

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald

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Hockey Day in Spiritwood makes big return



The U13 Spiritwood Timberwolves fire a shot on the Maidstone goal in action from Hockey Day in Spiritwood.

By **BEVRA FEE**

Spiritwood Herald Reporter

Spiritwood Minor Hockey hosted a full slate of games for all ages on Saturday, Feb. 10 and Sunday, Feb. 11, inviting teams from near and far to the Spiritwood & District Recreation Centre for the fourth annual Hockey Day in Spiritwood festivities.

Saturday saw the U11s from St. Walburg hit the ice against host team Spiritwood at noon, followed by a 2 p.m. match between U18s from Meadow Lake and Spiritwood. At 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, the U18 Girls faced off against the Saskatoon Comet Sting.

The arena was full all day, with many players, parents, grandparents, and hockey fans streaming through the doors during the two full days.

The facility's program and events coordinator, Kaeli Cross, reported on the weekend, "We had a great turnout, with all but three of Spiritwood's hockey teams seeing action on the ice over the weekend. The Sunday pancake breakfast was very well attended, and we had terrific support for our 50/50 and prize raffles."

Sunday kicked off with a pancake breakfast staged by the Senior Northern Wolves women's hockey team, followed by much more hockey.

Visiting teams travelled into Spiritwood, including the U9s from Lashburn, the U13s from Maidstone, the U15 Girls from Saskatoon Inferno, and the U11s from Lashburn.

The usual hockey tournament add-on fun came by way of a guaranteed 50/50 (a sum of \$1,455 won by Bobbi Becker),

raffles with prizes valuing over \$1,000, and a players' Heads & Tails contest. Major prize winners included Beau Vandale (scooter), Linda Pauls (speaker basket) and Lynne Buswell (booze basket).

In addition to the action on and off the ice, Spiritwood's Scotiabank branch also got involved in Hockey Day, making a \$1,000 donation to Spiritwood Minor Hockey.

Minor hockey organizer, Sheila Weinrich, commented on the weekend, "It's always great to see familiar faces in the community come out to cheer on our players, support our raffles and the kitchen, and just to fill the rink with great energy! The weekend wouldn't be a success without them and without our generous sponsors' continued support. The women's Northern Wolves hosting

the pancake breakfast and our minor hockey parents helped out, working hard wherever help was needed."

The first Hockey Day was organized and held in 2020. Following a year off in 2021 due to COVID-19 public health restrictions, it made a triumphant return in 2022 and has been a big attraction ever since.

Weinrich says Hockey Day in Spiritwood now serves as Spiritwood Minor Hockey's major annual fundraiser. However, she notes it's also a way to build a sense of community.

"Hockey Day has been a great way to bring people together for a day of fun in the community, to promote minor hockey, and to put on a special day for our players and recognize their hard work throughout the season," she said.

More photos on page 2

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Hockey Day in Spiritwood makes big return



Members of the Senior Northern Wolves were flipping pancakes for a hungry crowd on Sunday morning.



Shannon Haggarty (right) and Olivia Haggarty sell tickets for the guaranteed 50/50 and a wide range of prizes.



Spiritwood's Scotiabank got involved in Hockey Day by donating \$1,000 to Spiritwood Minor Hockey.

Team McComas tops Shellbrook Cash Spiel

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

All four sheets at the Shellbrook Curling Club were active on Feb. 10 and 11, as the club hosted eight teams for its 2024 Last Chance Cash Bonsel.

Offering a chance to play eight-end games, and an opportunity to take home some cash, the bonspiel is billed as one of the more competitive events on the curling club's winter calendar. This year's cash bonspiel didn't disappoint, delivering all the top-notch curling spectators could ask for over the course of

Friday evening and Saturday.

After all the rocks were thrown and swept, the A final saw Team McComas and Team Bloom face off against one another in the bonspiel's high-stakes A event final. With some great shots from both foursomes, it was ultimately Jim McComas' rink, including Bruce Clements, Larry Ritchie, and George Tomporowski, that emerged victorious and got to take home the \$400 prize.

Team Bloom didn't go home emptyhanded, of course, claiming a \$200 cash prize.

Over in the B event fi-

nal, the heated battle was between Team Boettcher and Team Draper. There, Team Boettcher was able to claim victory and the \$200 cash prize, while Team Draper left with a

\$100 prize.

Last, but certainly not least, Team Person was able to claim the win in the consolation event final, earning a prize of \$50.

And as an added incentive for teams to bring their best to the sheets, every win was rewarded with a \$50 bonus.

Aside from the games, the cash bonspiel also included a closest to the button competition,

inviting all curlers to try their luck for their chance at an additional \$300. Though a few rocks made it close to the button, Zack Boettcher slid his rock right on top of it to take home the cash prize.



Team McComas won the A event final of the Shellbrook Curling Club's Last Chance Cash Bonspiel. From left to right: Bruce Clements, Jim McComas, George Tomporowski, and Larry Ritchie.



Zack Boettcher (right) accepts his closest to the button cash prize from Kevin Herdin of bonspiel sponsor Lone Spruce Mechanical.

Photos courtesy of Shellbrook Curling Club

THANK YOU
to all who contributed to the successful **Christmas Hamper Campaign** that helped provide 48 hampers to area individuals and families in need. Bless you all for your contributions. Without your help we could not provide this help. Special thanks to Parkside Community Club for your generosity. Blessings to all, SHELLBROOK & AREA MINISTERIAL FOOD BANK

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NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF ASSESSMENT ROLL
VILLAGE OF MARCELIN
Notice is hereby given that the assessment roll for the Village of Marcelin for the year of 2024 has been prepared and is open to inspection in the office of the assessor on the following days: Tuesday & Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. from February 15th, 2024 to March 19th, 2024.
A bylaw pursuant to section 214 of *The Municipalities Act* has been passed and the assessment notices have been sent as required.
Any person who wishes to appeal against his or her assessment is required to file his or her notice of appeal, along with a fee of \$200.00, refundable upon success of appeal, to: The Assessor, Village of Marcelin, Box 39, Marcelin, SK, S0J 1R0, by the 19th day of March, 2024. Contact for the Secretary for the Board of Revision is Western Municipal Consulting Ltd. Box 149 Meota, SK S0M 1X0, 1-306-441-4946.
Dated this 15th day of February, 2024.
Leanne McCormick, Assessor

Interest growing for rural water line

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

At Dave Whalley's rural residence, reliance on an approximately 20-foot well comes with its ups and downs.

"Right now, in our house, Leslee can have a shower one day, and then she can't the next day because I have to have one. There's a very limited supply," he said.

The story is very much the same for Whalley's neighbour who lives two doors down. His well has gone completely dry, so now he's paying to have water hauled in.

Relying on unreliable surface water and well water, which may not be usable or potable, is part and parcel of living rurally (and it's become increasingly unreliable after consecutive years of drought-like conditions). But Whalley and a group of rural residents in the Holbein and Crutwell areas are hoping that can soon change.

The last few years saw much attention focused on the Town of Shellbrook's exploration of an intermunicipal water pipeline in partnership with the Prince Albert Rural Water Utility (PARWU), up until the town opted to abandon the project in favour of pursuing upgrades to its own water treatment plant, water storage, and water quality.

For those living rurally between Shellbrook and Prince Albert, however, the interest in the prospect of a water pipeline has only grown. Now, a newly formed Rural Water Interest Committee, chaired by Whalley, is hoping it can drum up enough interest to convince PARWU to install a water pipeline along

Highway 3, running through and servicing the RM of Buckland, including Shell River Heights, Greig Road, the hamlets of Crutwell and Holbein, and their surrounding districts.

The first expression of interest meeting was held back in November. There, attendees showed enough interest to call for a further meeting on Thursday, Jan. 25.

At this meeting, which was attended by PARWU board chair Sid Kernohan and manager Ken Danger, as well as 16 area residents, Kernohan and Danger provided details about the costs of a potential project, predicting it would cost about \$1 million to construct and install two four-inch lines to service residents in the area.

The PARWU representatives also said that if at least 50 property owners committed to obtaining water service, the board would "seriously consider" the project, and possibly even commence it as early as this summer.

With a few attendees prepared to commit to the service at the meeting, the Rural Water Interest Committee was officially formed, and is already hard at work sharing and clarifying the information provided by PARWU.

Included in this information is an average monthly cost for a family of four to subscribe the service, and an estimated cost of \$25,000 to \$28,000 for each connection to the proposed pipeline.

