

Studio 747 showcases Flower Power



The senior lyrical group ended the show on an emotional note with “I Have Nothing.”

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The vibes at the Shellbrook Theatre were totally tubular over the weekend, as Studio 747 capped off another exciting dance season with its year-end dance recital on May 3 and 4.

Called *Flower Power*, this year’s 70s-inspired dance show saw every dancer take the stage multiple times over the course of three sold out shows (a first for the studio), performing a diverse selection of 26 routines in ballet, jazz, hip hop, tap, and many more styles, to raucous cheers and thunderous applause.

“Our dancers performed their very best and left their hearts on the stage and we are so proud of everyone for their hard work, dedication, and growth throughout the year,” Kelly Woodley, the owner and director of Studio 747, said on Facebook following the weekend’s performances.

Always a hit with the crowd, *Flower Power* opened on a high-energy note with the se-

nior hip hop group performing their number “Money.” The energy was traded for cuteness in the following two numbers, as the Tiny Tot groups came out to showcase their skills on “Three Blind Mice” and “Elephant Rock.”

Dialling things back up again, the pre-intermediate jazz group performed “Knock on Wood,” intermediate tap dancers performed “Hit the Road,” and the junior hip hop dancers performed “Whatever You Want.”

The senior dancers returned to the stage next, performing the small group jazz number “Judas,” followed by the primary jazz dancers with “Better When I’m Dancing,” and the intermediate jazz group with “Turn Me Loose.”

Closing out the first act was the pre-intermediate ballet routine “Springtime,” the senior ballet number “Now We Are Free,” and finally, the junior jazz group’s “Soul Bossa Nova.”

During a brief intermission, the audience was invited to visit the canteen and buy 50/50 or raffle tickets. Proceeds from the 50/50 and

raffle draws were earmarked for the Shellbrook Theatre Committee, which is hoping to renovate the stage, improve accessibility, and make the theatre more comfortable for audiences. Over the course of the three shows, more than \$3,500 was raised.

Following the break, the recital’s second act opened with the senior jazz number “Shot Me Down,” followed by the intermediate ballet group’s “Moonlight Waltz,” and the primary ballet number “Puppies at Play.” After this came the junior tap number “Girls Just Wanna Have Fun,” the pre-intermediate hip hop number “Cold Water,” and the intermediate lyrical routine “Don’t Worry About Me.”

Recreational hip hop dancers were up next, performing “Dance the Night Away,” followed by the senior tap dance group with “I’ll Be There,” the junior and pre-intermediate lyrical number “Gracious,” and the spooky senior contemporary routine “Dracula.”

Keeping the entertainment coming, the primary tap group performed Mr. Postman, the pre-intermediate tap group danced “Crazy

Little Thing,” and the junior ballet performed “At the Races.”

Closing out the show on an emotional note, the senior lyrical group took the stage to perform “I Have Nothing,” a number that won the highest overall mark at Regina’s Glam Dance competition.

All the routines seen throughout *Flower Power*, and many others besides, are choreographed by Woodley and co-instructor Bailey Doucette. At the end of the day, though, Woodley says he and Doucette couldn’t do any of it without the dancers and their supportive families.

“I have seen these dancers give some of their best performances this weekend and to have witnessed their growth this year makes everything we do worth it,” he said.

“Looking out into an audience that is full of so much love, excitement, and joy is unlike any other feeling, and I know that the dancers and myself feel so very fortunate to be a part of such an amazing community,” he added.

More photos on page 10



SPIRITWOOD
PHARMACY GROCERY

*Down on the corner...
First & Main*

Dinos bring roaring good time to Spiritwood Library

By **BEVRA FEE**
Spiritwood Herald Reporter

The Spiritwood Public Library was the site of Parent & Tot activity with a dinosaur theme on the morning of Friday, May 3.

Prince Albert Regional KidsFirst, now known as PA Mobile Early Learning, travels to Spiritwood each month to offer group and community-based children development programs that encourage linguistic, social-emotional, cognitive, and fine and gross motor skill development through a variety of structured activities.

