

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald

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Thursday, January 18, 2024

www.shellbrookchronicle.com | www.spiritwoodherald.com

Shellbrook seniors ring in 2024



Shellbrook Senior's Association member Lorraine Thibeault reads out time capsule wishes from 2023 at the club's Welcome 2024 Tea.

By **JORDAN TWISS**

Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Despite the positively frigid temperatures to start the new year, a dozen or so guests came out to welcome 2024 with open arms at the Shellbrook Seniors Association's Welcome 2024 Tea on Friday, Jan. 12.

This was the second iteration of the event, which was introduced in 2023 as part of an effort undertaken by the club to revitalize itself in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition to monthly teas held throughout 2023, last year also saw the club host monthly bingo events and hometown band concerts two evenings per month, as well as its mainstays like old-time dancing, kaiser, and exercise classes.

Looking back on 2023, Shellbrook Seniors Association member Lorraine Thibeault, who helped spearhead a number of the new initiatives intro-

duced throughout the year, calls them a big success. She says they helped the club grow its membership to 50 members from 40, and got people more involved with the club.

"I feel that it's a good way to get people out of their homes after our COVID stretch. A lot of people ended up staying in, even when restrictions were easing up," she said. "This way, more people are coming out and socializing. For our seniors, especially, that's a good, healthy thing."

The Shellbrook Seniors Association was also aided in its recovery by two significant grants it received in 2023.

The first was a \$1,520 grant from Affinity Credit Union – North West Division to offset the costs of the live band at old-time dances and to help with the purchase of exercise videos and equipment.

The second was a \$10,000 grant from the Government of Canada and United Way Centraide Canada to upgrade com-

munication and information technology. Thibeault says one plan the club has for this grant includes the purchase of a large viewing board, which will allow it to invite seniors over for movies.

Though 2023 was a year of growth for the Shellbrook Senior's Association in terms of membership, participation in activities, and the number of activities being offered, Thibeault says the club does still face some challenges as 2024 gets under way, starting with the cost of travel for outdoor events.

"The older members remember the days when they went on lots of excursions, and they'd like to get back to that again," she said, noting that the club is trying to find solutions to this challenge.

On the positive front, Thibeault says she's looking forward to the club hosting even more social events throughout 2024, and is hoping that it won't just be seniors who attend.

"At one time we used to do things

with children, and we haven't got that back yet, but I think it's something we need to do, so I'm looking forward to that," she said.

Keeping things hopeful, last Friday's Welcome 2024 Tea tasked guests with putting wishes for the community in a time capsule that will be opened at the Welcome 2025 Tea.

First, however, the time capsule from the Welcome 2023 Tea had to be opened, and the wishes read out.

Among the top wishes from 2023 were a desire for more assisted living, or other accommodations, for low-income seniors, general well wishes for the community, and wishes for Shellbrook to have its own ambulance services, a standalone fire hall, benches along Main Street, and for progress to be made on the town's water project.

There were also wishes for the community to get a clothing store for people of all ages, as well as a Tim Hortons, A&W, or McDonald's.

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Gatzke honoured for Spiritwood Music Festival contributions

By **BEVRA FEE**
Spiritwood Herald Reporter

At the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association's 2023 Conference, held in Kindersley on Oct. 27, Kathleen Gatzke received recognition for over 30 years of volunteer work for the Spiritwood Music Festival.

Gatzke has offered her time in several capacities over the years, most recently as treasurer. She has often taken on many added tasks to ensure all details are covered, and the community expresses heartfelt gratitude to Kathleen and all the volunteers and sponsors who have so generously given their time and financial support.

When reflecting on her initial involvement, Gatzke commented, "I got involved at the beginning as it was a new venture and my sister Carolyn was a music teacher, and also her children were involved in the Spiritwood Concert Band. I offered to volunteer in the concession, and I guess I worked my way up from there."

Gatzke was previously named Spiritwood's Citizen of the Year in 2009, a nod to her tireless efforts and volunteer work with Spiritwood Music Festival.

Gatzke's initial reaction to the honour was one typical of lifetime volunteers, "Why me? There are so many others who do so much."

The Spiritwood Music Festival held its inaugural competitive scholarship event in 1992, grew its event steadily, and then waned over the past 10 years. Several past scholarship winners have made music their career, including Spiritwood's own Shantaia, who

now resides in Nashville and was SCMA's Female Artist Of the Year in 2023.

Other notables who got their music careers started in the Spiritwood Music Festival include Brody Siebert, Riley Siebert, Trevor Wingerter, Erin Hill, and Mary Joy Nelson.

Many others continue to embrace their musical beginnings by teaching music lessons, and the festival is beginning to see second generation family members entering the annual showcase.

Commenting on the relevance of the Spiritwood Music Festival after 30 years, Gatzke emphasizes the importance of music as well as the importance of supporting children's involvement and growth through music. "I think back to the beginning when the event was a full week, and involved more than it does today - such as the Concert Band - and more instrument players."

The Spiritwood and District Music Festival is again gearing up for another showcase of music and spoken word.

Although the majority of entries have been those trained in piano and singing, the competitive festival also encourages participants in choral singing and spoken word i.e. poetry, public speaking, choral speech, sacred reading, prose, and storytelling.

The Spiritwood area's local music teachers are available to assist schools in preparing for the competition and they note that school entry fees will be refunded by the provincial festival office.

The Music Festival is a great venue to hone skills in the Arts. Over the years it's been a game-changer for many participants as they put these skills to use

in their communities as volunteers or professionally.

In an effort to grow the entries in this year's Music Festival, the volunteer committee has created a social media presence so that more people can readily access information about the event.



Kathleen Gatzke at the 2023 Saskatchewan Music Festival Association conference.

New Highway Hotline camera added near Blaine Lake

The Government of Saskatchewan has added six new Highway Hotline cameras, bringing the total online cameras to over 50 locations. This expansion enhances the network, offering motorists improved travel insights.

"Our government continues to enhance the Highway Hotline's ser-

vice to ensure motorists have more ways to plan their journey and make an informed decision," Highways Minister Lori Carr said in a statement.

