

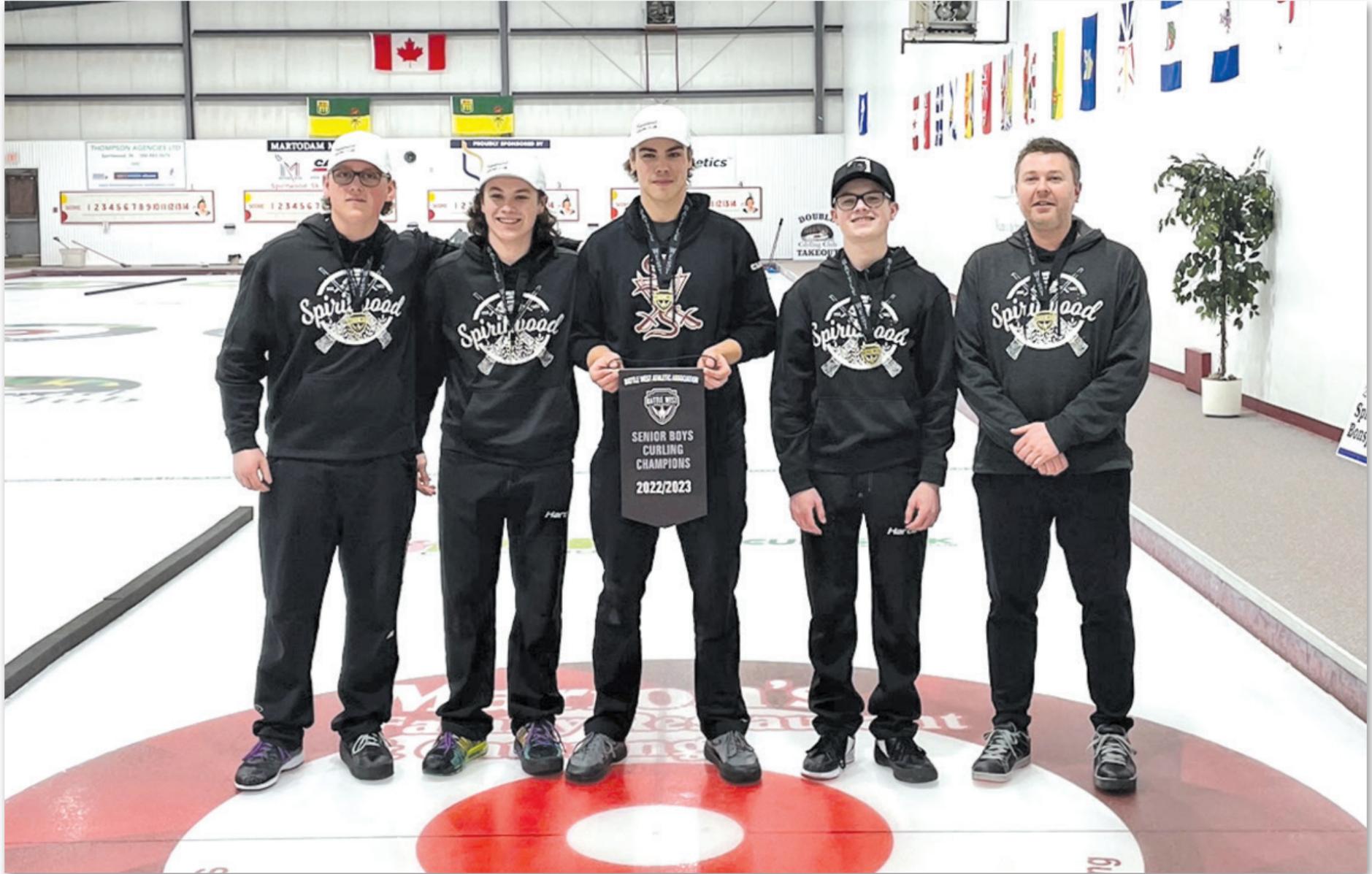
Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald

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Spiritwood HS hosts Senior District Curling



Spiritwood High School's senior boy's curling team won gold at Districts in Spiritwood on Feb. 14. Pictured, left to right: Skip - Deon Laventure, Third - Jayden Dauvin, Second - Bohdan Booth, Lead - Noah Dauvin, and Coach - Brad Nemish

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Senior high school curlers from across the district descended upon the Spiritwood & District Recreation Centre on Tuesday Feb. 14, to compete in boy's, girl's, and mixed District playoffs and hopefully sweep their way through to Regionals and Provincials.

Hosting Districts is nothing new for Spiritwood High School (SHS), and long-time SHS curling coach Brad Nemish says the school is lucky to have access to a top-notch facility like the Spiritwood arena, as teams are always happy to make the trip to Spiritwood to curl.

With a home-ice advantage, SHS was well represented at this year's District playoffs by its senior boy's and senior girl's teams, which claimed gold and bronze medals in their respective tournaments.

"Expectations were pretty high for the boys through the District competition,"

Nemish said. "Our senior boy's team was the Provincial champs last year. They went through Districts, Regionals, and Provincials undefeated last year, and three of the four boys were back this year."

Skipped by Deon Laventure, the boy's team also featured Jayden Dauvin as third, Bohdan Booth as second, and Noah Dauvin as lead. Together, the team topped the Unity rink in the District finals, sending them home with silver medals while the North Battleford Comprehensive High School team claimed bronze.

In addition to claiming gold, the Spiritwood boys also made Battle West Athletics history by recording the first eight-ender in the organization's history (meaning they finished an end with all eight rocks in the house and scored a full eight points).

Though the gold medal should have paved the foursome's road to Regionals and a likely appearance at Provincials, Nemish says that Districts actually

marks the end of the season for some of the team's members, and the end of high school curling for others.

That's because the Regionals tournament overlaps with the 2023 Canada Winter Games in PEI, where Deon Laventure, Jayden Dauvin, and Bohdan Booth are representing Saskatchewan in male curling. Leoville's Karstin Soucy completes the team, which is coached by Ron Craswell (also from Leoville).

"It's unfortunate. They probably would have been the team to beat for the province again," Nemish said. "But obviously, going to PEI for the Canada Games is a pretty good consolation prize."

If SHS's boy's team was the odds on favourite to win at Districts, then the girl's team, consisting of skip Ava Beaulac, third Alea Beaulac, second Avarie Conacher, and lead Danica Laventure, defied the odds with their bronze medal performance.

The foursome, coached by Nemish and Kendra Sanders, is a new grouping with no senior students (Ava Beaulac is in

Grade 10, while Alea Beaulac, Conacher, and Laventure are Grade 9 students).

Calling Districts a "good experience" for the team, Nemish says they started off the competition against a tough opponent in North Battleford Comprehensive High School, as two members from the team had just returned from U18 Nationals in Ontario.

Despite the tough start, the team ended up just one rock shy of making an appearance in the gold medal game.

"It was between us and Unity for that second spot to move on to Regionals," Nemish said. "Our girls were down by five at one point and came back to tie it for the eighth end. It came down to the last rock, and the Unity skip hit and stuck for the win."

Unsurprisingly, North Battleford went on to win gold, leaving Unity to take home silver.

As for the senior mixed tournament, Macklin finished with gold, while Wilkie and Maymont took silver and bronze, respectively.



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Shellbrook hosts Region 12 figure skating

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The Shellbrook Skating Club kept the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre busy on Feb. 11 and 12, when it hosted the 2023 Region 12 figure skating competition.

Including six members of the Shellbrook Skating Club, about 185 young skaters descended on the rink over the course of the two-day competition.

Along with Shellbrook, the clubs that participated were Prince Albert, Spiritwood, Cudworth, Medstead, Hepburn, Waldheim, La Ronge, Saskatoon, Humboldt, Nipawin, Carrot River, Battlefords, Langham, Martensville, Biggar, Radisson, Warman-Osler, Tisdale, Melfort, St. Brieux, and Kinistino.

Shellbrook Skating Club coach Tasje Sharron says Regionals serve as an introduction to the competitive figure skating scene — especially for those who are just entering STARskate from the CanSkate program.

“The STAR 1-4 levels are assessed to

standard, but also at STAR 4, they start the ranking process (gold, silver, and bronze). With the “competition” not a factor in the beginning STAR levels, it still gives the skaters something to strive for,” Sharron explained.

“Every element they do (jump, spin, field movement, etc.) is defined by a gold, silver, and bronze standard. A silver or gold is what a skater needs to strive for to be at, or above, the level they are at.”

Sharron says a lot of work is involved in hosting a successful Regionals. Fortunately, the local club’s executive was more than up to the task, and each of the clubs pitched in by doing a job, whether it be decorations or registrations.

The Shellbrook Skating Club also benefitted from the help of those who volunteered their time or donated cash, and this year’s sponsors.

And even the Parkland U18 AA Elks helped by rescheduling a home game to accommodate the competition, making Regionals a true community endeavour.

For Sharron, that’s the best part of hosting an event like Regionals.

“What I most enjoyed about hosting was the satisfaction of our Region 12 clubs working together for the same goal: to make it a fabulous experience for all the skaters involved and create wonderful memories with their fellow skaters, coaches, and families,” she said.

“It secures a skater’s belief in the process. Figure skating is not an easy sport and it’s easy to lose faith in what you’re doing and why you’re doing it. But who knows where this sport will take someone in the future?”

Of course, Sharron says, Regionals are always made better when the skaters do well, and Shellbrook’s skaters certainly did that.

Results for Shellbrook were as follows:

Julia Shindle – STAR 7 Artistic – Gold, STAR 8/9 Solo Dance – Silver, STAR 8 Freeskate – Gold, STAR 7/8 Element Event – Silver, Creative Improv 3 – Silver, and the Region 12 Senior Artistic Award.