While the connection fee seems like a lot at first glance, Whalley says it's actually cheaper than digging a new well and notes that there are options available for financing the project, whether they be bank loans or financing through

PARWU. Whalley also notes that those with Métis cards could be eligible for a significant or total grant to cover the connection costs.

For his part, Whalley sees a lot of up-

side to the possibility, and very little downside.

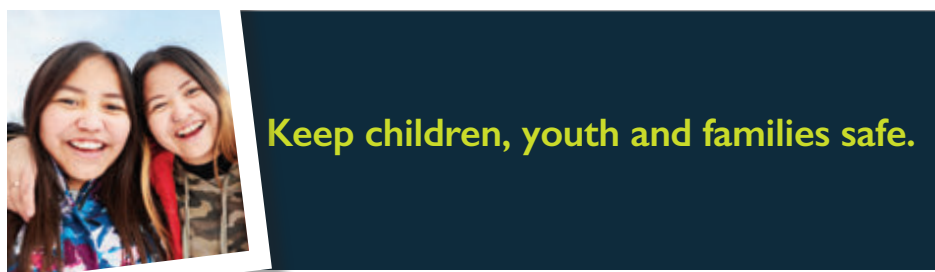
"It's quite drinkable, potable water from the City of Prince Albert, and it's an unlimited supply," he said.

Canwood Library creates Valentines for Vets



On Feb. 2, kids at Wapiti's Canwood Public Library took a moment to remember veterans for this Valentine's Day. The youngsters that attended the after school Kids Club that Friday each made a nice card for Canadian Veterans. These cards will be sent to Veterans Affairs Canada, which will distribute the cards through its ongoing program called Valentines for Vets. Pictured: The kids with their valentines.

By **KARINA JOHNSON**, Branch Librarian



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Education Minister gets failing grade on honesty

Though the origins of famous sayings are notoriously tricky to pin down, Mark Twain is most often credited with coining the old adage “If you tell the truth, you don’t have to remember anything.”

The meaning of this kernel of wisdom couldn’t be clearer. Not only is lying a fundamentally bad thing, it’s also much harder than being honest.

This is a lesson current Education Minister Jeremy Cockrill could benefit from as he continues to wage his war of attrition with Saskatchewan’s educators.

From day one, Mr. Cockrill has been consistent in his messaging on what his Sask. Party government is willing to offer: a seven per cent wage increase over the next three years.

Meanwhile, teachers have countered with a demand of eight per cent over four years, plus a top up tied to the Consumer Pricing Index (CPI), and commitments from the government to discuss and address class size and complexity.

The response to this wish list from Mr. Cockrill and the Sask. Party government has been... hard to comprehend.

On the one hand, he says the government is at the table and willing to negotiate a “fair deal” for teachers and students.

On the other hand, he and his government have spent the last six months smearing educators on social media and through taxpayer-funded advertising campaigns, while refusing to budge from their initial position.

One can see why Mr. Cockrill prefers to do his negotiating through social media these days.

Unlike with actual “in good faith,” face-to-face bargaining, it allows you to pop in, post a seemingly damning infographic that “proves you’re right,” and disappear before the mob points out all the context you conveniently left out.

Take Mr. Cockrill’s assertion that education funding has increased by 47 per cent since 2007, while enrolment has only increased by 16 per cent.

True? Perhaps. But what Mr. Cockrill conveniently neglected to include in his myth busting was that inflation for the same period was 41 per cent.

What you’re left with, then, is a 6 per cent increase compared to the aforementioned 16 per cent enrolment bump. Or, effectively, a funding cut (because funding increases that fail to keep up with inflation or enrolment growth are not truly increases).



JORDAN TWISS

~
News Editor

Even the Fraser Institute, typically a Conservative-leaning think tank, has called out the Sask. Party government for its practice of selective mathematics. In a study released last August, it found the province had gone from the highest per student funding in the country to the second lowest between the 2012-2013 and 2020-2021 school years.

What’s more, not all cuts are necessarily cuts to funding.

Between the 2017-2018 and 2020-2021 school years, in particular, the Saskatchewan Teachers’ Federation (STF) contends a loss of funding resulted in a number of cuts, including: a 13.5 per cent reduction in English as an Additional Language teachers, a 16.2 per cent reduction in teacher counsellors, a 64.5 per cent reduction in teacher librarians, a 5 per cent reduction in teacher coordinators, and 377 fewer teachers working in the province.

The idea that the province has seen a decline in educators was given credence by the Ministry of Education’s own numbers.

Made public last Wednesday by the Sask. NDP, the figures show total K-12 enrolment in the province has increased by 9,196 students since the 2019-2020 school year. At the same time, there are 7.5 fewer teachers and 94.5 fewer educators of all types.

This has only been partially offset by an increase of 694.5 “non-educator positions” (mostly education/teacher assistants).

It doesn’t take a math degree to know that 9,196 more students being taught by fewer teachers, with fewer resources at their disposal, is a recipe for the province’s education system to fall short of meeting students’ needs.

Mr. Cockrill’s (and also Finance Minister Donna Harpauer’s) math is also deliberately faulty when it comes to what the province is offering teachers compared to what they’re asking.

A few weeks ago, Ms. Harpauer lamented that tying teacher compensation to the CPI was simply impossible because it would require the government to forecast what the CPI would be each year after the first year of the new contract (a truly frightening admission coming from a finance minister).

Yet, by Feb. 1, Mr. Cockrill had already completed the CPI forecast and posted it on social media in an effort to prove that teachers are asking for a 23.4 per cent salary increase over the next four years. What he conveniently forgot is that a CPI increase is effectively just keeping pace with the cost of living (remember, an increase that doesn’t



keep up with inflation is effectively a cut).

This fact makes the government’s initial offer to educators almost insulting.

With a 7 per cent raise over three years (3 per cent in year one, then 2 per cent in years two and three), educators fall behind the CPI each year – 3.6 per cent in year one, two per cent in year two, and 0.5 per cent in year three.

Meanwhile, Mr. Cockrill seems to have no qualms about MLAs receiving a 12 per cent pay bump over the next four years. Asked about the fairness of the increase for MLAs compared to the offer the government has made to the province’s educators, Mr. Cockrill glibly said, “Different jobs get compensated differently.”

Last Wednesday, however, he tried to lure educators back to the negotiating table by giving the government’s bargaining team a new mandate, including a salary offering on par with the pay raise being taken by MLAs.

For its part, the STF accepted the invitation to resume negotiations on Monday, even though Mr. Cockrill made it crystal clear that discussing class size and complexity wouldn’t be on the agenda.

While educators will no doubt appreciate the improved salary offering, it’s unclear what Mr. Cockrill expects to accomplish by refusing to discuss teachers’ working conditions and students’ learning conditions.

To date, Mr. Cockrill has kept class size and complexity off the table because he believes such matters shouldn’t be dealt with in contract negotiations and are better handled by school divisions to preserve the “local voice” in education.

All well and good, but educators are sim-

ply asking for “an evidence-based plan of action” from the government. The idea that this requires the Sask. Party government to unilaterally devise a solution without input from school divisions – or that the teachers’ union is attempting to usurp school divisions – is a fiction of Mr. Cockrill’s own imagining.

Moreover, the assertion that his government cares about the “local voice” in education is demonstrably false.

Though it was well before Mr. Cockrill’s time in office, it was this Sask. Party government that, in 2009, silenced the local voice in education by stripping away school divisions’ power to set education property tax rates, thereby limiting their ability to cover the costs of running schools.

And the Sask. Party government’s own internal documents also show it had no compunction about not consulting school divisions on the pronoun policy it invoked the notwithstanding clause over in the fall.

That being said, if Mr. Cockrill’s concern about the “local voice” in education is in any way genuine, it still makes no sense to refuse to discuss class size and complexity with educators.

Who better to consult than the teachers who are local to the schools and communities they teach and often live and volunteer in?

Who better to know what is needed in the classroom?

In the same way it needs to listen to healthcare workers to fix the healthcare system, it’s imperative for the Sask. Party government to give up the dishonest rhetoric and listen to teachers.

Shellbrook Chronicle

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Spiritwood Herald

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Healthcare needs patient first culture

There was a time in Saskatchewan when citizens felt cared for under their prepaid healthcare system. Everyone who wanted one had a doctor. Getting lab work and referrals to specialists was done with a sense of urgency because you, the patient, were valued.

Skip ahead a few decades and despite incredible advances in health technology, the “care” seems to have grown cold. Our standards of what is acceptable have been lowered and more fall through the ever-widening cracks.