The six new cameras are located on: Highway 6 near Dafoe; Highway 6 near Naicam; Highway 14 near Macklin; Highway 16 near Sheho; Highway 40 near Blaine

Lake; and Highway 55 near Smeaton.

The network of camera locations can be seen online at <https://hotline.gov.sk.ca/cctv> or on the Highway Hotline mobile app. Images are refreshed approximately every five minutes and provide Highway Hotline staff with regular updates on the highway conditions.

Snowplow operators across Saskatchewan's vast provincial highway network also relay road information to their Highway Hotline teammates. For the safety of all drivers and the safety of equipment operators, motorists

are reminded to stay back and stay safe near snowplows, which create mini blizzards when plowing. Snowplows pull over when safe to do so, roughly 10 to 15 kilometres, to let drivers pass.

The Highway Hotline can be downloaded as a free smartphone app, accessed at www.saskatchewan.ca/highwayhotline or by calling 511.

Snow removal and ice treatment for highways is based on their classification and traffic volumes. For details about winter maintenance activities, visit <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/transportation/highways/highway-safety/winter-safety>.

one south of Dundurn (Blackstrap) and another at Davidson; and one along Highway 3 near Paradise Hill northeast of Lloydminster.

Highway Hotline and Snow Zone safety videos can be shared online from: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLE3eRil6Aoin2COP372K5rv10-e3gmA1z>.

The first four cameras were integrated into the Highway Hotline system in 2011. It included one along Highway 2 near Weyakwin between La Ronge and Prince Albert; two along Highway 11 between Saskatoon and Regina with

one south of Dundurn (Blackstrap) and another at Davidson; and one along Highway 3 near Paradise Hill northeast of Lloydminster.

Appendix C
FORM L
[Section 78 of The Act]

VILLAGE OF LEASK NOTICE OF CALL FOR FURTHER NOMINATIONS (By-Election)

Public notice is hereby given that nominations of candidates for the office of:

Councillor: Village of Leask

Number to be elected: One

will be received by the undersigned at the Village of Leask Office during normal office hours until Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. local time.

Nomination forms may be obtained from: Village of Leask Office 15 Main Street, Leask, SK and on the Village of Leask website <https://leask.ca>

Public Disclosure Statements and Criminal Record check are required to be submitted with all nomination forms.

Dated this 11th day of January, 2024

Returning Officer
Yvette Hamel

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.

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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

TOWN OF SHELLBROOK

SASK LOTTERIES

January is Cervical Cancer Awareness Month

If you are between the ages of 25-69 and have a cervix, start the new year off by booking your Pap test.

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Cervical
Cancer

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cancer
AGENCY

Spiritwood names new economic development officer

By **BEVRA FEE**
Spiritwood Herald Reporter

As 2023 comes to a close, so does the term of Bevra Fee at the helm of the Northern Lakes Economic Development Corporation (NLEDC). Since October of 2011, Bevra has led as managing director of the non-profit entity, and the support from the region has been immense.

NLEDC's key notable projects during that time include the Town Square, Spiritwood Artisan Boutique, GymRX, Main Street Gallery, Spiritwood Farmers Market, Spiritwood's Main Street program with the province's small town initiative, lake capacity studies in conjunction with the RM of Spiritwood and surrounding municipal partners, several MOUs with the Town of Spiritwood, Silver Buckle Bull Riding, marketing for Leoville, Chitek Lake, Spiritwood, and Shellbrook in print, billboard, and trade

shows, Saskatchewan Economic Development Alliance involvement, and many other notable initiatives.

The volunteer board of NLEDC welcomes and introduces its new economic development officer, Sue Kahl. Sue comes straight from a year of leading the activities at the Spiritwood Rec Centre and is very familiar with event-planning, grant writing, and fundraising under a volunteer board structure.

Some of the exciting new ideas that the NLEDC has underway will be revealed in early 2024. The NLEDC's new website will be one of the first big deals. It will be found under a new web address, combining the Town of Spiritwood's information with the Northern Lakes Economic Development background, and will be re-branded to "Visit Spiritwood" in conjunction with the print and social media campaign of "Experience Spiritwood."



Sue Kahl has been named Spiritwood's new economic development officer.

Sask. teachers hold one-day strike

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Teachers across Saskatchewan went on strike for one day on Tuesday, Jan. 16, to make it clear to the Sask. Party government that they won't back down.

The province's teachers have been without a contract since August, and since new contract negotiations began in May, they have asked for issues like classroom size and complexity to be part of the negotiating process.

Meanwhile, Education Minister Jeremy Cockrill has held firm in the government's position that these issues shouldn't be resolved at the bargaining table. Instead, the government's main bargaining chip is a 7 per cent wage increase over the next three years.

The impasse between the STF and the Sask. Party reached a critical junction in late October, when the teacher's union voted overwhelmingly in favour of authorizing potential job actions. Another critical juncture came in December, when teachers and the government turned to a third-party conciliator in hopes of pushing contract negotiations forward, but again failed to find common ground.

In a week filled with education news not necessarily tied to the ongoing contract dispute between teachers and the province, the Sask. Party announced two new pilot programs aimed at addressing some of the teachers' concerns.

The \$3.6 million specialized support pilot program, aimed at helping staff manage and de-escalate behavioural incidents in classrooms, begins this

February and will run until the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

The program will run in eight school divisions, exclusively in urban areas, and school divisions will be responsible for choosing which schools test it.

The Sask. Party government also announced a new \$2.5 million teacher innovation and support fund, aimed at fostering local, teacher-led solutions while addressing classroom and student needs.

Open to applications immediately, the program will allow teachers to work with school administration to apply for \$10,000 to \$75,000 to put toward their ideas to enhance classrooms in areas such as student achievement, student and teacher wellness, and school safety.

Like the specialized support pilot program, the teacher innovation and

support fund pilot will run until the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

Both new initiatives were welcomed by the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation (STF) as positive first steps to address issues teachers have been voicing to the government. However, the STF also accused the government of sidestepping the bargaining process.

In the end, neither announcement was enough to dissuade teachers from their one-day strike.

"The last thing any teacher wants is for negotiations to impact the school year, so we are exhausting every possible option to get government back to the table," said STF president Samantha Becotte in a statement.