Members of the Shellbrook Skating Club at Regionals, from left to right: Jacey Keyowski, Julia Shindle, Sarah Fisher, Kayla Klaassen, Emma Lauder, and Annika Horricks.

Kayla Klaassen – STAR 2 Freeskate – Gold, STAR 4-5 Solo Dance – Silver, STAR 2 Element Event – Gold, Creative Improv 1 – Silver, STAR 2 Team Element Event – Gold

Emma Lauder – STAR 1 Freeskate – Gold, Creative Improv 1 – Silver, STAR 2 Team Element Event – Gold

Jacey Keyowski – STAR 1 Freeskate – Gold, STAR 2 Element Event – Silver, STAR 2 Team Element Event – Gold, Creative Improv 1 – Gold

Sarah Fisher – STAR 1 Freeskate – Gold, STAR 2 Element Event – Silver, STAR 2/3 Solo Dance – Gold, STAR 2 Team Element Event – Gold,

Annika Horricks – STAR 1 Freeskate – Gold, STAR 2 Team Element Event – Gold.

Thanks to outstanding performances throughout Regionals, the Shellbrook Skating Club also received the Region 12 Highest Scoring Club Award.

The Spiritwood Skating Club also had four skaters at Regionals this year. It was the first competition for STAR 1-2 skaters, Ariel Smolinski and Anna Nemish. They competed in STAR

2/3 Dance, STAR 1 Free Skate, Level 1 Creative Improv, and the STAR 2 team event.

Sharron says they skated very well, learned a lot, and had a great experience.

Elsewhere, Spiritwood skater Emeri Simonar earned bronze in STAR 5 Elements and gold in Level 3 Creative Improv. She was also the recipient of the Region 12 Junior Artistic Award. Meanwhile, Ava Beuker won the Region 12 Junior Dance Award.

Simonar and Beuker, along with Grace Driedger from the Medstead Skating Club, also won gold in the STAR 6 team event.



Regionals marked the first taste of competition for Spiritwood Skating Club members Ariel Smolinski and Anna Nemish.



Spiritwood Skating Club members Ava Beuker and Emeri Simonar (left and right), won gold in the STAR 6 team event alongside Grace Driedger of the Medstead Skating Club.

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Rivier Day celebrated by elementary school

By NATASHA CABASE
Spiritwood Herald Reporter

Rivier Elementary School in Spiritwood held its Rivier Day festivities on Feb. 10. It started with a mass held at the Sacred Heart Parish Church at 10 a.m. and ended with games throughout the afternoon.

After the mass in the morning, lunch followed in the Grade 3/4 classroom. There were hot dogs, chili dogs, smokies on a bun, chili bowls and a bun, and a bunch of goodies and refreshments on offer during lunch. Staff, including parents and student volunteers, were there to help out.

Following lunch, students spent the afternoon participating in activities and games, including bowling, paper airplane toss, target golf, guessing jars, a fish and duck pond, bean bag toss, sucker ring toss, cake walk, mini stick shootout, Nerf target game, water bottle flip, and “axe” throwing.

Children and parents were able to move from one classroom to another to play the games and win tickets, which offered children opportunities to claim small and large prizes from the prize room located in the pre-kindergarten room.

In addition to all the activities, a silent auction was also held on Facebook with about 40 items posted on the school’s page. This silent auction has been part of the Rivier Day celebration for decades, and this year it brought in nearly \$2,200.

The event has been a part of the school’s history since the mid-1980s, when Sister Pauline Dionne suggested it as a way to commemorate the passing of the school’s namesake, Marie Rivier. Rivier was the foundress of the Presentation of Mary and died on Feb. 3, 1838.

Marie Rivier dedicated her life to help the poor and the needy. In this spirit, the money raised on Rivier Day supports worthwhile projects and needs around the world and in the community, in addition to supplementing student resources and activities.



Rivier Day began with a school-wide mass at the Sacred Heart Parish church.



Once they won enough tickets, students were able to claim small and large prizes.



The duck and fish ponds were popular games during Rivier Day.



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“Good for business” means bad for you

Over the past couple weeks, as our collective gaze has been fixed on the skies in a way it hasn't been since the Roswell incident in 1947, too many of us may have missed a news story of equal significance to mysterious balloons (or not balloons, depending on such variables as which government official you ask, the day of the week, and Venus' alignment with Mars).

The news was easy to miss, as it was quickly overshadowed by the infamous Chinese spy balloon and the three unidentified objects that were shot out of the skies over Canada and the United States just days later.

It all started On Friday, Feb. 3, when a Norfolk Southern train carrying vinyl chloride and nine other hazardous chemicals – which are linked to health issues ranging from dizziness, to headaches, to difficulty breathing, to forms of cancer – derailed and started a massive fire outside of East Palestine, OH.

Though no one was killed or injured in the derailment, the fire continued to burn over that weekend. Meanwhile, residents of the small town of about 5,000 people say little information was communicated to them until a forced evacuation was mandated on Feb. 5 over concerns about the potential for an explosion.

The following day, crews conducted a “controlled release”, draining the five tankers filled with vinyl chloride into a trench.

As the toxic chemicals were drained, crews ignited a “controlled burn” to eliminate them, shooting a large, black plume of phosgene gas and hydrogen chloride into the sky.

Somehow, just two days later, authorities deemed it safe for East Palestine residents to return to their homes.

But while local officials and the Environmental Protection Agency were swearing that the air and the water were safe, more and more reports began to emerge about people experiencing a burning sensation in their eyes, animals falling ill or dying, and a strong odour lingering in the town.

Understandably, the incident has residents of the town and surrounding area concerned about long-term term effects of exposure to toxic chemicals and desperate for answers about what



JORDAN TWISS
~
News Editor

happened on Feb. 3.

Hoping, perhaps, to silence any questions, and to prevent the residents from filing lawsuits against it, Norfolk Southern has offered free air quality readings inside their homes, and also said it will reimburse residents for costs they incurred during the forced evacuation.

But one can only hope the company won't be let off the hook so easily.

According to investigators, the company's train derailed because of a broken axle.

This finding is certainly consistent with security footage from 20 miles back on the rail that shows the undercarriage of one of the train's cars ablaze with sparks flying. And yet, it only leaves one wondering how nobody noticed and stopped the train before it derailed.

This is where it becomes important to look at Norfolk Southern's record.

An investigation into the company by independent news outlet The Lever found it had doled out millions in bonuses to executives and spent billions on stock buybacks while at the same time laying off thousands of employees – despite concerns about overworked and understaffed crews.

Over the past decade, it has also successfully lobbied alongside other railway companies to water down any regulations aimed at improving railway safety.

Of relevance to the East Palestine derailment, its lobbying efforts meant the train was exempt from the stricter safety regulations associated with being classified as a “high-hazard flammable train.”

Norfolk Southern also railed against, and successfully quashed, regulations that would have required rail cars carrying hazardous materials to be equipped with improved electronic braking systems. This, despite the fact that the company had once touted the new technology for its “potential to reduce train stopping distances by as much as 60 percent over conventional air brake systems.”

Internally, the company also fought off a shareholder initiative that would have required executives to “assess, review, and mitigate risks of hazardous material transportation.”

“Why does a train derailment in



Ohio matter to someone living in Saskatchewan?” you might ask. And, in all fairness, there's no obvious thread to tie this entirely avoidable incident to Saskatchewan.

That said, it does serve as a reminder of the vital role regulations play in preventing disasters and keeping us safe.

It also reminds us that companies aren't our friends, and seldom have our best interests at heart.

When a company like Norfolk Southern goes to war against railway regulations, knowing full well that those regulations will improve safety, it's doing so only in the interest of padding its bottom line.

This same motivation is what drives oil companies to orphan oil wells, leaving governments and their taxpayers to foot the bill to clean them up.

In Saskatchewan, for instance, \$380 million has been spent since 2020 to clean up 8,000 inactive wells by some point this year. This is just a drop in the ocean, however, as estimates suggest there could be as many as 75,000 inactive or abandoned wells in the province.

If mining corporation Orano has its way at an upcoming Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission hearing, the province will also be on the hook for cleaning up the mess left behind at its Cluff Lake uranium mine and mill site in northern Saskatchewan.

This, after the province had to fight with the federal government to split the costs of cleaning up the Gunnar

mine and mill site at Uranium City (a project that was initially projected to cost \$25 million, but quickly saw those costs skyrocket past \$289 million).

This bottom line first philosophy isn't exclusive or unique to rail companies or the resource sector.

At a time when families across the country are struggling to afford groceries, Loblaw's CEO Galen Weston claims the cost increases shoppers are seeing are due to inflation, increased food manufacturing costs, and supply chain issues.

“We get it. It's easy to blame grocers for higher grocery prices. But on a \$100 grocery bill, our profit is less than \$4,” the company's official Twitter lamented at the start of February.

Loblaw's would have us believe it's just as much a victim of circumstance as any one of us. And yet, the numbers show that supermarket profits are up 120 per cent since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Food manufacturers are also making bank, with profits up 47 per cent over the same period.

Meanwhile, with rising costs at grocery stores outpacing inflation, food bank usage is expected to jump by 60 per cent in 2023, climbing to as many as 8.2 million users.

So, the next time you hear a company bristle at potential regulations, or bemoan the costs of doing business, remember: what they're really thinking about is how to put your interests last.

Shellbrook Chronicle

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Phone 306-747-2442 or Fax 306-747-3000

Editorial: chnews@sbchron.com
Advertising chads@sbchron.com

C. J. Pepper, Publisher

Jordan Twiss, Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter
jordan@sbchron.com/chnews@sbchron.com

Natasha Cabase, Spiritwood Herald Reporter
(306) 914-3890 or tashacabase@gmail.com

Meghan Penney, Composition/Pagination
& Advertising Sales chads@sbchron.com

Karen Stene, Bookkeeping/Reception
accounting@sbchron.com

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.;

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Report from the Legislature

The Government of Saskatchewan is investing in strengthening our communities to support infrastructure projects throughout the province. By working together with municipal levels of government to fund projects that fit local needs, we help strengthen communities and improve the quality of life for people in Saskatchewan's communities.

