

Spiritwood Museum to re-open doors soon



The Zarudski log cabin is the newest addition to the Spiritwood & District Museum’s collection of buildings, and can be freely toured for the first time this summer.

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

After a four-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, community history will soon be alive and accessible once more in Spiritwood, when the Spiritwood & District Museum re-opens its doors to the public.

As of this week, Spiritwood & District Museum board member Roberta Wasden said plans were being made to potentially open the museum for the Victoria Day long weekend. Barring this, she says that Canada Summer Jobs grant funding will allow the museum to open its doors on July 1, and operate for the months of July and August.

In an age where important pieces of the cultural and historical fabric of communities seem to be vanishing at a rapid pace — be it grain elevators, or museums like the Shellbrook & District Heritage Museum — Wasden says it’s important to keep the Spiritwood Museum alive.

“[It’s] for the public to see what people had to live with or put up with way back whenever,” she said. “And also, the things are treasures for some of the people who have donated their items. There are treasures, and lots of them.”

Among the treasures is a replica of the Zarudski family’s log cabin, which stood eight miles north of Mildred before becoming the fifth building in the Spiritwood & District Museum’s

collection of historical buildings at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021.

This summer will mark the first time the building can be toured freely (without needing to make an appointment beforehand).

The original cabin was built in the late 1920s, when Walter and Sophie Zarudski’s parents immigrated to Canada from Poland and settled down in the area.

Over the years, the building had begun to deteriorate, so the siblings decided to have a replica built on the same site to use as a summer house. All of the original furnishings were kept in the replica.

In recent years, the building wasn’t

seeing much use, so Walter and Sophie made a decision to donate it to the Spiritwood and District Museum, along with all of the original furnishings, kitchen items, and décor.

The Zarudskis donated half of the money to have the building floated into town, while the remaining half came from the museum’s funds.

The log cabin, which has an entirely wood interior, has two small bedrooms with a L-shaped kitchen and living area.

“It was fully furnished,” Wasden said. “They had it so that it would be open to anybody. So if someone happened to get lost, they could go in there and warm up, and if they wanted to sleep overnight, they could.”



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Hryniuk earns meritorious service award

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

When Bob Hryniuk moved to Leask in 1969 to begin his first job as a schoolteacher, he and his wife believed they'd be lucky if they managed to stay in the village of less than 500 people for a year (he grew up in Prince Albert, while she was raised in Saskatoon).

Fifty-four years later, the village's population may have dipped below 400 people, but Hryniuk and his wife still happily call Leask home. And in addition to raising a family there, they've both spent most of their lives being active members of their community.

Hryniuk got his start in community service in 1970, when he was asked to join the Leask Volunteer Fire Department. Like any little kid, he says he'd always been fascinated by fire trucks, and he also just thought it would be an "interesting way to get involved in the community."

Hryniuk served with the fire department for 52 years and saw six fire chiefs come and go

during his tenure. He also saw plenty of changes in fire services, starting with the transition from a time when there was only one phone number in town to set the fire alarm to a time when all members of the department receive 911 texts.

More notably, he says there's also been a dramatic shift in what it means to be a firefighter. "The variety of fires and activities has changed. First, it was just fire — a lot of bush fires and grass fires," Hryniuk said, recalling a blaze at the hotel in Leask and fires at apartment buildings owned by the nearby Hutterite Colony as some of the major calls he responded to.

"Then, we got into accidents. We had everything from one plane crash to a railway accident. Of the accidents I attended, there were 15 vehicle fatalities and one fire fatality over the 52 years."

Hryniuk says he still carries the ghosts of these losses with him, and remembers everything about the circumstances in which they occurred. This, as well as the time commitment of being a firefighter, are what

he considers to be the hardest parts of the job.

"Sometimes, it was the time commitment of getting a phone call at three in the morning, then having to go teach the next day," he said, noting that being a firefighter also sometimes meant missing out on important events and time with family.

"Though, it's worth it, because you know you're doing something that's worthwhile — especially now in the days of accidents, people's lives depend on it," he added.

Fortunately, Hryniuk had the camaraderie with his fellow firefighters to lean on for support.

"It's like a family that you grow to know and respect. I've made a lot of friends through the fire department," he said.

Though fighting fires and responding to accidents is plenty demanding, Hryniuk's commitment to his community didn't begin and end with the Leask Volunteer Fire Department. He also spent 36 years on council for the Village of Leask, including 10 years as mayor.

This legacy of community

service was enough to make him eligible for the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association's (SUMA) Meritorious Service Award, which recognizes the success, dedication, and involvement of municipal employees who have served for more than 20 years with a municipality or multiple municipalities.

Having previously received the Governor General's Fire Services Exemplary Service

Medal in 1990, and the Saskatchewan Protective Services Medal in 2004, Hryniuk put his name forward for the Meritorious Service Award, with an endorsement from the Village of Leask.

With all the requirements met, Hryniuk received his award from Minister of Government Relations Don McMorris and SUMA president Randy Goulden at this year's SUMA conference.



Bob Hryniuk (middle) accepts his Meritorious Service Award from Minister of Government Relations Don McMorris (left) and SUMA president Randy Goulden.

Police arrest wanted Spiritwood man

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

After more than a month on the run, a Spiritwood man was taken into custody during a joint investigation by the Saskatchewan RCMP's Warrant Enforcement and Suppression Team (WEST), Police Dog Services, and the Spiritwood RCMP detachment.

On May 10, police were on the Witchekan Lake

First Nation investigating the whereabouts of 33-year-old Melvin Starblanket, who was wanted in connection with a firearms-related incident on the Pelican Lake First Nation in early April.

Starblanket was subsequently located in an RV parked in front of a residence and was taken into custody without incident.

Starblanket was facing a slew of charges in relation to the April incident,

including one count of pointing a firearm, one count of possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose, one count of unauthorized possession of a firearm, one count of possession of a firearm knowing possession is unauthorized, one count of possession of a firearm in a motor vehicle, two counts of failing to comply with release order condition, two counts of weapons possession contrary to order and failing to surrender authorization,

two counts of failing to comply with undertaking, one count of assault with weapon, one count of discharging a firearm with intent.

However, this isn't the first time Starblanket has found himself in police custody.

He was previously charged and arrested in connection with a September 2022 shooting incident on the Witchekan Lake First Nation. At that time, he was wanted by police on a number of other charges as well, in-

cluding failing to stop for police and obstructing/fleeing a peace officer on Dec. 31, 2021, failing to report to a probation officer on June 16, 2022, a break and enter and theft of a vehicle on Aug. 7, and failure to appear in court on Aug. 9.

More recently, he was one of three men arrested by the Spiritwood RCMP Detachment on March 15, 2023, in connection with a drug and weapons bust on the Witchekan Lake First Nation.

Starblanket was scheduled to appear in North Battleford Provincial Court last Friday.

During their investigation into Starblanket's whereabouts on May

10, officers also located and arrested 40-year-old Aaron Scott from Witchekan Lake First Nation, who was on warrant from the Spiritwood RCMP for charges including failure to appear at court.

He was also scheduled to appear in North Battleford Provincial Court last Friday.



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Hidden Hills of Shellbrook Golf Course Incorporated

ANNUAL MEETING

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Members of the Hidden Hills Golf Course are invited to attend the annual general meeting. Presentation of the operations for 2022 will be presented.

Election of the board of directors will take place.

Nominations for directors may be forwarded to President Clark Pepper at the Shellbrook Chronicle office in Shellbrook, SK by **May 26th, 2023** or be nominated at this AGM!

Highlights of a Shellbrook Town Council meeting

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Shellbrook’s Town Council met for its regular meeting in person and via teleconference on Monday, May 8.

In attendance were Mayor Amund Otterson, councillors Bruce Anderson, Larry Batten, Peter Halayka, Cheryl Ledding, Brent Miller, and Kathleen Nording, 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, then approved the meeting’s agenda and adopted the minutes of its April 3 meeting.