"At every turn, teachers have said that committees are getting us nowhere on these urgent issues, and a new deal must in-

clude items to address class size and complexity. Government remains intransigent, even after conciliation. This is not bargaining; they are making decisions based on politics and student learning is suffering for it."

The strike announcement was met with disappointment by Minister Cockrill, who issued a statement.

"We are disappointed that the Saskatchewan Teachers Federation executive continues to work toward a strike while the Government Trustee Bargaining Committee remains at the bargaining table, ready to talk," he said, highlighting the government's commitment to addressing the issues of concern to teachers through funding increases and the

two new pilot programs.

"We know that disrupting learning is not what is in the best interest of students, and that deals are reached at the bargaining table, not on the picket line. We also know that the STF's decision affects parents and that school divisions are already working to communicate directly with parents and caregivers."

Nadine Wilson MLA
Saskatchewan Rivers

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Sask. Party must get back to basics on education

If the Sask. Party government was in the business of making new year's resolutions, the press releases it issued last week might lead one to believe it was planning to take the challenges facing the province's education sector more seriously.

On the heels of a 2023 that saw it locked in a bitter war of words – and, in its case, costly advertising campaigns – with the province's teachers over contract negotiations, the Sask. Party government has started 2024 by announcing investments that at least pay lip service to teachers' concerns about class size and complexity, and violence in schools.

Last Monday, the government announced a new \$3.6 million specialized support pilot program aimed at "helping staff manage and de-escalate behavioural incidents in classrooms."

Beginning this February, the program will run in eight school divisions, exclusively in urban areas, and the school divisions will be responsible for choosing which schools test drive it.

The program will run until the end of the 2024-2025 school year, at which point its successes and/or failures will undoubtedly be reviewed to allow changes to be made, or a new strategy to be employed.

The new initiative was welcomed by the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation (STF) as a positive first step toward addressing issues teachers have been voicing to the government over the past year. However, there were concerns expressed about its limited scope, and the exclusion of rural schools and students.

Forty-eight hours after unveiling the specialized support pilot program, the Sask. Party government announced a new \$2.5 million teacher innovation and support fund, aimed at "fostering local, teacher-led solutions while addressing classroom and student needs."

Open to applications immediately, the provincial funding will allow teachers to work with their school administration to apply for \$10,000 to \$75,000 to put toward their ideas to enhance classrooms in areas such as student achievement, student and teacher wellness, and school safety.

Like the specialized support pilot program, the teacher innovation and



JORDAN TWISS
~
News Editor

support fund pilot will run until the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

Though she called the idea "interesting," STF president Samantha Becotte said teachers are looking for more long-term commitments from the Sask. Party government.

"There is a great deal of fear from teachers that while these pilots are announced – they're only announced until the end of next school year," she said. "That will get government past their election, [but] we have seen before where those election promises go away very quickly, and we see further reductions to support in schools."

The province's teachers have been without a contract since August, and since negotiations with the province began in May, they have asked for issues like classroom size and complexity to be part of the negotiating process.

According to Ms. Becotte, the province has refused to bargain on nine out of ten of the STF's demands.

The Sask. Party government, meanwhile, believes contract talks should focus exclusively on compensation, and feels its offer of a 7 per cent salary bump over three years (or 2.33 per cent per year) is more than fair.

The impasse between the STF and the Sask. Party reached a critical junction in late October, when the teacher's union voted overwhelmingly in favour of authorizing potential job actions.

Another critical juncture came in December, when teachers and the government turned to a third-party conciliator in hopes of pushing contract negotiations forward.

That process ended with both parties still at the same impasse. A report on the process, issued last week by the conciliation board, struck a cautiously neutral tone, saying the province could choose to make class size and complexity a bargaining issue but might not be obligated to do so.

This, it seems, brought negotiations to their boiling point. And in an announcement last Thursday, the STF gave notice of the province-wide, one-day strike that was held on Tuesday.

As the ongoing negotiation failures between the province's teachers and the Sask. Party government continued to hog all the oxygen in the room, last



week saw another, more concerning, headline emerge in regards to education.

The headlines were generated by the Programme for International Student Assessment's (PISA) latest study of student test scores, which found a sharp decline in Saskatchewan students' scores in reading, math, and science.

The study assesses the ability of 15-year-olds in the above three disciplines. In 2018, Saskatchewan students already ranked below the national average. And the results for 2022's study show they're falling even further behind.

In math, students' test scores dropped by 17 points, and in reading they dropped by 15 points (compared to the national average of a 15-point drop and a 13-point drop, respectively). According to PISA, a 15-point dip is the equivalent of losing a year of learning.

Saskatchewan's science scores saw a more modest decline of 7 points, but still outpaced the 3-point decrease in the national average.

With these scores tallied up, Saskatchewan students ranked second last in math, third worst in reading, and middle of the pack in science.

Throughout negotiations with the Sask. Party government, the STF has often repeated the refrain that "teachers' working conditions are students' learning conditions."

From the results of PISA's study, we get a pretty clear picture of the out-

comes the current classroom conditions are yielding. It goes without saying, these are not the outcomes that parents in Saskatchewan want, expect, or deserve for their children.

Now, one could take the easy road and lay the blame at the feet of the so-called "woke" curriculum, or teachers with allegedly nefarious social agendas. And perhaps there is room for an examination of what students are taught, when they're taught it, and how.

But the teachers of this province have spent years ringing alarm bells about the challenges they're facing in the classroom.

Meanwhile, for its part, this past summer and fall made it abundantly clear that the Sask. Party government is more interested in policing students' pronouns – even going so far as to run roughshod over their rights by way of the notwithstanding clause – than it is in focusing on the issues that would actually make classrooms safer or better environments to learn in.

For better, or potentially for worse, the students currently in our elementary, secondary, and post-secondary schools are the future of this province.

By continuously putting politics above people, and by refusing to address teachers' concerns and students' needs, the Sask. Party government is putting Saskatchewan's future at risk.

It's time for it to go back to the basics, so that teachers can devote their time to teaching, and students can focus on learning.

Shellbrook Chronicle

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Spiritwood Herald

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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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Sugar Hill Bake House: a life's passion

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

For many people finding their life's passion is a journey, filled with trial and error and more than a few bumps along the road.