On January 25, 2023, the Government of Saskatchewan and Canada announced over \$19.7 million in joint funding for 25 infrastructure projects across the province through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP). Of this funding, nearly \$9 million was provided by the province. Saskatchewan municipalities have received \$1.44 billion through the ICIP program since it was first introduced in 2019. Of this total, \$472 million has been contributed by the provincial government.



HON. SCOTT MOE,
PREMIER

~
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The construction of new facilities at the First Nations University of Canada's Land-Based Learning Centre in Regina is included in this funding. The centre will serve as a place for Indigenous teaching and learning on the land. It will include overnight facilities, a mess hall with a kitchen, a permanent sweat lodge structure and an outdoor learning centre. This facility will provide increased cultural learning opportunities.

Several community facilities across the prov-

ince will be upgraded through ICIP funding, including swimming pools, curling rinks and recreational centres. These places are hubs of activity in their communities and provide great opportunities for leisure and camaraderie. These facilities also create jobs and often attract events to the community, in turn supporting the local economy.

The Village of Shell Lake had been approved for ICIP funding for the Curling Rink Rebuild and will receive \$760,485 from the Provincial Government and \$912,674 from the Federal Government to assist with this project.

Bridge replacements and improvements in rural municipalities across the province will be funded as well. These projects improve rural transportation systems, connecting communities to the rest of the province and improving safety while travelling. In addition, the funding will support the decom-

missioning of several landfills throughout the province to help protect the environment.

The RM of Canwood has been approved for ICIP funding for the Deep Lake Bridge to Culvert Conversion and will receive \$166,650 from the Provincial Government and \$83,350 from the Federal Government in funding for this project.

By creating Indigenous cultural learning opportunities, providing recreational opportunities, improving the rural transportation system and supporting the environment, ICIP funding supports strong communities in Saskatchewan.

In addition, through the Targeted Sector Support (TSS) program, the Government of Saskatchewan is providing \$500,000 to 15 more community-based projects this year. TSS grants fund municipal projects focused on good governance, capacity building, and regional



HON. JEREMY HARRISON
MLA

~
Meadow
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co-operation.

Funding supports a variety of initiatives, ranging from firefighter training to emergency plans and feasibility studies for new community developments.

The RM of Douglas has been approved to receive \$18,787 in TSS funding to assist with their Human Resources Programming and Policy Manual.

The Town of Blaine Lake has been approved to receive \$25,455 in TSS funding to assist with Town of Blaine Lake and Village of Marcelin Dis-

trict Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaws.

Our government is proud to partner with the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA), the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) and the Saskatchewan Association of Northern Communities (New North) to make the TSS initiative happen. Together, we help communities better serve their citizens by strengthening local governments across the province.

All municipalities are encouraged to apply for TSS funding in the next intake of applications, which is expected to open in early March.

The investments our government makes through ICIP and TSS support the good work of Saskatchewan's rural and Indigenous communities. We will continue to build a Saskatchewan that is home to a strong economy, strong communities, and strong families.

Singh needs to say no to C-11

By JAY GOLDBERG
CTF Ontario Director

NDP leader Jagmeet Singh has a golden opportunity to show that he can stand up to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau by keeping the government from removing important amendments to Bill C-11.

Hundreds of thousands of Canadians, civil liberties organizations, civil society groups and even Trudeau-appointed independent senators are telling the government to steer clear of filtering Canadians' social media posts. Singh can stand with them.

Or he can rubber stamp the Trudeau government's flawed legislation.

Bill C-11 would hand bureaucrats the power to regulate what counts as Canadian content. It would require the content bureaucrats define as Canadian to be amplified while, in effect, quieting all other content.

Under the government's preferred version of Bill C-11, bureaucrats would be able to regulate and filter what Canadians can see in their streaming feeds and on social media.

The Senate passed Bill C-11, but made an important change. The Senate version of the bill prevents the government from filtering Canadians' social media posts and feeds while still leaving the regulation of streaming feeds in place.

Singh can stand up for Canadians by demanding that the Trudeau government keep this important amendment in place.

Let's be frank: Bill C-11 is a bad bill.

It should be defeated outright.

But, at minimum, the amendment needs to stay. Singh has the power to help shape what the final bill looks like because the government relies on his support. Ensuring that the Senate's amendment remains in place is crucial.

There is strong consensus that Bill C-11 is dangerous. Writer Margaret Atwood has warned that the legislation will lead to "creeping totalitarianism." Trudeau-appointed Senator David Adams Richards described the effects of the bill as a "horrid thing." And Professor Michael Geist foresees "risks to freedom of expression that cannot be ignored."

When the Liberals were trying to pass a very similar bill in the last parliament, Bill C-10, the government removed the part of the bill that regulated user-generated content, including social media, because of a public outcry.

For some inexplicable reason, the government brought back the regulation of user-generated content in the new Bill C-11. Even some of the bill's key supporters in the Senate recognized this flaw. Senators Paula Simons and Julie Miville-Dechéne, who voted for the bill, inserted the amendment that prevents the regulation of user-generated content.

But Canadian Heritage Minister Pablo Rodriguez, the author of Bill C-11, has already indicated publicly that the Trudeau government doesn't plan to accept the Senate's amendment. The Trudeau government is

determined to filter our social media feeds, despite opposition from hand-picked supporters in the Senate, civil liberties organizations and the public.

Enter Singh from stage left.

The NDP voted for Bill C-11 when it was first in the House of Commons and may be inclined to do so again. But NDP MP Gord Johns continues to insist that "the NDP has always stood up for freedom of expression" and that the party's position on free expression wouldn't change with Bill C-11.

If what Johns says is true, now is the time for Singh to flex his muscles and insist that the Senate amendment re-

main in the bill. If Singh does that, he can show that he will stand up for millions of Canadians who are looking to Ottawa for a voice to represent them.

The future of Canadians' civil liberties on social media may very well be in Singh's hands. It's time for Singh to stand up to Trudeau and stand up for Canadians.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE IS
FRIDAY 4:00 PM

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

These prestigious awards are given to youth who:

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

This year four deserving youth will receive a **\$3000 bursary**, provided by SaskPower, to use towards their post-secondary education. Someone you nominate could be one of them.

Visit www.swna.com for further information and nomination forms
Nominations close March 31, 2023

Kinsmen, Kinettes say thanks with Day of KINDness

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

The Shellbrook Kinsmen and Shellbrook Kinettes are best known for the many ways in which they contribute to their community, whether it be through fundraisers or by taking on community-building endeavours.

This past Sunday, however, the clubs united to recognize the com-

munity for making the work they do possible, by hosting their sixth annual Day of KINDness at the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre.

Similar to previous years, this rendition of Day of KINDness invited families to come out for a free skate at the rink and enjoy some free goodies, including cupcakes (supplied by Shellbrook Bigway), candy bags, and drinks. And as always, a decent crowd

came out to enjoy the two-hour event.

Day of KINDness is an initiative that was started by Kin Canada as a means to bring the community together so that Kinsmen and Kinettes organizations across the country could say thank you for the support they receive.

While the official Day of KINDness is Feb. 24, the Kinsmen and Kinettes have always felt that hosting it close to Family Day, another day that is about togetherness, is just a good way to tie everything together.

The first three iterations of Day of KINDness were hosted at Shellbrook's outdoor rink (which in itself is a testament to the way the two clubs have contributed to the community), but three consecutive years of bitter cold prompted the organization to rethink and move the event indoors.

For the past two years, the day was rolled into the Town of Shellbrook's Winter Festival. With no festival this year, the event was a standalone.

Simultaneously with Day of KINDness, the Kinsmen and Kinettes were also wrapping up their annual Telemiracle online auction fundraiser.

Featuring 122 items, all donated by local and area businesses and individuals, this year's auction kicked off Feb. 15 and offered a bit of everything for everyone.



Members of the Shellbrook Kinsmen and Kinettes were on-hand at the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre on Sunday, as the clubs hosted their annual Day of KINDness.

Partners in Faith donates to PCE

The auction has been a big draw for the clubs since they introduced it to circumvent COVID-19 public health restrictions, often requiring extra time as friends and rivals engage in psychological warfare to get the last bid on their most desired items.

This year's auction was no different, allowing the Kinsmen and Kinettes to raise \$10,648. The auction's top three earners were a two-chair and table patio set (\$650), a Yeti Roadie 24-can cooler (\$450), and Mastercraft 233-piece complete tool set (\$406). Telemiracle 47 runs Feb. 25 and 26 in Saskatoon.

Shellbrook's total contribution to the cause will be revealed when the Shellbrook Kinettes make the annual cheque presentation on behalf of the community.



The Partners in Faith Auxiliary has generously donated the proceeds of \$430 from their cookie sale that took place at the Lions Craft Sale in November to Prairie Community Endeavours. Pictured: Samuel, Shawn, Shawna, Greg, and Alma accept the cheque from Cheryl Doucette (front left).



Along with free goodies, skating was an integral part of Day of KINDness, with both parents and children coming out to partake.

The Debden Community Centre is requesting tenders for the following projects:

A) Doors

Replace:
* 2 metal outside doors, jambs and all hardware. Both sides and jamb must be primed and painted. Colours specified by Board.
* Main entry door and jamb and all hardware. Door-metal with top half in glass with wire in it. Both sides of the door and jamb primed and painted at an auto body shop. Colours specified by Board. Right side must be electric, the other side a panic door.
Call Cecile at 306-468-7797 for more info or to view.

