

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald

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Chronicle & Herald under new ownership



After five decades in the newspaper industry, *Shellbrook Chronicle and Spiritwood Herald* owner Clark Pepper is retiring from the business and handing over ownership to co-managers Jordan Twiss and Meghan Penney.

By JORDAN TWISS

Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The newspaper industry runs in Clark Pepper's blood. Literally.

As the fourth-generation owner of the *Shellbrook Chronicle and Spiritwood Herald*, Pepper has been involved in the family business since he was a child, working in the shop through his younger years.

Deciding the family business was for him, he began working full-time at the newspaper in the spring of 1978. Then, in the early 1980s, he entered into a partnership to co-own the newspaper alongside his father, Alfred E. Pepper. And in 1999, he took over full ownership of the family business.

Not content to just publish the newspaper every week, Clark spent many of his years working as an advocate

for the newspaper industry, serving in many capacities on boards and committees at the provincial level with the Saskatchewan Weekly Newspapers Association, and nationally with Canadian Community Newspaper Association (now known as News Media Canada), and lobbying governments to ensure the industry has a bright future.

Now, after five decades in the industry, Clark and his wife, Lenore, are ready to retire and start the next chapter of their lives by passing over ownership of the *Shellbrook Chronicle and Spiritwood Herald* to co-managers Meghan Penney and Jordan Twiss.

"I've had many fond memories over my entire life growing up in the family business, seeing and experiencing all the changes in this industry over the past five decades," Clark says.

"My fondest memories, though, are

the people I've met in the public and business community, and the newspaper industry provincially and nationally. Working on many boards and committees throughout the years has been enjoyable and rewarding."

Speaking about the decision, Clark says it was "just time" to retire, so he and Lenore can spend more time with family and friends and do some travelling (and also so he can enjoy more golfing and fishing). He says handing off the business to long-time employees like Penney and Twiss made the decision much easier for him and Lenore.

For their part, Penney and Twiss wish Clark and Lenore all the best in their retirement and are looking forward to what the future holds.

"Though much has changed in the world and the newspaper industry since Clark and Lenore first asked if

we would take over the business one day, we remain hopeful and excited about stepping into our new roles as owners," Twiss says.

So, what does the change in ownership mean?

Twiss says it will be business as usual.

"We hope that you, our community, will continue to support us by picking up and engaging with your free local paper every week, sharing local news and events with us, and by keeping advertising local in an age when social media rules and real, fact-checked news often takes a backseat.

"The *Shellbrook Chronicle and Spiritwood Herald* has been serving the Parkland region for the past 112 years. We are as committed as ever to upholding this proud legacy and bringing our communities the news that matters to them for many years to come."



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Quoting

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Second Franson Memorial Funspiel rocks Spiritwood

By **BEVRA FEE**
Spiritwood Herald Reporter

The second annual Derryk Franson Memorial Funspiel got underway on the evening of Friday, Jan. 26, and ran throughout the following day with a full slate of action. The “funspiel” format provides for plenty of curling and many random rules, which makes it a large draw for locals and expats alike.

Intended to remember a young Spiritwood curler who lost his life in a house fire in 2022, the Derryk Franson Memorial has seen a younger demographic than most bonspiels, a trend that event organizer Sue Kahl attributes to Franson’s large network and immense popularity among friends and curlers.

Along with his Spiritwood High School team, Franson advanced to the Provincial finals in boys curling, as well as curling competitively in CurlSask with great success.

Staged as a fundraising event with plenty of prize raffles and a 50/50, proceeds from the bonspiel are invested in a scholarship fund that is used to sponsor youth curling opportunities. Funds from the scholarship were recently awarded to four youth to attend the Kevin Martin Curling Camp. Since attending the camp, curlers Jessie Allchurch, Alea Beaulac, Avarie Conacher and Danica Laventure have joined forces to compete as the Spiritwood High School girls curling team, as well as competing as a team in the Sask



The Spiritwood High School Girls curling team and recipients of 2023 scholarships from the inaugural Franson Memorial Funspiel. From left to right: Alea Beaulac, Danica Laventure, Jessie Allchurch, and Avarie Conacher.

U18 circuit.

Entered in the Derryk Franson Memorial event, the girls gave grateful acknowledgement to the financial support.

“I am not sure I would have gone to the curling camp without the assistance – I was interested in it but the bursary made it come true,” comments Laventure. “Three of us applied to the camp as a team, and Jessie was going solo, so we said to Jessie, ‘You’re ours now,’ and we all went together.”

When evaluating the impact of the camp, Beaulac adds, “It really improved my skills, and it means a lot to learn from curlers with so much experience – now I get to put that experience back into the game in my own community”.

All four girls have curling in their blood, with their earliest experiences being attributed to entering bonspiels with their mothers or their grandparents.

“My grandma Helen took me to bonspiels with her team when I was eight years old, and my grandpa Michael (Swityk) coached the 1984 Medstead Boys High School team to provincials,” notes Conacher.

Laventure shares a similar story, “I think I started sparing for my mom’s team in Leoville when I was 10.”

Fittingly, the SHS Girls team threw the Memorial Stone during Saturday’s commemorative moment for Derryk Franson.

When the 28-team bonspiel all boiled down to the final event on Saturday, the winning team emerged

from a match of the Dyllan Franson rink versus the Bohdan Booth rink. For the second time in as many years, the Dyllan Franson team took home the trophy – Dyllan is the older brother of Derryk Franson.

Organizer Sue Kahl summed up the second annual Derryk Franson Funspiel with, “This year was just as strong as last year, with a few tweaks to get more games in and a break for the sit-down meal.”

She says she expects the fundraising component to be on par with the 2023 event.



Franson Memorial Funspiel winners, from left to right: Lacey Reddekopp, Taylor Franson, Dyllan Franson, and Garrett Reddekopp.



Second place finishers, from left to right: Ron Craswell, Laurie Mayo, Bohdan Booth, and Drew Larre.



Event organizer Sue Kahl (right) taking registrations with volunteer Shania Douglas.

Nicoll claims May dessert



The Spiritwood Public Library presented the May 2023 Dessert of the Month to Haley Nicoll. The presentation was unfortunately delayed due to scheduling conflicts. The dessert, a pan of brownies, was made by Librarian Heather Gatzke.

By HEATHER GATZKE, Librarian

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SASK LOTTERIES COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM 2024/25

Are you a non-profit volunteer organization located in or around the Town of Shellbrook?

Do you offer access to sport, culture and/or recreation?

Are you looking for some help funding?

The SaskLotteries Community Grant Program Applications are now available at the Shellbrook Town Office.

For more information, please visit the Sask. Lotteries website www.sasklotteries.ca

Application Deadline is March 15, 2024

For projects/programs from April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025

For any questions, please contact Lydia McQuillan, at the Town Office: 306.747.4900 or townoffice@townofshellbrook.ca



TOP NOTCH FARMING

Spiritwood Meeting – February 6, 2024
Agronomy updates on canola, barley and flax

Visit saskcanola.com to view agenda & register

HOSTED BY: SaskCanola SPONSORED BY: SaskBarley SaskFlax

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SATURDAY NIGHT CONCERT
FEBRUARY 10, 2024

7PM @ SHELLBROOK PENTECOSTAL ASSEMBLY

Potluck lunch to follow concert

*Offering will be received for Living Waters Camp

R.M. OF MEDSTEAD NO. 497

SEASONAL MAINTENANCE/EQUIPMENT OPERATOR POSITION

The R.M. of Medstead No. 497 invites applications for an experienced full time Seasonal Maintenance/Equipment Operator. The Seasonal Maintenance/Equipment Operator will be responsible for mowing this municipality's ditches, rock picking, mulching in conjunction with the grader operators, installing and repairing signs and other jobs as directed by the Reeve. Opportunity may be present in the future to move into a grader operator position. Pay rates depending on experience.

The R.M. of Medstead No. 497 is located in central Saskatchewan located approximately forty five minutes north of North Battleford.

Applicants must possess a valid Class 5 driver's license and have skill and experience in maintenance and operation of equipment including tractor, mower, rock picker and mulcher.

Submit written resumes stating experience, expected wage, two references and a current driver's abstract. Deadline closes once the position is filled. All resumes shall be marked "Seasonal Maintenance/Equipment Operator Position" and dropped off at the RM Office, mailed to the address below or emailed to rm497@sasktel.net.

R.M. of Medstead No. 497
Box 12
Medstead, SK S0M 1W0

Council thanks all applicants for their interest in this position but only persons selected for interviews will be contacted.

The R.M. of Medstead No. 497 reserves the right to reject and refuse any or all expressions of interest.

Shell Lake Seniors celebrate birthdays, anniversaries

By **DAVID JENSEN**
Shell Lake 50+ Club

Twenty-three members of the Shell Lake 50+ Club gathered on Jan. 22 to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries which occur during the months of January and February. Rather than the normal celebration of visiting and playing pool or kaiser, this time members were treated to the folksy sounds of the talented Chris Lindsay.

Chris retired to our little community recently and became a member of the club. In retirement, Chris picked up his acoustic guitar and mandolin and re-discovered his latent talent for making music. His repertoire included music of the Maritimes with a Celtic flair, songs by Ian and Sylvia Tyson and John Denver, and This Land is Your Land. His clear voice and acoustical accompaniment received appreciative applause.

Following the entertainment, the

birthday and anniversary people gathered for delicious cake made by Anita Weiers and Janice Delisle's coffee. Celebrating birthdays for January and February were Marilyn McGown, Christine Wollms, Sylvia Jensen, and Wayne Henry. Celebrating anniversaries were Sylvia and David Jensen and Anita and Don Weiers.



Chris Lindsay shared his musical talents at the Shell Lake 50+ Club's celebration of January and February birthdays and anniversaries.



Shell Lake 50+ Club birthday and anniversary celebrants. Standing, left to right: Christine Wollms, David Jensen, Don Weiers, and Wayne Henry. Sitting: Marilyn McGown, Sylvia Jensen, and Anita Weiers.