The onset of COVID drastically changed accessibility to health care. Everyone adjusted while we “flattened the curve” for three years with often hypocritical directives and mandates. Then we decided to “live

with” COVID.

But in 2024, accessing healthcare has not returned to the previous norms.

Take the experience of one of my Sask Rivers constituents. We will call him “Bill”.

Like many rural seniors, Bill sees a nurse practitioner regularly. Bill was used to travelling to Shellbrook to get lab work done. About a week later, the results would be available and Bill would visit his NP to review and assess his ongoing care.

Bill, who is partially blind and dependent on others for travel, was unable to keep a lab appointment due to weather and other factors in early January. He called the lab to reschedule, and was given a date of Jan. 24. Concerned that this was pushing his NP visit too far ahead, Bill asked if he could just do a ‘walk-in’ when he



NADINE WILSON
MLA
~
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had transportation available. Prior to COVID, the lab offered walk-in appointments.

Bill was told no, he could not come in any sooner, and that if he wanted lab work done sooner, he should call the Big River Health Centre. Pressed as to why he couldn't come in sooner,

even to wait for a ‘no-show’ space, Bill was told that the lab was short-staffed and the staffer hung up on him.

Bill did call the Big River lab which told him yes, he could ‘walk-in’ that day, but there was no guarantee he would be seen even after driving 35 miles one-way.

Not wanting to complicate his medical routine, Bill ended up calling back Shellbrook a few days later, at which point the next available time was Feb. 6. Ultimately, Bill's medical schedule fell behind almost a month, leaving him at risk. He has now been instructed to make his appointments three weeks in advance.

When Bill called a number of public officials to get answers as to why it is so hard to access timely healthcare, one of them told him it was because some agencies

kept their COVID routine and policies. Basically, a COVID-hangover.

In another incident, a constituent called me to report that at one time she was able to obtain a test (for her employer), to determine whether she had natural immunity to COVID, which she did. This was done at her own expense.

A few months later, she needed to repeat the test. She was shocked to learn that the lab had been directed to stop testing for natural immunity. There was no explanation as to why.

I tell the second story to ask a question about the first. If authorities can direct a lab as to what tests it is allowed to provide to patients, why can't they instruct the labs and hospitals to operate for the convenience of those patients, rather than conve-

nience of the system. Is that too much to ask?

It is common knowledge that our healthcare workers are burned out and undervalued, which ultimately affects patient care. Rather than promote a ‘patient-first’ culture with recognition for employees that provide exceptional care, the province has allowed apathy to grow within the ranks of the Saskatchewan Health Authority. Post-COVID, trust in healthcare is at an all-time low while patient frustration continues to grow.

We all remember when our provincial leader, Premier Scott Moe, said that he was “going to make life uncomfortable” for us. He didn't lie about that.

As it stands today, the whole healthcare system remains uncomfortable for everyone.

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 Feb. 5.)

Shellbrook's Town Council met for its regular meeting in person and via teleconference on Monday, Feb. 5.

In attendance were Mayor Amund Otterson, Councillors Bruce Anderson, Larry Batten, Peter Halayka, Brent Miller, and Kathleen Nording, and the town's CAO, Kelly Hoare.

Councillor Cheryl Ledding was absent.

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 Jan. 22 meeting, and began with the reports of council.

In brief discussion of the PARWU Board, Mayor Otterson informed council that the utility had released its revised bylaw, which removes the Town of Shellbrook from its board position.

Later, under the hospital and clinics report, Mayor Otterson said he planned to lunch with local healthcare professionals to gauge how they're handling the workload after the departure of two doctors who opted not to renew their contracts.

This prompted a broader discussion amongst council about local challenges, including a reduction in lab availability now that the lab is scheduled by appointment, difficulty getting prompt appointments or seeing their own doctor, and occasional troubles reaching the clinic over the phone.

Moving to the mayor and council forum, Councillor Miller said he'd received positive feedback about the prospect of holding a contest to generate ideas to beautify the end of Main Street where the CN Station used to sit. Mayor Otterson added the topic would be a good one for Public Works to discuss.

In an update on the old Shellbrook Hospital building, Mayor Otterson said he'd met with the building's owners and learned that they are mulling plans to convert it into individual suites. Though they had also thought of making it an assisted living facility (as council suggested at its last meeting), they were concerned about being able to staff such a facility.

Mayor Otterson also said there was talk of a public gym, but the town has yet to receive any plans from the owners.

Closing out the forum, Mayor Otterson proposed that the town should develop a policy or formula to handle annual employee wage increases.

Moving into new business next, council began with some housekeeping items by unanimously approving three readings of Bylaw 2024-01, the Council Procedures Bylaw, and enacting it, and by carrying a motion to repeal Bylaw 2022-

01, a bylaw to establish a public utility (an integral piece of the town's participation in PARWU).

Keeping the focus on water, council then carried a motion to set a timeline on the decision for the town's project to upgrade the water treatment plant and water storage and improve the quality of the town's water.

Per the motion, the Public Works Committee will have until April 22 to review options to address water supply, storage, and treatment and make a recommendation to Council. Meanwhile, the Finance Committee will review and develop a plan to address financial implications and funding (i.e. water rates) for the project by no later than Feb. 29.

Once this is all put together, council will decide, no later than June 10, on proceeding with public engagement on the plans for the project at a town hall meeting.

Continuing with the agenda, council approved an inventory listing provided to it by Public Works, and also approved a motion to reverse interest charges on a bill, in the amount

of \$130.50, to the Ministry of Sask Builds and Procurement (the bill was for rental of the Community Hall for court, and the ministry said it got forgotten after a number of staffing changes).

Closing out the evening's business, council took a look at and approved the town's year-end transfers to reserves for 2023, and approved the nomination of George Tomporowski as the division 4 urban representative on the North Central Transportation Planning Committee board for a two-year term.



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PT NE-33-47-05-W3 Blk/Par A Plan 101566302 Ext 184
2. Tender must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “Property Tender”. Tender can be submitted to: Rural Municipality of Leask No. 464, Box 190, Leask, Sask., S0J 1M0.
3. Tender must be postmarked by **4:00 p.m. March 6, 2024**.
4. A certified cheque to the Municipality for 10% of the amount of the tender must accompany the tender. Tenders submitted without certified funds will not be considered.
5. Highest, or any tender, not necessarily accepted.
6. The successful bidder will have 45 days to provide the balance of cash to complete the purchase. The deposit will be forfeited if the successful bidder does not finalize the agreement for sale within that time.
7. All legal costs, title transfer fees and applicable taxes are the responsibility of the purchaser and are in addition to the bid price.

Dated this 12th day of February, 2024.

Donna Goertzen
Administrator

Rivier hosts curling bonspiel

By **BEVRA FEE**
Spiritwood Herald Reporter

On Feb. 9, around 55 enthusiastic novice curlers from three local and area schools were able to spend time participating in a bonspiel hosted by Rivier Elementary School. Fourteen teams from

Grades 5 and 6 each competed in three games under the guidance of experienced curling coaches.

Organizer Laureen Booth states that this is the first time Rivier Elementary School has hosted all the schools at the fun and free event that is intended to give younger students a taste of the sport of

curling.

"Rivier has been having our own bonspiel for close to 20 years, and then Leoville joined for a few years prior to COVID. Medstead was invited this year also, but due to renovations their curling ice just went in, so the students have not had time to prepare yet this year."

Teams travelled to the Spiritwood curling rink from Leoville Central School and Hartley Clark Elementary School. During their downtime, curlers were able to spend time playing games, doing crafts and building Lego projects. Most brought their lunch along, but the concession was also open for students and their fans.



Student curler from Rivier Elementary Mikayla Tkachuk gets ready to deliver her rock.



Coach Craz (Ron Craswell) gives pro tips to a Leoville student curler.



Students pass the time between games by playing a classic game of Twister.

Brunch a big draw in Canwood

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

It was all hands on deck for the Canwood Royal Purple and the Canwood Elks on Sunday, Feb. 11, when the two community groups united to invite the community in for a good, old-fashioned Sunday brunch at the Canwood Elks Community Hall from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The capable chefs from both community groups served up pancakes, sausages, eggs, toast, and muffins, with coffee, tea, and orange juice available for refreshments. Canwood Royal Purple member Donna Lovberg says the offerings were enough to lure in about 125 hungry guests into the hall for a meal, helping the groups raise a little more than \$1,000 on the day.

Lovberg notes that all these funds will go right back into the hall, to ensure it continues to have a place in the community.

"The main project is just to keep the bills paid. Since COVID, we've just been paying the power and

the gas and stuff like that. There haven't been any bookings, so we've been kind of suffering that way," she said.