For Laura Christiansen, a passion for baking was something she was fortunate enough to discover in her early childhood while baking with her mom, grandmother, and great-grandmother, and growing up on TV shows like *Cake Boss*.

Christiansen has many memories from those early days, but she most fondly recalls a time when she made babka bread, a traditional Ukrainian dessert, with her great-grandmother, who was herself a talented cook and baker.

"She couldn't really see that well anymore, but she was feeling all the ingredients with her hands and she knew what to put in, and it turned out perfectly," Christiansen said. "It would

be cool to be able to do that one day, just have a good feeling for what you're making — but also keep learning about it, too."

Though Christiansen knew from childhood that baking was something she wanted to try to do when she was older, the demands of university and her full-time job meant she stopped baking altogether for a time.

Then, as was the case for so many others, the COVID-19 pandemic allowed her to rediscover the passion she'd left in her childhood. And in April 2021, she turned this passion into her home-based business and bakery, Sugar Hill Bake House, in Yorkton.

Going into it with no expectations, only the hope to make a bit of extra money to supplement her income, Christiansen says she was surprised at how quickly things took off.

"I just felt like I was in this routine of working full-time and wanted something for fun," she said. "I decided to just start making cakes. I got a lot of

support from family first, and then friends, and then all of a sudden people I didn't know started ordering."

Using the skills she learned from her mom, grandmother, and great-grandmother, some lessons she taught herself along the way, and useful tips and tricks she picked up through a basic cake decorating class in Calgary, Christiansen has expanded her culinary repertoire to include cakes, cupcakes, cheesecakes (her personal favourite to bake), and cookies.

Now living in Shellbrook with her husband and daughter, after moving to the community in the summer of 2023, she says baking has become a great way to meet people in the community while indulging her creativity.

"I love doing themed cakes and wedding cakes and getting people to gather," she said. "That's one thing I love about baking. Whether it's a cake or whatever else, it brings people together."

With nearly three successful years of Sugar Hill Bake House under her belt, Christiansen recently opted to test herself against thousands of other bakers from across the globe in the Greatest Baker contest, a vote-driven contest offering a grand prize of \$10,000 and a chance to meet one of her baking idols, Buddy Valastro (of *Cake Boss* fame).

With enough support, she advanced to the quarterfinals (the top 1 per cent of bakers in the competition) earlier this month, and is now hoping to make it to the semi-finals by being the top-ranked baker in her bracket.

Though she's happy to have made it this far, she says meeting Valastro

would be dream come true from her childhood.

"He started the thing in my head, where I was like, 'Maybe one day I want to do that, or make cakes like he does,'" she said.

Voting for the semi-finalists ends at 9 p.m. on Jan. 18.

Christiansen's contest page can be found at: <https://greatestbaker.com/2023/laura-christiansen>

For more on Sugar Hill Bake House, search @sugarhillbakehouse on Facebook and Instagram.



Laura Christiansen, owner of local home-based bakery Sugar Hill Bake House.

Shell Lake Legion hosts Christmas party



Forty-two Shell Lake Legion members and guests enjoyed turkey, ham, and all the trimmings at Shell Lake Legion's annual Christmas party. The evening was rounded out by songs, games, stories, and awards presentations. Pictured: President Christine Wollms presents a long-term service award to David Jensen.



Gwen Stringer Klassen and Christine Wollms (far left), stand with five long-term service award recipients, while members and guests look on. Submitted by **CAROLYN LALONDE, Shell Lake Legion**

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Record Job Growth Continues in December



The latest job numbers from Statistics Canada indicate that Saskatchewan has reached another record with 22,100 full time jobs added year over year, ranking second in the nation! We will continue to make investments and decisions to help grow our economy, which results in more opportunities and a higher quality of life for Saskatchewan people.



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

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

Crafter's Choice returns at Canwood Library

By GERDA BRUNER
Canwood Library Board

On Tuesday, Jan. 10, Crafters' Choice at Wapiti's Canwood Library Branch featured artistically crafted repurposed materials. A vintage barn lantern became a wren birdhouse with the help of old barn boards, a rusted metal roof and a tiny antique pulley becoming a perfect perch. This unique birdhouse was thoughtfully created by Gilles Pelletier of Morin Lake.

Another highlight, brought in by Gerda

Bruner, was a collection of painted bottle caps.

These discarded bottle caps have become Lucille Scott's most recent painter's canvas.

One of the favourites of the day was a bottle cap on which Scott meticulously painted a background of the aurora borealis lighting up the night sky behind a grove of trees and featuring an iconic farmstead windmill with a vintage steam engine's steel wheel watering trough, in front.

This is just one of her many scenes of nature, floral designs, and more.

With the help of a magnet inside the bottle cap, the painting displays nicely on a fridge.



A painted bottle cap, made by artist Lucille Scott, was one of the repurposed items featured at the Canwood Library's Crafter's Choice event.



At Crafters' Choice coffee time, Barb Benson and Lorean Nichol were treated to a birthday celebration, including cupcakes with candles.



Left to right: Barb Person, Gerda Bruner, and Lorean Nichol showcase or work on unique items.

Golden Host Players begin second act

By MARJ BRADLEY
Golden Host Players

The Golden Host Players first organized in December 2011 with setup funds offered by the parent drama group, Host Players (this is one occasion when members of the parent group were younger than the newcomers). The purpose of forming the Golden Host Players was to create a dramatic outlet for those who still wished to be active in local drama, but who desired shorter productions with fewer lines to memorize.

The last performance by the Golden Host Players, in radio show format, was titled Gracie Takes Up Crime-Solving, and showed at the Shellbrook Theatre in November 2018.

Fast forward five years: in Decem-

ber 2023, the Golden Host Executive (Pat Grayston, Merle Roberts, and Marjorie Bradley) met to mull over a dramatic comeback for the group. At the end of discussion, it was proposed that short productions be mounted (half an hour or less). Actors will be costumed and will act as they carry their books for line refreshment. The possibilities of theatre in the round will be explored by the group.

Work on the next productions will begin in January 2024 with the expectation that they will be ready for the stage in March with our first production being offered for elders.

And just for fun... What might be the best name for what the Golden Host Players will do next: Re-Act? Troupe Books-in-Hand? Theatre in the Round: Standing Up and Sitting Down?