Sask. teachers begin rolling strikes

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

Saskatchewan's 13,500 teachers are ramping up their job action campaign to convince the provincial government to return to the bargaining table and negotiate over issues like class size and complexity.

Effective Feb. 1, the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation (STF) has called for rotating full-day strikes by regional teachers' associations. As they are members of the Prince Albert and Area Teachers' Association and the Tri-West Teachers' Association, Shellbrook and Spiritwood area teachers are included in the first round of rolling strikes, alongside teachers who are members of the Horizon Teachers' Association and the Prairie South Teachers' Association.

Prior to today's job action, the province's teachers held two province-wide, one-day strikes on Tuesday, Jan. 16, and Monday, Jan. 22.

"Where is the Minister of Education? People are doing everything they can to bring their concerns to his attention, but he still refuses to listen," STF president Samantha Becotte said in a statement on Monday afternoon.

"Saskatchewan people have sent over 30,000 emails to government in less than three weeks – and these are just the emails we know of. When this government received 18 letters from parents this fall, they called an emergency session of the legislature to invoke the

notwithstanding clause and circumvent the constitution. They only seem concerned about the issues that fit within their political agenda. It is mystifying that they believe this can continue."

In addition to demanding that the government negotiate on class size and complexity, the province's teachers are seeking an annual salary increase of 2 per cent over the next four years,

plus a top up tied to the Consumer Pricing Index (CPI). They are also asking for things like greater autonomy for educators, and rights for supply teachers, including a minimum salary, paid sick leave, and the freedom to unionize, but Becotte says the government has refused to negotiate on nine out of ten issues brought forward.

Thus far, Education Minister Jeremy Cock-

rill has held firm in the government's offer of a 7 per cent wage increase over the next three years, calling it "a fair deal" for teachers, and says issues like class size and complexity shouldn't be part of the bargaining process, and should instead be addressed by school divisions.

Meanwhile, Finance

Minister Donna Harpauer said it would be "challenging" to tie teachers' salaries to the CPI, as it would require the government to forecast it each year after the first.

The government has also introduced two new pilot programs aimed at addressing teachers' concerns over class size and complexity. How-

ever, the STF says they aren't enough to meet the needs of students and teachers, and has accused the government of trying to circumvent the bargaining process.

"Teachers want to be in their classrooms supporting students, but government is making that untenable," Becotte said.

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Tax Enforcement List Town of Spiritwood

PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

Notice is hereby given under *The Tax Enforcement Act* that unless the arrears and costs appearing opposite the land and title number described in the following list are fully paid before the 1st day of April, 2024, an interest based on a tax lien will be registered against the land.

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

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY							
Lot	Block	Plan	Title No.	Total	Advertising	Total Arrears	
Sec	Twp	Range		Arrears	Costs	and Costs	
2	T	75B03115	128907108	\$ 4,580.82	\$ 25.00	\$ 4,605.82	
3	34	78B14408	129029979	\$ 1,756.16	\$ 25.00	\$ 1,781.16	
5	19	60B07120	129031882	\$ 6,158.01	\$ 25.00	\$ 6,183.01	
18	21	61B02055	152889452	\$ 1,694.69	\$ 25.00	\$ 1,719.69	
9, 10	C	63B01799	129031253	\$ 2,946.90	\$ 25.00	\$ 2,971.90	
18	11	CA5071	129026257	\$ 3,036.64	\$ 25.00	\$ 3,061.64	
5	29	82B12358	129027450	\$ 1,580.76	\$ 25.00	\$ 1,605.76	
2	34	78B14408	129029991	\$ 3,065.17	\$ 25.00	\$ 3,090.17	
15	5	AP518	128907805	\$ 1,013.55	\$ 25.00	\$ 1,038.55	
8, 9	22	65B01484	129031006	\$ 2,970.93	\$ 25.00	\$ 2,995.93	
1	14	BK4385	131179530	\$ 2,446.42	\$ 25.00	\$ 2,471.42	
15	29	87B10028	129029609	\$ 3,552.82	\$ 25.00	\$ 3,577.82	
4	33	78B14408	129030173	\$ 1,980.11	\$ 25.00	\$ 2,005.11	
3	40	91B03751	128906938	\$ 1,233.88	\$ 25.00	\$ 1,258.88	
2	27	76B03221	128907186	\$ 4,013.22	\$ 25.00	\$ 4,038.22	
15	11	CA5071	129026325	\$ 2,044.95	\$ 25.00	\$ 2,069.95	
6	25	68B07394	129028811	\$ 4,586.57	\$ 25.00	\$ 4,611.57	

Dated this 1st day of February, 2024.
Treasurer

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Sask. Party's boasting distracts from real issues

If Sask. Party government press releases were your sole source of provincial news, you could be forgiven for thinking Saskatchewan has never had it so good.

A population that is growing faster than it has in more than a century (surpassing 1.22 million people in 2023).

Nation-leading GDP growth of 6 per cent.

A low unemployment rate, coupled with a large increase in total jobs (both ranked second in the country).

A strong and growing market for building permits and housing starts.

This foundation of a "strong economy, strong communities, and strong families," the Sask. Party government claims, makes Saskatchewan one of the best places to live, work, and raise a family.

And to be certain, there are many advantages and blessings that come with calling Saskatchewan home.

But in recent years, the Sask. Party government's near-daily proclamations about how well the province is doing have become grating, almost similar in tone to the empty boasts of a schoolyard bully who says his dad can beat up all the other kids' dads.

Or, perhaps, the Sask. Party government is simply trying to manifest these things by repeating them loudly and often, until its long-promised "growth that works for everyone" becomes reality.

It's all well and good for a government to be optimistic about the province and its prospects. No one would want to listen to, or put much faith in, a government that saw only doom and gloom around every corner.

But those in the province who worry about money and making ends meet – 84 per cent of respondents in an Angus Reid poll published last week – must be wondering when the great things happening in the province are going to trickle down to them.

Let's not forget, after all, that despite Saskatchewan being a nation-leading economic powerhouse, it's also a national leader in poverty, with a rate of 9.1 per cent, according to the Food Banks Canada's 2023 Poverty Report Cards (overall, Saskatchewan received a D on its report card, the fourth lowest grade in the country and below the national average of a D+).

And as of 2020, the most recent year for which data is available, those expe-



JORDAN TWISS

~
News Editor

riencing poverty in Saskatchewan also included about 20 per cent of the province's children, giving the province the third worst child poverty rate in Canada. Though this, it should be said, is an improvement from when 26 per cent of children in the province lived below the poverty line.

Puzzlingly, despite Saskatchewan's economic strength, the Sask. Party government also still can't seem to balance its books with any consistency. Its last fiscal update in the fall of

2023, for instance, showed it had turned a projected \$1 billion surplus into a \$250 million deficit.

If the nearly \$1.3 billion swing in the province's fiscal fortunes had come about because of some great investment in affordability measures, or healthcare, or education, it might be a little easier to swallow.

But by Finance Minister Donna Harpauer's own admission, it was all the doing of an "unforeseen" dip in potash prices and increase in drought relief for producers.

Of course, neither of these things was unforeseen by anyone paying even the slightest attention. So, the reality is taxpayers are on the hook for the Sask. Party government's negligence, paying more in corporate income taxes (up \$289 million this fiscal year), PST (up \$150 million), and public debt servicing.

In the meantime, other than carbon tax relief on home heating – which was as much about sticking it to the Trudeau government as it was about seeking fairness for Saskatchewan residents – we're paying this Sask. Party government more and more to give us less and less.

That's why, despite Saskatchewan's supposed economic strength, mother-baby services in Meadow Lake were unavailable over the holiday season, and were unavailable for 66 days from January to August of 2023.

That's why, despite Saskatchewan's supposed economic strength, closures and service disruptions (some announced, some not) have become less of a glitch and more of a feature for Saskatchewan's beleaguered healthcare system.

Indeed, according to a freedom of information request filed by the Sask. NDP, and fought tooth and nail by the Sask. Party, 53 hospitals in the province experienced at least 951 distinct closures to emergency rooms, hospital laboratories,



surgical theatres, or other departments since 2019, and the trend of closures and service disruptions only worsened in 2022 and 2023.

That's why, despite Saskatchewan's supposed economic strength, 1,000 women are being shipped out of province for breast cancer screenings at a cost 10 times higher than the provincial average, and why an estimated 402 people died waiting for surgeries from 2022 to 2023, and why one woman with breast cancer symptoms has been waiting nearly a year for a diagnostic appointment.

Lest one begin to believe all Saskatchewan's problems lie in its healthcare system, a reminder that Saskatchewan's supposed strength doesn't seem to apply to affordability relief, either.

Since cutting Saskatchewan residents a \$500 cheque and partially rolling back its PST expansion in 2022, the Sask. Party government has all but washed its hands of any responsibility for the matter, making it the lone prairie government to not offer some form of relief on the provincial fuel tax.

And, with the Sask. Party government's ongoing contract dispute with the province's educators dominating headlines to start the new year, one would be remiss not to discuss education funding.

Here, the Sask. Party government's approach has been nonsensical and hypocritical, its one and only bargaining chip being a 7 per cent salary increase over three years.

Meanwhile, educators are asking for a 2 per cent salary increase over the next

four years, plus a top-up tied to the CPI, to make up for the purchasing power they lost as a result of their previous four-year contract with the province and the inflationary hell storm that came after the COVID-19 pandemic.

This ask has been weaponized by Education Minister Jeremy Cockrill, who has used advertising campaigns and social media to paint educators as in it only for the money. Ms. Harpauer, however, called the ask "challenging" to implement, because forecasting the CPI is apparently too Herculean a task (even though annual salary increases tied to the CPI work just fine for MLAs).

The Sask. Party also refuses to engage in any negotiations on class size and complexity or in-school violence.

Or so it says, at least.