Council next passed a motion to proclaim the week of May 14 to 20 as Canadian Royal Purple week and Royal Purple Week, and to declare the month of June as Parks and Recreation Month, before welcoming a delegation from the Mesa Way condo board to discuss the paving of the cul de sac.

Since the condos were built in 2012, the idea of paving the development as a Local Improvement project has been brought up before but never pursued. The representatives from the Mesa Way board now feel as if they’d have more than enough support to proceed with the project.

If done as a Local Improvement, the typical arrangement is for the town to finance the work, with the residents repaying the lion’s share of the cost over a fixed period.

Councillor Miller noted that one

reason for the paving not getting done is that council has been focused on shoring up the infrastructure under the road before paving, to prevent instances of having to dig the road up shortly after paving is completed. He also noted that the town wouldn’t be doing any paving this year, as it’s less costly to pave large sections of road at one time.

Following a lengthy discussion, Mayor Otterson said the matter could be brought forward to Public Works, and the road could be looked at. Councillor Miller, meanwhile, wondered if the paving could be done next year, if the logistics of the project can be worked out by both the town and the residents of Mesa Way.

The delegation also raised concerns about Mesa Way not being on any maps, which makes getting deliveries and services a challenge. Hoare informed the delegation this is out of the town’s hands, and said all they can do is wait until Google decides to remap the community.

Shifting to reports, the Public Works report saw council considering a by-law to impose fines on ratepayers who fail to remove their garbage and recycling bins from the street in a timely fashion, as this causes issues for maintenance and snow removal. Per Public Works’ recommendation, the first offence would result in a warning, while a second offence would lead to a \$50 fine. The penalties would double for every subsequent offence.

In the PARWU Board update, Mayor Otterson said he and Hoare would be joining PARWU representatives for

a meeting with the City of Prince Albert, which is currently reviewing its pricing for providing water to PARWU.

Mayor Otterson also said the R.M. of Birch Hills has expressed interest in the project.

Closing out the reports, Mayor Otterson noted another SIPPA physician is in the queue for Shellbrook, with an anticipated availability of October or November.

Moving on to new business, council’s first item was to consider engaging Associated Engineering to assist it with a decision-making model to supply potable water to the residents of Shellbrook, at a cost of about \$15,000.

Mayor Otterson said PARWU engaged Associated Engineering to do this when it began exploring the idea of building a new water treatment plant and intermunicipal water pipeline, and that the third-party perspective was helpful.

Councillor Miller, meanwhile, expressed disappointment with the firm’s work on the project thus far, and questioned whether its perspective would be objective. He also floated the idea of asking SaskWater if it would provide the same service, and suggested the Crown corporation might even do so for free.

In the end, however, council voted to proceed with Associated Engineering (with Councillors Miller and Batten opposed).

Shifting gears, council agreed to allow the Shellbrook Senior’s Association to use the space in front of the museum for a garage sale on June 3. Then, following a lengthy discussion

about how council should work with local boards and committees, it tabled a request from the group to have Councillor Halayka serve as council’s representative on its board until it can speak with other groups to determine how to proceed.

Next, council carried a motion to move the proceeds from the sale of the museum cookbooks, in the amount of \$4,242.07, to the swimming pool project, despite suggestions from Councillor Batten that the funds could be used to build a walking path at Centennial Park to give residents (especially seniors) a safe place to walk.

Closing out the meeting, council approved a request from the fire chief to increase the stipends paid to deputy fire chiefs to \$120 per month from \$43.86 per month. Pay for training hours will also increase to \$25 per hour from \$20, and service call pay jumps to \$30 per hour from \$25, with a minimum call out rate of \$100.

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Liberals show disdain for debate, democracy

Healthy debate is the cornerstone of any vibrant democracy.

When elected officials – and in particular the government of the day – gather around the table to discuss an important issue, they will, of course, bring their beliefs and opinions with them and do their best to sway their opponents to their side. However, they should also bring with them a willingness to listen and have their opinions changed.

At the end of the day, being “right” isn’t what matters, especially if it comes at the expense of what’s best for taxpayers.

Unfortunately, in today’s highly polarized and decisive environment, this notion seems to have been forgotten. And no one is more guilty of this than the federal Liberal government under Prime Minister Trudeau.

From the moment it took office with a majority in 2015 (and even as an NDP-backed minority government), the guiding philosophy of Mr. Trudeau’s government has been “my way or the highway.”

Indeed, it’s hard to think of any other government in Canadian history – federal, provincial, or otherwise – so unflinchingly committed to its vision and so unwilling to cede even an inch.

Rather than admit to even the slightest chance it could be wrong, it will tar and feather its critics to stifle debate.

Its most recent example of this comes with its move to literally limit debate on Bill C-21, its controversial gun control legislation that aims to prohibit AR-15-style firearms to protect Canadians from the type of gun violence we see daily in the United States.

This effort to shutdown questions and concerns comes after the government already got the legislation wrong by introducing an amendment to outlaw almost all types of semi-automatic firearms in Canada, including a number of guns that are popular among hunters and sport shooters. (In this exceedingly rare case, the government did admit its mistake).

“We hear those concerns loud and clear, regret the confusion that this process has caused and are committed to a thoughtful and respectful conversation that is based on facts, not fear,” Public Safety Minister Marco Mendicino said



JORDAN
TWISS
~
News Editor

after the repeal of the amendments back in February.

Three months later, the “thoughtful and respectful conversation that is based on facts, not fear,” is apparently at a close.

Thanks to a motion passed last week, with the support of the NDP and the Bloc Québécois, there will be only two more days of debate over Bill C-21. These will be held as marathon hearings, in which the legislation will be reviewed clause by clause and

only 20 minutes of debate will be permitted before each clause is brought to a vote.

After this, only one further sitting day of debate will be permitted at the report stage and third reading – the final two legislative phases before it passes into the Senate.

In addition to putting a stop clock on the debate of Bill C-21, the motion also empowers the House Public Safety and National Security Committee to expand Bill C-21’s scope, allowing it to approve the Liberals’ latest proposed amendments related to ghost guns and implementing an assault-style firearm definition.

On the one hand, if debates were allowed to continue until a consensus was reached, the government would never get anything done. This wouldn’t be at all in the best interest of taxpayers.

On the other hand, the Conservative opposition isn’t entirely wrong to call the government’s motion “the nuclear option” – even if some of its objections are certainly just thinly veiled attempts to obstruct the passage of Bill C-21, as the NDP suggests.

The Bill C-21 fiasco is actually the second time in just the past month that the federal Liberal government has moved to limit debate on an important matter.

At the end of April, it also tried to put a time limit on its much-derided Bill C11, also known as the Online Streaming Act, before it was inevitably passed and became law (and it did so at many different points when the bill was making its way through the House of Commons).

As the first significant update of Canada’s Broadcasting Act since 1991 (a time when digital content wasn’t a concern), the legislation aims to ensure that social media and streaming giants



are subjected to Canadian content requirements and regulations comparable to traditional broadcasters, and as a result promote and pay their fair share towards Canadian creators.

Rather than laying out clear rules or guidelines, the legislation gives the authority to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) to define exactly what all of this will look like, and the tools to exercise its authority.

Though Bill C-11 was welcomed by some Canadian creators, who noted the impact digital streaming services like Netflix and Disney+ have had on the industry, it also raised plenty of concern amongst its critics.

The Conservative opposition has labelled Bill C-11 a “censorship bill”, suggesting that the clause requiring digital platforms to promote Canadian content would effectively control what Canadians see online.

There were also fears about how the new legislation would apply to user-generated content on platforms like YouTube and TikTok. Though, the CRTC told the Senate last November that the law “doesn’t allow it to manipulate algorithms to achieve its goals, and it isn’t interested in doing so anyway.”

Interestingly enough, it seems Liberals don’t like debate within their own ranks, either.

At the Liberal Convention earlier this month, party members passed a resolution calling for the Liberals to “explore options to hold online information ser-

vices accountable for the veracity of material published on their platforms, and to limit publication only to material whose sources can be traced.”