Progress continues on Shell Lake Curling Rink



The weather has been good for the most part, allowing the contractors to progress favorably with installing tin on the roof and sheeting on the walls on the new Shell Lake Curling Rink. For anyone who wishes to contribute, the Village of Shell Lake is issuing income tax receipt for any donations over \$25. The goal is to raise funds for the operating cost of the curling rink.

Submitted by TARA BUECKERT, Shell Lake Administrator

JUNIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

2024 JUNIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR SCHOLARSHIP

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

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**

What happens when you don't advertise?

Very little.

Research shines light on oat protein's potential

In an area noted for its ability to grow oats, research being undertaken into the potential for oat protein has to be of interest.

Certainly, anything which diversifies the potential uses for any crop is a good thing.

Though, of course, in the end any diversification needs to mean a positive bump in prices to the farmer, and it is unlikely that occurs as often as one might imagine.

More often than not, a farmer is just as likely to receive the same dollar value and processors down the line will simply

take advantage of new use markets to diversify their sales.

Still, in the case of the University of Manitoba's research into oat protein, the effort is notable as some suggest grain proteins will become ever more important as alternative meat concoctions gain popularity, and livestock are painted ever more often as environmental villains – rather than jets, ocean going barges of garbage, millions of gas burning cars, and other all too human endeavours.

Now that might sound like I am anti plant pro-



CALVIN DANIELS

teins, and that actually is not the case.

As food prices have inched up – and more so because other costs have tightened the budget – my better half has turned to cooking far more often with white and black and kidney beans, and

lentils too. Yes, they are often included with some chicken or hamburger, but legumes can be a lower cost food stretch-er that also can be quite tasty.

Granted we are not ready to grab some concoction of a myriad of ingredients that are supposed to mimic meat. If we want meat, the real thing is still the choice here.

But what about oat protein?

Well, we know oats in general are healthy – that bowl of oatmeal in the morning is a good way to start your day –

at least my grandmother used to say that, and I am still eating it today.

The UofM research seems to be siding with my grandmother, too.

So, it stands to reason oat protein may well be a healthy addition for what is a multi-billion dollar global market for things such as protein bars, drinks, supplements, and ingredients.

The interest in protein is not new.

In recent years, a lot of capital in Canada has flowed into pea protein work.

Roquette, a French firm, constructed a \$500

million pea processing plant in Portage la Prairie, Man., and the federal government invested \$100 million – mostly in loans – to help build the Merit Foods plant in Winnipeg. It was supposed to produce protein from canola and peas, but the company went bankrupt in 2023, noted a www.producer.com story.

Can oats carve out a share of what appears to be a growing market, and if successful will it mean more money in producer pockets?

Those are questions yet to be answered.

Sask., feds invest \$14.7 million in crop research

Canada's Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Lawrence MacAulay and Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister David Marit have announced a total of \$14.7 million to support crop-related research in 2024.

Invested through Saskatchewan's Agriculture Development Fund (ADF) and the Strategic Research Initiative (SRI) under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP), the commitment includes \$12.2 million for 56 ADF research projects and \$2.5 million to support an SRI project identifying solutions to manage root rot in pea and lentils.

"Investments like these are vitally important to the future of our agriculture sector," 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."

The ADF provides support annually and on a competitive basis to research projects with the potential to create growth opportunities and enhance the agriculture industry's sustainability and competitiveness. This year's successful ADF projects cover a range of research topics, including enhancing flax abiotic stress tolerance; determining the impact of agronomic products containing calcium on soil conditions, plant growth and greenhouse gas emissions; understanding, mitigating and managing Group 14 resistant kochia; and, developing a wet fractionation process for novel oat protein ingredients.

"Funding agriculture research is the first step to helping our producers stay competitive and profitable," Marit said in a statement. "Our growth targets for the end of this decade rely heavily on

agriculture and agri-food products. Our commitment to projects like those being funded today, with strong support again this year from our industry partners, is an investment in Saskatchewan's innovative, export-based economy."

The Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan work closely with industry partners to leverage funding to support research that aligns with industry priorities. An additional \$4.2 million was contributed by the following industry partners to support this year's ADF research projects: Alberta Grains, Manitoba Canola Growers, Manitoba Crop Alliance, Prairie Oat Growers Association, Results Driven Agriculture Research, Saskatchewan Barley Development Commission, Saskatchewan Canola Development Commission, Saskatchewan Flax Development Commission, Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission, Saskatchewan Pulse Growers, Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission, and Western Grains Research Foundation.

The SRI provides targeting funding to address complex challenges facing the agriculture sector. Through the SRI, Dr. Sabine Banniza at the University of Saskatchewan will accelerate the discovery of root rot solutions for pea and lentil crops in Saskatchewan. This project will develop new options to manage root rot and will contribute to preserving and expanding the pea and lentil acres in our province. It represents a \$4.2 million research investment, with \$2.5 million in government funding through Sustainable CAP and \$1.7 million coming from Saskatchewan Pulse Growers (SPG), Western Grains Research Foundation, Alberta Pulse Growers Commission, Results Driven Agriculture Research and Manitoba Pulse and Soybean Growers.

The ADF and SRI are supported

through Sustainable CAP, a five-year, \$3.5-billion investment by Canada's federal, provincial and territorial governments that supports 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 the above 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>.

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 12 pm - 5 pm

BLAINE LAKE: Wapiti Library - Wednesday 11am - 6pm; Friday 11am - 5pm; Saturday 10am - 4pm. 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: Witchekan Wildlife Federation Inc. Annual Banquet & Awards Night – Saturday, January 20, 2024, Spiritwood Civic Centre. Cocktails 5pm; Supper 6pm. Adults \$30; 12 & Under \$15; Preschool Free. For tickets call: Lyla 306-841-8284; Pearl & Eric 306-883-2835; Al 306-883-9231. Photo Contest – Categories include: Scenery, Hunting, Fishing & Wildlife. Pictures must be printed on 8x10 Kodak paper & can be submitted the day of banquet.

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NHL coaches usually not unemployed too long

When the Minnesota Wild fired coach Dean Evason in late November after a miserable start (5-10-4) to the 2023-24 season, they didn't have to struggle too long to find a replacement.