On the one hand, says Mr. Cockrill, these issues are best addressed by school divisions, which all have different needs. But on the other hand, his ministry recently introduced two new pilot programs aimed at dealing with them – one that will only benefit only eight schools, all of them urban, and another that tasks teachers with solving the problems themselves in exchange for money from the government.

For a supposedly strong economy like Saskatchewan's, properly funding the basics like education and healthcare should be a simple task, a no-brainer.

Instead, while this Sask. Party government continues its empty boasting, we're still waiting for the growth to work for everyone.

Shellbrook Chronicle

Serving the Communities of Shellbrook, Canwood, Debden, Big River, Parkside, Leask, Marcelin, Blaine Lake, Holbein, Mont Nebo, Mayview

Spiritwood Herald

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

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

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Highlights of a Shellbrook Town Council meeting

BY JORDAN TWISS
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

(The following council highlights are not the approved minutes of council for Jan. 22.)

Shellbrook's Town Council met for its regular meeting in person and via teleconference on Monday, Jan. 22.

In attendance were Mayor Amund Otterson, councillors Bruce Anderson, Larry Batten, Peter Halayka, Cheryl Leding, 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 Treaty 6 land acknowledgement in recognition of Truth and Reconciliation. Then, it approved the meeting's agenda, adopted the minutes of its Dec. 11 meeting, and began with the reports of council.

Under the CAO report, there was discussion about the old Shellbrook hospital building, which was at one point expected to be converted into a cannabis facility. Council recently learned the building's owners were unable to obtain a federal license to bring their plans to fruition, and are now exploring alternative ideas for the building.

Mayor Otterson noted that the owners have put a fair bit of money into renovating the building, but still have a long way to go with issues like the roof and water damage. Councillor Miller, mean-

while, suggested the building would work well as an assisted living facility. Council agreed with this notion, and decided to raise the idea with the building's owners.

In public works discussion, Councillor Miller suggested something should be done to improve the view at the end of Main Street where the CN Station once sat, as the current view of grain and fertilizer bins "isn't very nice."

Suggestions were made for flowers and shrubs, or a large sign to mark progress on the fundraising effort for the new swimming pool. There was also talk of asking ratepayers for suggestions, with the possibility of partnering with the BID Committee on a contest.

Up next, Mayor Otterson updated council on the business of the PARWU board, and said the water utility is finalizing a board overhaul that will see the Town of Shellbrook removed from the table (an outcome council had wanted).

With the town stepping away from PARWU, Councillor Miller said there needs to be some

positive steps taken towards a solution or decision on the town's water project.

With all reports presented and accepted, council moved on to the mayor and council forum, where Councillor Batten raised questions about the outdoor skating rink not being ready or utilized. This means people have nowhere to go to skate for free when the rink is busy.

Hoare said she would reach out to the Kinsmen to see if they planned to take care of the rink.

Under unfinished business, council returned to previously tabled discussion of the 2024 wage grid for municipal employees. The proposed wage grid offers municipal employees the \$1 minimum wage increase that was implemented in the fall, plus a 4.5 per cent overall wage increase.

This was questioned again by councillor Batten, who suggested employees should receive a 1.5 per cent wage increase because they already got a 6 per cent boost last time. Councillor Nording also voiced some op-

position to the increase, noting that the town has other priorities it could invest in, including the water project, paving, and sidewalk repairs.

Hoare and Councillor Miller, meanwhile, suggested the wage increases may be necessary if the town wants to keep its employees.

In the end, council voted to table the topic to gather more information.

Beginning new business with some annual housekeeping, council approved Bylaw 2023-01, the Council Code of Conduct Bylaw, and Bylaw 2023-02, the Council Procedures Bylaw, and approved the appointments of council.

Up next, it carried a motion to increase the perpetual care fee at the cemetery to \$500 from \$450 to assist with the cost of removing the grave covers and ongoing maintenance at the cemetery, as well as a motion to allow municipal employees to rent open ice at the rink at a rate of \$32.68 per hour (the morning ice time rate). Employees will get bumped if private bookings come in.

Moving on, council agreed to donate the ice time for the Willoughby tournament on March 15 and March 16, in return for Minor Sports and the town receiving a share of the proceeds from the event. It also passed a resolution to ban the use of engine retarder brakes on Highway 3 through the 80 km/h zone, and carried a motion to maintain the existing property tax discount rates (first month after levy: 7 per cent, second month after levy: 5 per

cent, third month after levy: 3 per cent).

Closing out the meeting, council approved the purchase of new floor washers for the rink and the community hall, at a cost of just under \$14,000, and voted to support two Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA) resolutions, including one calling for the staggering of urban municipal elections to SUMA, and another calling for municipalities to receive carbon tax rebates.

VILLAGE OF DEBDEN PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that the Council for the Village of Debden intends to adopt a bylaw under *The Planning and Development Act, 2007* to amend Bylaw 2/2023, known as the Zoning Bylaw.

Proposed Bylaw 1/2024:

Intent

The proposed Bylaw 1/2024 will amend Section 5.10 Cannabis Retail Stores, subsection (1) and (2) and amend Section 7.3 C-1-Village Commercial District, Table 7-3 C1 Village Commercial District Development Standards.

Affected Land

The affected land is all land dedicated as C-1 Commercial District along Main Street and along 1st Avenue East and West as shown on the map.

Reason

The reason for the amendment is to encourage commercial development and to provide for the opening of a Cannabis Retail business in this district.

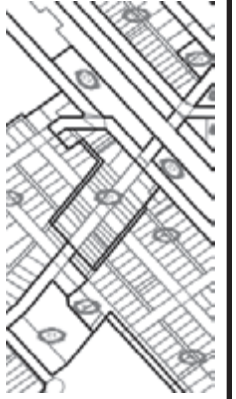
Public Inspection

Any person may inspect the bylaw at the Debden Village Office Tuesday through Thursday from 10:00 am-3:00 pm. Copies are available at a cost.

Public Hearing

Council will hold a public hearing on February 22, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at the Village of Debden Council Chamber to hear any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed bylaw. Council will also consider written comments received at the hearing (or delivered to the undersigned at the Village Office before the hearing.)

Issued at Village of Debden this January 15, 2024.
Tamara Couture, Administrator



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Congratulations Alanna Carswell on achieving the remarkable feat of earning your Dual Master of Archival Studies and Master of Library and Information Studies (MASLIS). You've proven that when it comes to studies, you're no bookworm – more like a knowledge dragon breathing fire into the academic realm! Your commitment to these studies is truly "stacked" with determination.

In this vast library of life, you've written an inspiring chapter, filled with late-night studies, countless highlighter escapades, and the occasional overdue book fines (we won't tell!). Your commitment to the pursuit of knowledge shines like a perfectly cataloged rare manuscript.

As you close this chapter and open the next, may your future be filled with exciting plot twists, thrilling footnotes, and an abundance of acknowledgments for your hard work. Remember, you're not just turning pages; you're writing your own story, and we can't wait to see the incredible narratives you unfold in the libraries and archives of life.

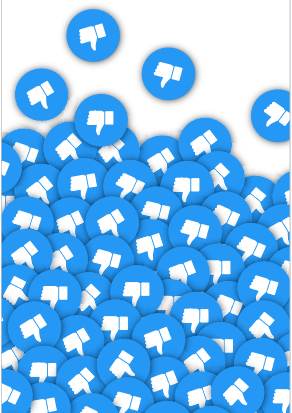
Congratulations, Master of the MASLIS Universe!

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Accused sentenced in Shellbrook-area murder

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

One of the six men involved in the murder of 20-year-old Wesley Custer has been sentenced to seven years after entering a guilty plea at the Court of King's Bench in Prince Albert on Friday, Jan. 26.

With credit for time already served, Kyle Standing will spend just six more years behind bars, and upon release will face a lifetime prohibition on owning or possessing firearms, ammunition, or explosives.

Custer, who was from Denare Beach, was dropped off at Parkland Integrated Health Centre (PIHC) in Shellbrook on the night of Aug. 21, 2020, with what police described at the time as "serious injuries." Custer later died in hospital, and police began investigating his death as suspicious.

Following a lengthy investigation, police had their first breakthrough in the case in May 2022 and arrested three individuals who were already in custody

in Saskatchewan correctional facilities.

After discussions with Crown prosecutors, Saskatchewan RCMP first arrested Evan Ledoux at the Prince Albert Correctional Centre in relation to Custer's death. Ledoux was charged with manslaughter, and also faced a long list of charges, including aggravated assault and several weapons-related charges, in relation to the assault of a woman on the Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation. The woman reportedly required hospitalization for her injuries.

Elsewhere, Curtis Ledoux was charged with accessory after the fact to murder and was arrested at the Prince Albert Correctional Centre, and Tyson Lachance was charged with second-degree murder and arrested at the Saskatoon Correctional Centre.

After further details were uncovered through continued investigation, police also added Standing, Brian Dreaver from Ahtahkakoop First Nation, and Matthew Whitstone from Pelican Lake First Nation to the list of individuals charged in Custer's death.

Dreaver and Whitstone, who both faced murder charges, had the charges against them stayed earlier this month, meaning prosecutors didn't believe they had enough evidence to convict them beyond a reasonable doubt.

Elsewhere, Curtis Ledoux was previously convicted on a charge of being an accessory after the fact to manslaughter and was sentenced to serve 253 days.

This leaves only the cases against Lachance and Evan Ledoux unfinished.

Evan Ledoux, who had his charge upgraded to first-degree murder last year, was scheduled to appear in Prince Albert Provincial Court on Jan. 29, while Lachance will face a trial by jury at the Prince Albert Court of King's Bench. Lachance's trial is scheduled to go from June 10 to 28.

Custer left behind two siblings, as well as a son and a daughter. Police have not revealed what they believe to be the motive behind his death.

Minimum age for tobacco, vapour products increased

Effective Feb. 1, the minimum age for the purchase of tobacco and vapour products has increased from 18 to 19 years of age.