"Hopefully, we'll have a few more bookings in the hall, and get more people to the hall and to remember it's there. That's why we thought we'd have this brunch, just to bring more people to the hall and have them realize we need to keep [it] going."

Guests at Sunday's brunch also had an opportunity to put their name into draws for one of two raffle baskets filled with goodies. Adolph Benson was the lucky winner of the adult raffle basket, while Ryder Vaughan's name was drawn for the children's basket.



Canwood's Royal Purple and Elks organizations cooked up brunch for about 125 guests on Sunday, Feb. 11, to raise funds for the community hall.

RABBIT LAKE HOUSING AUTHORITY TENDER CALL – CARETAKING & MAINTENANCE SERVICES

The Rabbit Lake Housing Authority is seeking tender bids for janitorial, grounds and maintenance services for a portfolio consisting of 10 senior housing units and 1 family house.

The preference is for a single contractor to submit a tender for all three required services. However, the Rabbit Lake Housing Authority reserves the right to consider separate tender submissions for janitorial, grounds or maintenance services or any combination of the three.

Interested parties can direct inquires regarding the details of the required services and tender submission requirement to:

Marlene Martens, Chairperson
Rabbit Lake Housing Authority
PO Box 128
Rabbit Lake, SK S0M 2L0
Telephone: (306) 841-7847

The deadline for tender submissions is 5 p.m., February 28, 2024. Please include references with phone numbers.

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AGRICULTURE

A bug-based diet could have benefits

If you are in the mood to stir the pot on social media, start a post about the idea of turning to bugs and insects for human food.

Now I'm not suggesting a plate of deep fried crickets would top my snack list – but some dried grasshoppers in chili powder were certainly not the worst thing I've eaten.

And while adding a ground bug to recipes might not seem that enticing, when you look at the long list of ingredients in some veggie meats, or think about what must be in a twinkie to keep it

edible on a store shelf, is a ground earthworm so bad?

Of course, the North American diet is not without its bugs – shrimp, crawdads and lobster essentially being the bottom-feeding bugs found in aquatic locales.

It should be noted, too, that some reports suggest more 2,300 insect species are traditionally consumed worldwide, and the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization recognizes nearly 500 edible insect species.

So maybe eating a few worms wouldn't be so bad.



CALVIN DANIELS

But, what if in raising worms for food, you could also create better soils for other crops?

According to a recent *producer.com* article, an Alberta company wants to turn poop from about 80 million worms into a natural super-food for

the soil.

The company -- Annelida Soil Solutions Ltd. -- was honoured with an Innovation Award at the recent Western Canadian Crop Production Show in Saskatoon.

The company has a 90,000 sq. foot facility in Nisku, Alta., near Edmonton, containing about 80 million worms, which collectively weigh about 36,000 kilograms, detailed the article.

The worms are fed organic waste, including cardboard, used coffee grounds from restaurants, spent grain from breweries, and leftover

produce from grocery stores, with about 11,300 kg of waste per day digested by the worms, which excrete about 75 percent as castings or poop.

It's the castings which are good for soil in a very natural way.

Now back to eating bugs. Some worms have been shown to be a good source of protein, certain fats, and micro-nutrients like iron and zinc.

So, what if producers raised worms for a dual purpose?

Some local gardeners already raise earthworms because the

castings are good for the garden, and they can do some recycling that essentially works in lock-step with composting household waste.

While some of the worms likely get 'consumed' as bait for avid fisher folk, does the future include 'earthworm flour' infused cookies and muffins, and the land getting a boost too?

If you can chew through waste rather than dumping in a costly landfill, provide human food protein, and improve the soil too, it seems like a win waiting to happen.

Pea protein plant coming to Saskatchewan

The Louis Dreyfus Company's (LDC) has announced a new pea protein isolate production plant will soon be added to the site of its existing industrial complex in Yorkton.

"Louis Dreyfus Company's newest investment shows how Saskatchewan continues to be the best place to invest and do business," Trade and Export Development Minister Jeremy Harrison said in a statement.

"As we work to create even more opportunities and jobs, we are fortunate to have a strong partnership with LDC. Today's announcement takes us one step closer to achieving our goal of processing 50 per cent of the pulse crops produced in Saskatchewan. This announcement is great news for the Yorkton community and pulse growers across the province."

The plant's expected completion date is the end of 2025 and, once operational, LDC anticipates that it will employ approximately 60 people. This new facility will expand and accelerate LDC's existing pea protein isolate

and non-GMO soy isolate offerings, while delivering highly functional, taste-neutral and nutritious ingredients to customers.

This new facility, paired with other recent pulse processing announcements, puts the province on track to meet its pulse processing goal from Saskatchewan's Growth Plan.

"Canada is a key market for LDC, supporting our strategic growth plans in the region and beyond, and this is reflected in the continued expansion of our origination and processing operations and activities in Saskatchewan, and Yorkton in particular," LDC's Country Manager for Canada Brian Conn said in a statement.

In addition to helping achieve the pulse crop processing goal, the expansion puts the province closer to meeting several other key goals outlined in Saskatchewan's Growth Plan, including:

- Grow private capital investment in Saskatchewan to \$16 billion annually;

- Increase the value of exports by 50 per cent;
- Grow Saskatchewan's agri-food exports to \$20 billion; and
- Increase agriculture value-added revenue to \$10 billion.

Saskatchewan's pulse production averages approximately four million tonnes annually, accounting for approximately 90 per cent of Canadian lentil exports and roughly 80 per cent of Canada's pea exports. Crop rotations using nitrogen-fixing pulses

contribute to making Saskatchewan's carbon footprint for crop production significantly lower than the global weighted average among comparable jurisdictions.

In 2022, Saskatchewan's agriculture industry posted a third consecutive year of record agri-food exports, with a total value of \$18.5 billion. Dry peas and pea proteins accounted for 6.5 per cent of that total, valued at \$1.1 billion.

Construction of the new plant is expected to begin later this year.



CHECK IT OUT!

Shellbrook Chronicle Website
www.shellbrookchronicle.com

Spiritwood Herald Website
www.spiritwoodherald.com

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2024 JUNIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR SCHOLARSHIP

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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



Making Life More Affordable with the Active Families Benefit

Families with children participating in sports, culture and recreation activities can access the Active Families Benefit when filing their 2023 taxes. The benefit is available to families with an annual income up to \$60,000. They can receive up to \$150 per year, for each child 18 years or younger. *For more information visit Saskatchewan.ca*

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

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



Spiritwood Lions donate to Hartley Clark

By **BEVRA FEE**
Spiritwood Herald Reporter

For the second year, Hartley Clark Elementary School's nutrition program benefitted from the local Lions Club's mandate of giving back to local causes. The Spiritwood and District Lions Club offered a donation of \$500 to assist with the purchase of food ingredients for the snacks and lunches provided to those children who are in need of them.

Hartley Clark principal Stacy Hill states that, "This year, after learning of our school's plan to teach our students to prepare their own lunches, many Lions members also donated cookware to our school."

In addition to the annual monetary donation, Lions Shelley and Megan Allard regularly provide freshly baked muffins to the school, donating their time and all ingredients to make them.

For their part, the Allards simply feel that, "it is an opportunity to give back to the community that needs help."

"Megan was given many opportunities in education and now we can pay that forward. Our motto in everything we do is 'see the ability.' It sets Megan up for success, and for her to be proud of herself...and she really enjoys baking," adds Lion Shelley Allard.



Hartley Clark principal Stacy Hill (L) receives the \$500 cheque from by Lion Megan Allard.

U13 Elks top Kelvington in Provincials

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Mere days after besting the Carrot River Loggers in round one of Provincials, the U13 C Shellbrook Elks kicked off round two against the Kelvington Wheat Kings, hosting the team at the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre on Thursday, Feb. 8.

From the opening face off, it was clear that the Elks were in for a stiffer challenge against the Wheat Kings, who were able to tally a few early scoring chances with strong play in front of the Elks net. However, the Elks countered with scoring opportunities of their own, eventually pinning the Wheat Kings in their own end until Carson Nordin was able to draw first blood on an assist from Tanner Mason.

The goal opened the flood gates for the Elks, as Camdyn Ashby got hold of the puck on a rush and was able to flip it over the pad of Wheat Kings goalie Caeleb Anaka to put the Elks up 2-0, and Nordin scored his second goal of the game on a textbook cross-ice setup from Mason, giving the Elks a 3-0 lead.