John Hynes, who had earlier National Hockey League coaching stints with the New Jersey Devils and Nashville Predators, was experienced, successful, and, best of all as far as the Wild were concerned, available.

Why Hynes was fired after four seasons in Nashville is somewhat of a mystery. He had four straight winning seasons — 134-96-18 from 2019-20 through 2022-23 — but word out of Nashville is that lack of playoff success (or no playoffs at all in 2022-23) was the reason for his dismissal.

Being fired as a coach in the NHL is usually not a career-killer. Only two of the top 50 winningest bench bosses coached only one team — Toe Blake in Montreal, who made the playoffs every year from 1955 to 1968; and Jon Cooper, current-

ly the coach of the Tampa Bay Lightning, who has been in charge since the 2012-13 season and has a couple of Stanley Cups to his credit.

Currently, 12 of the NHL's 32 teams are being run by first-time head coaches. The other 20 teams are using "veteran," "experienced," "seasoned," or "retreads." Choose your description.

Some of the coaches with the most lengthy NHL resumes are John Tortorella, currently with his fifth team in Philadelphia; Rick Bowness in Winnipeg, whose Jets are his sixth team; Rangers' boss Peter Laviolette, also with his sixth team; and Paul Maurice in Florida, who has had six different head-coaching jobs, but two of the six were in Carolina.

Six different coaching jobs might sound like a lot, but it pales in comparison to the eight jobs held by Mike Keenan (Philly, Chicago, Rangers, St. Louis, Vancouver, Boston, Florida and Calgary) and Roger Neilson (Toronto, Buffalo,



BRUCE
PENTON

Vancouver, L.A. Kings, Rangers, Florida, Philadelphia and Ottawa). Neilson has the best hiring/firing story, falling victim to the whim/idiocy of former Toronto owner Harold Ballard, who fired him on a Thursday in 1979 after a 2-1 loss to Chicago, the team's fourth straight defeat. Problem was, Ballard didn't have a replacement coach lined up and over the next 48 hours, he was turned down by a handful of prospective coaches. Desperate, Ballard rehired Neilson in time for Saturday night's nationally televised game, but asked Neilson to wear a paper bag over his head

so viewers wouldn't know the coach's identity until the puck was dropped. To his credit, Neilson said no to his boss's ridiculous request, and carried on coaching for the rest of the season, at which time he was fired for real.

The oldest phrase in the world of hockey is that 'coaches are hired to be fired.' It's never more real than in the NHL, with an additional few words: "... and likely to be rehired."

• Headline at the Canadian parody website, The Beaverton: "John Tortorella convenes press conference to talk about how much he hates press conferences."

• Former Oilers' coach John Muckler, quoted in Steve Simmons' column in SunMedia, about those great Gretzky-Messier-Coffey-Fuhr teams of the 80s never winning nine or more in a row: "Those '80s teams couldn't go nine games without finding a party."

• Joel Beall of golfdigest.com., doing a review of 2023 and a look-ahead to 2024: "We usually

don't condone violence but each tour player should get to punch one fan per year who yells anything gambling-related at them."

• Headline at fark.com: "Randy Moss shares his pick for the greatest wide receiver of all time and, surprisingly, it's Randy Moss."

• Headline at the on-ion.com: "Silhouette Of Chainsaw, Blowtorch Visible Through NFL Injury Tent"

• Super 70s Sports, in the aftermath of the \$700 million Shohei Ohtani signing by the Dodgers, ran a picture of actor Lee Majors and said: "The Dodgers could've built 116 bionic men instead."

• Steve Simmons of SunMedia, on the Blue Jays' off-season inactivity: "You can't love what's happened this off-season with (Blue Jays' management) Ross Atkins and Mark Shapiro unless you love stadium renovations."

• Comedy writer Alex Kaseberg: "Aaron Rodgers is so far out of his league in trying to ex-

change funny barbs with Jimmy Kimmel. So, Aaron, go put your hair in a man-bun, lie about getting vaccinated and get into the concussion protocol right away."

• RJ Currie of sports-deke.com: "Tennis pro Pablo Cuevas continues to draw fire for taking the 2017 Brazil Open title with an underhand serve on match point. 'Nothing wrong with winning underhanded,' said Bill Belichick."

• From fark.com, after the Blue Jays signed Isiah Kiner-Falefa to a two-year contract: "Bob Costas, defender of America's pastime, shades utility player IKF by saying ('no disrespect intended') if you're paying the IKFs of the world \$15 million for two years, baseball is in fine financial health."

• Steve Simmons again: "Aaron Rodgers is on a short list of both the greatest quarterbacks to ever play and the least likeable human beings around." Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Elks score comeback win in Cudworth

By JORDAN TWISS

Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

After starting off 2024 with a tough loss to the Rosthern Wheatkings, the Shellbrook Elks senior hockey club hit the road on Friday, Jan. 12, looking to get back in the win column against the Cudworth Tricky Maroons.

The Maroons, who sit at the bottom of the pack in the Twin Rivers Hockey League's East Division, had no intention of giving up an easy win to the Elks, and proved they had a few tricks up their sleeves.

The first trick came courtesy of Maroons goaltender Cole Boser, who stopped all of the 21 shots he faced in the first period, allowing Cudworth to draw first blood on a goal from Hunter Hauber, assisted by Kris Liefers and Adam McCannell.

Facing another 15 shots through a more evenly matched second period, Boser remained steady in goal for the Maroons. Soon, the Maroons went up 2-0 on a goal from Tanner Brockman, assisted by Tanner Brockman and Darnell Holt.

And five minutes later the Elks found themselves in a 3-0 hole when Dawson Boehm netted a goal on an assist from Tanner Hendriks.

The Maroons' magic would hold until late in the second period, when Nathaniel Martin finally put the Elks on the board with an assist from Parker Turner. But the Maroons fired back less than 40 seconds later, on a goal

from Brockman, assisted by Jared Becker and Dawson Boehm.

Still in a deep hole going into the third period, the Elks broke the spell they'd been under through the first 40 minutes and came alive with an explosion of offence, starting with an unassisted goal from Turner just 13 seconds into the period. And a mere 27 seconds later, Cole Duperreault reduced the Maroons lead to one goal, scoring on assists from Ethan Beaulac and Tyler Rock.