The resolution was passed without debate, while only two dozen people were in the room. Almost immediately, it raised fears about how such a policy would allow the government to control media outlets by preventing them from using anonymous sources (often the only way news of government corruption is brought to light).

Wisely, the feds have tried to distance themselves from the resolution, with Canadian Heritage Minister Pablo Rodriguez saying the government would “never implement a policy to limit freedom of the press.”

This might ring a little less hollow, if the feds weren’t also working on its “online harm legislation.”

The law would require social media companies to weed out child pornography, terrorist content, hate speech, and “other harmful posts” or face significant financial penalties. However, it’s been criticized as an assault on freedom of expression, and the government has been accused of being secretive about the public consultation to date.

There is a balance to be had when conducting the business of government. Time and again, the federal Liberals have proven themselves to be as graceful as an elephant walking a tightrope.

This disregard for healthy debate, and refusal to be questioned, is an affront to Canada’s democracy.

Shellbrook Chronicle

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Report from the Legislature

Saskatchewan recently recognized Economic Development Week and Indigenous Economic Development Day, dedicated to highlighting the value of economic development and its role in Saskatchewan’s growth. Saskatchewan is experiencing strong economic growth; the province’s GDP increased by 5.7 per cent from 2021 to 2022, the highest growth rate in Canada. The agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting industry saw the highest rate of change, a 45.6 per cent increase in GDP.

In the 2023-24 Provincial Budget, our government has continued to invest in further economic growth. This budget continues to position Saskatchewan as a global leader in the exploration and mining of critical minerals. Saskatchewan has occurrences of 23 of the 31 critical minerals on the Canadian Critical Minerals List and some of them, such as potash and uranium, are in world-class deposits. Critical minerals are key for securing the future of our economy and are used in products such

as mobile phones, solar panels, electric vehicle batteries, wind turbines and medical devices.

Our government is expanding the Targeted Mineral Exploration Incentive to include exploration drilling for all hard-rock minerals and increased funding to support emerging commodities. The Saskatchewan Mineral Exploration Tax Credit is being tripled, from 10 per cent to 30 per cent, to help attract additional mineral exploration investment and make us more competitive with other jurisdictions. Another investment will improve geoscience data, used by exploration companies as they consider proj-

ects, allowing geoscientists to compile and analyze broader amounts of data, improving the information provided to explorers and stakeholders.

For the agricultural sector, the budget includes a 19 per cent increase to fund programs, services, research, and business risk management solutions. Our government has finalized the new Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP) with the federal government, which includes enhanced strategic programming for Saskatchewan producers and will see investment of more than \$89 million per year. Under the Sustainable CAP, flagship programs such as the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program will continue, helping producers develop secure and sustainable water sources to mitigate the impact of drought. A further investment of \$408 million will support a suite of risk management programs, including Crop Insurance, AgriStability and Wildlife Damage Insurance.

The budget extends the Saskatchewan Manufacturing and Processing Exporter Tax Incentive until Dec. 31, 2023. The incentive provides non-refundable tax credits to eligible corporations to increase the number of manufacturing and processing-related full-time employees. In addition, the small business tax rate reduction, which was extended in the summer of 2022, will remain at 0 per cent until July 1, 2023. The extension helps 31,000 Saskatchewan small businesses address challenges like inflationary pressures, interest rate hikes, and labour shortages. Total savings through the reduction are estimated to reach \$435 million for Saskatchewan’s small businesses.

The Saskatchewan Indigenous Investment Finance Corporation (SIIFC) will see an investment of \$75 million. Launched in 2022, the SIIFC supports Indigenous-equity ownership of major projects in mining, energy, oil and gas, forestry, and value-added agriculture. This corporation is help-

ing to reach the Growth Plan goal of growing Indigenous participation in our natural resource industries.

The budget includes \$1.4 million to establish a trade office in Germany, the world’s fourth-largest economy. Together with funding to support trade with the United States, this brings the total International Trade and Investment Strategy to \$19.3 million to advance economic interests abroad. Our expanded international presence includes trade offices in the United Kingdom, the United Arab Emirates, Mexico, Vietnam, Japan, India, Singapore, and China. These investments in

economic growth are paying off. The 2022 Real Gross Domestic Product report released earlier this month by Statistics Canada showed Saskatchewan with the highest increase among provinces, with a 5.7 per cent jump from 2021. On the labour force front, Saskatchewan has seen 25 consecutive months of job growth. Our unemployment rate is just 4.8 per cent, which is below the national average and second among the provinces. Private investment in the province has reached \$32 billion in recent years, committed to over 80 large-scale projects in sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing and processing, forestry, mining, and oil and gas extraction. Saskatchewan’s total merchandise exports reached \$52 billion in 2022, up 41.5 per cent from the year before, and more exports abroad means more jobs here in the province.

Investments in economic growth continue to create growth that works for everyone. To learn more, please visit Saskatchewan.ca.

Spiritwood to receive SaskPower upgrades

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The Town of Spiritwood will be one of the beneficiaries of a \$1.15 billion SaskPower investment in 2023-2024 to “modernize, grow and sustain the provincial electricity system.”

The Crown says the capital investment, which represents an increase of \$98 million over 2022-23, will support economic growth and ensure customers have the reliable, sustainable electricity they need.

“Our government is committed to building a cleaner energy future while also ensuring we have reliable and affordable electricity to power the growing provincial economy,” Minister Responsible for SaskPower Don Morgan said in a statement.

“This year’s capital budget is a demonstration of SaskPower’s commitment to the people of Saskatchewan, by making significant investments to transition to low-carbon energy sources, upgrading aging infrastructure and modernizing systems.”

The planned capital expenditures for 2023-24 include \$517 million to maintain and upgrade existing transmission, distribution, and generation assets, and \$505 million in growth projects. This includes transmission line upgrades for the substations in Spiritwood and Hudson Bay, rural powerline rebuilds and wood pole replacements, and investments in new natural gas plants such as the Great Plains Power Station and the Aspen Power Station to be located near Lanigan.

SaskPower says an additional \$129 million in

strategic investments will allow it to continue with smart meter deployment and continue work on projects such as the Logistics Warehouse Complex in Regina.

“Decarbonizing a growing power grid is a once-in-a-lifetime challenge, and making the right investments now will help to position SaskPower to provide reliable, sustainable and cost-effective electricity to customers in the years and decades to come,” said Rupen Pandya, SaskPower President and CEO, in a statement.

R. M. OF LEASK NO. 464 NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF ASSESSMENT ROLL

Notice is hereby given that the Assessment Roll of the Rural Municipality of Leask No. 464 for the year 2023 has been prepared and is open to inspection by contacting the Office of the Assessor from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the following days: Monday to Friday, April 23, 2023, to May 23, 2023.

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

Any person who wishes to appeal against his or her assessment is required to file his or her notice of appeal, accompanied by \$100.00 appeal fee per roll number with The Assessor, R.M. of Leask, Box 190, Leask, SK, S0J 1M0, by the 23rd day of May, 2023.

Dated at Leask, Saskatchewan, this 23rd day of April, 2023.
Donna Goertzen
Assessor



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Happy Hearts Childcare Centre ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Monday, June 12th 7:00 p.m.

@ Happy Hearts Childcare Centre
(a short meeting will follow for board members)

Please join us to learn more about Happy Hearts Children Centre

We are looking to fill 5 positions on our board:
1-2 Community Members
1 Before & After School Representative
2-3 Centre Parents/Caregivers

For more information on AGM & joining the board, please contact Natalie Smart @ (306)747-3991 or natalie.happyhearts@hotmail.com
We hope to see you on June 12th!

Looking back at Spiritwood’s Tourist Booth

By BEVRA FEE
Spiritwood Correspondent

What began as a project of the Spiritwood & District Chamber of Commerce in the mid 1990s and evolved into part of the Town of Spiritwood’s identity, has run its course. The Tourist Information Booth has been sold and removed from the site, and the wolf monument now stands alone on the ‘white buffalo’ rock.