Capping off the streak of unanswered goals at four, Dominic Reban was able to manoeuvre his way through the offensive zone before finding the perfect spot for a wrist shot. Ashby earned the only assist on the goal.

Despite suddenly finding themselves in a deep hole, the Wheat Kings refused to give up, getting back in the game on a goal from Nickson Reed, then closing the gap to 4-2 when Tyler Choquette buried a rebound from the Elks' doorstep on an assist from Treyden Poorman-Nippi.

The Elks fired right back, closing out the period with a 5-2 lead after Camerin Smart scooped up a loose puck in front of the Kelvington goal and redirected it to the back of the net. Mason earned the only assist on the goal.

After an evenly matched opening to the second period, and a struggle on the power play by the Elks, the Wheat Kings closed the gap back to two goals when the Elks gave up too many rebounds and allowed Poorman-Nippi to score on an assist from Ilya Sanderson.

The goal kicked off a back-and-forth of goals between the two teams, as Reban responded for the Elks by scoring on a shot that just barely squeaked through Anaka and into the back of the net.

More strong play in front of the Elks goal opened the door for Reed to bury a redirected puck on an assist from Hudson Townsend. Then, Ashby scored his second of the night for the Elks on a classic wraparound goal, assisted by Ryder Vaughan, putting the Elks up 7-4.

The score would remain at 7-4 for nearly 20 minutes, until, just past the midway point of the third period, Ashby earned a hat trick with a perfectly placed wrist shot on an assist from Reban.

Not to be outdone, Nordin became the second Elk to score a hat trick in the game, when he pounced on a neutral zone turnover and made some impressive dekes before beating Anaka up high.

Showing no signs of quitting, the Wheat Kings responded with two goals of their own. The first came from Everet Herbert, after the Wheat Kings pinned the Elks in their own end, and the second was netted by Poorman-Nippi, with a setup from Reed right in front of the Elks' goal.

Keeping the tit-for-tat going, the Elks got one back when Ashby scored his fourth of the night by tucking a puck around Anaka's outstretched pad, and Reban became the third Elks player to record a hat trick, scoring on a late power play with an assist from Dawson Danberg.

With time winding down, the Wheat Kings had the last word, when Sanderson made the Elks pay for giving up too many rebounds once again. Townsend earned the only assist on the goal.

With the 11-7 win over the Wheat Kings, the Elks now just have to win game two to advance to round three of the U13 C Provincials.

That game was set to be played in Porcupine Plain, Sask., on Thursday, Feb. 15 (tonight).



Shellbrook U13 Elks forward Camerin Smart blasts a shot on goal in Provincials action against the Kelvington Wheat Kings.

Co-op names grand opening draw winner



Triple Jay Cee Farms — Joel and Caleb Beam of Shellbrook — were the lucky winners of Lake Country Co-op's \$5,000 Shellbrook Agro grand opening purchaser draw, sponsored by Meridian Manufacturing. Supporters of the Shellbrook Agro location who purchased Meridian handling or storage equipment during the grand opening celebration were entered into the draw. Pictured: Joel Beam (middle) accepts the prize from Taylor Engele (Meridian Manufacturing, left), and Brian Galambos (Shellbrook Agro).

Submitted by **JEFF ROTHWELL**, Shellbrook Agro

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Parkland Elks split weekend home games

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The Parkland U18 AA Elks returned to action for the first time since Jan. 30, hosting the Saskatoon Sabercats and the Martensville Marauders for a pair of home games on Friday and Saturday evening.

The weekend delivered a mixed bag for the Elks, whose last victory came on Jan. 7, as the team fell short against the Sabercats and squeaked out a hard-fought victory over the Marauders.

Elks (1) vs Cats (5)
Despite what the scorecard might suggest, the Elks dominated the Sabercats through much of Friday night's game, firing a mind-boggling 78 shots on goal over the course of 60 minutes while the Sabercats managed only 26.

Backstopped by goaltender Luke Morgan, who turned away 77 of 78 shots from the Elks — including all 25 shots he faced in the first period — all the Sabercats had to do is make their limited shots count.

Starting in the second period, in which they fired just five shots on goal, the Sabercats did just that. Less than a minute into the frame, Reid Wandler opened the scoring on a Sabercats power play, earning assists from Fynn Harysymchuk and Josh Reinheimer.

Ethan Thompson followed up just 23 seconds later, putting the Sabercats up 2-0 on an assist from Connor Moir, and Beckett Holzman closed out the period's scoring by giving the Sabercats a 3-0 lead with an assist from Wandler.

Put on the power play near the five minute mark of the third period, the Elks nearly blew it completely by surrendering an unassisted shorthanded goal to Ethan Thompson. The power play got redemption shortly after, however, when Kaiden Couture scored on helpers from Tyson Gagnon and Jake Boettcher.

In the end, though, the Sabercats would have the last laugh, leveraging a late power play to cement a 5-1 victory. Kyle Lardner scored the Sabercats' final goal with assists from Jack Giroux and Holzman.

Elks (6) vs Marauders (5)
Looking to rebound

after Friday night's frustrating loss, the Elks started off Saturday's game against the Marauders in the best way possible: by scoring in the first 17 seconds of the game. Brody Anderson drew first blood, on an assist from Lane Keyowski.

Six minutes later, the Elks shot themselves in the foot with a penalty and the Marauders made them pay for the mistake, when Brody

Engele tallied on assists from Clark Goebel and Jake Bergman.

The Elks would rediscover their footing late in the period, reclaiming their lead on a goal from Corvan Stewart, assisted by Aiden Tait and Keyowski.

If the Elks got off to the right start in the first period, the second period couldn't have gone more wrong, as the Marauders racked up three unanswered goals

within just over four minutes.

Goebel started the scoring for the Marauders on an early power play, scoring with assists from Hunter Jaeb and Bergman, while Tyler Hale put the Marauders up 3-2 on an assist from Kohen Pierce. And a mere 19 seconds after Hale's goal, Evan Skoronski struck, unassisted, to put the Marauders up by two goals.

Following the rough start to the period, the Elks had the last word, closing the gap on Stewart's second goal of the game. Brendan Aug and

Anderson assisted on the goal.

Looking sharper to start the third period, the Elks got some payback and reclaimed control of the game with their own streak of three unanswered goals over four minutes, starting with a goal from Tait, assisted by Kaiden Couture and Keyowski.

Couture would then score a goal of his own on an assist from Stewart, and Keyowski would get in the goal column less than a minute later with assists from Sommerfeld and Stewart, putting the Elks up 6-4.

The Marauders did their best to rally, closing the gap to 6-5 on a goal from Tarron Sabadash, assisted by Bergman. But that was as close as they'd get, allowing the Elks to get back into the win column.

With the victory, the Elks sit at 10-14-3-1 on the season.

The team will spend the rest of February on the road, before closing out the regular season on home ice with a game against the North West Stars on Friday, March 1. Puck drop is at 7:30 p.m.

Shellbrook Legion names Jan. meat draw fundraiser winners



Cathy Moss won steaks. Photos courtesy of Henri Dagenais, Shellbrook Legion



Alan Carswell won back ribs.



Nancy Carswell won a roast beef.



Stan Waterhouse won pork chops.

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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 10am - 5pm (Story Time 10:30am - 11:30am); Saturday 10am - 4pm.

BIG RIVER: Ice Fishing Derby on Cowan Lake in Big River, SK - Saturday, March 23. \$20,000 in prizes! Entry fee: \$50/Hole; 2nd Hole \$20. Tickets available by phone 306-469-7990 or @ Timberlost Outdoors in Big River and @ The Fishin' Hole in Saskatoon.

SPIRITWOOD: Spiritwood Spirited Players present Dis-Order in the Court by Pat Cook @ Spiritwood Civic Centre! Performance only: Thurs., Feb. 29 - Doors Open 6:30pm; Performance 7pm. \$10 @ door (kids under 10 free). Dinner Theatre: Fri. & Sat., Mar. 1 & 2 - Doors Open 6pm; Supper 7pm; Performance to follow. \$50 - Purchase in Advance. For dinner theatre tickets: Visit Martodam Family Retail (118 Main St., Spiritwood) or Contact Cari @ 306-883-7882.

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Shellbrook, Leask Legion members advance in cribbage

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

The Shellbrook Legion hosted the Branch cribbage tournament at the Shellbrook Legion Hall on Friday, Jan. 5, at which five players from the local branch qualified for the zone tournament.

Qualifying in the open category were Alan Carswell, Lloyd O’Brodivich, and David Bodvarson, while Helen and Henri Dagenais qualified in the closed category.