B) Siding

Old vinyl siding removed and disposed of. Include in tender, a price per square foot for replacing damaged sheeting - if needed (subject to Board approval), house wrap put on. Side with Premium vinyl siding, colour determined by Board. Installed to look as existing with the following modification: some of the windows are being removed. Please include product warranty. Contact Cecile at 306-468-7797 for specifics.

C) Skylights

Exterior - remove glass - sheet in space, also use ice shield and paper. Insulate with minimum R40 and vapour barrier requires acoustical caulking.
Reshingle to match existing.
Interior - Vapour barrier, re-sheet, finish with tongue and groove pine to match existing. Repair and paint stained and damaged walls, to match existing. Call Cecile at 306-468-7797 for viewing.

D) Windows

Various sized windows with frames, must be triple glazed with low E and argon. Measurements of frame and glass must be same size and style as existing where window is being removed - add insulation (min R20), vapour barrier, gyproc, repair, tape, prime and paint inside walls. Please include product warranty.
Not all windows are being replaced; please call Cecile at 306-468-7797 for more information or to view.

Contractors are invited to bid on all or any of the projects, but each project must be bid on individually.

For more info on any of the projects or to view the inside of the building, please call Cecile at 306-468-7797 or Raymond at 306-468-7117.

Tenders must be received by 4 p.m., March 6th, 2023.

Please mail tenders to Debden Community Centre, Box 337, Debden, SK S0J 0S0 or deliver to: 204 2nd Ave East, Debden to the Comite Culturel office - open Monday to Thursday from 8am to 4pm, or email: ccfdeb@sasktel.net

Successful bidders will be notified by phone, no later than March 15th, 2023.

Successful bidders will have to provide proof of Workman Compensation Board coverage.

Successful bidders will have to provide proof of Public Liability Insurance.

Successful bidders will have to provide proof of a Municipal Business License.

ANY OR LOWEST TENDER NOT NECESSARILY ACCEPTED

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The RM of Leask No. 464 is seeking applications for a **Class 1A with gravel hauling experience**, additional skills will be considered, position to begin April 1st and end October 31st, depending on weather.

The RM of Leask No. 464 is a unionized environment; we offer a full benefit package and pension plan. Please submit a driver abstract and references with resume to RM of Leask, Box 190, Leask, Sask., S0J 1M0 or email rmlleask.464@sasktel.net.

Applications will be considered until noon on March 3, 2023.

Only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The RM of Leask No. 464 is seeking applications for a **Seasonal Tractor/Mower/Maintenance**, other skills will be considered, position to begin April 1st and end October 31st, depending on weather.

The successful candidate must hold a valid driver's license. Relevant powered mobile equipment training and/or experience is an asset. The RM of Leask is a unionized environment; we offer a full benefit package and pension plan.

Deadline to apply is March 3, 2023 by 12:00 p.m.

Please submit resume with 3 references to the RM of Leask, Box 190, Leask, Sask., S0J 1M0 or email rmlleask.464@sasktel.net.

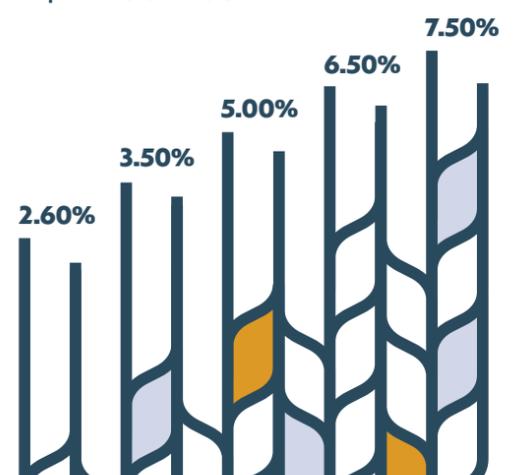
Grow your
money,
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Prairie Centre is now offering a 5 Year Upgrader GIC Term Investment.

This GIC has a rising interest rate every year (as shown below), and is RRSP and TFSA eligible. Available for a limited time.

Stop by your local branch or visit us at pccu.ca to learn more!



Developing new crops is no easy task

When it comes to new or minor crops, it often tends to be the age-old case of the chicken and the egg.

It's a situation I was reminded of reading a recent article about the lingonberries.

If you aren't aware of the berry that's not surprising, since according to the www.producer.com article, very few are grown in this country.

But apparently, they could be produced here quite well.

So, why would we want to grow more?

Well, according to the

article, Chris Siow, an Agriculture Canada researcher in Winnipeg, has been studying the health benefits of lingonberries for more than a decade, with results showing they improve kidney and liver function. In a world where health foods are a massive market, that is encouraging.

But to develop products with lingonberries, and then do the work to create consumer demand, you need a reliable and steady source of berries. At the same time, producers face a risk in planting berries that take



CALVIN DANIELS

time to become productive when a ready market doesn't exist for the production.

The question, then, becomes how you develop markets without product and vice versa.

And, just to make the

process a bit more complicated, niche markets can easily be flooded with product if over produced, adding to producer risks.

The situation is not a new one. Through the years there have been a long list of crops proposed to be potentially significant to the mix of Canadian Prairie crops, but they have typically not quite achieved notable status.

When it comes to crops there are many, and while some hold what appears to be unfulfilled potential, most markets are

being served. And while you might have a viable alternative, creating the infrastructure and the production at the same time is hugely difficult.

In the east central area of Saskatchewan, alfalfa dehydrating, straw board, flax fibre plants, and pea flour-based snack foods are among the tries made through the years — some with rather big dollars invested, and the markets failed to develop long term.

And those are just the examples that at least got to the production stage.

Others never got that far, as the money couldn't be found to go from hopeful idea to production.

It would be great if new crops and markets could be realized. Although, taking acres from the juggernaut of canola and the safety of wheat production means new crops have to offer a significant upside to take on the added risk.

Even still, researching new crops as weather and consumer demands change is still important, because the face of prairie agriculture is likely to change one day.

The effect of cold stress on a cow herd

By ADRIANE GOOD

Livestock and Feed

Extension Specialist, Moose Jaw

Now that we are a few months into winter, it can be easy to fall into a routine and assume cows are acclimated to the cold weather by now and do not need additional help. However, this may not be the case as cold stress can occur at higher temperatures than you may realize.

To understand cold stress, first we need to understand the thermoneutral zone. This is the range of environmental temperatures where an animal's metabolism is normal, they do not need any extra energy for maintenance and normal metabolic processes supply enough heat to maintain a regular temperature. As the environmental temperature starts to drop to the bottom end of the thermoneutral zone, animals may begin to seek shelter from the wind or grow a thicker hair coat, but their nutrient requirements will not change until the temperature reaches the lower critical temperature. The lower critical temperature can vary based on how acclimated an animal is to the wintery conditions, but we generally assume 0°C for a cow with a normal winter coat and -8°C for one with a heavy winter coat. This means that as winter goes on and your cows adapt and grow a thicker coat, they can handle colder temperatures. Con-

versely, if their coat is wet or muddy, the lower critical temperature jumps up to 16°C, meaning wet cows will enter cold stress at warmer temperatures.

When an animal enters a cold stress situation, energy and nutrients needed for growth will be diverted towards maintaining their body heat. The body will increase blood flow as well as gut passage rate, which results in lower digestibility of feed. Their body will begin to mobilize fat stores for energy, leading to a decrease in body condition. For cattle that are nursing calves, cold stress can lead to a decreased milk supply. Several changes will occur at the hormonal level, including a drop in insulin levels, increase in stress hormones and decreased leptin, which will stimulate an increase in appetite. The changes in hormones will also contribute to a weakening in the immune response.

Aside from having to feed more, can cold stress really impact your operation? Cattle experiencing cold stress can have quite the negative spiral. While initially you may not be too concerned by a slight drop in body condition, it does mean a reduction in the fat stores that are used for insulation. Less fat means higher susceptibility to negative effects from cold stress. Cattle who lose weight prior to calving can have more calving difficulties, weaker, lighter calves and higher chance of calf mortality. As the cow is attempting to produce milk through cold stress, she will produce less colostrum that is lower quality and continue to have a low milk production. Calves that get less colostrum and nurse off a dam with low milk production will be, at best, lighter at weaning and at worst, die. Furthermore, once the cows have weaned their calves, they will also have less reproductive success unless they can return to good condition on pasture. All these things put together can result in a significant impact on your cow herd and your bottom line.

As gloomy as cold stress sounds, minimizing the effects is possible. Making sure your cows are in good body condition going into winter will help immensely, as that will provide them with a layer of insulation. It is also important to provide extra feed when it is cold out. Remember, as cattle get cold, they need more energy. A good rule of thumb is

to increase grain by about two pounds for every 10°C drop below -10°C to a maximum of five pounds of grain. It is also important to make sure your cattle have good shelter to avoid wind and are well bedded. Keep in mind, when a cow gets muddy, her lower critical temperature gets higher and she becomes cold stressed easier. Clean, dry bedding will go a long way in preventing cold stress. Making sure your cattle have access to clean, fresh water is also important as when their water intake drops, so does their feed intake. Also important, but not often thought of regarding cold stress, is to make sure your cattle are up-to-date on their vaccination schedule and are meeting their mineral re-

quirements. Since cold stress can limit their immune system, it is important to help them out however you can. Implementing biosecurity measures on your farm can also help your herd's immune systems.

Controlling the weather is not possible, so cold stress will continue to be a reality for Saskatchewan livestock. Cold stress can be hard on cattle, but with careful management, the effects can be mitigated. If you are concerned your cows are beginning to suffer from cold stress related problems, contact your local livestock and feed extension specialist or call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377 for more information.