Planning toward a permanent site for the Tourist Information Booth was an earnest goal of the now-defunct Chamber of Commerce, appearing as a standard agenda item since 1995. With each year, properties were evaluated and pursued until eventually the Town of Spiritwood agreed to lease the final site to the Chamber at a rate of \$1 for 99 years.

This allowed the Tourist Booth to enjoy a centrally located home beginning in 1997. The visible highway location at the north tip of town — and directly across from Main Street — was the ideal location that allowed for travellers to wheel in off Highway 3

and pick up roadmaps, tourism pamphlets, and brochures of the area (and the province), and chat with the volunteers and staff about local attractions and recreation.

Early Chamber of Commerce minutes reflect a strategy of enlisting local senior citizens to volunteer at the Tourist Booth, with support from a summer student at a wage of \$5 per hour.

Once the Tourist Booth was sited, plans turned toward landscaping the area for a welcoming aesthetic, and by 1999 the trees and shrubs were planted and sod was put down. Underground sprinklers ensured the park would always be green and thriving, but the Chamber was not done with its plans.

The Chamber was keen on having a Town of Spiritwood emblem. Local business community advocate Clarence Martodam led the charge to have a wolf design adopted by the Chamber. Once the final design was commissioned and approved, the concept of the large wolf monument took shape.

Many volunteer hours were dedicat-



The wolf monument still stands at the former site of Spiritwood’s Tourist Booth, serving as a symbol for the town.



The Spiritwood Tourist Information Booth grand opening, June 2000. Pictured, left to right: Gary Von Holwede, Brent Tipton, Denis Allchurch, Isaac Chamakese, Lyle Whitefish, and George Pretli.

ed to planning and fundraising for the monument, and, with a rock from the Caffet land west of Spiritwood, a base was installed for the seated wolf monument. The rock resembled a sacred legend of the Indigenous people — the white buffalo, very fitting for the view of the Agency Chiefs Tribal Council’s office building directly across the highway.

With the Tourist Booth a reality and the wolf monument installed, a grand opening was held in June of 2000. Local dignitaries, volunteers, and community members showed up in force to help welcome the tourist booth and the wolf.

For 22 years, the site was maintained by either the Chamber of Commerce

or the Northern Lakes Economic Development Corporation. By 2019, with the advent of technology and travellers no longer requiring print material or maps, the Tourist Information Booth was in need of maintenance but was serving very little purpose.

In 2022, the decision was made to sell the building rather than invest in repairs. While the site will be maintained as a park for travellers to stop and rest, the amenity will be more streamlined with new picnic tables and waste receptacles.

Summer of 2023 will see site reclamation and improvement take place, with the wolf monument remaining as the emblem for the Town of Spiritwood.

Parkland Meats supports Youth Travel Club



A fundraiser partnership with Parkland Meats paid dividends for Shellbrook’s Youth Travel Club, helping it raise \$1,550 towards its trip to Europe next Easter. Pictured, from left to right: Bill Mumm, Maddison Nelson, Airionna McQuillan, and Taylor Henderson. Missing: Travel Club leader Rhonda Berezowski.

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

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

The farm and nature exist in balance

It's always seemed that agriculture and nature were somehow inter-connected.

While the relationship might not exactly be complementary – deer eat bales and geese eat grain – there is also an understanding that nature is important.

At least that was the case on the farm in my youth a half century ago.

Back then, farms were of course quite different from today. They were significantly smaller, and while the trend to specialization was starting, most farms were mixed.

That was important in an acceptance of nature, where wetlands and clumps of bush were fine

for livestock pastures.

As the move to huge equipment covering massive acres on grain-only farms evolved, there was no desire to work around sloughs and trees and so they have often been plowed under – the loser being the creatures who used both as home.

It is somewhat ironic, I suppose, when you consider that I recall my grandfather talking about having to clear his homestead quarter of trees with axe and horse.

My father's generation was the one planting rows of trees across farmland to create a windbreak to reduce wind erosion after



CALVIN DANIELS
~

the devastation of the drought of the 1930s.

And my generation was the one tearing out those windbreak rows because they were an issue for new supersize equipment.

Of course, it is about balance, and farmers have a business to run and a living to make.

That said, nature is important, and both the

farm sector and society have to always keep that in mind.

That is why a couple of 'days', one this past Saturday and one upcoming, are important.

The first is Arbour Week, from May 20 to 28, which is an observance in which individuals and groups are encouraged to plant trees.

"The establishment of Arbour Day in Canada is credited to Sir George W. Ross, later Premier of Ontario, when he was Minister of Education (1883-1899). Ross established Arbor Day 'to give the school children an interest in making and keeping the school grounds attractive.' The planting of trees and of

having school gardens soon became an important part of the life of many schools across Canada," wrote Walter Farquarson in a Yellowhead Flyway Birding Trail Association article.

With the increased awareness of the threat of greenhouse gases and how they can impact climate, trees are increasingly recognized as important to help address that problem. Planting and preserving trees is critically important to the planet's future.

Elsewhere, World Migratory Bird Day was May 13.

While not all birds are loved by farmers – especially those that munch crops – imagining a

world without migratory birds is not a pleasant future to think of.

All of Saskatchewan and most of Alberta are part of the Central Flyway, which encompasses a large portion of North America's interior. From Canada's boreal forest and parklands, and across the Great Plains down to the Texas Gulf Coast, this flyway is home to a large percentage of North America's ducks and geese, notes ducks.ca.

Here, too, the key is finding balance. We need farmers to be successful in producing the food we need. But for a bright future, we need trees and birds and nature in general.

Crop Report: spring seeding underway

Seeding is underway in Saskatchewan, with nine per cent of the crop in the ground, according to the first Crop Report of the season.

"Saskatchewan is a global leader in agricultural trade because of the abundance of high-quality, sustainably-produced crops grown in our province," Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister David Marit said. "As producers undertake the significant investment of spring seeding, we encourage them to be aware of their surroundings, be farm safe and ask everyone to be mindful of the farm equipment on roadways during this busy season."

Saskatchewan is home to more than 40 per cent of Canada's cultivated farmland, producing nearly 35 million tonnes of total crop production in 2022.

Seeding was delayed in the month of April due to cool weather and spring snowstorms. Fields had to warm up and dry out before work could begin. The provincial seeding progress of nine per cent is behind the five-year average (2018-2022) of 23 per cent. Seeding is furthest advanced in the southwest,

west-central and northwest regions. Seeding progress is slower in the eastern regions where snowfall was heavier and water in fields is taking longer to disappear.

The northwest leads with seeding progress at 17 per cent, while the west central and southwest are at 14 and 13 per cent respectively. The northeast has seven per cent seeding complete, which is ahead of normal for this time of year. The southeast and east central regions have wetter fields than the rest of the province and both sit at three per cent seeded.

The most rainfall over the past week was recorded in the Marengo area with 35 mm. The Rockglen area received 10 mm and the Webb and Hazenmore areas received seven mm, and many more areas of the province received between one to five mm of rain over the week. Producers in the southwest and west central regions are already raising concerns about how dry their fields are and are hoping for a good soaking rain once the majority of seeding is finished.

Topsoil moisture for cropland is rated as five per cent surplus, 72 per cent

adequate, 21 per cent short and two per cent very short. Hay and pastureland is rated as two per cent surplus, 66 per cent adequate, 28 per cent short and four per cent very short. While these conditions show improvement over last fall, producers are hoping for more rain in June and July.

The winter snowfall was rated as 34 per cent above normal, 48 per cent normal and 18 per cent below normal. Livestock producers in areas that did not receive adequate snowfall are anticipating minor to moderate water shortages over the next two months if they do not receive a significant rainfall.

Snowmelt runoff improved this spring compared to previous years with 21 per cent of crop reporters receiving above normal, 57 per cent normal and 22 per cent below normal levels of runoff. Of these reporters, 75 per cent reported that the amount of runoff received would fill dugouts and water bodies in their area which is reassuring news for livestock producers who have had two difficult years with water quality and quantity.