This month saw the dinosaur theme well implemented through activity stations such as “Swat the Pterodactyl”, a “Tricera Toss” game, “Paper-Plate-a-Saurus,” and other interactive and immersive games. Parents assisted their tots at the various stations, but not before an opening “Welcoming Circle” with



Making dinosaur tracks.



Sensory games were a popular station — kids love dirt!

music and songs. The children and parents warmed up and prepped for activities with a very popular parachute game, eliciting cheers of “mushroom!” and a tiny request of, “Let’s do it one more time!”

Beginning at 10:30 a.m. and running until noon, PA Mobile Early Learning offered the program for free to children of ages 0 to 5 years. Much to the delight of Librarian Heather Gatzke, who adds, “Chantelle from KidsFirst does all the work for this event, and they come out once per month except for July and August.”

Gatzke noted that this was the largest turnout yet, with 9 parents and 15 children in attendance, all of whom enjoyed the story time, the songs, and the ac-



Parachute time got the energy kicked up a notch.

tivities.

The Spiritwood Library has been hosting increased children’s activities, helping to utilize its increased hours – it is currently at 25 hours per week.

“Now that the restrictions of COVID are behind us, we can have more group activities such as Lego Club, arts & crafts featuring a Tiny Art Show, showings of Canadian films, and of course KidsFirst can host their activities here again,” offered Gatzke.

With a current bank of six computers, books, videos, and a quiet reading nook set up in addition to the children’s section, the Spiritwood Library continues to see steady use during its three days per week schedule.



Kalem tries his skills at a Tricera Toss.

Golden Host Players: re-writing the script

By **MARJ BRADLEY**
Golden Host Players

Members of the Golden Host Players met at the Shellbrook Library on Friday, April 19, to look back on and assess their re-entry into the dramatic when, scripts in hand, they took on acting the Burns-Allen 1940 radio show *Gracie Allen for President!* The performance was directed for residents of Parkland Integrated Health Centre (PIHC) Continuing Care and families, as well as members of the general public.

Group members expressed gratitude for the feedback provided by Recreational Director, Trina Chamberlain, following a meeting of the Resident and Family Council of PIHC Continuing Care. Comments from other members of the

larger community were also brought forward and shared.

On the accounting side, Pat Grayston calculated that while twice-weekly rehearsals and one production at the Shellbrook Theatre would have cost the group \$3,900, the group incurred no costs related to practicing at PIHC, as its focus was on involving and offering entertainment for the residents.

One comment that had come from the public was that they were happily anticipating the return of local live theatre to the community.

From the players, came the sentiment that while rehearsals had been a lot of fun, their energies/stamina had been taxed by the necessary intensity and frequency of practices. It was decided by those

present that the group as it now stands can manage only one production a year. Further, the group feeling was that perhaps a different format might allow more to be involved.

The opening performance of the Tone Chimes Band was much appreciated, and it was the hope that the Tone Chimes might be involved again in the next undertaking.

It was thought that a different format might include segments offered by residents, or involvement in some manner, perhaps in the realm of sharing ideas for acts, or by providing sound effects for those acts.

It was noted and requested by the Resident and Family Council that seating be altered to allow

elders to be seated closer to the actors, so that the lines could be more effectively received. Actors found that trying to act “in the round” was challenging and didn’t always work. In a future production, cast and production will work to improve this outcome for audience members.

Members of the group expressed appreciation for *Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald* coverage of the event.

While notice of this event was seen in the community only on posters and the internet, Golden Host Players encourage readers to watch these pages in the fall to read an ad inviting them to participate as the group begins to plan the next year’s production.

R.M. OF SHELLBROOK NO. 493 ASSESSMENT ROLL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Assessment Roll of the Rural Municipality of Shellbrook No. 493 for the year of 2024 has been prepared and is now open for inspection in the office of the Assessor from 8:30 a.m. to Friday 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday from May 9th, 2024 to June 14th, 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 his/her assessment is required to file his/her notice of appeal, accompanied by \$200.00 appeal fee per roll number with The Assessor, R.M. of Shellbrook, Box 250, Shellbrook, Sask, S0J 2E0, by the 14th of June, 2024.

