information to share.

Information for sexual assault survivors, including what will happen when you report the assault to police, is available at: https://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/relationship-violence/information-sexual-assault-survivors

The Saskatoon Sexual Assault and Information Centre's Crisis Line can be reached at 306-244-2224.

Canwood Library hosts Crafters' Choice

Submitted by GERDA BRUNER

Crafter Barb Benson led the Crafters' Choice morning gathering on Tuesday, Jan. 10, at Canwood's Wapiti Regional Library Branch, guiding attendees in constructing unique gift boxes out of leftover Christmas cards.



Using rulers, scissors, glue, a Q-tip glue spreader, and paper clips to hold glued ends until dry, even the inside portion of our gift box, is easily readable.



Since Barb's birthday coincidentally happened on her craft presentation day, crafter Lorean Nichol blessed attendees with a tasty, decorated birthday cake served alongside fresh fruits and other dainties.

What happens when you don't advertise?

Very little.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SPIRITWOOD: Wapiti Regional Library - Tuesday 9 am - 5 pm; Wednesday 9 am - 5 pm; Friday 9 am - 5 pm

LEOVILLE: Wapiti Regional Library - Wednesday 10 am - 4 pm; Thursday 10 am - 3 pm **SHELL LAKE:** Wapiti Regional Library - Tuesday 12:30 pm - 4 pm; Wednesday 12:30 pm - 4 pm

BLAINE LAKE: Wapiti Library - Wednesday 11 am - 6 pm; Friday 11 am - 5 pm; Saturday 10 am - 4 pm. Contact us for more info 306-497-3130, www.wapitilibrary.ca. **BIG RIVER:** Wapiti Library - Wednesday 11:30 am - 4:30 pm; Thursday 11:30 am -

4:30 pm. Phone # 306-469-2152 **CANWOOD:** Canwood Branch of Wapiti Regional Library. Tuesday 10 am - 3:30 pm; Thursday 3:30 pm - 8 pm; Friday 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm. Kids Club is Fridays 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm, Crafter's Choice is the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month.

DEBDEN: Wapiti Library hours: Tuesday 10 am - 3 pm; Wednesday 3 pm - 7 pm. Librarian: Aline Hannon

LEASK: Wapiti Library & Legacy Gallery Hours - Tuesday 9 am - 2 pm; Wednesday 3 pm - 6 pm; Friday 1 pm - 5 pm

MARCELIN: Wapiti Library - Tuesday 2 pm - 7 pm; Thursday 2 pm - 8 pm; Saturday 9 am - 2 pm. For information on all your library needs, please contact 306-226-2110. SHELLBROOK: Shellbrook Branch of the Wapiti Library located at 105 Railway Ave., West (Provincial building). Library Hours: Monday 2 pm - 6 pm; Tuesday 12 pm - 8 pm; Wednesday 2 pm - 8 pm; Thursday 12 pm - 6 pm; Friday 9 am - 4 pm.

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GOOD NEWS

GLAD I WENT ON THE JOURNEY

By PASTOR DAVE BODVARSON Shellbrook Pentecostal Assembly

Let me tell you a story about three speakers. Two names are very familiar. They were all invited to a huge conference. I think they were all given five minutes. The first speaker was Billy Graham, the second Jimmy Carter (this was before he was elected as 39th President of the United States).

The third speaker was a truck driver who wasn't accustomed to public speaking. When it was the truck driver's turn to speak, he confessed to Jimmy Carter before he took the microphone that he was going to die. He got up anyway and told his life story in some five minutes. He talked about the struggles with addiction he was able to overcome and sat down. Jimmy Carter's assessment was that this huge audience wouldn't likely remember what he or Billy Graham said but they would never forget the rambling testimony of the truck driver.

I thought of that assessment and asked myself why? I think the answer is because most people can identify with life stories or life journeys.

I grew up in Hay River, N.W.T. The original town was built on an island, which was called Vale Island. The Hay River flows into the Great Slave Lake, which is the second largest lake in the N.W.T. It is also the deepest lake in North America and the 10th largest lake in the world.

This last spring, Hay River experienced a devastating flood. When I was growing up, the residents would talk about a flood that took place in 1963. In 1963, the ice jammed at the mouth of the Hay River causing the water level to rise. As a result, the East Channel and the Dene Village were flooded.