Calving is coming to an end and livestock producers will soon begin assessing their pastures and moving cattle out when they can. Producers who are running low on feed for their livestock have already started moving some of their herd to pasture to help reduce feed consumption. The cool weather throughout April was good for moisture retention but it did not allow pastures to rapidly regrow. Warm weather and some light rains would be appreciated by many livestock producers to ensure cattle have adequate feed while on pasture.

Producers are currently harrowing, rock picking and rolling. When the weather allows, farmers are spraying and seeding. Producers are reminded to be safe during their field activities and when transporting equipment across or alongside roadways. When working in extremely dry areas, especially pastures, ensure sparks or any other fire risk is limited and a water source is available.

A complete, printable version of the Crop Report is available online at www.saskatchewan.ca/crop-report.

Ag industry benefits from research funding

The Government of Canada and Saskatchewan announced that 56 Agriculture Demonstration of Practices and Technologies program (ADOPT) projects and eight Strategic Field Program (SFP) projects received more than \$1.4 million in funding in 2023.

"Agricultural technology and best practices keep evolving, thanks to dedicated research across the country," Federal Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau said in a statement. "But just as importantly, producers need a way to learn about and then apply these improved production

practices to their operations. Thanks to these programs, Saskatchewan farmers are doing just that."

The ADOPT program provides funding to assist producer groups and First Nations communities to evaluate and demonstrate new agricultural practices and technologies at the local level. ADOPT focuses on practical, short-term research projects that can be applied by producers soon after completion.

The SFP provides funding for relevant and timely research to agriculture producers in Saskatchewan and helps to devel-

op new best practices that reinforce Saskatchewan's global leadership in sustainable agriculture production and expertise.

"Saskatchewan leads the way in sustainable agriculture production because of research and demonstration projects like these," Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister David Marit said in a statement. "Our producers are world leaders when it comes to adopting new technologies and practices, keeping our industry competitive, innovative and sustainable."

Applied research projects will be demonstrated at Agri-

ARM sites throughout the province this year for producers to take part in learning first-hand about the new technologies and production practices.

The funding was provided through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership which preceded the current Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP). The Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) was a five-year, \$3 billion investment by federal, provincial and territorial governments to strengthen and grow Canada's agriculture, agri-food and agri-products

sectors. This included a \$2 billion commitment that was cost-shared 60 per cent federally and 40 per cent provincially/territorially for programs that were designed and delivered by provinces and territories.

Over the five-year Canadian Agricultural Partnership, 469 projects received more than \$6.9 million in support through ADOPT and SFP.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE IS
FRIDAY 4 P.M.

Studio 747 ends season with showcase

By JORDAN TWISS
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Another dance season came to an exciting close in Shellbrook, when Studio 747 hosted its year-end dance recital at the Shellbrook Theatre on May 5 and 6.

Called “At the Disco”, this year’s dance show saw every dancer take the stage in front of an enthusiastic sold-out crowd, performing a diverse selection of 24 routines in ballet, jazz, hip hop, tap, and many more styles, to raucous cheers and thunderous applause.

The audience was also highly supportive of the 50/50 draws held at both shows, helping to raise \$1,400 for the Parkland Pool Project Steering Committee, which is in the midst of fundraising and exploring options to replace the Shellbrook Swimming Pool.

“We saw such amazing support from our community and dance families,” Studio 747 owner and director Kelly Woodley said. “We are overwhelmed by the love and support of our community and hope everyone enjoyed the show as much as we enjoyed putting it on.”

In addition to providing the audi-

ence with two entertaining shows, the year-end recital was also an opportunity for Studio 747 to recognize some of its own, starting with the announcement of the recipient of the most promising dancer award.

This year’s award went to Airionna McQuillan, who was praised for her kindness and willingness to jump in wherever help is needed.

“This dancer has quickly become an integral part of our team,” Woodley said. “The growth I have seen in her over the years has been truly outstanding, and the energy she brings to class is always light and positive. She is a joy to have in the studio at all times.”

On a bittersweet note, Woodley announced that Studio 747 would also be bidding farewell to instructor Lauren Myers, who is leaving the studio to begin medical school.

“It’s been a pleasure to watch you grow from a young dancer that I taught into the passionate, caring, driven young woman you are today,” Woodley said. “Your dedication to our studio and to our dancers has been nothing short of extraordinary.”

The year-end dance show capped off what Woodley calls another incredible season for Studio 747, filled

with many personal bests, awards, scholarships, and recognitions at competitions, including MEETinYXE in Saskatoon, the Prince Albert Festival of Dance, and Stars on Stage in Warman.

“I witnessed all our dancers fill with passion and excitement as they stood backstage, then hit the stage and perform their hearts out,” Woodley said. “I couldn’t be more proud of everyone.”

Just as important as these achieve-

ments and accolades on the dance floor, says Woodley, are the new friends and connections the dancers made throughout the season, both at the studio and at competitions.

This, he adds, is in line with Studio 747’s core values of kindness, acceptance, and connection.

“To see our dancers live those values as they interact with other dancers is truly the best part of my job,” Woodley said.

More photos on page 9



With guidance from older dancers, the tiny tots do the “Penguin Cha Cha.”



The junior 1 ballet dancers showed off their colours with “Rainbow.”



Intermediate hip hop dancers performed “Icon.”

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	IMMANUEL LUTHERAN Parkside 11 a.m. - Worship	UNITED CHURCH Big River Sundays 10 a.m. - Worship at Anglican Church Rev. Dave Whalley 306-747-2804
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	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. Canon David Butorac 306-961-1634 Minister's Warden: 306-922-5159 H.C. Service with Rev. Butorac - 2 nd Sunday of the month	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 1 st & 3 rd Sundays 1:30 p.m. Fr. Tuan Doan
PRESBYTERIAN Mistawasis Sunday worship 11:00 a.m. Rev. Katherine Bretzlaff	MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH Blaine Lake Gospel Chapel 109 Railway Ave. W. Blaine Lake 306-497-3316 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. Worship	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
	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	

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 9:00 a.m. Rev. Sarah Urano	LAKELAND COMMUNITY CHURCH (Corner of 1 st Ave. and 4 th St., Spiritwood) Sun., 11 am - Worship Service & Sunday School Pastor Michael Kluthe 306-883-2380	Gideons International of Canada Battlefords Camp Phone Art Martynes (306) 389-4633
UNITED /ANGLICAN Worship Services Glaslyn Time is on the sign Rev. Kun Kim Rev. Don Skinner	FIELDS OF HOPE (HOFFNUNGSFELDER) MENNONITE CHURCH Glenbush Worship - 11:00 am	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
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	BETHEL Medstead 1st Sunday, 10 am - Worship Pastor David Jensen 3rd Sunday - 10 am Worship Pastor David Jensen	BELBUTTE FULL GOSPEL 11 am Worship Service
COWBOY CHURCH Spiritwood Every Wednesday Night 7 pm Spiritwood Legion Hall Pastor Rick Martin	MENNONITE BRETHREN Glenbush 10:00 am - Sunday School Worship 10:50 am	PARTNERS IN WORSHIP Shell Lake Worship Services Sunday 9:00 a.m. Pastor Sarah Urano 306-841-7333

Studio 747 ends season with showcase



Senior ballet dancers opened Studio 747’s showcase with “Fields of Gold.”



Senior hip hop dancers dialed up the attitude with “Right Thurr.”



Primary ballet dancers performed the un-bear-ably cute “Bear Necessities.”



Junior lyrical dancers performed “Sweet Child of Mine.”

Naber Powersports begins work on new location

By JORDAN TWISS
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

A piece of the history of Shellbrook’s business community, dating back more than 40 years, is no more. In the early hours of Monday, May 8, the original E&B Lumber building, first operated by Mike and Elsie Kalyn and passed down to their sons Rod and Dave, was moved from its location at the corner of Main Street and Ser-

vice Road East. The building was purchased by Merv Brown, who relocated it to his land west of town and plans to convert it into a shop. The property, meanwhile, will soon be home to Naber Powersports’ brand-new retail location. “The next step is the site clean-up,” Tom Naber said. “Through the summer, we’ll get going on the construction on the new place. We’re just waiting for engineers to finish their work.”