The Zone crib tournament was held in Battleford Legion Hall on Saturday, Jan. 27, with first and second place qualifying to advance to the District cribbage tournament.

In open singles, Alan Carswell from Shellbrook won first place and second place went to Andrew Ciona from Leask. In open doubles, 1st place went to the Leask pair of Andrew and Pat Ciona and second place went to North Battleford.

Finally, in closed singles, 1st place and 2nd place went to Shellbrook’s Henri and Helen Dagenais, respectively, and the Shellbrook doubles team (also Helen and Henri Dagenais) was the only closed doubles team at the tournament.



From left to right: Zone Commander Alan Carswell presents the open doubles pin to winners Pat and Andrew Ciona.



Henri and Helen Dagenais advanced in both closed singles and closed doubles at the Zone cribbage tournament in North Battleford.



Deputy Zone Commander Henri Dagenais (right) presents the winner’s pin to open singles winner Alan Carswell.

African violets – the perfect houseplants

By **PATRICIA HANBIDGE**

African violets are “the perfect houseplant” as they bloom year round with no specific flowering season. They are of tropical origin and so are able to tolerate, thrive even, in heated houses; they have thick hairy leaves which protect them against water loss; they can live with the lower winter light levels and do not want even the direct sunlight of January days. And they are woefully easy to propagate.

Care of African Violets is simple. The growing mix, which can be a peat-based houseplant mix, should be slightly damp. Wait until the soil is dry to the touch before watering, as they do not do well if kept too moist. Use a complete fertilizer in a dilute form with each watering. As with most houseplants, they prefer slightly cooler nights than the daytime temperature.

African violets can tolerate lower light levels than many other flowering plants but bright light is needed for flowering. Sunny south or west windows are too bright and will cause leaf burn. Even our low light in the winter can sometimes be too bright. The plants are happiest on an east or north window but watch for cold drafts in the wintertime.

Windows are not necessary for successful growing and flowering.

If you are using grow lights, mature plants should be at least 10 inches away from the light while started cuttings can be 6-8 inches. If the plant is too close to the light, the growth will be very dense, compact, and bleached out. Like any other plant, violets will tell you if they are lacking light. The leaves will turn toward the light and a long stem develops. If the light source is not directly overhead, turning the plant a quarter turn each time you water it will keep the plant balanced.

A large part of the charm of African violets is that they seem to attract few pests or diseases. Mealy bugs are the most likely pests and they appear on the undersides of leaves and at leaf axils. Dabbing them with a brush dipped in rubbing alcohol works but it may be easiest to simply start a new plant from a leaf cutting which you have carefully cleaned. African violets do best in ceramic or plastic pots. They do not like the salts which develop over time in clay pots and any leaves touching the pot rim will wilt and rot.

Propagation is very simple. Break off a healthy leaf, cut the stem at a 45-degree angle, and stick in water until roots form. Once roots are formed, the leaf is planted, roots and all, in a small pot and set under grow lights. Within a few weeks, the first baby plant

will emerge. Usually within 3-4 weeks you will have anywhere from 2-6 baby plants poking up around the leaf stem. When the plantlets are about halfway up the leaf stem, separate the plantlets so that there is one stem with attached roots. Pot these into small containers and set them back under the grow lights. Usually, within 8-10 months, they will flower.

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.



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 11 a.m.
St. Henry’s - Leask
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Sat., 11:00 am -Worship
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Rev. Don Skinner

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4th Sunday, 10 am -
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Pastor David Jensen

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Was it Belichick's coaching skill, or Tom Brady?

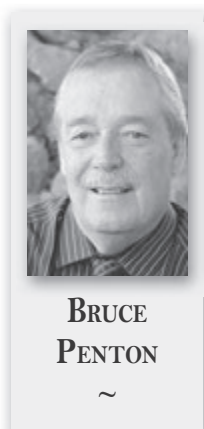
Generally regarded around the National Football League as one of the — if not THE — greatest ever coach ever, Bill Belichick today stands outside with his face pressed against the window and waits for another coaching opportunity.

While he's only 27 wins away from becoming the NFL's all-time winningest coach, Belichick is finding out the hard way that team owners and general managers are more interested in future success than past accomplishments.

The question is: Was Belichick's overwhelming success in New England, where he racked up 266 wins in 24 years, due to superior coaching skill or was it because he had the NFL's greatest quarterback ever, Tom Brady, at the helm of his offence? It's a legitimate question, because from 2001 to 2019, Brady guided the Patriots to nine Super Bowl appearances, winning six. Belichick's Patriots posted a 5-11 record in 2000, the year before Brady

took over as quarterback and then racked up 19 consecutive winning seasons with Brady at QB. After his star quarterback quit the Patriots and signed with Tampa Bay — where he won his seventh Super Bowl in his first year — Belichick's Patriots had losing seasons in three of four years. The stats are stark: With Brady, Belichick has a head-coaching record of 232-72. In the four post-Brady seasons, his coaching record is a miserable 29-39.

With eight coaching vacancies needing to be filled in this off-season, only one team took the time to interview Belichick, and that was the Atlanta Falcons, who eventually hired Raheem Morris. So are NFL teams wary of Belichick's talent as a coach, given his mediocre record without Brady? Are they concerned that, at age 71, the game has passed him by? Is his poor draft record a factor? Do they think Belichick's interest in coaching is solely for the



BRUCE PENTON

opportunity to surpass Don Shula as the coach with the most wins in NFL history?

The NFL rumour mill said if a coaching job is not in Belichick's future, then he might be able to land a broadcasting position, which might seem strange given his monosyllabic and unenthusiastic tone of voice in post-game interviews.

Columnist Peter King of NBC Sports said Belichick almost certainly has to give his image a makeover if he wishes to coach again.

"America, and NFL owners, know him as dour, sour and imperious," wrote King. "Not great traits in mod-

ern-day coaching, particularly with a 29-39 record in his last four seasons."

King also said Belichick's reluctance to embrace analytics might work against him finding a new job too, since so many teams use analytics as a major tool in their operations.

All good things must come to an end. Sandy Koufax's left arm failed him and he retired early. Bobby Orr's knee gave out and he had to quit hockey at age 30. Belichick had the misfortune to be unable to clone Tom Brady and he's unemployed.

• Mike Bianchi of the Orlando Sentinel: "If NFL teams won't hire 71-year-old Bill Belichick because he's too old, then maybe he should run for president. Compared to Donald Trump and Joe Biden, Belichick is Justin Bieber."

• Janice Hough of leftcoastsportsbabe.vom: "So now that SI has fired all their staff, are they going to use AI to computer generate swimsuit

models?"

• Peter King in his Football Morning in America column on NBC.com: "Aaron Rodgers got a hole-in-one in his first round of golf since Achilles surgery? Next thing you'll tell me is Dr. Fauci caddied for him."

• Super 70s Sports: "One of the absolute best baseball stats is that father and son Cecil Fielder and Prince Fielder are tied on the all-time home run list with 319 dingers apiece."

• RJ Currie of sportsdeke.com: "Boston signed free agent defenceman Kevin Shattenkirk to a one-year, \$1.05 million contract in July. It's nice to see the Bruins adding some depth for their eventual playoff collapse."

• Headline at theonion.com: "Frail, Emaciated MLB Players Still A Few Weeks Away From Regaining Strength To Lift Single Baseball"

• Scott Ostler of the San Francisco Chronicle: "Why do the TV people keep going away from Taylor Swift to show us

shots of her boyfriend?"

• Late night funnyman Jimmy Fallon, on the cost of tickets to the Super Bowl: "Ten grand's a lot for a football game, but it's dirt cheap to see Taylor Swift live, I will say that."

• Greg Cote of the Miami Herald: "Chiefs-49ers is OK. But Detroit in it is the Super Bowl America wanted, the one that got away."

• Scott Ostler again, on Taylor Swift flying directly from her concert in Tokyo Feb. 10 to get to Vegas in time for the Feb. 11 Super Bowl: "But if she has a middle seat on that flight, she'll be fried when she arrives."

• Another one from Ostler: "Whose fault is it that the Ravens don't have any cool girlfriends?"

• RJ Currie of sportsdeke.com: "At the Manitoba Scotties, Team Kaitlyn Lawes won the women's curling title. A lot of good Manitoba ladies fought the Lawes, and the Lawes won."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Senior Elks fall to Chiefs in playoffs

By JORDAN TWISS

Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

It was do or die for the Shellbrook Elks senior hockey club, when it hosted the Willow Cree Chiefs for game two of their best-of-three series in the first round of the Twin Rivers Hockey League playoffs on Sunday afternoon.