I was four years old at the time. My parents, Slim and Theresa Bodvarson, were raising six children at the time, with me being the youngest. As I was preparing to write an article about the flood, I literally stumbled over a nugget. I found an interview that was written in a Manitoba newspaper. The reporter must have called my dad in Hay River and asked how he was faring. Dad had grown up in the Gimli-Interlake area in Manitoba.

The reporter's name was Al Arnason. As I read the interview, I could hear the struggle my dad was going through as he told the reporter, "All we have is what we are standing in. I don't think there is anything left — the house is absolutely demolished."

"I don't think a man can get flood insurance here," my dad said. "But money is a problem."

"I couldn't buy timbers for the foundation," my dad told the reporter.

He went on to add, "We're so broke we can't get

I tell you in this life there are struggles. Things happen. Dad and mom got through and stayed in the North.

My personal struggle of with my weight hit me in 2020. I believe it was Oct. 10, 2020, when I joined Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS). I really didn't know much about TOPS, just that a friend

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had lost some weight and recommended it.

I was 230 lbs when I joined. I had a goal in my mind and that I would lose at least 30 pounds. I did track my weight loss on my notebook app on my phone. I started Oct 10, and by Nov. 21 was down to 213.4 pounds. That's 16.6 pounds in about 6 weeks.

How did I do that? I changed what I eat and the amounts I eat. I also gave up Pepsi (I do have a soft drink at times, but I have grown fond of

By April 2, 2021, I was 195 lbs (I actually settled on 197 lbs as my goal weight), meaning I reached my goal in about six months.

In some ways, the greater struggle for me wasn't losing it but keeping it off.

I have always liked the story of the student who decided to snip the end off of the cocoon to help the monarch butterfly emerge. What that student did was no help at all. The butterfly plopped out. Unfortunately, only half the top of it looked like a butterfly. The bottom half was large and swollen. The monarch butterfly crawled about and died a short time later.

The next day, the biology teacher told them the butterfly's struggle to get through the tiny opening was necessary. The struggle forced the fluids from the swollen body into the wings so they would be strong enough to fly. Without the struggle, the wings would never develop.

Someone saw an application for this. He said, "Struggles cause numerous things in our lives to develop. Rather than struggle against struggle, we need to struggle through our struggles!"

"Struggle through our struggles" is something to ponder.

What I like about this struggle, is that I walk with likeminded people in this journey, so I am not alone.

Our TOPS chapter champions people when they lose weight, and encourages them when they don't. We are in this together.

What do I think of TOPS? Well, for me, it is not a destination but a journey.

Beauchesne wins Dessert of the Month grand prize



The winner of the Spiritwood Public Library's 2022 Dessert of the Month grand prize was Norie Beauchesne. In December, all the library board members make a dessert, meaning there was quite a variety of yummy treats for Norie. The library board has already begun its 2023 Dessert of the Month.

Submitted by NATASHA CABASE

Parkside Community Club supports School Snack Programs

Submitted by KELSEY SEGBERG

In addition to donating \$300 worth of school supplies to the Shellbrook Elementary School earlier this year, The Parkside Community Club is also proud to have donated \$500 each to both Shellbrook Elementary and WP Sandin High School for their School Snack Programs.



Shellbrook Elementary School staff member Deanna Ledding (left) accepts the \$500 School Snack Program cheque from Parkside Community Club president Jory Segberg and club member Jamie Skarpinsky.



WP Sandin High School principal Karissa Klaassen (right) accepts the \$500 School Snack Program cheque from Parkside Community Club President Jory Segberg and club member Jamie Skarpinsky.

World-ranking points at centre of golf drama

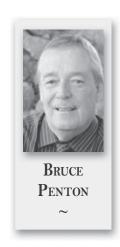
The hottest sidebar to the ongoing saga of PGA Tour players defecting to the Saudi-backed LIV Golf Tour has centred around Official World Golf Ranking points. The bottom line is that the LIV players are not earning any OWGR points and plummeting in the world rankings as a result.

Fair or unfair?