CALL FOR BOARD MEMBER

The Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research invites applications for the following:

MEMBER, GDI BOARD OF GOVERNORS

WESTERN REGION I (Meadow lake, Cochin, Leoville, Peirceland, Glaslyn, Chitek Lake, Livelong, Rush Lake, Brightsand, Spiritwood, Midnight Lake, Dorintosh, Paradise Hill)

Overview: The GDI Board of Governors has representation from the (12) Regions of the Organization, who are ratified by the Provincial Métis Council (PMC) of the Métis Nation—Saskatchewan (MN—S). The PMC Member who is assigned the Education portfolio sits as the Chairperson of the Board of Governors. All persons selected to the Board of Governors will be for a period of three years. A member who is an employee/staff person/manager of an affiliated organization of the MN—S shall not be permitted to sit on the Board of Governors of the Institute.

Responsibilities: The Board of Governors oversees the Gabriel Dumont Institute and is responsible for its operation and governance in all matters, including: to adopt policies for the effective operation of GDI; to formulate a strategic plan and to oversee its implementation; to approve annual budgets, audits and programs; to function as ambassadors for GDI and to encourage students and potential students in their study and career plans; to represent GDI to all levels of government, persons of Métis ancestry and to the public generally; and to appoint a Chief Executive Officer to be directly responsible for implementation of policy and the day-to-day management and operations of GDI.

Qualifications: All appointments to the Board must be of Métis ancestry with knowledge of the cultural, historical and social circumstances of Saskatchewan Métis. Ideally the collective skills on the board will represent a number of different disciplines and perspectives. Some of the preferred skill and training areas include education or post-secondary education; finance and administration; business; human resources (personnel); law; and communications. Individuals with extensive Métis culture and language experience are encouraged to apply. This will ensure a wide range of skills and perspectives are available when decisions are considered. A criminal record vulnerable sector check must be completed and accompany the resume submitted.

Process: Candidates can apply directly to the MN—S region or the Institute who in turn will forward the application to the appropriate MN—S region for consideration. The MN—S region then submits the name of their selected representative forwarded from a duly called and administered regional council meeting. The name of the new board member is then sent to the PMC for ratification. Finally, the name is forwarded to the Minister of Advanced Education.

Starting Date: 2023 (Once process is complete - 3-year appointment with the possibility of renewal)

Deadline for receipt of applications: March 15, 2023

Please submit resume to one of:

Loretta King
Western Region I, Regional Director
Métis Nation - Saskatchewan
Box 134 Dorintosh, SK S0M 0T0
Phone: (306) 304-7455
Email: reddaking11@gmail.com

Rhonda Pilon
Executive Assistant
Gabriel Dumont Institute
917 - 22nd Street West
Saskatoon, SK S7M 0R9
Phone: (306) 242-6070
Email: rhonda.pilon@gdins.org

The Gabriel Dumont Institute has permission from the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission to hire affirmatively.

Parkland Elks down 2-0 in playoffs

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The Parkland U18 AA Elks began their first-ever SAAHL playoffs run Friday and Saturday, with a road game and a home game against their round one opponent, the Warman Wildcats.

The games marked the first time the two teams had met on the ice since Nov. 11, 2022. In their three regular season meetings, the Wildcats proved dominant, topping the Elks by scores of 5-1, 6-1, and 7-3, respectively.

This meant the seventh-place Elks would have to play their best hockey of the season to have any hope of upsetting the second-place Wildcats.

Elks (1) vs Wildcats (2)

Kicking off the series in Warman on Friday night, the Elks got themselves in hot water within the first minute of the game, when Cody Morash took a delay of game penalty by flipping the puck into the stands from the Elks' defensive end.

This allowed the Wildcats to seize the advantage just 37 seconds into the game and draw first blood on a goal from Mason Obrigewitch, assisted by Carter Bergen and Coltyn Blanchard.

An interference penalty by Warman's Kaden Burgess near the midpoint of the period flipped the momentum in the Elks' favour, allowing Tavis Galloway to tie the score up at 1-1 on assists from Morash and Brody Anderson. But the Elks failed to press this advantage when given another power play just a few moments later.

The 1-1 stalemate would last until

just under five minutes into the second frame, when Raiden Clayton struck with assists from Bergen and Ethan McLean.

Despite receiving no shortage of power play opportunities throughout the remainder of the game, the Elks failed to find the back of the net and fell by a final tally of 2-1 — even as netminder Hunter Nakonechny did everything in his power to keep the Elks in the game, saving 39 out of 41 shots on the evening.

Elks (1) vs Wildcats (8)

Following Friday night's close game in Warman, the Elks returned to the Richardson Pioneer Recreation on Saturday night for game two of their best-of-five series with the Wildcats. With a hometown advantage, the Elks kept the score close through the first half of the game, before completely collapsing midway through the second period.

Like in game one, the Wildcats and the Elks traded off goals in the first period. Markus Thompson got the scoring started for the Wildcats, with assists from Raiden Clayton and Lukas Viden, and Kendon Skalicky responded for the Elks, with assists from Tyson Gagnon and Brody Anderson.

Following an even first period, the Elks sabotaged their chances in the second period, as back-to-back cross-checking penalties by Elks defencemen Chase Hansen and Tavis Galloway put the Wildcats on a 5-on-3 power play.

The Wildcats seized the opportunity, taking a 2-1 lead on a goal by Jake

Kessler, assisted by Markus Thompson, just seconds into the power play. Though the Elks held strong for the remainder of the penalty kill, the Wildcats made them pay shortly after it was over, thanks to a goal from Owen Harms, assisted by Devon Johanneson and Trey Markus.

Thompson would go on to close out the second period with his second goal of the night, scoring in the dying minutes of the frame with assists from Davyn Mason and Ethan McLean to put the Wildcats up 4-1.

In a complete defensive collapse in the final eight minutes of the game, the Elks went on to surrender another four goals to the Wildcats in the third period, starting with a goal from Raid-

en Clayton, assisted by Markus and Thompson. Lukas Viden struck just four minutes later, with a solo assist from Kaden Burgess.

Already down 6-1, the Elks took a mind-boggling six penalties in the final three minutes of the game, allowing the Wildcats to tack on two more power play goals for good measure.

Hudson Thiessen netted the first one, with assists from Clayton and Mason, and Kessler scored his second goal of the night on assists from Johanneson and Bergen.

Down 2-0 in the series, the Elks now have to win three games in a row to keep their playoff hopes alive. Game three of the series was set to be played in Warman on Wednesday, Feb. 22.

Spiritwood Lions present community grant

By **NATASHA CABASE**
Spiritwood Herald Reporter

After receiving a record 10 applications, the Spiritwood and District Lions Club recently presented its latest Lions Community Grant, worth \$800, to the Spiritwood Outdoor Rink Committee.

Initially, the Town of Spiritwood had offered a lot within town to build a new, permanent outdoor rink. Recently, however, it decided that the outdoor rink would be better suited at the site of the old indoor rink in town.

The town will be focusing its efforts

on removing the old Bourdages Cameron Arena and saving the rink and boards to be used as an outdoor arena.

The funds from the Spiritwood Lions Club will go towards refurbishing the remnants of the existing structure of the old arena. This will include making any repairs to the cement pad that already exists, as well building a permanent structure off the side of the rink to store equipment to be used to maintain the ice during the winter months.

The Spiritwood Lions Club's next Lions Community Grant application deadline is May 31, 2023.



Spiritwood Lions member Megan Allard presents the latest Lions Community Grant to Spiritwood Outdoor Rink Committee representative Scott Haggarty.

NOTICE TO OUR READERS

Please take only as many newspapers from our newspaper bins as need to be read.

If you're looking for newsprint paper, please contact us and we can arrange a bundle(s) of recycled paper for your use at no charge.

Contact us at 306-747-2442.

Thank you for your understanding.

Shellbrook Chronicle
& Spiritwood Herald

Growth That Works For Everyone

January Sees Over 16,000 New Jobs

Our province is off to a great start in 2023, with thousands of new jobs across Saskatchewan.

Hon. Jeremy Harrison
MLA for Meadow Lake
jharrisonmla@sasktel.net

Hon. Scott Moe, Premier
MLA for Rosthern-Shellbrook
scottmoe.mla@sasktel.net

Canwood Library hosts crafter's choice

Submitted by **GERDA BRUNER**
Canwood Library Board

With Valentine's Day falling on the second Tuesday of the month, those with a love for crafting gathered at the Canwood Wapiti Library Branch for its monthly Crafters' Choice gathering day for some show and tell of newly completed crafts.

In addition to sharing their crafting, attendees are treated to coffee and dainties, and are welcome to enjoy visiting, check out library resources, and borrow a book or two.



Hilda Gaboury showed her newest Swedish weaving throw created on monk's cloth stitched with knitting yarn. She began the craft in 2004. To date, she has crafted approximately 50 of them in various colours, patterns, and sizes for family and friends.



Barb Benson demonstrated her handy "quillow" (a quilt folded up into a comfy pillow). The one she is holding was created by her mom, Ione Aiken. Barb has continued creating "quillows" for special people.



Lorean Nichol brought placemats that she had sewn from "jelly roll" precut fabric.



Crafters were asked to select a knitted or crocheted "Barbie Doll" outfit suitable for the next silent auction fundraiser. The choice centred on the outfit closest to Ukrainian flag colours.

Horn wins February dessert



Isabelle Horn is the Spiritwood Public Library's Dessert of the Month winner for February. The pie was made by Board member Ruth French. Proceeds from Dessert of the Month go towards library programming, such as take & make crafts, as well as prizes for contests and other activities.

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 - 6 pm; Thursday 12 pm - 6 pm; Friday 10 am - 5 pm (Story Time 11 am - 12 pm); Saturday 10 am - 4 pm.