The original E&B Lumber building was moved out of Shellbrook on May 8. The property it sat on will be the new home of Naber Powersports.

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

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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 - Thursday 2 pm - 7 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.
DEBDEN: Good News Festival 2023 at Debden. Youth Festival & Pizza Night: Friday, June 2, 5 pm - St. Jean Baptiste Parish (Basement), 412 Main St., Debden; Family Worship Night: Saturday, June 3, 7 pm - St. Jean Baptiste Parish (Basement), 412 Main St., Debden; Outdoor Gospel & Music Festival – *Free BBQ*: Sunday, June 4, 11:30 am to 4:30 pm - The Ranch Hwy 55 3 kms NW of Debden. www.aogc.ca • facebook.com/ArkofGodCanada
PARKSIDE: Honeywood (Dr. A.J. Porter) Heritage Nursery Inc. *Provincial Heritage Site* Parkside, SK SEASON OPENING: FRIDAY, MAY 12. Open daily 9 am - 5 pm. Canadian Tire Annuals, Fruit & ornamental trees, New & old lily varieties, Assortment of perennial plants. Gift/Garden Shop - Honeywood Jellies, Seed Potatoes & Much More! Ph: 306-747-3307, email: honeywoodn8@gmail.com.
LEASK: Leask Community Garage Sale Days – Fri., May 26th & Sat., May 27th. Multiple Garage Sales around the Village. Pulled Pork on Bun at the Library (Friday 4pm – 6pm & Saturday 11am – 2pm), Used Book Sale at the Library (Friday 1pm – 5pm & Saturday 9am – 4pm).

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Kerri English’s students showcase talent at recital

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The Shellbrook Theatre came alive with the music of Kerri English’s students, when they took to the stage for their spring recital on April 30.

With proud parents and loved ones cheering them on from the full theatre house, 28 of English’s students bowed, plucked, picked, and strummed their way through 32 numbers, including solos and larger ensemble pieces.

Throughout the concert, they were accompanied by back-up musicians Dennis Adams (guitar), Boyd Falconer (bass), and Dean Kushneryk (drums). Running the sound booth for the show, Spectrum Sound’s Jeff Lake ensured not a single note was missed.

“The experience these people bring adds an exciting element to the students and their music adventures, and makes it even more fun for all of us to play and for you to listen to,” English said.

As is always the case with the spring recital, the performances were almost as diverse as English’s students, ranging from traditional fiddle jigs and waltzes, to old-tyme numbers, to classic country tunes.

Yet, for their many differences, each number had one important thing in common: they all got the audience’s toes tapping and hands clapping, right from the opening group number to the closing ensemble tune.

English says none of this would be possible, however, without her family, which provides behind-the-scenes support to ensure the show runs smoothly. This includes food for the pre-show rehearsal, and handling programs, ticket sales, and posters.

Students performing in Sunday afternoon’s recital included Brynlee Aiken, Kael Bick, Kally Bick, Sofia Buckingham, Burke DeBruijn, Raef DeBruijn, Winston DeBruijn, Natalia Gallegos, Theo Gallimore, Ginny Gradin, Dayton Graham, Hudson Henry, Domisaya Holowachuk, Sayward Holowachuk, Beckett Horricks, Axel Johnson, Elisha Johnson, Hud-

son Johnson, Rhonwen Johnson, Cindy Painchaud, Landis Schattle, Rebecca Schutte, Sadie Schutte, Matea Slemming, Camerin Smart, Gavin Smart, Elyse Whiteside, and Becky Wilson.

“To my fantastic students – keep on playing and enjoying as you learn and grow in your musical endeavours. It is a pleasure to see the progress, and to see you presenting your skills for others enjoyment,” English said. “Keep it up, and you will see that music is a skill you can continue to enjoy for the rest of your life.”



Brynlee Aiken performed Twinkle Twinkle Little Star.



Hudson Henry performed Ode to Joy.



Gavin Smart performed I’ll Fly Away.



Dayton Graham performed Boogie Bass.



Kally Bick performed Angeline the Baker.



Matea Slemming performed Polly Wolly Doodle.



Ginny Gradin performed a pair of tunes.



The Stump Lake Slough Thumpin Brothers, Raef, Burke, and Winston DeBruijn, performed Jerusalem Ridge.



Theo Gallimore performed Old MacDonald Had a Farm.

Sports on TV: Masters Sunday best of all

The avid sports fan — admittedly, I’m part of that constituency — loves the big events. Every month, seemingly, has its big games, its big events, its season-ending championships. But if you were limited to only one per year, which big event would you choose to absorb from the comfort of your couch and the embarrassment of the largest TV screen on the market?

Here’s my countdown, from 10 to No. 1, of the best events to watch.

10. Wimbledon finals — The most prestigious tennis tournament in the world has its women’s and men’s finals on a Saturday-Sunday in mid-July and because of the time difference between England and Western Canada, the men’s final is shown early on a Sunday morning. But definitely worth setting the alarm for.

9. Canadian Grand Prix — The mid-June Formula One event shows off the beauty of Montreal. It’s where Lewis Hamilton won his

first ever race in 2007.

8. Kentucky Derby — Not a horse-racing buff, nor do any of the horse’s names strike a chord, but there’s something about the big race on the first Saturday in May that makes it must-see TV.

7. Super Bowl — The sports event with historically the largest viewing audience is something I rarely miss, but some of the lesser playoff games (involving underdog wildcard teams, etc.) are actually more compelling.

6. Game 7 of the World Series — Now, if my Atlanta Braves are involved, this number moves up in the rankings, but generally speaking, baseball’s ultimate game has to be on every sports fan’s must-see schedule.

5. Grey Cup — I’d pick the Grey Cup over the Super Bowl any year, and I will in this column. Maybe it’s the flag-waving involved, but Grey Cup Sunday is like a national holiday.

4. Scotties final — Curling is such a great

sport for TV, and the best women’s teams in Canada do battle to see who goes to the world championship. Watch the Scotties all week, and then see the final on Sunday evening.

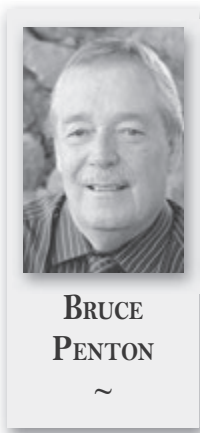
3. Brier final — So call me sexist, placing the men’s final ahead of the women’s. They’re both great, but the Brier has more history — and usually a stronger field.

2. Game 7, Stanley Cup final — Hopefully the drama of a Game 7 occurs every year. The hockey season is long (far too long, according to my wife), so the finality of a Game 7 can’t be missed.

1. Masters Sunday — Yes, if I was being punished and could only watch one sports event on one day in a year, it would have to be the final round of the Masters. The Augusta National course is beautiful, it’s the start of spring, always a strong field. Give me a soft couch, some potato chips and a soft drink, and Jim Nantz saying hello to all his friends.

• Larry Brooks of the New York Post, after the Rangers were eliminated in the first round of the Stanley Cup playoffs by New Jersey Devils: “The Luxury Liner known as The Good Ship Ranger turned into the S.S. Minnow while sailing to and fro across the Hudson, springing so many leaks that it simply sunk into a river of despair.”

• Janice Hough of leftcoastsportsbabe.com: “How much worse do the Oakland A’s have to look before Las Vegas says, ‘Never mind, don’t come, we’re holding out for a major league baseball team?’”



BRUCE PENTON

• Bob Molinaro of pilotonline.com (Hampton, Va.), on Saturday, May 5: “With the Derby in Louisville and the coronation of King Charles in London, Saturday will be a big day for silly hats.”