OWGR ranking points are important, because a player's position in the rankings is used to determine qualification for some important events. The Masters, for instance, uses the OWGR points list to invite the top 50 in the world. Most of the top 50 have qualified via other avenues, but many hovering in the 40-55 range nervously watch the weekly listing to see if they'll be eligible for invitation to play at Augusta. The nabobs who run the tournament reward those in the top 50 at the end of the calendar year, again following the tournament which ends the week before the Masters.

The OWGR constitution says the LIV tournaments are ineligible to deliver ranking points because they don't meet some of the organization's criteria — 54 holes, no-cut events and absence of a free path to qualifying for LIV events are no-no's in the OWGR world. The LIV application has apparently been filed to the OWGR brass, but there is a one-year waiting period after the application is submitted. So while the paperwork has yet to be approved, LIV players are receiving no ranking points, and falling further and further down the list. Phil Mickelson, for instance, has fallen out of the top 200 for the first time since the early 90s, and former No. 1 Dustin Johnson currently sits at No. 41. Said someone on Twitter: "If the OWGR says there are 40 better golfers in the world than Dustin Johnson, then the system has zero credibility."

That may be true, but since Dustin Johnson has



removed himself from competing against a full field of the world's best golfers, how is anyone able to compute his comparative standing among the world's best golfers? He could win six LIV events in a row, but beating perhaps six or seven players of Grade A quality — as opposed to 50 or 60 on the PGA Tour — makes it impossible to determine how terrific Johnson's play actually is. Would that quality of play have given him six topthree finishes on the PGA Tour? Or would that quality of play have put him around 30th in the more competitive PGA Tour fields? Unless the best players are playing against the best players, we'll never know.

Eventually, LIV players will be eligible for OWGR points, but their tournaments will have low strength-of-field grades, resulting in a reduced number of points for high finishes. It appears as if the LIV golfers, all of them extremely wealthy, will almost certainly remain in the worldranking-point poorhouse.

- Fark.com, on the Giants signing shortstop Carlos Correa to a 13-year, \$350 million free agent contract (before the contract was voided and Correa wound up signing with the Mets): "The SF Giants just paid \$350 million for an overrated shortstop whose best season was five years ago when he knew what pitches were coming."
- Pierre LeBrun in The Athletic, on junior hockey star Connor Bedard: "He is the kind of prospect an

NHL franchise should go all-out tank-a-palooza for."

- · Bob Molinaro of pilot online.com (Hampton, Va.): "If Jeff Saturday isn't brought back, there must be somebody else at ESPN maybe Adam Schefter or Stephen A. — who Jim Irsay can hire to coach the Colts."
- Twitter offering from @ riotsurvivor: "The NHL referee that just gave a penalty to Hunt for hurting Bear is technically a wildlife conservation officer."
- · Masters champ Scottie Scheffler, joking about the menu he'll choose for this year's Champions Dinner: "Steak for the PGA guys. White Castle for the LIV guys."
- Comedy writer Alex Kaseberg: "The Packers are called the Pack. The Buccaneers are called the Bucs. The Patriots are called the Pats. How come the Titans aren't the ... oh, right."
- Greg Cote of the Miami Herald: "Marlins FanFest has been set for Feb. 11 at the ballpark so that fans

might celebrate a stagnant offseason by Miami while other teams aggressively spent big."

- RJ Currie of sportsdeke. com: "Canadian Olympic figure skater Tessa Virtue has gotten engaged to Toronto Maple Leafs defenceman Morgan Rielly. I suggest a spring honeymoon - the Leafs usually aren't busy that time of year."
- Headline at the onion. com: "Roger Goodell announces thinking too hard about football has given him CTE."
- · From fark.com; "Packers fan Hall of Fame finalist took his wife's surname to literally become 'Mr. Pack-
- · CBS.com (you can't make these things up): After legal sports betting in Ohio became law at midnight Jan. 1, "Pete Rose ceremoniously places first legal sports bet on Reds to win 2023 World Series."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.

Tips, Raiders extend losing skids

By JORDAN TWISS

Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

It's been a rough hockey season for senior hockey fans in Shellbrook, Blaine Lake, and the surrounding areas, as both the Shellbrook Silvertips of the Twin Rivers Hockey League and the fledgling Redberry Raiders of the Saskatchewan Prairie Hockey League, have struggled to compete.