In October 2023, the

Government of Saskatchewan passed proposed legislation calling for the increase in the minimum age for tobacco and vapour product purchases. The legisla-

tive change aligns tobacco and vaping product restrictions with alcohol and cannabis.

"It is important for us to protect Saskatchewan youth from the dangers of tobacco and vapour products," Health Minister Everett Hindley said in a statement. "These products have no place in Saskatchewan schools, and I'm pleased that MLAs on both sides of the house voted unanimously to take the necessary steps to protect students from being exposed to these products."

Tobacco and vapour product retailers are responsible for ensuring they only sell these items to people 19 years and older. Government-issued identification containing the person's photograph, date of birth and signature (e.g. a passport or driver's license) is required to confirm age.

Retailers will have to update their signage to reflect the new mini-

mum age. The sign must be visible at the cash register where products are purchased.

The Ministry of Health will be mailing new till stickers to retailers in January. Retailers can get additional till stickers from their local public health office or by downloading and colour-printing the signage directly from the Signs for Tobacco and Vapour Product Retailers webpage.

Gatzke donates painting to long-term care



Marion Gatzke presents "Wings Over Witchekan" to Hassan Dib, nursing manager at the Spiritwood and District Health Complex long-term care home.

By **BEVRA FEE**
Spiritwood Herald Reporter

Local artist and long-time community supporter Marion Gatzke recently presented one of her paintings to the Spiritwood and District Health Complex long-term care facility. Gatzke has long been involved in healthcare governance in the Spiritwood area, having held roles as administrator of Spiritwood Hospital and then director of the former Parkland Health District. The painting, entitled "Wings Over Witchekan," was donated in honour of her late husband, Fred Gatzke, who passed away in 2016.

"Fred always worked for the betterment of the community, and I want that commemorated," explains Gatzke. "The local inspiration and the name I chose for this piece made it very appropriate."

Marion Gatzke grew up on a farm west of Spiritwood and began to paint with oils in her late twenties. Over the past 50 years she has been exploring the world of art, most often taking inspiration from scenes found in the natural world around her.

"Wings Over Witchekan" was painted in the 1980s.

Memorial Lake Regional Park

Shell Lake, Sk.

Invitation to Bid – General Contractor

Bid Due Date: March 1st, 2024

Project Information: Memorial Lake Regional Park
Box 10
Shell Lake, SK

Project Description: The Board for Memorial Lake is looking for a General Contractor for the construction of an addition to Showerhouse B located within the campground. Addition size is 22' x 18'. Interior will house two washroom areas – including two showers, seven toilet stalls, a urinal and six sinks. Exterior will have metal roofing and siding.

Bid Documents: Copies of plans can be obtained by contacting Michelle: memorial.admin@sasktel.net or 306.841.7724

Approx. Start Date: April 1st, 2024

Bid Instructions:

- » Pricing is to be provided as per plans and specification
- » Bid is to include all labour and materials
- » Contractor must have insurance

Submit Bids to memorial.admin@sasktel.net

OR

Memorial Lake Regional Park
Box 10
Shell Lake, SK
S0J 2G0

TWO OFFICE SPACES FOR RENT IN THE VILLAGE OF SHELL LAKE

130 sq. ft. for \$300 per month, includes power.

Suitable for hair/nail salon, or office space.

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JUNIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

2024 JUNIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR SCHOLARSHIP
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

SaskPower Powering our future® **swna**

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, 2024

Balancing research priorities is tricky

Last week, I wrote about how positive public investment in agriculture research is.

Certainly, I doubt many in the ag sector would suggest government dollars are not welcome, but there is some concern the money comes with some strings these days.

In a recent producer.com article, it was noted that at the Saskatchewan Canola Development Commission's annual general meeting concerns were raised suggesting the priorities of the federal government were not necessarily in sync with what farmers hope to see coming out of research.

The article suggested, "government funding is heavily weighted to projects where the primary focus is reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving carbon sequestration or other ways of addressing climate change."

By contrast, producers remain more interested in research which help in terms of production.

Herein lies an interesting dichotomy – a split in where research should be focused, which is likely only to grow.

On the farm the costs are massive, so production is of course of huge importance. If you can squeeze more bushels out of an acre without



CALVIN DANIELS

increasing production costs too much, it's a win for the farm's bottom line.

Also, there are immediate concerns for producers – for example, establishing blackleg resistance in canola – which are again very much tied to production but with a rather tight focus on a specific dis-

ease.

So, unencumbered money from a source such as the federal government would be seen as best allowing farmers to determine what best to invest the dollars in, in terms of research.

But a federal government is supposed to represent all Canadians, and that might not align perfectly with how farmers see things.

If one spent time in Toronto, Montreal, Halifax, or Vancouver would you find people concerned over how many bushels a farmer produces on an acre, or are greenhouse gas emissions and climate change higher up their

priority list in terms of what we should worry about?

Now, while I know many are going to suggest climate change is either a mirage, or a natural process we can't do anything to change, for the sake of argument let's say it's real and as in most things on this planet humans have had an influence.

In that case the split in priorities in research tend to come down to a short-term outlook, versus a longer term one.

Farm producers want to be profitable, and that is always going to happen quickest with new varieties which fight off disease or simply pro-

duce more bushels per acre.

Issues such as climate change appear much less immediate. Was a nearly Canada-wide brown Christmas climate change or an ultra rare anomaly?

That is of course the core question, do we focus research on adapting to expected changes now, or wait for more evidence change is real?

That is the balance government has to make in research investment on behalf of Canadians – and it is likely the majority of Canadians might opt for planning for change, even as producers might just want more bushels.

Governments invest in livestock, forage research

A total of \$6.8 million in funding has been announced by Canada's Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Lawrence MacAulay and Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister David Marit for livestock and forage research activities.

Provided through the Agriculture Development Fund (ADF) under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP), this investment will support a total of 30 new research projects for 2024. This year's funding is a nearly 14 per cent increase compared to last year.

"Investments like these are helping the agriculture sector prepare for the future," MacAulay said in a statement.

"These research projects will help our farmers adopt more sustainable practices and new methods to counter the effects of drought, diseases and other environmental challenges they face, so they can stay competitive and protect their bottom line."

This year's projects, which are awarded funding on an annual competitive basis, focus on topics such as the development of a rapid and sensitive pathogen surveillance method for Bovine Respiratory Disease in cattle, development of new red clover cultivars for Western Canada, and African Swine Fever preparedness with a focus on evaluating manure manage-

ment and treatment strategies and understanding pathogen survival in mortality management.

"We need our livestock producers to stay competitive and profitable, and they do that by staying innovative through new ideas which become best practices," Marit said in a statement.

"Investments in agricultural research help Saskatchewan maintain its status as a go-to jurisdiction when it comes to sustainably feeding the world while meeting our economic goals for the end of this decade and beyond."

In addition to the federal-provincial ADF funding, a total of \$478,597 for eight livestock and forage projects was contributed by five industry co-funders: the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association, the Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission, the Saskatchewan Canola Development Commission, Saskatchewan Pulse Growers, and the Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission.

"We are very enthusiastic about supporting research and development of new red clover cultivars adapted to seed production in Saskatchewan and relevant to use in domestic and export markets," Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission Executive Director Jo-Anne Relf-Eckstein said.

"Red clover is an efficient source of

organic nitrogen, improves soil health and reduces erosion during the winter while providing a habitat for pollinators and supporting honey production. With its high protein content, it's also an important crop for the ruminant industry, and maintaining a consistent supply of high-quality adapted seed sources helps support livestock producers. The 'dream team' assembled for this unprecedented research project creates a collaborative opportunity to support Saskatchewan's seed growers and forage seed exporters, livestock producers and the provincial bio-economy."

The ADF is supported through Sustainable CAP, a five-year, \$3.5 billion investment by Canada's federal, provincial and territorial governments that helps to advance Canada's agri-food and agri-product sectors. This includes \$1 billion in federal programs and activities and a \$2.5 billion commitment that is cost-shared 60 per cent federally and 40 per cent provincially/territorially for programs that are designed and delivered by provinces and territories.

For more information, including a full

list of funded projects, please visit: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/business/agriculture-natural-resources-and-industry/agribusiness-farmers-and-ranchers/sustainable-canadian-agricultural-partnership/programs-for-research/agriculture-development-fund>.

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Ph: 306-747-2442

Fax: 306-747-3000

chads@sbchron.com

WANTED:

Person to clear deadfall and damaged spruce from large woodlot east of Village of Shell Lake.

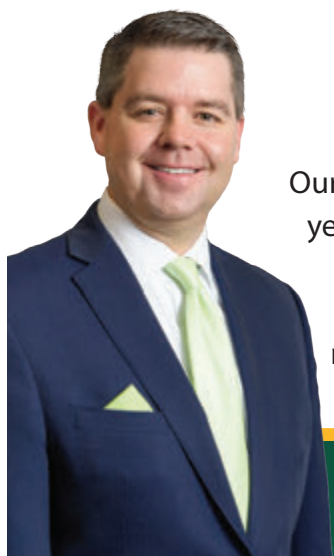
Contact Tara at 306.427.2272

Teacher Supports for Class Size and Complexity

Our government is actively working to address concerns around class size and complexity. This fiscal year, our government has provided \$53.1 million in additional funding to help address enrolment pressures, class complexity, hiring additional educational assistants, specialized support classrooms, and a new teacher innovation and support fund. With this additional funding, nearly \$2.1 billion has been invested into our classrooms for the 2023-24 school year, a record amount of funding.

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

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



Senior hockey highlights

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

With the Shellbrook Elks senior hockey club waiting to see how the Twin Rivers Hockey League's postseason shaped up (as of Monday, the team knew it would be facing the Willow Cree Chiefs in the opening round of the playoffs, with game 1 set for Saturday, Feb. 3 at the Beardy's Memorial Arena), all the senior hockey action was in the Saskatchewan Prairie Hockey League this past weekend.