• Mike Bianchi of the Orlando Sentinel: “With the Oakland A’s moving to Vegas, the Tampa Bay Rays are now on the relocation clock (Note: Rays, riding an historic 14-game home winning streak, drew 9,900 fans to last night’s game.)”

• Scott Ostler of the San Francisco Chronicle, on the brilliance of Warriors’ Steph Curry: “New rule: Curry baskets don’t count unless he beats three defenders (minimum).”

• RJ Currie of sports-deke.com: “A Minnesota mom sank a half-court shot at Bethany Academy in Bloomington. She got \$4,000 off her daughter’s tuition and a contract offer from the Detroit Pistons.”

• Another one from Currie: “Reuters reports a Chinese farmer has invented a zipline so his pigs literally fly from one truck to another. In a related item, after 11 straight failures, the Maple Leafs finally won an elimination game.”

• Headline at fark.com: “Leon Draisaitl becomes the first NHL player to score four goals in a losing effort since yesterday.” (Joe Pavelski of Dallas did the same thing the night before.)

• Steve Simmons of SunMedia.com: “Do you remember that (the Leafs’ Brendan) Shanahan offered a front office position to Kelly McCrimmon when he was running the Brandon Wheat Kings? McCrimmon stayed in junior hockey and then left for Vegas, where he is currently GM. The Golden Knights have won eight playoff rounds in McCrimmon’s time in Vegas. The Leafs have won eight in the past 24 years.”

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

GOOD NEWS

FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD

By RANDALL MCLEOD
Immanuel Lutheran, Parkside

“Faith without works is dead!”

Ok, so I just opened a can of worms here, I get that. But that is a direct quote from the book of James, so we have to deal with it.

First, let’s be perfectly clear, we are not now, nor ever will be, saved by the works that we do. We are saved by grace through faith. Full stop. But still, we have to deal with our James passage.

What James is trying to teach us here is that if our faith is real and true, if our faith is to be vital and dynamic, it must necessarily be demonstrated in our walk, in our lifestyle. It must result in changing us.

The Bible teaches us that: Those who believe in Christ will receive the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Further, it also teaches us that the Holy Spirit works within us to both will and to do that which is pleasing to God.

God does not so much pour out on us a bunch of have to dos and have to not dos. No no, He is actually far more proactive than that. He works on us internally. He, in fact, changes our want to!

Now that I am in Christ, I want to do what pleases God, and not what seems pleasing to me. And more than that, He then gives me the ability to actually do these new things that I want to do. How cool is that?

When the Bible says that we have been forgiven in Christ, that we are now under Grace, and are no longer under the law, it means just that. I no longer live by a bunch of thou shall do this, and thou shall not do that; I now live my life under the prompting of the Holy Spirit as to what I should and should not do. He works in us to both will and do that which is pleasing to God! (I know, I repeated that on purpose.) The sticky part here is; “How well do I listen?”

A common accusation against the Church is that people go to church on Sunday and then live like the devil all week. That is not real Christianity. True Christianity walks the talk. Do we fail at times... uh yea! Do we mess up... uh yea! There is Grace and forgiveness for that. But still the desire is to do what the Holy Spirit urges us to do. To do what pleases God! Even though we are a work in progress.

To be a follower of Jesus means to be regenerated. Our old life and lifestyle is put behind us, and we take up a whole new life. In that new life Jesus promises to never leave us or forsake us. He promises to not leave us as orphans, but rather, to send the Holy Spirit to be our comforter and our guide and our counsellor. He is continually teaching us, leading us, guiding us to live a life which is pleasing to God.

It doesn’t get much better than that!

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Please mark reporter position.

OBITUARIES

Allen Barkway



BARKWAY – Allen
Allen Barkway grew up outside of Shellbrook, Saskatchewan. His parents, Lionel and Jessie, farmed the land and he and Randy, Ken, Dean, and Carol helped out as they grew older. But ‘The Professor’ as he was nicknamed in school, saw opportunity outside of the community and set his eyes west. He moved to Calgary and began courses at the UofC and ultimately received his Chartered Accountant designation in 1971.

In the early 1970s Al

moved to Edmonton. There, he was set up on a blind date with a beautiful Red Deer College nursing student named Patricia Harder. They married August 23, 1974. The following year Ryan (Bruce Buruma) was born. Soon they left Garneau for a formerly ramshackle and newly restored Victorian house in The Highlands that would be the family home for the next 40 years. There, they welcomed another son, Craig (Michelle Edgar), and later a daughter, Anna (Dan Paranich).

Growing tired of the annual demands of tax season, Al retired from CA practice in 1993 and pursued opportunities in business at Leduc Chrysler Jeep; a choice that would allow for more golf, more travel, summers ranching in Southern Alberta, and winters at their home in Palm Desert, California. Soon, grandchildren could be heard running through

the house and Grant, Ross, Miles, Ellie, and Noah took their seats around the family table. There was always laughter. And now, combined with tears and happy memories, there is still laughter.

Allen Jack Barkway died on May 4, 2023, of pulmonary fibrosis, surrounded by family.

Thank you to the Grey Nuns palliative care team, Dr. Jennifer Furlong and Dr. Benjamin Chiam for the kindness and care you showed. Cremation has taken place and a family tribute is being planned for a future date.

When asked what he wanted on his grave marker, Al looked up, unfazed, and without a second thought said, “Bye Bye”. That was Al. An original to the very end. We will always remember him that way.

To send condolences, please visit www.connelly-mckinley.com.

Albert Leslie Cooling



Albert Leslie Cooling
December 8, 1932 – April 28, 2023

Our Dad, Albert Leslie Cooling was born Dec. 8, 1932, at Witchekan, to George and Lucy Cooling née Hutchinson. He was the second child of five. Myrtle (Glen Moore), Dad, Lorne (Donna Cohn), Irene (Werner Stark) and Brenda (Leo Crossland). He grew up on the family farm and attended Twin Bay school. After leaving the family farm, Dad found himself in Alberta for a few years. He spent some years working as a ranch hand and an oil rig hand. He also worked in a sawmill and in the bush cutting railroad ties. He returned to Saskatchewan to Dore Lake where he spent some years fishing commercially and helping on his cousin’s mink ranch.

Dad met Mom, Evelyn Bernice Booker, at a ball game at Ranger Cabin school in 1962. They were married in October of 1964. In spring of 1965 they moved from Dore Lake to Ranger area where they bought Burt

Transgaard’s land and began farming and raising cattle. They’ve resided in Ranger since 1967 after buying the Ranger Supply Store from the Solonicks and operated the store until 1978. Five children were born to Albert and Evelyn - Janell (Miles Mayer), Jaydene (Roland Loranger), Jade (Sherylyn Beuker), Janisa and Jerrilyn. 12 grandchildren – Britt, Tyson (Julia) and Madison (Cole Reid) Mayer; Jarrod and Kyara (Richard Lalonde) Loranger; Jorry, Carli, and Jole Cooling; Garret, Gavin (Jordan Heitt) and Griffin (Courtney Smith) Wourms; and Camryn Cooling. 6 great-grandchildren – Axton and Anastacia Mayer; Layla, Walker, and Mia Lalonde; and Piper Reid.

Dad was an avid sportsman. He loved fishing, hunting, and trapping. He played ball, hockey and curled well into his fifties and sixties. He was a ‘gamer’! Board games, card games, games of all kinds, he could play for hours if anyone would play along! He watched many a game on TV too, another very favorite pastime. Dad had a great many good stories to tell and very much enjoyed visiting with the many people he knew. He had quite a wry sense of humor and had many funny sayings and jokes to share!

In 2020, due to health reasons, Dad became a resident in the Evergreen Center in Leoville where he passed away peaceful-

ly on April 28, 2023, at the venerable age of 90. We are so thankful for the wonderful care Dad received.

He is joining his parents George (1990) and Lucy (1986), sister Myrtle (2022) and brother Lorne (2018), and a lifelong friend Tom Moore (2019), father and mother in-law Stan (1984) and Hazel (2011) Booker, brothers in-law Donald (2015) and Dennis (2022) Booker, along with other family, in-laws and friends.