With each team playing one game this past weekend — a home game against the Cudworth Tricky Maroons for the Tips, and a road match-up with the Radisson Wheatkings for the Raiders — victory remained elusive.

Tips (2) vs Maroons (6)

Taking home ice for the first time in fired up, and in the early going looked to be the better of the two teams on the night. After racking up a few scoring opportunities, everything changed for the Tips when defenceman Matthew Kutnikoff received a five-minute major and an ejection from the game for head contact.

Stuck on the penalty kill for five minutes, the Tips broke early when the Maroons pinned them in their own zone and scored on a juicy rebound. Jared Becker netted the goal, with an assist from Jackson Hill.

With only a minute remaining in the penalty kill, the Tips panicked under pressure and took another penalty to go down by two skaters. They escaped the five-on-three unscathed, but with just eight seconds remaining on the second penalty, Adam Mc-Cannell blasted a shot home from the front of the Tips' goal to put the Maroons up 2-0.

Tanner Hendriks and Becker assisted on

With a power play of their own, the Tips failed to do anything to get themselves back in the game. And on their second power play of the period, they did the exact opposite, allowing Becker to score his second of the evening, shorthanded, on a tricky topshelf wrist shot. Hill once again provided the lone assist.

The second period brought more of the same for the Tips, as the Maroons struck less than a minute into the period on a twoone-rush and another wrist shot over the goalie. Hill netted this goal, with helpers from Tanner Medernach and Hendriks.

A few minutes later, the Tips finally got into the game, when Shayden Smith scored 2023, the Shellbrook Silvertips came out on a beautiful shot through traffic in front of the Maroons' goal. Brooks Nyberg and Kaleb Willoughby assisted on the play.

The moment of brilliance was shortlived, however, as defensive lapses allowed Hendriks to score on a textbook back door setup from Hill.

Now down 5-1, the Tips were given a fiveon-three of their own to get back in the game, but managed only a few shots (most of them wide of the mark). This opened the door for the Maroons to retake control of the action on a beautiful backhand goal from Dawson Boehm, assisted by Matthew Boyenko.

Following the goal, the Tips' coaches had seen enough, pulling starter Jacob Feige from the goal in favour of Todd Bazley. Bazley proved to be a solid backstop for the Tips through the remainder of the game.

yielding no goals to the Maroons.

In a quiet third period in which the Maroons clearly took their foot off the gas, the Tips tallied with the help of a power play near the midway point of the frame. Rylan Moe netted the goal on a rebound, with assists from Devin Dicus and Bazley.

The goal came too little too late, though, and the Tips fell 6-2.

With the defeat, they now sit at 1-11 on the season. This weekend, they play road games against the Hague Royals and the Clavet Cougars on Friday and Saturday night.

Raiders (4) vs Kings (6)

Sticking to their pattern in recent weeks, the Redberry Raiders looked competitive when they traveled to Radisson to face the Wheatkings on Friday night. Once again, however, they came up just short and fell by a tally of 6-4.

Patrick Gauthier and Adam Horner continued to be the offensive leaders for the Raiders, with the former earning two goals and an assist and the latter netting two goals. In the assists column, Louis Gardiner and Braidan Onishenko earned the only helpers for the Raiders.

On the Wheatkings' scorecard, it was a hat trick night for Carter Amson, who netted three goals, while Dustin Bezugly scored two and Connor Rennie had one. As for assists, Ethan Bear, Chad Bernier, and Tre Doyon had two apiece, and Brian Clark earned one.

With the loss, the Raiders sit at 0-11 on the season. They return to home ice in Blaine Lake on Friday night to face off against the Perdue Pirates.



Cudworth's Tanner Hendriks leans into a shot, scoring a second-period goal on Silvertips netminder Jacob Feige.