There, the Glaslyn North Stars (featuring former Spiritwood Timberwolves talent), and the Blaine Lake area Redberry Raiders continued their

own pushes to the postseason, playing two games apiece and coming out with a win and a loss.

For the North Stars, Friday, Jan. 26, saw them travel to Battleford for a showdown with the always tough Battleford Beaver Blues. The North Stars came ready for a fight, and that's exactly what they got, as they battled their way to a 5-4 victory in overtime.

Due to an error on the scorecard, one North Stars goal remains untallied. However, William Desjarlais led the offensive charge with two goals, while Regan Yew had a goal and an assist, and Andrew Hicks scored a single goal. In the as-

sists column, Darren Delaney earned two, while Lynden Carey, Darian Clarke, Jaxon Penner and Robin Yew had one each.

Returning to Glaslyn for a match against the Turtleford Tigers the following night, the North Stars didn't have enough left in the tank and fell by a score of 5-2. Darren Delaney and Jaxon Penner netted the goals for the North Stars, while Ty Anderson and Kyle Fiddler had one assist each.

With the win and the loss, the North Stars sit at 7-7 on the season. This weekend, the team closes out its regular season with a road game against the Radisson Wheatkings on Fri-

day night, and a home match against the Perdue Pirates on Saturday.

The Redberry Raiders, meanwhile, started the end of their regular season with a 9-7 home-ice win over the Maidstone Jets.

Adam Horner and Thomas Jean both put in solid nights for the Raiders, scoring two goals and one assist each, while Simon Gentes and Colby Lavallee both supplied a goal and three assists, Cole Brochu and Connor Pushee scored a goal and one assist each, and Anthony Jean netted a single goal.

As for assists, singles went to Zach Banda, Louis Gardiner, Dawson Horner, Eric Lamon-

tagne, and Ryan Smith.

The next night, the Raiders traveled to Perdue for their final game of the regular season, skating away with tough 6-5 loss.

Anthony Jean put up big numbers in the losing effort, scoring two goals and two assists, while Louis Gardiner netted two goals and Cole Brochu had a goal and an assist. Feeling in an especially helpful mood, Zach Banda earned assists on all five Raiders goals, with Simon Gentes earning a single assist.

For the Raiders, who finished at 4-10-0-2 on the season, all that's left now is to see how the postseason shapes up.

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 Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2023.

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

Absent was, Division 3 Terry Wingerter.

A quorum being present the meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. by Reeve, Shirley Dauvin.

Vaagen: That the minutes of the Nov. 14, 2023, Regular Meeting of Council be approved as presented. Carried

Foreman Darcy Laventure joined the council meeting at 9:15 a.m.

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

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

Foreman Darcy Laventure left the council meeting at 10:55 a.m.

Vaagen: That the bank reconciliation for the month ending Nov. 30, 2023, be accepted as presented. Carried

Fee: That the "List of Accounts" as listed on the attached Schedule "A" forming part of these minutes be passed for payment: Cheque No. 14482-14524 (\$530,667.38), Payroll File No.439, 441, 442 & 443 (\$39,400.28), EFT No. 2023-0076-0083 (\$84,220.97). Carried

Wasden: That the Statement of Financial Activities for the month ending Nov. 30, 2023, be approved as presented. Carried

Delegation: Delegate TJ Tipton joined the council meeting at 11:31 a.m. to discuss the Spiritwood Fire Department.

TJ Tipton left the council meeting at 12:27 p.m.

Council: That Bylaw No. 2023-5, being a Bylaw to Establish a Fire Department be read a first time. Carried (*Editor's note: the bylaw was unanimously read three times and enacted.*)

Laventure: That Bylaw No. 2023-6, being a Bylaw of the Rural Municipality of Spiritwood No. 496 to enter into Agree-

ments for the Provision of Fire Suppression Services be read a first time. Carried (*Editor's note: the bylaw was unanimously read three times and enacted.*)

Fee: That the discretionary use application for one accessory agriculture residence located on NE 21-51-12-W3 be approved. Carried

Laventure: That we enter into a road maintenance agreement with Soucy Holdings to haul timber from NW 23-54-11-W3 & SW 10-54-12-W3. Carried

Laventure: That we enter into a road maintenance agreement with WM Logging to haul timber from NW 19-51-12-W3 & NW 20-51-12-W3. Carried

Laventure: That we enter into a road maintenance agreement with Fast Sexing Technologies for 2024. Carried

Wasden: That the SARM Property Insurance Schedule for 2024 be approved as revised and presented to Council. Carried

Vaagen: That the SARM Liability Insurance Plan be renewed for 2024; and

That we renew the Excess Liability Insurance in the amount of \$3,000,000.00 and the Administrative Errors & Omissions Coverage in the amount of \$1,000,000.00. Carried

Vaagen: That we object to the placement of the powerline 1.5 metres inside the

right of way. Carried

Fee: That we abate the interest accrued against Invoice No. 2023-00112, however, council declines abating the fees for fire suppression services. Carried

Laventure: That we hereby agree to the sale of NE 32-54-10-W3 and NE 29-54-10-W3 and that we wish to have the SE 29-54-10-W3 reserved from sale. Carried

(*Editor's note: the next portion of the meeting was devoted to annual appointments of council, organizations, committees, and boards. All appointments were approved by council.*)

Councillor, Larry Vaagen left the council meeting at 2:40 p.m.

Laventure: That the council meeting be closed to the public at 2:43 p.m. under the authority of Part III of The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, to go in camera to discuss Human Resources. Carried

CAO Colette Bussiere left council chambers at 2:43 p.m.

CAO Colette Bussiere returned to council chambers at 3:34 p.m.

The regular meeting resumed at 3:34 p.m.

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

Fee: That the meeting be adjourned.

PRAISE & WORSHIP

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

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Zion - Canwood
Sunday School,
Worship Sunday, 9 a.m.
(in-person only)
St. John's - Shellbrook
Sunday School,
Worship Sunday, 11 a.m.
(in-person and online
via Facebook live)
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.
Pastor Josh
1-780-690-2100

PRESBYTERIAN

Mistawasis
Sunday worship
11:00 a.m.
Rev. Stewart Foster

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 - 2nd 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

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN

Parkside
11 a.m. - Worship

UNITED CHURCH

Big River
Sundays
11 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 9 a.m.
St. Henry's - Leask
Mass - Sunday 11 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
Pastor Myshan Irving
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 11:00 a.m.
Rev. Sarah Urano

UNITED /ANGLICAN

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

CATHOLIC SUNDAY

Leoville - 9:30 a.m.
Spiritwood - 11:15 a.m.
Shell Lake - 2:00 p.m.
SATURDAY
Medstead - 6:00 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
2nd Sunday, 10 am -
Worship
Pastor David Jensen
4th 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

U18 AA Elks' losing skid extends to three

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

The Parkland U18 AA Elks hit the road on Saturday, Jan. 27, heading to Saskatoon to play their only game of the weekend against the Saskatoon Sabercats. The Elks were desperate to get back in the win column after losing back-to-back games the previous weekend, but the Sabercats had no intention of taking it easy on them.

The goals came early and

often in the first period, and the action was fast-paced, with five goals being scored in the first nine and a half minutes of the game.

It was the Sabercats' Carson Harder who drew first blood just 22 seconds into the period, slipping a puck past Elks netminder Matt Muller with assists from Taelen Casavant and Fynn Harasymchuk.

The Elks retaliated just 50 seconds later, however, on a goal from Brody Anderson, assisted by Kendon Skalicky. And just over a minute after

that, Kamden Shewchuk put the Elks up 2-1 on an assist from Tyson Gagnon.

Given a chance to take control of the game on the power play, the Elks instead got careless with the puck, allowing Ethan Thompson to break free and score an unassisted short-handed goal. And a few minutes later, the Sabercats were up 3-2, thanks to a goal from Carter Degelman, assisted by Kyle Lardner and Harder.

The remainder of the period was quiet, as the teams settled

into the game, and the second period followed this pattern, as neither team was able to score.

The goal drought came to an end in the middle of the third period, when Connor Moir put the Sabercats up 4-2 on an assist from Harder, and Beckett Holzman followed up 29 seconds later with assists from Moir and Harasymchuk.

Down but not out, the Elks tallied late in the game to close the gap to 5-3. Jesse Nyberg scored the goal, while Cohen Tait and Anderson earned as-

sists on the play.

With the game not necessarily out of reach, the Elks pulled their goalie for an extra skater. The move didn't work in their favour, and Moir buried his second goal of the game on assists from Riley Schwartz and Harasymchuk to clinch a 6-3 win for the Sabercats.

Following the loss, the Elks now sit at 9-13-2-1 on the season. The Elks are off this weekend, but will return to Shellbrook on Friday, Feb. 9, for a rematch against the Sabercats. Puck drop is at 7:30 p.m.

GOOD NEWS

THE NECESSITY OF HOPE

By **DAVE BODVARSON**
Shellbrook Pentecostal Assembly

In sorting out things in life, hope is necessary.

Have you ever been given advice that just isn't right?

Well, what comes to mind for me is the counsel I got about required courses I needed to enter College. Growing up in Hay River, N.W.T., I was told what I needed was five courses out a potential seven. That meant when I left high school and entered Red Deer College in 1977, I was prepared. I entered the B.A. program majoring in political science.

Once I was there, I was informed I needed my Grade 12 French. Fortunately, at college, I was able to take a Grade 12 French course. I got it and moved on.

After moving to Calgary and attending the University of Calgary, and transferring into the social work program, I was told my Grade 12 Math,

which was Math 33, wasn't good enough – I needed Math 30. Well, fortunately the University offered Math 30. I took it and got it. Life moved on.

I have been reading about Jeremiah. Jeremiah lived in the day of the last king of Judah. The Babylonians had installed a puppet king in Jerusalem, whose name was Zedekiah. Jeremiah was quite the preacher. He wore a wooden yoke around his neck to symbolize submission to the enemy. It may seem strange, but Jeremiah's advice to Judah was to give up and serve Babylon.