SPIRITWOOD: Spiritwood Spirited Players present SCRAMBLED by Pat Cook. Thursday, March 2 - 7pm, \$10 at the door; Friday, March 3 & Saturday, March 4, \$50 Dinner Theatre. Presented at the Spiritwood Civic Centre. Dinner Theatre tickets available at Martodam's Family Retail or by phone @ 306-883-7882. *Produced by special arrangement with Eldridge Publishing Company.

SPIRITWOOD: Withekan Wildlife Federation Annual Awards & Banquet Night *Celebrating 50 Years!* Saturday, February 25, 2023, Spiritwood Civic Centre. Cocktails - 5pm; Supper - 6pm; Adults \$30; 12 & Under \$15; Preschool Free. For tickets call: Lyla 306-841-8284; Pearl & Eric 306-883-2835; Fern 306-883-2651. Photo Contest - Categories include: Scenery, Hunting, Fishing & Wildlife. Pictures must be printed on 8x10 Kodak paper & can be submitted the day of banquet.

CAMEO: Cameo Community Snowmobile Rally - Saturday, February 25, Register 12 noon to 2 pm @ Cameo Hall (6 miles west of Shellbrook, then 2 miles north - on Cameo-Buckingham Road). Tickets \$10 each or 3/\$20 *every rider must purchase a \$10 ticket*. Call Keith at 306-747-3765 or 306-747-2101 or Ralph at 306-747-3611. Kaiser Tournament ~ Sunday, Feb. 26, Cameo Hall, Register 12 noon - 1 pm, \$5 per person.

CANWOOD: Canwood Regional Park Supper & Auction, Canwood Elks Community Centre - Saturday, March 11, 2023. Refreshments 5pm, Supper 6pm ~ Auction to follow. Adults \$15 / 6-12 yrs \$8 / 5 & Under Free. For information call Bob 306-468-7942 or Grant 306-893-8085. Proceeds to Canwood Regional Park to help fund upcoming projects.

SPIRITWOOD: SARCS (Spiritwood Area Recreation, Culture and Sport Inc.) is now accepting requests for the "Saskatchewan Lotteries Community Grant"! Non-Profit Community Sport, Culture and Recreation Programs - Programs running from: April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024. Deadline to apply: Must be received by March 15, 2023. Email spr@sasktel.net or call (306) 883-2176 to receive Funding Request Form.

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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 Dec. 19, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.

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

Absent: Valerie Priestley

The mayor called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

Waldner: That the agenda be adopted as presented with the following additions: Demolition deposit reimbursement, Council cell phone allowance, Pecuniary interest protocol, Munisoft Training. Carried

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

Waldner: That the Minutes of Nov. 16, 2022, Regular Council Meeting be approved as presented. Carried

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

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

Waldner: That the Village of Leask purchase a Magnatrak magnetic locator from Amazon, costing \$1,318.71, plus taxes and shipping, as presented. Carried

6:16 p.m.: Due to pecuniary interest, Deputy Mayor Waldner left the meeting.

Verbonac: That the Village of Leask approved the attached payables being: Cheque 9821 payable to Leask Mechanical for repairs to the Dodge truck, Loader & three tonne truck totalling \$2,897.76, Cheque 9822 Payable to Valarie Priestley for reimbursement for ham and turkey for staff Christmas supper totalling \$70.97, and Cheque 9823 to Gary Waldner for reimbursement for the purchase of Co² from Grainger totalling \$137.04 as presented. Carried

6:24 p.m. Deputy Mayor Waldner returned to the meeting.

Verbonac: That the Village of Leask approved the attached payables being: Cheques 9789-9816, and Direct payment 22120-22196 being totalling \$77,653.81 as presented. Carried

Waldner: That the Village of Leask approved the attached payables being: Cheques 9817-9820 being November Council indemnities totalling \$1,134.50 as presented. Carried

J. Priestley: That the Village of Leask accept the June, July, August, September, October & November 2022 Bank Reconciliations as presented. Carried

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

Waldner: The Council of the Village of Leask confirms the municipality meets the following eligibility requirements to receive the Municipal Revenue Sharing grant: Submission of the 2021 Audited Financial Statement to the Ministry of Government Relations; Submission of the 2021 Public Reporting on Municipal Waterworks to the Ministry of Government Relations In Good Standing with respect to the reporting and remittance of Education Property Taxes; Adoption of a Council Procedures Bylaw; Adoption of an Employee Code of Conduct; and All members of council have filed and annually updated their Public Disclosure Statements, as required;

and That we understand if any requirements are not met, our Municipal Revenue Sharing grant may be withheld until all requirements are met;

and That we authorize the Administrator, Yvette Hamel, to sign the Declaration of Eligibility and submit it to the Ministry of Government Relations. Carried

Waldner: Upon request of a second garbage cart the Village of Leask will invoice ratepayer \$360.00 + taxes, upon receipt of payment a second cart will be delivered. Carried

Verbonac: That the Village of Leask Public Works employees read water meters March, June, September and December of each year and that the information entered and that accounts be adjusted accordingly. Carried

Waldner: That the Village of Leask purchase four "Reserved for Handicap" parking signs, two to be placed in front of the Legion, two to be placed in front of Leask Happy Homesteaders. Carried

Waldner: That the Village of Leask accept the application to consolidate Lot 19 Block 25 65PA14128 and Lot 18 Block 25 65PA14128, as this application meets the requirements Policy P2022-02. Carried

Waldner: That the Village of Leask appoint Charles Smith to the Emerald Lake Regional Park board. Carried

Verbonac: That the Village of Leask observe the following dates as Statutory Holidays: Jan. 2 (for Jan. 1), Feb. 20, May 22, July 3 for July 1, Aug. 7, Sept. 4, Oct. 9, Nov. 13 (for Nov 11), and Dec. 25, 2023. Carried

Waldner: That the Village of Leask inspected the completed demolition Site 260 1st Avenue, Leask, SK, and have approved the reimbursement of deposit to Robert Rogers. Carried

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

Waldner: That the Village of Leask appoint Timothy Furlong, Kirby Fessler, Glen Neuert, Sabrina Saccucci as panel members and Mike Ligtermoet as secretary to the Village of Leask Board of Revisions as per their Propos-

al. Carried

J. Priestley: That the Village of Leask nominate Robert Hryniuk for the SUMA Meritorious Service award. Carried

Waldner: That the Village of Leask notify concerned citizen indicating Councillor Zach Waldner will set live traps to address the feral cat issue. Carried

Waldner: That the Village of Leask accept the Wapiti Library Board report as submitted by Councillor Valerie Priestley. Carried

Waldner: That the Village of Leask compensate councillors for use of personal cell phones with a monthly allowance of \$40.00 commencing January 2023. Carried

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

Waldner: That the Village of Leask open a Flex GIC account at the Leask Affinity Credit Union designated as infrastructure savings Account, whereas \$2,000 a month will be automatically transferred from general chequing account. Carried

Smith: That the Village of Leask accept 2023 SSA Munisoft stating \$4,235.00 as presented. Carried

Waldner: That the Village of Leask Administrator complete the Canada Sumer Jobs grant application, requesting two summer employees. Carried

Verbonac: That the Village of Leask give Christmas bonus to the three full time employees of \$150. Carried

Verbonac: That this meeting be adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR HOUSE IS

Support the local businesses that support your local newspaper.

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.
306-466-2296

PRESBYTERIAN

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

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN

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

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
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. Mariusz Zajac
St. Agatha's - Shellbrook
Mass - Sunday 11 a.m.
St. Henry's - Leask
Mass - Sunday 9 a.m.
Mistawasis
1st & 3rd 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

Debate is over; LeBron the best

OK, so LeBron James is the National Basketball Association's all-time leading scorer, but is he the greatest NBA player of all time?

It's impossible to say 'let the debate begin' because the debate has been raging for at least a couple of years as Michael Jordan fans say MJ can never be surpassed as the Greatest of All Time, and others say James' career stats will be so far ahead of Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's and Jordan's by the time he retires that the argument will be moot.

Isn't it automatic to say the GOAT in a specific sport is the athlete piling up the most points, or home runs, or touchdown passes? Well, not necessarily so. The argument has long been over in the National Hockey League, as Wayne Gretzky forever wears the crown. Tom Brady is the National Football League's all-time leader in touchdown passes, and he's generally accept-

ed as his sports's GOAT. The situation is murky in baseball, where Barry Bonds is credited with the most home runs, but detractors say Hank Aaron is the true home-run king, because he didn't need steroids to bolster his stats. Or maybe it's Babe Ruth, who excelled in an altogether different era.

It's not ludicrous to say James is the NBA's best ever player, even though it's thought to be sacrilegious by Jordan followers to suggest anyone other than MJ is the best.

James' credentials are almost unmatched. Directly to the NBA from high school, more points than anyone in league history, 10 trips to the NBA Finals, winning four times. And he's not finished. He knocked down 38 points Feb. 7 to surpass Abdul-Jabbar's 38,387, but the James detractors say the point total is dubious because the three-point shot was not available to Jabbar for most of his ca-



BRUCE
PENTON

reer, and Jabbar spent four years at UCLA while James came to the league directly from high school.

Points tell only part of the James story, though. He recently moved into fourth place for career assists, and is the only player in league history to be among the top five in points and assists. At 6-foot-9 and 250 pounds, James is a beast on the court. He drives the lane and makes unstoppable layups, he drills three-pointers with the best of them, and dishes to team-mates like Steve Nash. He rebounds as well

as anyone.

He's the total basketball package and it's impossible to put him behind anyone. LeBron is the GOAT.

• Retired Seattle columnist and quipster Dwight Perry: "Seattle has been declared the No. 1 city for singles, according to a study released by the personal-finance website WalletHub.com. Heck, Ichiro could have told you that two decades ago."