OBITUARIES

Doreen Cossette

Martha Jane Kingsland



COSSETTE – Doreen

It is with heavy hearts that the family of Doreen Violet Cossette, late of Shellbrook, SK, announce her peaceful passing on January 10, 2023, at the age of 80 in the Victoria Union Hospital in Prince Albert, SK. Doreen was born August 27, 1942, near Big River where she grew up and went to school with her 6 brothers and 5 sisters. She moved to Canwood and worked at the Co-op Store where she met her husband Leslie Cossette. They mar-

ried on December 9, 1967. They farmed at Sugar Hill area and mom worked at the Co-op Store for 30 plus years. They sold the farm and moved into Shellbrook. Mom couldn't stay home so she went to work at the golf course for about 3 years, then to the Field's Store for a short while and then to Woodland Pharmacy until her passing. Mom was an excellent cook and gardener. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister and friend who will be missed dearly.

Doreen is survived by her husband Leslie; her daughters, Andrea (Reg) and daughter Brianna; Michelle (Blaine) Stene and children Randy, Kelli and Brandon; her siblings, Juliette, Betty, Wendy, Phillip, Garry, Barry and Wade; sisters-in-law, Meada and Georgina; her brother-in-law Lyle Hamborg; her special friend Marci Olsen; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Doreen predeceased by her parents George & Irene Wilson; her brothers Reg and William "Billy"; her sisters Phylis and Bonnie; her father and mother-inlaw Ernest and Katherine Cossette.

There was a Memorial Service for Doreen held on Wednesday, January 18, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. from the Shellbrook Seniors Hall with Pastor Dave Whalley officiating. In lieu of tributes, memorial donations may be made in memory of Doreen to the choice of the donor.

and friends Family wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit www.beaulacfuneralhome.com Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home & Crematorium, Lynn Anderson, Funeral Director, Shellbrook, SK. 306-747-



Martha Jane Kingsland was born in Westlock, AB to Melvin and Threasa Roffey on April 6, 1947. Mom left us suddenly on January 10th, 2022 and not a day goes by that we haven't missed her. Memorial Service will be held at 2:00 PM on Friday, January 20, 2023 at Zion Lutheran Church, Canwood, SK.

Martha will be lovingly remembered by her 3 daughters and their children; Marvel (Brian) Rusk; and their children, Debra, Cheyanna (David), and Tonia (Brian); Donna (Daryl) Beaulac; and their

children, Talena (Graham), Jessey (Geoff) and Danny; Crystal Kingsland; and her children Finley and Jacob. Her brothers; Archie (Nora) Roffey, Jim Roffey, Ed (Linda) Roffey; Sister, Eunice (Rolly) Alexander; and brother-inlaw David Kingsland.

She was predeceased by her parents Melvin and Threasa, brother Alec, Sister Laura and her Godson Angus.

Granny's eyes lit up as soon as any of her great-grand babies were around. They could do nothing wrong and got away with everything. She was always ready with all the candy and sweets, games, puzzles, and if she didn't have it, they just had to ask to get it. Athena, Cash, Gavin, Presley, Braelee, Evan, Jackson and Eva were the light of her

When Grandma moved to Shellbrook and could often be found playing cards with the ladies, playing games with her great grandkids, doing puzzles, or enjoying a cup of tea while watching TV, most times it was reruns of Heartland!

Mom was always up for an adventure and was ready to travel anywhere as long as it meant visiting with the people she loved. Doesn't matter what time of day it was, if she was bored and thinking of you, you bet she would be picking up her phone and calling just to say, "Just thought I'd call and see what you're doing?". And right now, we would all do anything for just one more call!

We've got things covered down here for you. Safe travels Grandma..♥

In lieu of tributes, memorial donations can be made in memory of Martha to the choice of the donor. 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 and Crematorium, Lynn Anderson Funeral Director, Shellbrook, SK 306-

Robert "Francis" Kinnaird



ROBERT "FRANCIS" KINNAIRD

May 16, 1948 – January

Francis passed away surrounded by his family. Francis was born in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan; the second child of Graydon and Georgina (Gena) Kinnaird. He went to school in Shellbrook, Saskatche-

He is survived by his wife of over 53 years Brenda; Brent and Don grandchildren, (Jane); Morgan, Samantha and Benjamin; sister Anne Gaboury; brothers-inlaw, Andy Gaboury and Ken Yaremchuk; nieces, Sherry, Tammy, Kathy, and

Becky; nephew Matthew; and their families and numerous cousins. He is predeceased by his parents Graydon and Georgina (Gena) Kinnaird; sisters, Ellen Kinnaird and Mary Yaremchuk; his in-laws Sixten and Rosa (Bobby) Lundgren; brother-in-law Art Churchwell; sisterin-law Darleen Mulgrew; several Aunts, Uncles, and cousins.