You could imagine that Jeremiah wasn't much liked. It has been put this way "[Jeremiah] had been prophesying doom and gloom for 35 years and his latest stunt with the yoke didn't do much to boost national pride."

Jeremiah said, "Bring your necks under the yoke of the king of Babylon, and serve him and his people and live." (Jeremiah 27:12)

Into this courtyard comes Jeremi-

ah's rival, whose name was Hananiah. He wasn't buying into Jeremiah's advice. In a rage, Hananiah heads across the courtyard and literally tears the wooden yoke from Jeremiah neck, and breaks it over his knee (Jeremiah 28:10).

Who do you believe Jeremiah or Hananiah?

As tough as Jeremiah's advice was, he was right. God would send Judah into Babylon for some 70 years. Hananiah was wrong. God gave Jeremiah great advice.

While in prison in Jerusalem, God told Jeremiah that he was to purchase a piece of real estate in Judah that at that time was in the hands of the Bab-

ylonians. I guess one could ask what use would be a field to Jeremiah? Yet, that's where faith comes in.

Jeremiah signed the deed, had witnesses, sealed it, paid the money, and gave the legal documents to his secretary (Jeremiah 32:9-12).

This wasn't just a business transaction. By purchasing this field, Jeremiah was demonstrating faith in God that the people of Judah would one day return to their land. What hope Jeremiah showed.

Hope is a wonderful thing to possess. As Proverbs 13:12 teaches us, "Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but when the desire comes, it is a tree of life."

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

LEOVILLE: Wapiti Regional Library - Wednesday 10am - 4pm; Thursday 10am - 3pm

SHELL LAKE: Wapiti Regional Library - Tuesday 11am - 4pm; Wednesday 12pm - 5pm

BLAINE LAKE: Wapiti Library - Wednesday 1pm - 6pm; Thursday 1pm - 6pm; Friday 1pm - 6pm; Saturday 10am - 3pm. Contact us for more info 306-497-3130, www.wapitilibrary.ca.

BIG RIVER: Wapiti Library - Tuesday 11:30am - 4:30pm; Wednesday 11:30am - 4:30pm; Thursday 11:30am - 4:30pm. Phone # 306-469-2152

CANWOOD: Canwood Branch of Wapiti Regional Library. Tuesday 10am - 3:30pm; Thursday 2pm - 6pm; Friday 1:30pm - 5pm. Kids Club is Fridays 3:30pm - 4:30pm, Crafter's Choice is the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month.

DEBDEN: Wapiti Library hours: Tuesday 10am - 4pm; Wednesday 1pm - 7pm. Librarian: Aline Hannon

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

MARCELIN: Wapiti Library - Thursday 2pm - 7pm; Saturday 9am - 2pm. 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 2pm - 6pm; Tuesday 2pm - 8pm; Wednesday 2pm - 8pm; Thursday 12pm - 6pm; Friday 10 am - 5pm (Story Time 10:30am - 11:30am); Saturday 10am - 4pm.

SPIRITWOOD: SaskCanola is bringing a Top Notch Farming meeting to Spiritwood on February 6th. Agenda includes canola, barley, and flax agronomy updates plus grain contracts and grain marketing. Visit saskcanola.com to register. Lunch will be provided.

SHELLBROOK: LR Quist & Co. Saturday Night Concert – February 10, 2024, 7pm @ Shellbrook Pentecostal Assembly. Potluck lunch to follow concert. *Offering will be received for Living Waters Camp

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It's now 'Winnerpeg' with NHL's Jets

Hopes are higher than the Golden Boy this year for the Winnipeg Jets to have playoff success in the National Hockey League. Does anyone close to the franchise, or any of their fans, wary of a jinx, dare to whisper the words Stanley Cup?

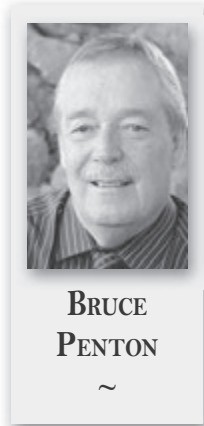
When the 2023-24 NHL season went past the halfway point, the Jets — perhaps the most vanilla of the league's Canadian teams, considering the Centre of the Universe Leafs, the historical brilliance of the Canadiens, the Gretzky/McDavid Oilers, etc. — had established themselves as among the best of the league's 32 teams, dancing around with Boston and Vancouver for the statistical No. 1 spot. For Winnipeg, it's a David beating Goliath story, a janitor from Des Moines outsmarting Warren Buffett on the stock market, Taylor Swift starting a tour in Swift Current.

The Jets have always been underdogs. Born when the outlaw World Hockey Association

formed in 1972, the Jets were one of the four teams adopted by the NHL in 1979, mainly due to their powerful team led by Bobby Hull, Anders Hedberg, Ulf Nilsson, et. al. But the franchise fell upon sad times almost immediately, winning only two playoff rounds through 1996 when poor attendance and rising costs led to the team moving to Arizona. But in the summer of 2011, the Jets were reborn when the Atlanta Thrashers went looking for a new home.

Still, success did not follow the team's move north. The team did win two rounds in 2017-18, losing in the Western Conference final to Vegas, but in general, there has been no need for the Jets to have a champagne supplier on retainer.

That was then. This is now. Superb defensive play has been the key to the Jets' recent domination. On Jan. 20, they were in the midst of an incredible 34 consecutive games without giving up more than three goals, dating



BRUCE
PENTON

back to Nov. 2 (a 5-2 loss to Vegas). Goalie Connor Hellebuyck is a Vezina trophy favourite, veteran Mark Scheifele agreed to a long-term contract in October and a couple of malcontents, Pierre-Luc Dubois and former captain Blake Wheeler, were dispatched — Dubois via trade to L.A. that returned two dependable players (Gabriel Valardi and Alex Iafallo) and buying out Wheeler's contract.

But there's more. Josh Morrissey is in the running for the Norris Trophy as best defenceman, Cole Perfetti is emerging as a star, and Nik Ehlers has been red-hot offensively

while sniper Kyle Connor, now back in the lineup, was sidelined with an injury.

"It's been our 5-on-5 team game, everyone has bought in," Jets coach Rick Bowness told NHL.com.

It's long been accepted that the Jets would have difficulty succeeding because free agents would avoid Winnipeg like the plague. Cold weather, smallish population, perennial losers. But that was the 'Winterpeg' version. It's now 'Winnerpeg' and Jets fans can't wait to see how the rest of the season unfolds. Perhaps the Golden Boy won't be the only shiny bauble in Winnipeg come June.

• Mike Bianchi of the Orlando Sentinel: "Did you see where Tiger Woods and Nike have split up? I'm just wondering if Nike found out Tiger was cheating on them with FootJoy."

• Torben Rolfesen of Vancouver: "Tiger Woods has ended his association with Nike after 27 years. He will now be exclusively

with Perkins."

• Patriots owner Robert Kraft was reportedly annoyed at coach Bill Belichick after Tom Brady left for Tampa Bay, where he won a Super Bowl in his first year: "Bill had told me he couldn't play anymore."

• Janice Hough of leftcoastsportsbabe.com: "Miami TE Cam McCormick, due to various injuries, COVID, and transferring, was just granted his ninth year of eligibility for college football. Maybe it will improve Cam's draft stock. How many rookies reduce their team's costs by being eligible for Medicare?"

• fark.com weighed in on the same subject: "Cam McCormick will return next fall to play college football. This is a repeat from every year since Obama's last year in office."

• Super 70s Sports: "I wonder how Bill Belichick feels after six Super Bowl wins to know he's battling Jim Harbaugh just for the honour of coaching in Atlanta."

• Jack Finarelli at his website, sports curmudgeon.com: "Deion Sanders has gone silent for a couple of weeks. When next he surfaces, he will need to make up for his public absence by saying something abjectly outrageous."

• Finarelli offering up a trivia tidbit: "These are the first NFL playoffs since 1998 where there is no one named Manning or Brady as a QB on any roster."

• RJ Currie of sportsdeke.com: "Two sure signs the NFL playoffs have started: 2) A snowstorm forced the Bills to push back their game one day; 1) The Dallas Cowboys got the jump on another early playoff collapse."

• Another one from Currie: "At the Aussie Open, American Coco Gauff will open the tournament in a one-sided affair. She's up against Slovak Anna Karolina Schmiedlova, whom she trails 23 characters to nine."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

U18 B Elks advance in Provincials

By JORDAN TWISS
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

It was do or die for the U18 B Shellbrook Elks, when they hosted the Unity Lazars for game two of their series in the opening round of provincial playoffs on Saturday, Jan. 27.

The Elks came into the game fresh off suffering a hard-fought 3-1 loss to the Lazars at their home rink on Saturday, Jan. 20, and needed not only a win in game two, but also in the tie-breaking mini-game, to advance to the second round of Provincials.

Elks (5) vs Lazars (2)

As the game two action got under way at the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre on Saturday afternoon, neither team emerged as a clear front-runner in the match-up.

The first chance to seize momentum in the game went to the Elks, who squandered an early power play by struggling to get organized and pressure the Lazars, allowing the pendulum to swing in Unity's favour through the middle of the period.

The Elks recomposed themselves late in the frame, and had the Lazars on the ropes with the help of another power play. But, despite tallying a few good scoring opportuni-

ties, the Elks failed to capitalize and ended the period with the score knotted at 0-0.

Picking up where they'd left off in the first period, the Elks came out and set the tone for the second frame. With some sustained pressure early on, the Elks were able to break the stalemate when Kaleb Smith fired a shot that slipped through Lazars goalie Noah Gumpinger. Devin Cadrain and Talon Sandry earned assists on the goal.

Getting more good pressure and scoring opportunities on a 5-on-3 power play later in the period, the Elks failed to

further their advantage on the scoreboard. However, a four-minute power play soon after proved to be just the thing they needed, as Brett Stene was able to pounce on a loose rebound and backhand it into a wide-open Unity goal. Leland Peterson provided the lone assist on the play.