• RJ Currie of sportsdeck.com: "According to a recent New York Daily News item, Derek Jeter and his spouse Hannah Davis split the bill for a pizza in Italy. What kind of people report on these things — the pizarazzi?"

• Jason Robertson of the Dallas Stars, on his team's overtime record: "We need more shootouts because we can't win three-on-three."

• Former NHLer Marc Methot, on Twitter: "I randomly showed up at an outdoor rink down the street and a fairly com-

petitive game broke out. I can confirm that I'm still, without question, the best hockey player living in Manotick, Ontario."

• Comedy writer Gary Bachman: "Packers QB Aaron Rodgers to go on four-day 'darkness retreat' to contemplate future. He wouldn't need a darkness retreat had he played lights out."

• Mark Bowman of mob.com: "(Braves pitcher Mike) Soroka said he now wants to go by Michael. This is truly a drop the Mike moment."

• Headline at the beaverton.com: "Guinness frantically publishing new world record book every time LeBron scores another basket"

• Comedy writer Alex Kaseberg: "When asked who he liked more, the Eagles or the Chiefs, George Santos said, 'I've never heard of the band the Chiefs. But I used to play guitar for the Eagles.'"

• RJ Currie again: "According to the Daily Mail,

for over 1,000 years The Great Wall of China has been in a constant state of rebuilding. 'See?' said the Toronto Maple Leafs."

• Phil Mushnick of the New York Post: "Prepping for the Super Bowl, Fox's Greg Olsen spent yesterday practicing repeating himself, saying 'he ran with his legs' and making long stories out of nothing."

• Headline from fark.com: "Cleveland Browns owner wants a 25-per-cent share of the Milwaukee Bucks in an attempt to make them mediocre as well."

• One more from fark.com: "In the early 2000s, two Marines, one a Chiefs fan and one an Eagles fan, became friends. The Chiefs fan donated a kidney to the Eagles' fan. They'll both be at the Super Bowl, where the Eagles fan will clank a D-cell battery off the donor's head."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

U18 B Shellbrook Elks trampled by Ramblers

By JORDAN TWISS

Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Capping off a week filled with Provincial playoffs action, the Shellbrook U18 B Elks welcomed the Eston Ramblers to the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre on Friday night for game one of their modified best of three first round series.

From the opening face off, both teams set a fast, hard-hitting pace, playing the game as if it were a grudge match. Though both the Elks and the Ramblers traded some good scoring opportunities, the Ramblers had the clear edge, spending the most time in the offensive end.

A power play after the midway point of

the period allowed the Elks to find their stride and rack up a handful of scoring chances. But, although they proved to be the dominant team through the second half of the first period, they were unable to break the 0-0 deadlock.

Thanks to some rough play at the close of the first frame, the Elks started the second period with a full two-minute power play. This time, however, the Elks struggled to find their footing.

The struggle persisted as the teams returned to even strength, allowing the Ramblers to strike first when Elks netminder Carson Ledding overplayed the puck and left the goal wide open. Jake Hudec netted the goal, with assists from Colton Simpson and Quinton King.

Shortly after, the Elks found themselves on the penalty kill, as the heavy hitting continued and tensions on the ice began to boil over.

The teams traded off penalties and scoring chances for much of the rest of the period, ending the second frame with the score still at 1-0.

Back on the penalty kill in the early minutes of the third period, the Elks once again kept the Ramblers off the board. But only a few moments later, Colby Mathers pushed the score to 2-0 on a beautiful shot from the point, assisted by Boston Dipple and Cooper Halborg.

Meanwhile, the Elks' power play continued to produce scoring opportunities but no results. And when the Elks'

defence fell asleep on a power play late in the period, the Ramblers broke out on a rush and Jake Hudec made them pay by burying a rebound with an assist from Simpson.

Another Ramblers goal seemed to light a fire under the Elks, but, with time quickly winding down, they proved unable to find the back of the net and fell by a final score of 3-0.

Following Friday night's loss, the Elks must now win game two in Eston, as well as an ensuing mini game, to take the modified best of three series and keep their Provincials run alive.

Game two of the series was set to be played Sunday, Feb. 19. The *Chronicle & Herald* was unable to obtain the score-sheet prior to deadline.

U15 C Shellbrook Elks drop Provincial opener

By JORDAN TWISS

Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The U15 Shellbrook Elks kicked off their Provincial C playoff run on home ice Thursday night, hosting the Foam Lake Flyers at the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre.

The Flyers came out flying, quickly outspeeding the Elks and keeping them on the defensive through the first half of the first period. But when they were put on the penalty kill by a questionable interference call, the Elks showed their first signs of life and successfully kept the Flyers off the board.

Still, the flyers continued

to set the pace and tone of the game, until the Elks were put on the power play, threatening with a handful of scoring opportunities but coming up just short thanks to solid goaltending from Connor Chaykowski.

Beginning the second period with a four-minute power play, the Elks made their first major misstep of the game with a turnover at the blue line, springing the Flyers' penalty kill on the breakaway. Hayden Helberg made no mistakes with the puck, firing a top-shelf sniper shot past Elks netminder Brennen Hunter.

Just as the Elks were starting to find their stride on their next

power play, they derailed the opportunity by taking a penalty. After giving up one too many rebounds, the Flyers pushed the score to 2-0 on a tap in by Jeremy Filarczuk, assisted by Carter Machuik and Micah Armbruster.

Put on the penalty kill later in the period, the Elks once again held their ground. And once back at even strength, they began racking up scoring chances. However, a second breakaway for Helberg yielded the same result as the first, as he scored on another top-shelf shot to put the Flyers up 3-0.

A two-on-one breakaway for the Flyers just minutes lat-

er saw Helberg connect with Rhett Rogers on a perfect cross-ice feed. Rogers made the most of it, pushing the score to 4-0.

After ending the second period on the ropes, the Elks were given another power play early in the third frame and looked disorganized, barely managing a shot on goal. But the power play redeemed itself later in the period, when Davin Schmitz slipped the puck between the pads of Flyers goalie Connor Chaykowski to close the gap to 4-1. Blake Fisher and Aiden Tait assisted on the goal.

The Flyers' power play also proved dangerous in the third period, when Armbruster took

a cross-ice feed and buried it in the back of the Elks' goal to put the Flyers up 5-1. Helberg and Kaine Chaikowski earned helpers on the play.

With time winding down, the Elks just couldn't get anything going, and the game ended none too soon, as tensions were beginning to flare over on the ice.

Following Thursday night's loss, the Elks must now win game two in Foam Lake, as well as an ensuing mini game, to take the modified best of three series and keep their Provincials dreams alive.

Game two of the series is set for Feb. 27.

GOOD NEWS

A MIND TO WORK

By DAVE BODVARSON
Shellbrook Pentecostal Assembly

There is a bit of Scripture in the Old Testament that speaks volumes to me. It speaks about rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. It explains how it happened. Eight words. Nehemiah 4:6 says, "For the people had a mind to work."

Jesus was a carpenter. Paul was a tent maker. I need to remind myself work is not a curse but a blessing. Genesis 2:15 says before the fall, "And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and keep it."

When our three boys got into their teens, they all had jobs. At the time we were pastoring in Rocanville. Moosomin isn't terribly far from Rocanville, so the boys got jobs there.

Our oldest, Kenny, for a while cooked at the Country Squire Inn. He was a young cook and still going to high school. One day, Kenny came

home and had just got off shift when the Squire called and said they wanted him back in the kitchen. Well, Kenny was exhausted and declined. I told the Squire and hung up the phone.

Then, I had the thought that maybe Timmy would want to work. He would have been 15 going on 16. I called the Squire and asked if Tim could go instead. The manger said yes. I dropped Tim off. When I picked him up after his shift, he was absolutely pumped.

"Dad", he said, "I got a job."

The Squire had hired Tim as a dishwasher. He eventually got promoted and started cooking. I don't think I will ever forget what his fellow student said of Tim at his grade 12 graduation. He said "Tim was 'the only student that worked full time and got good grades.'"

Our youngest J.D. didn't work at the Squire but at the Moosomin Dairy Queen. I would go there

at times. J.D.'s boss sure spoke well of him. I'm sure glad our boys embraced work.

I picked up a book written by Leroy Brownlow on March 30, 1996, 26 years ago, that still speaks to me. I have quoted from that book many times over the years.

I like the poem he wrote. It goes like this:

"The father of Success is Work.

The mother of Success is Ambition.

The oldest son is Common sense.

Some of the other boys are: Perseverance, Honesty, Thoroughness, Foresight, Enthusiasm, Cooperation.

The oldest daughter is Character.

Some of the sisters are: Cheerfulness, Loyalty, Courtesy, Care, Economy, Sincerity, Harmony.

The baby is Opportunity.

Get acquainted with the 'old man' and You will be able to get along pretty well with the rest of the family."

OBITUARY

William Glen Bakken



BAKKEN – William Glen

1946 – 2023

The family of "Bill" are saddened to share the news of his sudden passing. Bill grew up in Mont Nebo and attended High School in Shellbrook where he met Marie Grendahl and in 1968 they were married and moved to Kelowna, BC and later to Richmond, BC.

Bill is lovingly remembered by his wife, Marie, Sons Trevor (Michelle) and Trent (Nancy); Grandchildren Taylor (Tanner), Bowen (Hannah), Colton (Bree), Jacob, Saige, Father-in-Law, George Grendahl, Sister-in-Law, Kathy Tingstad, Nieces, Nephews and Cousins.

Bill is predeceased by his Parents, Peter and May Bakken, Brothers Bruce and Perry, and Mother-in-Law Audrey Grendahl.

A Celebration of Life will be held on March 4 at South Delta Baptist Church in Tsawwassen, BC.