Once he retired, he had more time to farm, raise cattle, go for breakfast and coffee with friends, and spend time with family. He really enjoyed going to Cuba and a recent trip with family is a treasured memory. Francis loved his grandchildren and was always happy to see them and have them around. Francis loved to tease.

He enjoyed going back to the Shellbrook area and seeing friends. Francis loved to pick up the phone and call his childhood friend Lawrence. They would talk about machinery, old friends, and of course their wives.

Francis had a few unique ways of dealing

with spam calls; he would sing to them, give them his "wife's" phone number (which was the RCMP number), or tried to sell them something.

Francis recently joined Facebook and was always happy to find people he knew.

Francis worked at numerous places, CN Rail for 31 years in Prince Albert, Saskatoon, and Winnipeg; he was an underground miner near Merritt, BC in the early 70s, also at Lynn Lake and Flin Flon, MB; and he worked for Athabasca Airways in Prince Albert, which he often said was his favorite job. With all these jobs he always wanted to be a farmer and to raise cattle.

When CN moved him to Winnipeg, and it was obvious he wasn't going back to Saskatoon he started looking for a farm. Machinery, cattle, and all kinds of other things were moved to Manitoba. One memorable trip was when we loaded the manure spreader with various tools and topped the load off with the aluminum boat. There were a lot of comments from people along the way.

He has had Shorthorn cattle since 1976. It was a purebred herd "Kindale Farm" for several years then switched to a commercial herd with Shorthorn cows and bulls. The Red, White, and the Roan were always in his heart. Brenda had a poem on the fridge for years "My love is not my love alone He loves his Red, White and Roan."

Anyone who knew Francis knew that the cattle must be looked after first, therefore the family will host a celebration of his life, in both Garson and in Shellbrook, once all the calves are born.

The family would like to thank the staff at Selkirk General Hospital Emergency and the staff at HSC Medical ICU for their exceptional care and compassion. Thank you to all the friends and neighbours for their help and support.

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Esther Schmalz



The family of Esther Schmalz are deeply saddened to announce Esther's passing on January 9, 2023 at the age of 94 years. Esther was born to Jacob and Justine (Ens) Hildebrandt on July 31, 1928 in Hague, SK. Esther came to the Shellbrook area in 1946 where she met the love of her life, Alphonse Schmalz. They were married July 16, 1947, at Gruenthal. They farmed south of Shellbrook where they also raised their 3 children. Esther remained on the farm until 2010 and then she moved to a senior complex in Shellbrook where she lived until her passing. The church was a large part of Esther's life. She was also an avid gardener, and her flowers were also always amazing to see. Esther will be greatly missed by those who loved her.

Esther is lovingly remembered by her children Elaine (John) Markham

of Calgary, Wes Schmalz of Oliver, BC and Asta Schmalz of Shellbrook. Her grandchildren Brandon Markham of Calgary; Trina (Chris) Brooks and their children Holden, Hanna and Samantha of Cold Lake, AB; Tyson Schmalz of Ontario; Chad Schmalz of Red Earth Creek, AB and Craig Schmalz of Lloydminster, AB. Her sisters Alvina Neudorf, Rose Hildebrandt, and her brother Orlando Hildebrandt all from Edmonton, AB.

She was predeceased by her husband Alphonse, her son Lea; her parents Jacob and Justina; her sisters Irna and Stella; her brothers Gordon, Earl, Harold and Alfred. Her sisters-in-law, brothers-inlaw as well as her paternal grandparents.

Those wishing to send memorial donations in her memory may direct them to Crohns and Colitis Foundation (1805 Ewart Ave Saskatoon, SK S7H 2L1).

A Memorial Service for Esther will be announced at a later date.

Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit www. beaulacfuneralhome.com.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home and Crematorium, Lynn Anderson Funeral Director, Shellbrook SK. 306-747-2828.