He is survived by his wife Evelyn of 58 years, sisters Irene Stark of Mossbank, SK and Brenda Crossland of Leoville SK, brothers-in-law Werner Stark and Leo Crossland. He’s also survived by his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren, sister-in-law Mavis and husband Ed Crossland of Spiritwood; brothers-in-law Vernon (Marilyn) Booker and Loren Booker of Ranger area; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A celebration of Dad’s life was held on May 6, 2023, at 1:00pm at Ranger Hall with Delores Beaulac officiating. Ashes to be interred at a later date.

Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit www.beaulac-funeralhome.com. Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau “Lac” Funeral Home and Crematorium, R. Mark Muir Funeral Director, Spiritwood, SK (306) 883-3500.

Mark Christian Diesen



Mark Christian Diesen
June 22, 1984 - May 10, 2023

With broken hearts the family of Mark Christian Diesen announce his passing on May 10, 2023, surrounded by his family in the comforts of his home.

Left to cherish Mark’s memory, his loving wife Kirstan, his two children Harper and Mason. His parents Brian & Rose Diesen, his sister Heather, brother-in-law Mike Sarrazin and their children Kylie & Carter. Mark was born June 22, 1984, he grew up on the family farm near Shell Lake. He developed a love of the outdoors and mechanics at an early age. He enjoyed spending countless hours out in the bush making trails and hunting. As a teenager many days and nights were spent working on his ’84 Chevy he called the Silver Bullet – it was the first love of his life! Many mud bogs and

shenanigans were carried out with the Silver Bullet. After graduating from the Shell Lake School, he pursued his training to obtain his Industrial Mechanic (Millwright) trade certification. While going to school he worked at Deca Industries, then joined Industrial Machine & Mfg both in Saskatoon, before working with Cameco in both McArthur River and Key Lake. He met Kirstan through a mutual friend and quickly realized she was the one to build his life with. In 2013 he decided he wanted to farm, purchased land, and started traveling back and forth to Shell Lake between jobs. In August of 2015 Mark and Kirstan were married at Scandia. In June of 2016 Mark and Kirstan decided they would move back to Shell Lake to farm full time. Mark was so proud to move back to the Diesen homestead and be the 4th generation to live in that home. Soon thereafter the light of Mark’s world was born, Miss Harper. The day Mark became a Daddy his world changed; he loved his girls! Mark continued to farm with his Dad and Mom on the family farm, diving right into it, growing the operation and teaching his Dad about new and upcoming technology that could make all the difference. He worked alongside his

parents treating them respectfully and leaning on their experience as he built his dream to farm. In 2018 Mark, Kirstan and Harper moved into Mark’s childhood home where they were putting their roots down to carry on Diesen Farms. In September 2020, Mark was diagnosed with stage 4 Colorectal Cancer. He began his battle with cancer and endured this entire journey with great fortitude. In 2021 Mark and Kirstan welcomed their son Mason into their lives, a bright spot, and another love of Marks life. Mark was so proud of his children and was deeply devoted to them. Mark was a respectful, loyal, kind, and gentle man. The kind of man you could always count on!


Goodbyes hurt the most, when we feel the story was not finished.....

Mark’s funeral was held at the Shell Lake Lions Hall on Tuesday May 16, 2023, at 1:00pm. Marks request was anyone choosing to make a memorial donation do so to Spiritwood Home Care Box 69, Spiritwood, SK S0J 2M0, in honour of Dr Terri Persson and the Spiritwood Home Care Team.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Beaulac Funeral home in Spiritwood, 306-883-3500, www.beaulacfuneralhome.com

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Spiritwood seniors host Strawberry Tea

By **BEVRA FEE**
*Spiritwood
Correspondent*

The Pioneer Centre in Spiritwood was the tranquil setting for the annual Strawberry Tea, put on by the Seniors Association as one of its main fundraisers.

The morning of May 12 saw cakes showing up to be prepared for the afternoon, the tables being set with tablecloths and centrepieces, and the kitchen beginning to buzz.

By 2 p.m., some of the delivery orders had already begun to leave the building, while guests were arriving to enjoy the sit-down dessert. On the menu – strawberry shortcake and tea, with generous portions of cake, strawberries, and whipped cream.

The group served 401 (very satisfied) people in total, indicating another successful fundraiser for the seniors. Fundraisers for the association help with maintenance, utilities, and upkeep of the Pioneer Centre, among other things.



The cakes arrive in preparation for the tea. Pictured, left to right: Roseanne Smith, Helen Mack, Roberta Wasden, and Armand Smith.



Joyce Willick prepares the whipped cream.



Spiritwood Seniors Association members serve up strawberry shortcake. Pictured, left to right: Cheryl Smith, Helen Mack, and Joyce Willick (in the kitchen).



From left to right: Phil Marion, Aline Marion, and Marion Gatzke enjoy their cake.

Plants for the pollinators

By **CANDACE SAVAGE & JOANNE BLYTHE**
Wild about Saskatoon

A quiet revolution is taking place in gardens all over Saskatoon. A renewal. A return to appreciating the beauty of the plants that have been blooming on these lands for thousands of years. By adding native plants to your garden, you can be part of this “growing” trend.

Why is it important to welcome native plants back into our neighbourhoods? We live in a time of crisis. The Earth is losing natural habitats at an alarming rate, and the prairies have been hit especially hard. In Saskatchewan as a whole, at least 80% of the grassland ecosystem has already been lost, either to agriculture and other industries or, increasingly, to urban sprawl. Around Saskatoon, the situation is even worse, with more than 95% of the natural vegetation gone.

Loss leads to loss, and it is unsurprising to learn that the populations of grassland birds are in free-fall, suffering the deepest and most widespread declines of any habitat group on the continent. Meanwhile, both regionally and globally, insects are suffering drastic slides in both diversity and abundance. Scientists have begun to warn of an “insect apocalypse.”

As the late, great biologist E. O. Wilson once noted, insects and other arthropods are “the little things that make the world go round.” Flowering plants, which provide the fruits and vegetables that make up the healthiest third of our diets, cannot survive without pollinating insects, notably bees. Birds cannot thrive without insect larvae to feed their young. Did you know that 95% of songbirds, including species that eat seeds as adults, require caterpillars to rear their nestlings? The plants nourish the insects; the insects nourish the birds. Everything is interrelated.

Meanwhile out in the garden, we can help to keep the circle of life turning by providing insects with the resources they need to thrive. Yes, we are talking about gardening for insects! That means growing native plants to sustain native insects. Supporting moths and butterflies through the stages of their complex lives involves choosing plants like goldenrods and sunflowers that feed lots of caterpillars, while at the same time making sure there are nectar-sweet blossoms like bergamot and giant hysop to feed the flying adults. It means leaving leaf litter on the ground to protect overwintering eggs, pupae and adults.

And then there are the wild bees! We have at least 300 species of native bees in the

province, some smaller than ants, others the size of your thumb. They need a variety of flowering plants that provide both nectar and protein-rich pollen as food for adults and young. Since different species have different preferences and needs, it is important to restore as much diversity and complexity to our native plantings as we can manage. Start small and watch how your interest and your garden grow.

Wild bees also need a shal-

low source of water and safe places to rear their young. Bumblebees might form a colony in a mulch pile or an old mouse nest. Most of our wild bees are solitary and nest in hollow stems or bare ground. Learn to enjoy a messy garden, and the bees will love you for it. Never, ever use insecticides or other poisons.

When you do all these things, gift after gift arrives--joy at that first hint of mauve as the crocus you planted

last year emerges from the half-frozen ground, wonder at a sleeping bumblebee in a bergamot blossom, curiosity piqued when you spy a little red-and-gold bee land in fallen leaves. What could it possibly be called? As the plants take root and bloom in this place where they belong, we too begin to belong.

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



A leafcutter bee on a gaillardia.

Photo Credit: Candace Savage