Donations in memory of Bill may be made to the charity of your choice.

Full obituary and online condolences may be viewed at www.MyAlternatives.ca.

Minutes of an RM of Spiritwood meeting

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

The Regular Meeting of the Council of the Rural Municipality of Spiritwood No. 496 was held on Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2022.

In attendance were Reeve Shirley Dauvin, Division 1 Larry Vaagen, and Division 2 Dale Wasden, Division 3 Terry Wingerter, Division 4 Dennis Laventure, Division 5 Heather Warkentin, Division 6 Bevra Fee, Administrator Colette Bussiere, and Foreman Darcy Laventure.

A quorum being present the meeting was called to order at 9 a.m. by Reeve, Shirley Dauvin.

Laventure: That the agenda be adopted as presented. Carried

Foreman Darcy Laventure joined the council meeting at 9 a.m.

Fee: That the Foreman's report having been read now be filed. Carried

Foreman Darcy Laventure left the council meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Wingerter: That the minutes of the Dec. 7, 2022, Regular Meeting of Council be approved as presented. Carried

Warkentin: That the Division Boundary Review Policy be approved with revisions as presented. Carried

Wasden: That the Administra-

tor's report having been read now be filed. Carried

Laventure: That the CSO reports having been read now be filed. Carried

Vaagen: That the bank reconciliation for the month ending Dec. 31, 2022, be accepted as presented. Carried

Warkentin: That the "List of Accounts" as listed on the attached Schedule "A" forming part of these minutes be passed for payment: Cheque No. 13994-14038 (\$177,492.80), Payroll File No. 394 & 396 (\$37,414.82), EFT 2022 0063-0068 (\$135,533.57). Carried

Fee: That the Statement of Financial Activities for the month ending Dec. 31, 2022, be approved as presented. Carried

Wingerter: That regular council meetings continue to be held on the second Tuesday of every month and that the meetings for the months of January, February, March, November and December convene at 9 a.m. and that the meetings in the months of April through October convene at 8 a.m. Carried

Warkentin: That Council remuneration remain the same and is as follows: Meeting Indemnity - \$20.00 per hour, Monthly Supervision - \$500/month (Reeve) and \$150/month (Councillors). Carried

Vaagen: The automobile allowance rates for 2023 are: 61¢ per kilometre for the first 5,000 kilometres driven, 55¢ per kilometre driven after that. Carried

Wingerter: That the SARM Liability Insurance Plan be renewed for 2023; and

That we renew the Excess Liability Insurance in the amount of \$3,000,000 and the Administrative Errors & Omissions Coverage in the amount of \$1,000,000. Carried

Fee: That the SARM Property Insurance Schedule for 2023 be approved as revised and presented to Council. Carried

Laventure: That the SARM Fidelity Bond Certificate for 2023 be approved as presented: Fidelity Bond Coverage: \$200,000, Registered Mail Coverage: \$50,000, Money & Securities Coverage: \$20,000. Carried

Wasden: That the RM of Spiritwood No. 496 intends to participate in one or more procurements offered through the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM), between January 2023 and December 2023. Carried

Fee: That Bylaw No. 2022-6, being a Bylaw Respecting Buildings be read a third time. Carried

Wingerter: That Bylaw No. 2022-7, being a bylaw to Establish Planning & Development Fees be

read a third time. Carried

Laventure: That the discretionary use application for a six-site campground be tabled. Carried

Vaagen: That we refund \$216.84 for the overpayment of taxes on Roll 4378 000. Carried

Fee: That we request the cancellation of lease agreements for non-payment of property taxes for the following list of lands attached hereto and forming part of the minutes. Carried

Wingerter: That the NCTPC Workshop be tabled to the February meeting. Carried

Laventure: That the following locations be designated as polling stations for the RM of Spiritwood No. 496: Leoville Seniors Centre - Leoville, SK, Shell Lake Legion Hall - Shell Lake, SK, RM of Spiritwood Municipal Office - Spiritwood, SK. Carried

Wasden: That the following persons be appointed as cemetery caretakers for 2023: Norman Lavoie Laventure Cemetery, Gille Oulette Laventure Cemetery. Carried

Vaagen: That we enter into a road maintenance agreement with Tolko Industries to haul timber from NW 22-54-12-W3, W 1/2 21-54-12-W3 and Section 13-54-12-W3. Carried

Warkentin: That TAXervice be authorized under s22(1) of The Tax

Enforcement Act to commence proceedings to request title with respect to the following described lands: Roll 2596000 - NE 18-52-10-3 EXT 0, Roll 2718000 - PAR A PLAN 101989075 EXT 9 & PAR B-PLAN 101989075 EXT 10, Roll 4110000 - NE 28-54-13-3 EXT 0, Roll 4132000 - SE 33-54-13-3 EXT 0, Roll 6301000 - PAR A-PLAN 102282588 EXT 0. Carried

Warkentin: That invoice number 2022-00093 in the amount of \$1,544.21 and applicable interest be abated. Carried

Fee: That the regular meeting of council be adjourned at 1:11 p.m. to move in camera to discuss HR concerns and employee performance reviews. Carried

CAO Colette Bussiere left the council chambers at 1:11 p.m.

CAO Colette Bussiere returned to council chambers at 2:15 p.m.

The regular meeting of council was called back to order at 2:15 p.m.

Laventure: That administration employee salaries for 2023 be approved as per the RMAA salary schedule and a cost of living allowance of 4.5% be approved for outside employees. Carried

Wingerter: That the correspondence having been read now be filed. Carried

Fee: That the meeting be adjourned.

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Andrea Weberg
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Prince Albert – Canwood – Leask
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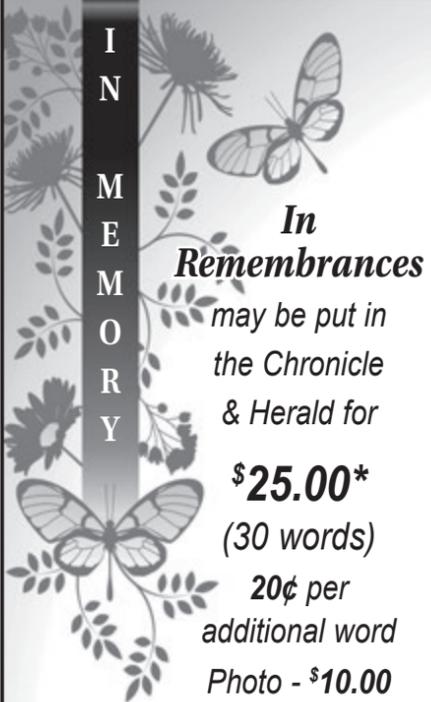
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Root rot of house plants

By JILL THOMSON

When you live in a climate that is winter for half the year, it is not surprising that many of us like to have indoor plants that provide us with growing vegetation in our homes. Some of us even put these plants outside for the summer months, and bring them back inside as the climate becomes incompatible. One of the most important factors for keeping your plants healthy and happy indoors is to learn about their likes and dislikes for temperature, light, soil type and watering. It is also important to bring them into your house in as healthy a condition as possible.

Watering and soil conditions are both critical in keeping the root system of your house plants healthy. Most plants do not want to sit in waterlogged soil; some (like ferns) will tolerate wetter soils for longer periods, and enjoy high humidity. Others (such as cacti) prefer soils that drain quickly and dry out between watering. So it is important to find out the requirements of your different plants, and not to treat all in the same way; maybe separate them physically, which makes it easier to keep the conditions required by different types of plants in separate locations.

When the roots of a plant remain in damp soil, they are more prone to attack by fungi and bacteria that can cause rot. These pathogens may be introduced in your soil or be imported on the plant roots. Rot usually occurs when conditions are better suited for the pathogens rather than the plant roots. A wise precaution, when acquiring a new plant, is to repot it in a container that has adequate drainage, using potting soil of the correct nature for the type of plant. As an extra precaution, you can sterilize your soil by baking in the oven in a covered container for at least 30 minutes at 180-200°F prior to planting.

The symptoms of root rot include yellowing or blackening of leaves that eventually die and drop off, despite adequate watering. The presence of fungus gnats indicates the soil is

staying too moist for long periods, and root rot may develop. Also, if the soil and plant become smelly, root rot may be present.

If you suspect rot, carefully remove the plant in its clump of soil, place in a shallow bowl of water, and tease the roots apart. If the roots are dark, blackened, soft and squishy then they are likely rotted. Healthy roots are usually creamy white to tan in colour and are firm to the touch. Often only part of the root system is affected, and it is possible to cut the damaged roots back to healthy tissue, using scissors or pruners dipped in disinfectant (1 part bleach to 3 parts water). Cut back the above ground foliage, to match the amount of root remaining, then repot the plant in a container that has been washed and rinsed in bleach solution. Use sterilized potting soil, and place in growing conditions suitable for the plant. Always water pots separately so they are not sharing water draining from other pots, as this prevents pathogens from moving between pots and plants.

Drainage is extremely important, and many attractive pots have no drainage holes. Find a smaller plastic pot with drain holes that will fit inside the decorative pot, and either sit the inner pot on a bed of gravel or, better still, remove it when watering, replacing once any excess water has drained away.

Plants do not easily recover from root rot. It is worth spending time on finding out what conditions suit your plants, in particular the water regime, to avoid root rot altogether. However, even if the root system is damaged, it may be possible to root a cutting from a stem. For example, coleus, ivy, and other plants will form healthy roots on stems that are placed in water for a few weeks - it is worth a try!

Jill Thomson is a retired Plant Pathologist who lives in Saskatoon, where she enjoys gardening with her children, grandchildren and the dogs.

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



Dieffenbachia (Dumbcane) plant with lower part of root system affected by rot, because water did not drain from bottom of pot.
Photo Credit: Jill and Laurie Thomson

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