The Elks continued to dominate the action for the remainder of the period, skating circles around the fast-fatiguing Lazars, but had to content themselves with taking a 2-0 lead into the third frame.

Heading into the third period the Lazars came out look-

ing refreshed and scored on a rebound from the Elks' doorstep. Daxon L'Heureux netted the goal, on an assist from Ryan Fauth.

The Elks had a quick response, as Cadrain was able to tap home a third time's the charm rebound to put Shellbrook back up by two goals. Brandon Dingwall and Gabriel Genereaux assisted on the goal.

The Lazars weren't down and out just yet, though, as Ethan Bertoia leveraged a Unity power play to score on a shot the just barely slipped through Elks netminder Leeroy Forbes, and closed the gap to 3-2.

The Elks were more than happy to trade goal for goal with the Lazars, as Cadrain scored his second of the game shortly after, on an assist from Sandry, to put the Elks back up by two.

With time winding down in the third period, and nothing to lose, the Lazars pulled their goalie in the hopes of finishing off the Elks. But the move backfired, as the Elks shored up their defences and pinned the Lazars in their own end, before Hansyn Bahniuk fired a shot into the empty Unity goal to give the Elks a 5-2 win. Cadrain and Sandry assisted on the goal.

Elks (2) vs Lazars (0)

From the Elks' dominant win in game two of the series, the teams went on to immediately play game three. The format for the tiebreaker was a single 10-minute period, with the winner at the end of regulation taking the series.

Riding the high of their win, the Elks continued to control the pace and tone of game three, striking early on a beautiful wrist shot from Gabriel Genereaux, assisted by Kain Ahenakew.

Continually playing off their back skate, the Lazars did themselves no favours by taking a penalty midway through the game. And the Elks took full advantage, exercising complete control of the offensive zone on the man advantage until Talon Sandry could bury a top shelf shot to give Shellbrook a 2-0 edge. Devin Cadrain and Brandon Dingwall assisted on the goal.

Against an exhausted Lazars squad this proved to be more than enough, and the Elks were able to punch their ticket to round two of Provincials with a 2-0 shutout.

The next round will see the Elks face off against Biggar, who is coming off a round one win over Waldheim. As of Monday, dates for the games had yet to be set.



Shellbrook Elks forward Brett Stene gets his stick on a loose rebound before backhanding it into the back of the goal, in U18 B Provincials action against the Unity Lazars.

OBITUARIES

Ronald James Hagen



in the winter's supply of wood and milking cows. He and his siblings walked three miles to Woodridge school until 1959 when a school bus took them to the Glaslyn School.

After his father and mother died Ron lived with James Hanson for a time until he bought his own house in Medstead. He worked as a Grader Operator first for the RM of Parkdale and retired while working for the RM of Medstead. He also farmed the homestead.

Ron never missed a dance in the community and that man could dance, hardly any woman could keep up with him. His nieces remember him coming to the Sandwith Dine and Dances dressed in a suit and cowboy boots with a beaded necklace a neighbor made for him. He met his wife Eileen at a Minus One dance in North Battleford.

On July 5, 2008 Ron

and Eileen Lafreniere were married in North Battleford where they made their home.

Ron liked the simple things in life, a good cup of coffee, delicious meals prepared by Eileen, mowing their lawn, weeding their vegetable garden, washing his truck, meeting with his friends on coffee row, visiting friends and family, playing cards and cribbage. Often on Sundays Ron and Eileen had Eileen's nephew Mike Lafreniere with them. Ron's favorite musical artist was Stompin' Tom Connors. In his lifetime he had seven new Ford trucks, always a Ford.

Ron was a giant of a man with a kind and compassionate heart, a heart as big as the majestic living skies and the vast prairie land of Saskatchewan, the land he dearly loved.

Ron was predeceased by his parents; brothers: Ken Hagen and Gordie

Hagen; nieces: Marie Guthrie and Jenny Guthrie; nephew Mike Lafreniere and brothers-in-law: Elmer Wiebe and Joe Guthrie.

Left to cherish in his memory are wife Eileen; stepson Earl Pozdrowski; Eileen's grandson, Cole Pozdrowski. His sisters: Ruth Guthrie and Margaret (Leonard) McNabb; his brother David (Linda) Hagen; his sisters-in-law: Doreen Hagen and Julie Hagen; twelve nieces and nephews and numerous cousins. Also, Eileen's siblings: June Wiebe, Joan (Leonard) Raiche, Glenda (Lee) Findlay, Lyle (Vivian) Saccucci and Doyle (Helen) Saccucci.

A celebration of Ron's life will be held at a later date. If so desired, donations in Ron's name may be made to the Battlefords Union Hospital Foundation, Box 1358, North Battleford, SK, S9A 3L8.

NOTICE OF PASSING

Mavis Loader



A Celebration of Mavis' Life will be announced at a later date. In lieu of other tributes, donations in memory of Mavis may be made to the Heart & Stroke Foundation, 1200 - 2300 Yonge Street, Box 2414, Toronto, ON, M4P 1E4.

Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit www.beaulacfuneralhome.com Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home and Crematorium, Tracy-Lynn Lenchuk, Funeral Director, Prince Albert, SK 306-763-3322.

It is with deep sorrow that the family of Mavis Loader, (née McQuarrie) late of Shellbrook, SK, announce her passing on January 21, 2024, at Royal University Hospital at the age of 69 years.

Trende Oscar Stene



Paige, Taylor, Trende Junior, Olivia and Axel; brothers Bernie, Myron (Charlene), Kerry (Karen) and Darcy (Debbie); sister Shari (Boyd); brothers and sisters-in-law Elaine, Joyce, Helen, Ken & Sharon, Ron & Donna, Albert & Carol, Don & Debbie, Darcy & Janice, as well as by many nieces, nephews and dear friends.

It is with the deepest sadness that we announce Trende passed away at his home on December 30, 2023.

He leaves behind to cherish many memories, his wife of 51 years, Jocelyn (Strate); his 3 treasured sons and families Troy (Candice), Dorin (Marcy) and Bradley; his grandkids and great grandkids he loved so much Eric (Amanda), Brooke, Ashton, Kierra, Bryce,

Trende was predeceased by his parents Oscar & Buelah Stene; brother Arlo; sister-in-law Joanne; his in-laws Garnet & Esther Strate; brothers-in-law Morris, Bob, and Randy. We will forever miss that dear, quiet, gentle man.

A Celebration of Life will be held on February 17, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. at the Calmar Legion (4815-47 St, Calmar, AB T0C 0V0).

Leo Moline



Hollman families from Red Deer.

Leo is predeceased by his parents Billie and Emma Moline, sisters Vangie Moncrieff (2007), Audrey Carlson (2017), Phyllis Petersen (2020), brothers Bennie (1973) and Fred (1976) Moline and stepdaughter Kim Stobbs.

Leo's journey started on December 1, 1930 in the small house on the farm located 1½ miles north-east of Canwood that was homesteaded by his grandparents and dad. Leo was the second of five sons of Billie and Emma Moline. Everyone in the community worked hard to support themselves but there was always time for antics which would provide Leo with stories for his remaining years, including what he referred to as "close calls", noting that they were just not wanted "upstairs" yet. They were hard years but good years with good company.

Leo fondly remembered the first time he rode in a car, saw a self-propelled combine and tasted a chocolate with a jam-filled center and when he discovered that planes didn't only have to fly in a straight-line (stunt flying); so many things that we don't think twice about today.

In 1951, at the age of

21, Leo left the farm and started the next stage of his life which took him all over the Prairies, including time in Australia.

Leo was a journeyman pipefitter by trade until his retirement in 1995 at the age of 65.

In 1980, Leo and Norma married and resided on an acreage north of Red Deer for over twenty years where they raised Beau. During this time, Leo became heavily involved in the local Air Cadet squadron, a commitment he undertook because Beau was actively enrolled in the program. Leo's dedication and hard work within the #65 Squadron of Air Cadets earned him numerous awards and consistent recognition, including the affectionate title of "The hardest working man in Air Cadets".

Leo was a hard worker and always kept himself busy with work or puttering around. He worked alongside his nephew Greg Moline erecting steel structures post-retirement and enjoyed gardening, berry picking, making preserves, baking, a good game of cribbage, long walks with the neighbour's dog Lulu and he especially enjoyed watching his grandchildren grow up. After watching Norma make hundreds of needlepoint

pictures over the years, he even made a few of them himself. At the age of 74, Leo enjoyed the adventure of paddling down the Yukon River, organized by his younger brother Mel.

In 2003, Leo and Norma moved from the acreage to their home in Red Deer where they resided until April 2022 when they moved to a retirement home in Red Deer.

A family burial will take place at the Canwood North Cemetery in the summer of 2024 where Leo will rest beside four generations of his family.

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2-05

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Improving antiviral medication for COVID-19 gives more patients access to treatments

Researchers from the University of Alberta (U of A) are working to improve the only oral antiviral approved for COVID-19 infections in the hopes of expanding its use in populations that need it most.

Paxlovid, originally designed by Pfizer, uses a second drug as a metabolic booster to keep the active drug that targets COVID in the blood stream longer. However, this additive can interact with other medications, so immunocompromised people and people with chronic conditions can't take it.

"If you're taking medications

for a cardiac disorder for example, you would not be able to take Paxlovid, so we need to develop second-generation antivirals that could be taken by people that are on other medications, such as those who are immunocompromised," says Joanne Lemieux, professor of Biochemistry at the U of A.

Using the Canadian Light Source (CLS) at the University of Saskatchewan (USask), Lemieux's team was able to visualize the drug's molecular structure in great detail, enabling them to find areas that could be modified.

"The CLS is indispensable to

our team," says Lemieux. "Synchrotron technology is an extremely valuable tool for us, especially for small molecule work."

Lemieux and her colleagues have modified a specific area of the molecule in the active drug that enables it to stay in the system - meaning an additional "booster" drug is not necessary. This could help widen the use of the drug and allow more people to safely treat their COVID infection. The team's findings were recently published in the journal ACS Bio & Med Chem.