Martin was up next, connecting with Turner for his second goal of the evening to tie the game at 4-4. Then, with the help of the power play, Matthew Kutnikoff scored the go-ahead goal with helpers from Rylan Moe and Duperreault, and Turner gave the Elks some insurance with another unassisted goal.

Rounding out a string of six unanswered goals, Duperreault netted his second of the night on assists from Jody Blais and Ethan Skauge, and Burke Gosselin put the Elks up 8-4 on a helper from Brooks Nyberg.

Despite the monumental momentum shift, the Maroons had a few tricks left up their sleeves and did their best to mount a comeback of their own with the help of two goals from Graehme Fiolleau, but in the end came up just short. Becker assisted on both goals from Fiolleau, with Boehm earning an assist on the second.

With the win, the Elks have climbed to 7-5-0-1 on the season. The team has

a busy weekend of hockey ahead, with games in Birch Hills and Hague on Friday and Saturday evening, respectively, and a home game against the Hanley Huskies on Sunday afternoon. Puck drop for Sunday's game is 2:30 p.m.

SPHL Highlights

Over in the Saskatchewan Prairie Hockey League, the Redberry Raiders and the Glaslyn North Stars both played two games this past weekend.

In close games on home ice in Blaine Lake, the Redberry Raiders suffered a 7-5 loss to the Battleford Beaver Blues on Friday evening, before coming out on the wrong side of a 3-2 overtime match against Turtleford Tigers on Saturday.

The Raiders now sit at 2-8-0-1 on the season. They will make another home-ice stand this weekend, with games against the Meota Combines and Radisson Wheatkings on Friday and Saturday night, respectively. Puck drop for both games is 8 p.m.

Meanwhile, in a road game against the Perdue Pirates on Saturday night, and a home game against the Radisson Wheatkings on Sunday evening, the Glaslyn North Stars (featuring former Spiritwood Timberwolves talent)

scored two big wins.

After a rough start in Perdue, the Stars came back in a big way to win 8-7, helped along by a hat trick performance from Regan Yew in his first appearance with the team. Elsewhere, Jaxon Penner tallied two goals and an assist, Lynden Carey and Kyle Fiddler had a goal and two assists each, and Ty Anderson scored a goal and a helper.

In the assists column, Darren Delainey pitched in with two, while Wade Davies, Tyler Gamble, Travis Nasby, and Robin Yew had one apiece.

Back on home ice against the Wheatkings, the Stars were lifted to a 5-4 victory by five different goal scorers. Kyle Fiddler topped the score card with a goal and two assists, while Regan Yew tallied one goal and one helper. Single goals came from Julian Bronker, Wade Davies, and Jaxon Penners, with Ty Anderson tallying two helpers, and single assists coming from Raymon Harris, Justin Hodgson, and Calvin Koczka.

The pair of wins brought the Glaslyn to 4-5 on the season. This weekend, they host the Neilburg Monarchs at 8:30 p.m. on Friday evening, before hitting the road to play the Turtleford Tigers on Saturday night.



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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

GOOD NEWS

SECURE IN THE STORM

By **LORNE VALUCK**

Parkside Pentecostal Church

Missionary Evangelist, Bjornlven Rodriguez, shares this story.

Years ago, a farmer owned land along the Atlantic seacoast. He constantly advertised for hired hands. Most people were reluctant to work on farms along the Atlantic. They dreaded the awful storms that raged across the Atlantic, wreaking havoc on the buildings and crops.

As the farmer interviewed applicants for the job, he received a steady stream of refusals. Finally, a short, thin man, well past middle age, approached the farmer.

"Are you a good farm hand?" the farmer asked him.

"Well, I can sleep when the wind blows," answered the little man.

Although puzzled by this answer, the farmer, desperate for help, hired him.

The little man worked well around the farm, busy from dawn to dusk, and the farmer felt satisfied with the man's work. Then one night the wind howled loudly in from offshore.

Jumping out of bed, the farmer grabbed a lantern and rushed next door to the hired hand's sleeping quarters.

He shook the little man and yelled, "Get up! A storm is coming! Tie things down before they blow away!"

The little man rolled over in bed and said firmly, "No sir. I told you, I can sleep when the wind blows."

Enraged by the response, the farmer was tempted to fire him on the spot.

Instead, he hurried outside to prepare for the storm. To his amazement, he discovered that all of the haystacks had been covered with tarpaulins. The cows were in the barn, the chickens were in the coops, and the doors were barred. The shutters were tightly secured.

Everything was tied down. Nothing could blow away.

The farmer then understood what his hired hand meant, so he returned to his bed to also sleep while the wind blew.

A great story.

Let me also share some words from a great hymn, "We have an anchor."

"Will your anchor hold in the storms of life,
When the clouds unfold their wings of strife?"

When the strong tides lift and the cables strain,

Will your anchor drift, or firm remain?

We have an anchor that keeps the soul

Steadfast and sure while the billows roll,

Fastened to the Rock which cannot move,

Grounded firm and deep in the Savior's love."

It's time for an honest conversation between yourself and God.

Are you prepared so you can "sleep" when the "winds" blow?

Are you anchored to the "Rock" and safe with the Saviour, Jesus?

Avoidance, good works, religious practices won't cut it when we run into real challenges here on this earth, and certainly won't suffice when we stand before God Almighty when our life on earth is done. God lovingly offers us a place to be secure.

If you've found refuge in God's hands by confessing your sins and professing Jesus as Saviour and Lord, thank Him and trust Him to be with you as you face life's ups and downs.

If you haven't taken this step, or perhaps, have distanced yourself from Him, talk to God with me right now.

"Father, I am a sinner who needs a Saviour. I accept Jesus' offer to deal with my sins by His death and resurrection. Make me your child. Help me to trust you and experience Your presence in challenges and triumphs."

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 Riek 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

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COMING EVENTS

Saskatoon Farm Toy & Collectible Show at the Saskatoon Western Development Museum, January 19 - 21, 2024. Friday 5pm-9pm; Saturday 10am-5pm; Sunday 10am-4pm. Special features: Farm toys and scenes, construction equipment, vintage toys and much more!