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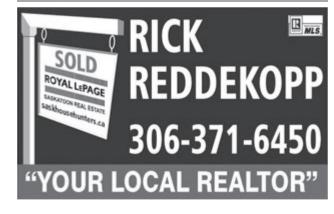
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Minutes of a Village of Leask council meeting

(Where necessary, the following minutes may have been edited for clarity or brevity)

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Council of the Village of Leask Held at the Leask Community Hall on Nov. 16, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.

Present were Mayor John Priestley, councillors Valerie Priestley, Charles Smith, Eugene Verbonac, and Zach Waldner, and acting administrator Yvette Hamel.

The mayor called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

V. Priestley: That the agenda be adopted as presented with the following additions: Dec. 3 Staff Christmas Supper, Dec. 8 Christmas Community Events. Carried

Waldner: That the additions to the agenda be approved. Carried

Waldner: That the Minutes of Oct. 19, 2022, Regular Council Meeting and Nov. 7, 2022, Special Meeting be approved as presented. Carried

Verbonac: That the Village of Leask accept the Maintenance report as presented. Carried

Waldner: That the Village of Leask accept the Water Treatment and Lab Testing Reports as presented. Carried

Delegation: Sgt. Phil Ingleby 5:40 p.m. to 5:50 p.m.

V. Priestley: That the Village of Leask purchase spring from Steel Craft Doors in Prince Albert, to repair car wash

overhead door. Carried

Waldner: That the Village of Leask purchase a Grunfos chemical pump for the water treatment plant from North Fringe Industrial Technologies Inc. as per quote 80141S totalling \$2,049.14. Carried

Due to pecuniary interest, Deputy Mayor Waldner & Councillor V. Priestley left the meeting at 5:52 p.m.

Smith: That the Village of Leask approved the attached payable being: Cheque 9766 totaling \$48.30 payable to Valerie Priestley for the purchase of a scale for the Clinic. Carried

Verbonac: That the Village of Leask approved the attached payable being: Cheques 9785 & 9786 payable to Leask Mechanical & Zach Waldner for repairs to the Dodge truck and rental of dump trailer totalling \$693.32 as presented. Carried

Deputy Mayor Waldner & Councillor V. Priestley returned to the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

V. Priestley: That the Village of Leask approved the attached list of Accounts Payable being: Cheques 9754-9760 & direct payments 22033-22039 totalling \$16,864.83, Cheques 97619765 being Indemnity totalling \$1,571.67, Cheques 97679784 totalling \$28,162.96 as presented. Carried

V. Priestley: That the Village of Leask accept the March, April & May 2022 Bank Reconciliations as presented.

Carried

V. Priestley: That the Village of Leask accept the Leask Community Hardware Store report as presented by Ernie Letendre. Carried

V. Priestley: That the Village of Leask advise Leask Community Hardware Store Board to promote Irina Coates from Acting Manager to Manager effective immediately, probation ending Dec. 15, 2022, further as per motion 2022434 no wage increase for 2022. Wage increase to commence Jan. 1, 2023. Carried (4 for, 1 against)

V. Priestley: That the Village of Leask discontinue recycle collection with Village of Leask equipment. Recycle collection will resume when TJ Disposals has all blue bins delivered. Carried

Waldner: That the correspondence having been supplied to council for information be approved as presented. Carried

Waldner: That the Village of Leask accept the Leask Recreation Board request to provide the Leask Community Hall at no charge for the proposed games evenings as presented. Carried

V. Priestley: Village of Leask Administrator addressed the situation regarding concerned Citizen and Public Works Employee. Carried

V. Priestley: That the Village of Leask Administrator send a letter regarding request for back alley garbage collection, indicating all garbage collection will be curb/street side only. Carried

V. Priestley: That the Village of Leask hire Associated Engineering to perform the mandatory fall ground water monitoring field tests and analytical test, at the Village of Leask landfill, which follows the Permit to Operate Appendix B, Environmental Sampling Schedule; further, in conjunction with tests being performed, they train Village of Leask Public Works Employee to perform the field tests. Carried

V. Priestley: That the Village of Leask accept the Library Board Report for meeting held Oct. 26, 2022, as presented by Councillor V. Priestley. Carried

V. Priestley: That the Village of Leask purchase a fridge for the Butler Building with a budget of \$650 including taxes. Carried

V. Priestley: That the Village of Leask approve Administrators report as presented. Carried

Waldner: That the Village of Leask accept and sign the Affinity Credit Union Lease agreement for the 2023-2024 as presented. Carried Unanimously

Waldner: That the Village of Leask accept PWC's request to consent to transfer copies of records and any active engagements to BDO as presented. Carried Unanimously

Public Disclosure Annual Declaration received from all Council Members.