The Elks were down 1-0 in the series after suffering a 6-3 loss on the road the weekend prior, and needed a win just to keep their postseason dream alive.

To its credit, the team played like everything was on the line, coming up just short in one of the most dominant losing efforts a team could put in.

From the opening face off, the Elks played a fast and hard game, getting plenty of early pressure and generating scoring opportunities. Despite this, it was the Chiefs who struck first when Kirk Bear slid a puck through the five hole of Elks netminder Jon Nelson. Talon Thomas and Darwin Morin assisted on the goal.

The Elks were undaunted by this setback and continued to play their game, finally getting rewarded for their efforts after Matthew Flodell took a pass from behind the Chiefs goal and directed it to the back of the net. Cole Duperreault and Ethan Beaulac assisted on the play.

Penalties proved to be the downfall for the Elks throughout the remainder of the period, allowing the Chiefs to strike two more times and jump out to

a more confident 3-1 lead.

Morin tallied the first power play goal on assists from Trent Campbell and Thomas, while Jordan Greyeyes netted the second on helpers from Riley Albert and Chris Mike.

The Elks shrugged this off, too, controlling nearly the entirety of the second period and firing 26 shots on the Chiefs net while the Chiefs managed just seven shots on goal. Unfortunately, even with the benefit of the power play, the Elks kept coming up just short on the plethora of scoring opportunities they generated.

In the end, another penalty proved costly for the Elks, opening the door for Albert to score on an unassisted

backhand from the side of the goal and put the Chiefs up 4-1.

In a third period that closely mirrored the second, the Elks kept the pressure on, generating scoring chance after scoring chance. Finally, with a power play around the middle of the period, Parker Turner closed the gap to 4-2 on a backhand rebound from the Chiefs' doorstep. Duperreault and Flodell earned assists on the goal.

The Elks remained dominant after this, only to ruin any hopes of a comeback by taking one last penalty within the final two minutes of play and finish their postseason run with a 4-2 defeat.

The Chiefs now head to round two of the playoffs to meet the Rosthern

Wheatkings.

Meanwhile, the Elks are eyeing redemption in the Senior D provincials, starting the tournament with a series against the Delisle Bruins. Game one of that series will be played in Shellbrook on Saturday, Feb. 24, at 8 p.m.

SPHL playoffs get under way

Over in the Saskatchewan Prairie Hockey League, the Glaslyn North Stars and the Redberry Raiders were in the running as the postseason got started over the weekend.

Making their first playoff appearance in their second season as a team, the seventh place Raiders faced a tall order in their best-of-three series against the Meota Combines. It was one they simply couldn't overcome in the end, falling by a score of 6-1 in game 1 on Friday night, and a narrower margin of 6-4 in game 2 in Blaine Lake on Saturday.

Meanwhile, the fifth place North Stars were facing the Battleford Beaver Blues, an opponent with a nearly identical regular season record to them. Hitting the road for game 1, the North Stars shone bright in Battleford on Saturday night, besting the Beaver Blues by a score of 5-2.

Game 2, played in St. Walburg on Sunday, saw the Blues rally and fight their way to an 8-5 victory, forcing game 3 back on home ice in Battleford. That game was to be played Wednesday, Feb. 14.

As of Monday, game sheets for the playoff games had yet to be posted.



Shellbrook Elks goalie Jon Nelson makes a desperate dive to stop a shot from Chiefs' forward Darwin Morin in action from Sunday afternoon's playoff game in Shellbrook.

OBITUARIES

~
Myrtle Booth

Nelson.

Myrtle was survived by her children;

Myrtle Teer of Meadow Lake, SK (Merle, Elmer, Bonnie, Donna)

Lawrence Booth (Bonnie) of Meadow Lake, SK

Patrica Tracz of Spiritwood, SK (Tammy, Randal, Tasha)

Judy Nazarko (Oryst) of Haida Gwaii, BC (Christee, Chance, Chase)

Bruce Booth (Karen) of Spiritwood, SK (Marli, Melany, Katherine)

Roger Booth (Debra) of Lloydminster, SK

Patrick Booth (Laureen) of Spiritwood, SK (Karstin, Bohdan, Rory)

Her sister; Kathy Bellefeuille

40 great grandchildren,

4 great-great grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews

Myrtle was predeceased by;

Her Husband of 60 years; Lawrence Booth

Sons; Elmer Booth and Roy Booth

Grandchildren; Agnes Teer, Warren Booth, Wade Booth, Tim Mighton

Son-in-laws; Sam Teer and Walter Tracz

Her mother; Mary Nelson

Her father; Jacques Chartier

Her stepfather; Albert Nelson

Her siblings; Neal Chartier, Wellwood Chartier, Raymond Nelson, Tessie Black,

John Nelson, Grace Bussey, Esther Teskey, Adell Vandale and Olive Poche

Myrtle's childhood was spent moving several times within Saskatchewan. Her large family eventually settled in the

Robinhood, SK area. At the age of 16, she went to work at Waite's Fishery in Buffalo Narrows, SK. It was quite the ordeal to get to work as she had to hitch a ride on the mail plane to Buffalo Narrows, then barge across to the fish plant.

When Myrtle was 18, she met a tall handsome soldier, Lawrence Booth, at a dance social. After a short courtship they were married on March 17, 1947.

Myrtle and Lawrence settled on a farm in the Witchekan, SK area where they raised cattle, pigs, chicken, turkeys and grew grain. Myrtle always had a huge garden which resulted in the tastiest canned and baked goods. She accomplished all this while raising 9 children, cooking for the threshing crews and hired men, and

working in the fields herself.

Although Myrtle was shy and private, when you visited her home, you were always welcomed with a fantastic meal, coffee, and a sweet treat. She loved flowers, crocheting and sewing. Her mitts, blankets and afghans were a hot commodity in the family. She made the best sauerkraut, canned meats, tomato soup cake with brown sugar icing and ginger snap cookies to name a few.

Later she enjoyed attending Christmas church services with her grandchildren. She loved to listen to Irish singer Daniel O'Donnell and watching Little House on the Prairie.

Myrtle resided in the Idylwild Lodge in Spiritwood for the last 6 years.

Her family would like

to thank the staff for the wonderful care and attention she received. They are very much appreciated.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a charity of your choice or the Idylwild Lodge Auxiliary Inc.

C/O Linda Pauls
Box 641 Spiritwood, SK
SoJ 2Mo

Celebration of life details will be announced later.

Mom, you have been through many events in your life, many that people don't even know about. You have experienced things that have broken you, changed you and yet you found yourself stronger than you ever thought you could be. Know that you are loved, respected, and will be missed beyond measure.

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our beloved Mom Myrtle Booth on Saturday January 27, 2024, at the Spiritwood Long Term Care Home (Idylwild Lodge) in Spiritwood, SK.

Myrtle Christine (née Chartier) Booth was born July 17, 1927, in Beechy, SK to Mary (née Annis) and Jacques Chartier. Her stepfather was Albert

~
Leslie Puddicombe

PUDDICOMBE - Leslie

It is with great sadness we announce the passing of Leslie Puddicombe. Les passed away peacefully at Mont St. Joseph Home on February 1, 2024, at the age of 94 years.

Les was born on No-

vember 19, 1929, in Canwood, Sask. to Philip and Bertha Puddicombe. He was raised on the farm, and other than working a couple of winters in the pulp business in Ontario as a young man, farming would become his life.

He married Diane Nordby on November 21, 1963, and they took over the family farm where they raised their three children and farmed for over 50 years.

He loved everything about cattle farming, including being involved in the Canwood 4-H beef club with his children, attending farm shows and cattle sales, and he would never turn down

an opportunity to go to an auction sale. He could be found working amongst his cattle, riding the quad, and checking the cows with his trusty four legged companions, Milo and Sam, right up to his retirement at the age of 86 when they moved to Shellbrook.

Les enjoyed curling during his younger years and when he could no longer play, he became an avid spectator. He also liked watching hockey, whether it was games at the local rink or the NHL games on TV.

Les was a quiet, soft-spoken, and humble man who lived a simple

life and was happiest at home on the farm. He always made time to have coffee, and treats of course, with anyone who stopped by for a visit.

Les will be lovingly remembered by his wife of 60 years, Diane Puddicombe of Shellbrook, SK.

His children:

Donna (Daren) Marquis of Spruce Grove, AB and their children,

- Alyssa Marquis

- Brendan Marquis (Ashley)

David (Charlene) Puddicombe of Shellbrook, SK and their children,

- Carson (Hailee) Gunderson and their children, Jayce & Josie

- Rielle Puddicombe Karen (Colin) Muller of Shellbrook, SK.