"We decided to explore an area of the molecule that, if modified a

little bit, keeps the drug's potency but alleviates its shortcoming," says Alexandr Belovodskiy, Research Associate at the University of Alberta Applied Virology Institute.

Lemieux and her colleagues are continuing their work on novel antiviral drug design to help combat various viruses - from the common cold to other emerging respiratory viruses that could impact human health.

"The CLS synchrotron facility is an essential tool needed to continue the work on antiviral drug discovery in Canada," says Lemieux.

Growing herbs in winter indoors

By PATRICIA HANBIDGE

Sometimes winter is wonderful! Sometimes winter is not so wonderful! One of the ways that I have always dealt with having no ability to garden outdoors is to garden inside. Growing edible herbs indoors when it is cold outside helps to keep the winter blues away. It is also so wonderful to have fresh herbs that taste amazing in the comfort of your home.

In my life, if I am not growing, I am most likely to be found in the kitchen. There is nothing better than to enjoy the wonderful aroma and flavour of food cooked with fresh herbs. Not all herbs are suitable for growing indoors, but there are many that are really quite easy to grow. If you are new to indoor gardening, grow herbs that you will use to enhance the food that you like to cook. Secondly, try to grow those herbs that are compact in size, so they don't get too large for your growing area.

Most herbs are sun worshippers. The light in our homes - even if you

place your herbs in direct sunlight will not be sufficient to promote healthy growth. You will have to provide supplemental light for your herbs. There are many options to supply adequate light for production growth. Many economical LED light fixtures are now readily available and use minimum electricity. Ensure you do some research on what works for your space as the light will need to be adjustable to ensure any plants get enough light throughout their lifespan. Be aware that the amount of foot candles or lux (both common measurements of the brightness of light falling on a given area) hitting your plants decreases substantially with the distance the light is away. Ideally you never want to have your lights further away than about 8 inches from the lowest leaves.

Although light is the most important factor for success, soil or media also has importance. Herbs almost always like good drainage, so ensure your soil or media mixture will drain quite quickly. Feed your herbs once a week

while they are actively growing and water less often and more thoroughly. If you wait until the soil is dry to the touch, you will ensure that you do not "drown" your herbs before you have a chance to enjoy them.

Many of the herbs you may wish to grow are readily started from seed. Basil, dill, oregano, cilantro, and mint are all easy to grow from seed. Other herbs like rosemary, lavender and lemon verbena need to be started by taking cuttings. Cuttings are a type of asexual propagation that is also referred to by some as cloning plants. Each part of a plant will be genetically identical to the parent plant and will not display the diversity that occurs when growing plants from seed.

General directions for taking cuttings are to select a healthy plant to take a cutting from. If possible, take a 4 to 6-inch piece of stem with the leaves attached ensuring there are a number of nodes present where the current leaves are growing. Use scissors, secateurs or a sharp knife

that is clean and remove all but two of the leaves at the top of the stem and gently pinch back the very top leaf or tip of the cutting. Removing the apical meristematic tissue (the top leaf or point of growth) will trigger a number of internal processes that will help the plant to grow new roots more quickly and to then continue growing stems and leaves. By removing the lower leaves, the nodes where the leaves were once located are usually the easiest point for new tissue to develop.

Place cuttings in a damp

soiless mix, vermiculite, or peat moss. Tent some plastic over the cuttings to retain the humidity and place the cuttings in bright light. Monitor the cuttings until you see roots and new growth. Gradually remove the humidity tent and, if necessary, plant up in growing media.

Hanbidge is the Lead Horticulturist with Orchid Horticulture. Find us at www.orchidhort.com; by email at info@orchidhort.com; on facebook @orchidhort and on instagram at #orchidhort.



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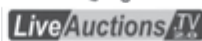
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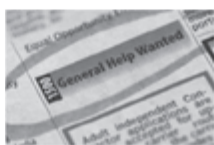


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Minutes of a Spiritwood Town Council meeting

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

The regular meeting of the Council of the Town of Spiritwood was held in the Council Chambers at the Spiritwood Town Office, 212 Main Street, on Dec. 20, 2023, at 7 p.m.

In attendance were, Mayor Gary von Holwede, Councillor Jim Bedi, Councillor Bryan Wingerter, Councillor Mark Corfield, Councillor Ragnar Latus, Councillor Shane Colley, and CAO Rhonda Saam.

Absent: Councillor George Pretli

A quorum being present, Mayor Von Holwede called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Bedi: That the agenda be adopted as presented. Carried

Bedi: That the minutes of the regular meeting on Nov. 28, 2023, be approved as presented. Carried

Delegation: Dominic Huchkowsky - 101 Sixth Street West - 7:05 p.m.

Dominic Huchkowsky entered the council meeting at 7:05 p.m..

Dominic discussed donating Lot 8 Block 15 Plan BK4385 to the Town of

Spiritwood.

Domonic left the council meeting at 7:12 p.m.

Wingerter: That town will contact the lawyer to help with what paperwork needs to be filled out to have the land transferred to the town; And,

That Lot 8 Block 15 Plan BK4385 must not have any interests registered against the property that are not town or utilities related, the transfer must be signed by the executor and accordingly any beneficiaries must agree to the transfer.; And,

That if the signed transfer is not provided to the Town by February 15, 2024, then tax enforcement proceedings will continue. Carried

Delegation: Northern Lakes Economic Development - Bevra Fee - 7:30 p.m.

Bevra Fee entered the council meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Bevra discussed operations of Northern Lakes Economic Development and provided an update of operations and moving forward in 2024.

Bevra left the council meeting at 8:04 p.m.

Bedi: That the Accounts for Ratification, Cheque No. 32910 to 32933 & payments 1516 to 1537 in the amount of \$68,487.53 be approved as presented. Carried

Bedi: That the Accounts for Approval, Cheque No. 32934 to 32960 & payment 1538 in the amount of \$34,382.45 be approved as presented. Carried

Colley: That the Bank Reconciliation for the month of November 2023 be approved as presented. Carried

Wingerter: That the Financial Statement for the month of November 2023 be approved as presented. Carried

Wingerter: That the reports be filed as presented. Carried

Wingerter: That after the advice of legal counsel, we pay the remainder balance of invoice #8445 to the RM of Spiritwood No. 496 for the Heppner Fire Call Out Fees in the amount of \$15,683.76. Carried

Wingerter: That we amend motion 2023-0190 by substituting \$8,000 with \$15,000. Carried

Wingerter: That we transfer title of the 1971 Pierre Thibault Fire Truck, SN# F75FVM14262, to the Rural Municipality of Spiritwood No. 496, in lieu of waiving the 2023 fire protection services levy, as per the bill of sale attached to form part of the minutes. Carried

Bedi: That we purchase two 15.6" Laptop i5 Processors to be used for the Town and SARCS accounting with the MS-Office 2021 Standard option as per the quote provided from Munisoft. Carried

Wingerter: That Bylaw No. 552/23, a bylaw to provide for the provision of fire suppression services, be read a first time. Carried (*Editor's note: the bylaw was unanimously read three times and adopted.*)

Bedi: That we submit an application to Canada Summer Jobs 2024 for one summer student position. Carried

Corfield: That we accept the 2024 bond insurance as presented and required as per Section 113(1) of the Municipalities Act, which is attached to form part of the minutes. Carried

Bedi: That Bylaw No. 553/23, A Bylaw to Repeal Bylaw, be read a first time. Carried (*Editor's note: the bylaw was unanimously read three times and adopted.*)

Editor's note: the next portion of the meeting was dedicated to rescinding policies, including: Policy No.11 - Trees & Shrubs on Town Property, Policy No.21 - Procedure for Removing & Installing Hockey Glass, Policy No.34 - Training - Protective Services, and Policy No. 35 Voluntary Immunization.

Colley: That we rescind Policy No. 5 Hours of Operation and replace with Policy 2-8 Hours of Work, as attached to form part of the minutes. Carried

Bedi: That we approve the CAO Contract Agreement for Rhonda Saam effective Dec. 21, 2023, as presented and attached to form part of the minutes. Carried

Wingerter: That the appointments be set effective Jan. 1, 2024 (list omitted due to length). Carried

Colley: That we approve only the interior renovations of Building & Development Permit #17-2023SW at Lot 1, 2, 3 Block 4 Plan AP518, with the condition of approval of compliance to the Town of Spiritwood Zoning Bylaws, and the building permit pending authorization from the Building Inspector;

And, that we do not approve the exterior renovations for Building & Development Permit #17-2023SW as it does not comply with the Town Zoning Bylaw. Carried

Latus: That this meeting be adjourned at 9:34 p.m.



• Find someone to mow the lawn.
• Find someone to clean the house.
• Find that special recliner

**Shellbrook Chronicle
Spiritwood Herald**
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THANK YOU

It is our pleasure to announce we have sold our long-time family newspaper business to Jordan Twiss and Meghan Penney, Co-Managers of the newspaper.

The newspaper has a long history and has been in my family starting with my great-grandfather Ernest Pickup in 1912, then my grandfather Frank Pepper, and then my father Alfred Pepper. The newspaper has evolved through the years beginning with the "lead and wooden" type, being handset to produce the newspaper advancing through the years with "linotype", a modern mechanical machine to type set the words and sentences to modernize the production of the newspaper from the lead and wood type method. In the mid 1960's the paper embraced the modern era of "offset printing" and was one of the leaders with this technology in the province. This was the change from lead to the early stages of producing a newspaper with electronic technology, years later becoming today's computer newspaper software for production. The newspaper has seen many changes over it's 112-year history – like anything else, things change.

We thank all those, too many to mention, for the years of support to our newspaper.

We encourage your continued support to Jordan and Meghan, the new owners of

Shellbrook Chronicle/Spiritwood Herald.

On behalf of our family, thank you!
Clark and Lenore Pepper