Verbonac: That this meeting be adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Seedlings, clones, and a little plant breeding

By JACKIE BANTLE

Genetic diversity, cloning and seedlings are words that all have one thing in common: they are the result of reproduction. Sexual reproduction results in seedlings that increase the genetic diversity of a particular species whereas cloning is a result of asexual reproduction.

Cloning is not a new technique. The Inca people of Peru cloned potatoes in the 1400's by taking the underground tubers that they harvested and replanting them for the next season. Most of the potatoes that we plant today are clones of a variety that was developed sometime during the last century. The Oxford Dictionary of Botany defines a clone as "a group of genetically identical cells or individuals, derived from a common ancestor by asexual... reproduction". When you plant a Norland potato tuber, you know that at the end of the season you will be harvesting red skinned, white fleshed potatoes that have a good texture when they are boiled and turn dark brown in color if they are deep fried. Garlic cloves, lily and gladiola bulbs, Jerusalem artichoke tubers and strawberry runners are all examples of plants that are reproduced as clones. Each selected plant part, whether it is a tuber, runner, or bulb, is capable of producing a new plant that is genetically identical to

the original individual.

Seedlings are tiny plants that are grown from seeds. Seedlings are not clones. With the exception of self-pollinated plants, like peppers, most seeds are a result of combined genetics from two different parents. One parent's genetics are carried in the pollen while the other half of the genetics of the seed are found in the ovary of the flower of another plant of the same species. When pollination occurs, the pollen fertilizes the ovary, and a new set of genetics are produced in the form of a seed. Seed, and the resulting seedlings, are important as they increase genetic diversity and allow plants to evolve and adapt to changing environmental conditions. Cloned plants have a limited ability to adapt to changing environments.

In fruit production, seedlings and clones both play a vital part in the fruit breeding process. A fruit breeder will take pollen from the flower of one tree that has certain promising characteristics and place that pollen on the stigma in a flower of another fruit tree of the same species with different promising characteristics. The hope is that the best characteristics of each tree will combine in one of the seeds found in the apple fruit. These seeds will be planted out the following spring. In a seedling orchard, hundreds or thousands of seeds may be planted out in

one year. For apples, it takes approximately seven or eight years to produce fruit. During this time, many seedlings will be eliminated due to poor winter hardiness or growth habit. Seedlings that remain will be judged on their fruit quality. Colour, texture, flavour, storability as well as variability will be some of the basic qualities that will be tested. Finding a new apple variety is a long and arduous process. It is estimated that if an apple breeder finds 2 or 3 good apple varieties during his or her entire breeding career (40 years), he or she has been extremely successful.

This pollination and cross breeding process not only happens with fruit trees, but it is used in finding new cultivars of all sorts of food and ornamental plants. Once a seedling with desirable traits has been identified, that seedling will be cloned via methods such as plant cuttings, budding and grafting or more high-tech methods of cloning such as tissue culture. These clones are then studied at various locations under various environmental conditions to determine whether or not they are worthy of mass production. The named cultivars of plants, trees, and shrubs that you purchase at your local garden centre are clones of a seedling that was deemed to have superior genet-

Both seedlings and clones

play a significant part in food production in the world. Whereas the bananas that are exported out of Latin America all come from a single clone, it is the evolving seed market of field crops and vegetables that enable farmers to feed an ever-growing global population with high yielding, nutritious food. Traditional methods of manual crossing to produce seeds have

evolved into molecular genetics, DNA marking and gene recombination. Whether modern or traditional methods are used, plant breeding is a process that requires careful observation, organized record keeping and diligence.

This column is provided courtesy of the Saskatchewan Perennial Society (SPS; saskperennial@hotmail.com).



Babylon Red dahlia flower growing from cloned dahlia tuber. *Photo Credit: Jackie Bantle*