His brother-in-law, Don Nordby; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

Les is predeceased by his parents, Phillip & Bertha Puddicombe; his brother, Irvine Puddicombe; his sister, Frances Close; his brother-in-law, Mac Close; and his mother and father-in-law, Ida and Peder Nordby.

The family wishes to express our gratitude to the staff at Mont St. Joseph for their excellent care and support.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held at

a future date to be announced.

Memorial donations may be made in memory of Leslie to Mont St. Joseph Foundation (777-28th St. East Prince Albert, SK S6V 8C2) or the North Concordia Cemetery Fund (Box 762 Shellbrook, SK. SoJ 2E0).

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

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

GOOD NEWS

~
HOW DO YOU DEAL WITH ANGER?

By DAVE BODVARSON

Shellbrook Pentecostal Assembly

Fresh out of High School I got a job with Northern Construction. The company was refitting a barge that they would take from Hay River to the High Arctic. We would work around Tuktoyaktuk dismantling artificial islands that had been built in the Beaufort Sea in exploration of natural gas.

Before we headed north much work had to be done. It took some long hours. We had welders working, other trades people, and painters. I was part of the painting crew. We had lay-

ers of bosses. I recall one foreman who I was fond of would at times get frustrated with the delays and would have this habit of removing his helmet and throwing it on the ground. It was a sight to behold. Somewhat humorous. I am not sure what he hoped to accomplish. I guess he was just letting off steam.

When I was a kid, my dad told me about Soviet Premier Khrushchev attending the 1960 Assembly in New York city and losing his cool at the United Nations. Apparently, he got so upset when a delegate suggested that Eastern Europe had been "deprived of political and civil rights" and had been swallowed up

by the Soviet Union. Khrushchev wanted to show his displeasure, so he did something unforgettable: he removed his shoe and started pounding his desk.

Anger is just an emotion. It is not wrong to express anger but, when it is misdirected, we should be willing ask forgiveness.

Of course, Jesus cleared the temple because He was upset with how the poor were being exploited. We call this "righteous anger."

The anger we experience, however, is not always righteous.

There are some steps we can follow that help us deal with anger.

Step one is to acknowledge your anger. I read that, "It's hard for some people to accept their anger because they falsely equate it with sin, but no emotion is evil in itself. Emotions can only incline us to evil."

Step two is to exercise self control. As Proverbs 16:32 teaches, "He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his own spirit than he who takes a city."

Finally, step three is to be quick to listen, and step four be slow to speak.

"Be angry, and sin not; let not the sun go down upon your wrath." Ephesians 4:26

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Sask. ag exports set new record

Saskatchewan's agriculture industry has posted a fourth consecutive year of record agri-food exports, with shipments totaling \$20.2 billion for 2023.

The leading agri-food export commodities in 2023 were non-durum wheat, canola seed, canola oil, durum, lentils and canola meal. The top five international market destinations were the United States, China, Japan, Mexico and Algeria.

"Strong export numbers demonstrate the world-class sustainability and reliability of our province's agriculture sector," Trade and Export De-

velopment Minister Jeremy Harrison said in a statement.

"As we have already surpassed our 2030 Growth Plan target of \$20 billion in agri-food exports, this milestone not only reflects the dedication of Saskatchewan farmers, but also the global demand for the high-quality agricultural products that they consistently deliver."

In addition to raw commodities, processed products are a key contributor to the province's agricultural exports. With canola oil as Saskatchewan's third highest agri-food export and

canola meal the sixth, these products provide an opportunity to reach the 2030 Growth Plan target of increasing agriculture value-added revenue to \$10 billion.

Saskatchewan's exports have grown by more than 52.1 per cent since 2013. Trade and investment offices around the world support Saskatchewan companies seeking investment opportunities and promoting trade. The province looks forward to continuing to expand exports, opening new markets and sharing Saskatchewan's story with the world.

Active Families Benefit available this tax season

With tax season around the corner, the Government of Saskatchewan is reminding families with children and youth participating in sports, culture, and recreation that they can access the Active Families Benefit when they file their 2023 taxes.

The benefit is available to families with an annual income up to \$60,000. They can receive up to \$150 per year, for each child 18 years or younger, or \$200 per year for children who are eligible for the federal Child Disability Tax Credit. Eligible families claim the benefit when they file their taxes.

"The Active Families Benefit is a tax credit that helps make activities more affordable and accessible for Saskatchewan families," Parks, Culture and Sport Minister Laura Ross said in a statement. "For parents who enrolled their children in sport, culture and recreation activities in 2023, they should hang onto their receipts, in order to claim the benefit when they do their taxes later this spring."

The Active Families Benefit ensures that the families who need it the most can access it - meaning youth can continue to be involved in sport, recre-

ation, and cultural activities. This helps build strong families and strong communities across our province.

The following are eligible for the Active Families Benefit:

- Sporting activities that provide exposure, training, or participation in any field of sport in an organized and competitive environment that requires strategy, physical training, and mental preparation.
- Recreational activities that provide exposure, training, or participation in any field of

recreation designed to refresh, provide satisfaction, entertain, and provide physical or mental benefits.

- Cultural activities that provide exposure, training, or participation in the field of arts, heritage, or multiculturalism.

For more information on the Active Families Benefit visit the frequently asked questions at:

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/parks-culture-heritage-and-sport/sport-and-recreation/programs-and-supports/active-families-benefit>

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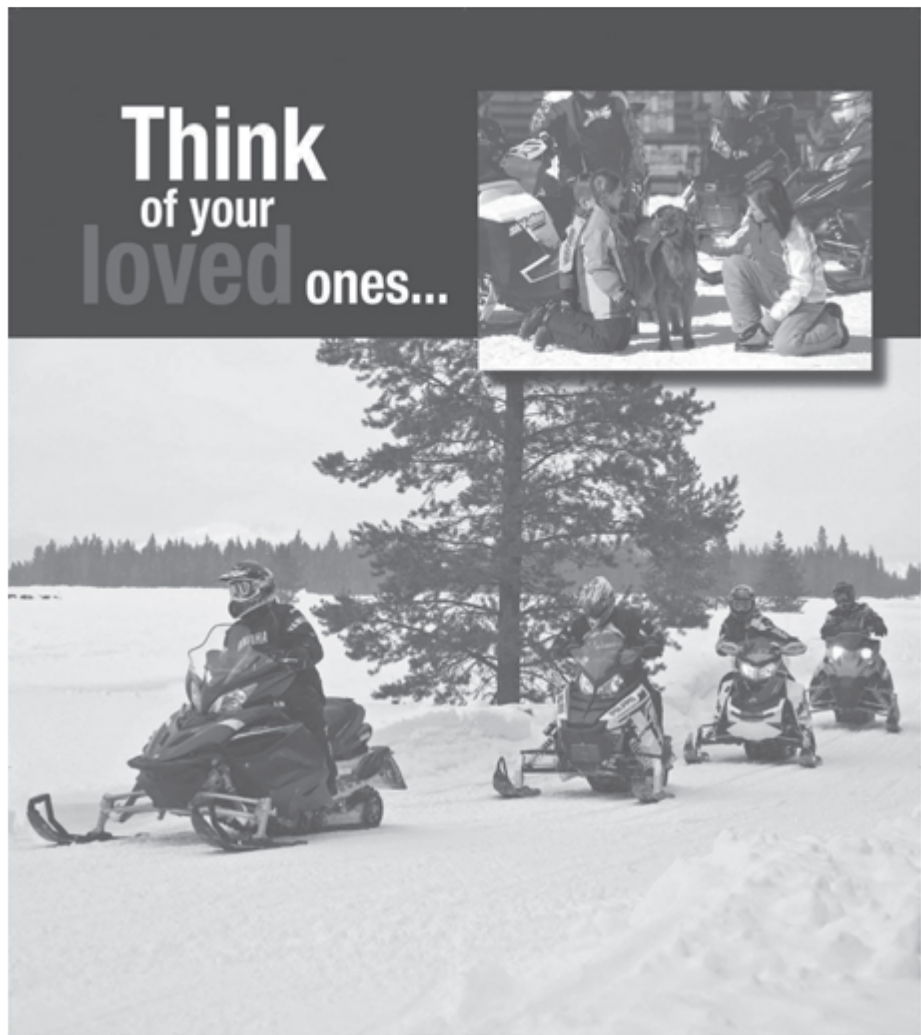


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