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Minutes of an RM of Shellbrook meeting

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

Minutes of a regular meeting of Council of the Rural Municipality of Shellbrook No. 493 held on Wednesday Nov. 1, 2023, in the Municipal Office Council Chambers at Shellbrook, Sask.

Present: Reeve – Doug Oleksyn, Division 1 – Cliff Skauge, Division 3 – Christine Strube, Division 4 – Jay Ferster, Division 5 – Derwin Joelson, Division 6 – Ivan Ten Bos, and Administrator – Duane Storey.

Vacant: Division 2

Delegations:

11:20 a.m. Foreman Bill Aug update on municipal activities

1:30 p.m. Glenn Stacey Saskatchewan Asset Management Agency Ag-land Reinspection 2023-2024

Reeve Oleksyn called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

Skauge: That the following items be added to the Agenda: Obrodovich Gate Agreement, Don't Drive Impaired Advertisement. Carried

Strube: That the Agenda be adopted as amended. Carried

Joelson: That the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held on Oct. 4, 2023, be approved as presented. Carried

Skauge: That the Statement of Financial Activities for the month of October 2023 be approved as presented. Carried

Skauge: That the Bank Reconciliation for the month of September 2023 be approved as presented. Carried

Joelson: That the accounts payable dated Oct. 31, 2023, as attached hereto and forming part of these Minutes,

being regular cheque numbers 13725 to 13769 in the amount of \$155,180.18 and payroll cheque numbers 14614 to 14640 in the amount of \$52,455.79 be approved. Carried

Ten Bos: That the Administrators Report for the month of November 2023 be accepted as presented. Carried

Joelson: That three Slope Meters be ordered for all of the John Deere Graders from Brandt Tractor. Carried

Strube: That Administration coordinate with Levi Schutte, for the disconnection of power at the Travnick residence located at NE-14-52-03-W3. Carried

Skauge: That Administration create a Foreman's Action List of requests presented to Foreman Aug during Council Oral Reports for each Council Meeting. Carried

Strube: That a letter be sent to Premier Moe, Bronwyn Eyre and Paul Merriman requesting their attendance at a meeting to discuss Municipal Issues. Carried

Delegation Foreman Bill Aug and Todd Lande entered the Council Chambers at 11:32 a.m. to update Council on municipal operations.

Councillor Ferster left the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

Delegation Foreman Bill Aug and Todd Lande left the meeting at 1:39 p.m.

Joelson: That the information provided in regards to the Staff Christmas Party be received and filed. Carried

Skauge: That the Gravel Contract with the Sturgeon Lake First Nation be signed by Reeve Oleksyn, the Contract will be for 21,000 yards for the period from Oct. 1, 2023, to Dec. 31, 2025, at a rate of \$5.50/yard. Carried

Strube: That the information provided in regards to Road Allowance NW-24-49-02-W3 be received and filed. Carried

Skauge: That the information provided in regards to the property located at Sections NE & SE 14-52-03-W3 be received and filed. Carried

Skauge: That the Council of the Rural Municipality of Shellbrook No. 493 confirms that the municipality meets the eligibility requirements to receive the Municipal Revenue Sharing Grant.

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

Delegation Glenn Stacey Saskatchewan Asset Management Agency entered the Council Chambers at 1:40 p.m. to update Council on the Ag-land Reinspection Program 2023-2024.

Delegation Glenn Stacey left the meeting at 3:17 p.m.

Strube: That the Appraisal of Replacement Cost and Actual Value of

Rural Municipality of Shellbrook No. 493 Improvements be approved as presented. Carried

Strube: That the following be approved to attend the North Central Transportation Planning Committee Workshop being held on Feb. 29, 2024, in Birch Hills: Councillor Skauge, Councillor Strube, Councillor Ferster, and Administrator Storey. Carried

Ten Bos: That the municipality enter into an Agreement to equally cost share any maintenance or repair cost on the gate installed at the Obrodovich gravel pit until the Municipality has discontinued use of the pit. Carried

Strube: That the information provided in regards to Shellbrook Chronicle Christmas Advertisements be received and filed. Carried

Skauge: That the following inquiries be presented for response by Administration: Holbein Nuisance Orders, Goats Beard Resolution, SARM Correspondence to be placed on Agenda, and Holbein Trees. Carried

Skauge: That the following Resolution be submitted to the SARM Convention 2024 for consideration:

That Sask Agriculture review and update regulations and policies regarding agricultural, or other chemical spray drift and publicize the act/regulations adequately to inform the public and business of regulations related to organic farming and bee operations, aerial spray, spraying at night, both ground and air, and to strengthen penalties for violations, including suspension of licenses.

Background: Concerns are being reported regarding shelterbelts dying, road allowance trees dying, or, at risk, and spray drift and over spraying killing trees and crops in adjacent fields and road allowances. Carried

Skauge: That a Declaration of Conflict of Interest be added to the Agenda of the Meetings of Council. Carried

Skauge: That the correspondence be received and filed. Carried

Joelson: That the time being 4:26 p.m., Council close a portion of this meeting to the public to go in camera under the authority of Part III of The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, to discuss strategic planning, the public gallery be vacated and those present for this closed session be Reeve Oleksyn, Deputy Reeve Joelson and Councillor's Skauge, Strube and Ten Bos.

Strube: That the regular Council meeting reconvene at 5 p.m. with all members of Council and Administration present. Carried

Administrator Storey returned to Council Chambers at 5 p.m.

Strube: That the meeting be adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

OBITUARY

Theodore "Ted" Becker



years.

Ted is lovingly remembered by his wife, Marlene (née Gillespie); his son, Cole (Tanya) Becker and children, Cally, Brody, Brock, Hayley and Brenden; his son, Wade (Darcie) Becker and children, Allysa, Lauren and Sofi; as well as numerous other relatives. He was predeceased by his parents, Clarence and Elizabeth Becker; his sisters, Lorraine Reimer and Eileen Watson; and his brother Walter Becker.

A Celebration of Life for

Ted will be announced at a later date. In lieu of other tributes, donation in memory of Ted may be made to Diabetes Canada, 1300-522 University Avenue, Toronto, ON, M5G 2R5.

Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit www.beulac-funeralhome.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.

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