Dated at Shellbrook, Saskatchewan, this 3rd day of May, 2024.

Duane Storey
Administrator



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PARKLAND EMERGENCY MEASURE ORGANIZATION (EMO) COORDINATOR

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Parkland Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) is seeking an individual with the skills, experience and passion for regional emergency management. This position will be part time encompassing approximately 14 municipalities.

The Regional Emergency Measures Coordinator is responsible for developing and leading the region’s emergency measures program, including planning and providing leadership for local, regional, or inter-municipal emergencies or incidents requiring use of the Regional Emergency Management Plan. This includes coordinating training, updating the emergency plan and supporting documentation and chairing Regional Emergency Planning Committee meetings. During significant planned or unplanned events in the region, this individual will assume the role of Incident Commander.

Proposals will be accepted until 4 p.m. May 24, 2024.

Proposals can be emailed to rm494@sasktel.net or mailed to Box 10, Canwood, Sask. S0J 0K0

Inquiries can be directed to rm494@sasktel.net or by calling 306-468-2014.



Pre-Kindergarten & Kindergarten Registration

Light of Christ Catholic School Division and Living Sky School Division are accepting students into the Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Programs for the 2024-25 school year. Students must meet the following criteria:

Kindergarten: Children who are five years old as of December 31, 2024.

Pre-Kindergarten: Children must be 3 or 4 years of age at the time of application. Please see the LOCCSD website (www.loccsd.ca) or the LSKYSD website (www.livingskysd.ca) for further Pre-K criteria.

Please contact your local school for registration details.

Light of Christ Catholic Schools

Rivier - Spiritwood (Pre-K - Joint LOCCSD/LSKYSD Program & K)
306-883-2382

Living Sky Schools

Hartley Clark - Spiritwood (K) 306-883-2183
Leoville Central (Pre-K & K) 306-984-2241
Medstead Central (K) 306-342-4600

Sask. unveils family support for out-of-province care

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The Government of Saskatchewan has announced a new support to help reduce the financial burden on families with children who are required to travel out of province for medical treatment.

Unveiled in the Legislature on Wednesday, May 1, the new support measure will see families given up to \$2,000 to reimburse them for the costs of transportation by airline or car, hotels or stays with family members, and meals.

The new support applies to pediatric patients aged 16 and younger, as well as their caregivers, and families are eligible retroactively to April 1 of this year. The treatment must be medically necessary and not available in Saskatche-

wan. Introducing the new support on behalf of the Sask. Party government, Health Minister Everett Hindley said it was the result of meetings with Saskatchewan families. While this new measure is specific to families with children, he also acknowledged that other Saskatchewan patients still have a need for the same kind of travel supports.

“We listen to families, we listen to kids, and we listen to frontline healthcare providers,” Hindley said while introducing the support.

The eligibility criteria for the support are still being finalized, and Hindley says Saskatchewan is looking to other provinces to see what their policies look like.

The government says it’s also still determining whether clients on Saskatche-

wan Income Support and Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability will be able to access this support.

“This is something that requires a referral,” Hindley said, adding the age cap of 16 keeps the support in line with the Jim Pattison Children’s Hospital’s definition of a child.

While welcoming the news, NDP rural and remote health critic Jared Clark questioned the timing of the announcement.

“Many families in need have been raising this issue for months,” Clarke said in a statement made Wednesday. “It’s sad that Moe’s minister waited to address it until the day before his appearance on the *Evan Bray Show*, where he was expected to get grilled on this exact issue.”

“After 17 years of Sask. Party mismanagement, doctors are leaving and

more Saskatchewan people are forced to travel out of province for healthcare that used to be offered at home,” he continued.

Though it often provides coverage for procedures themselves, this marks the first time the government will assist with patients’ travel expenses. Hindley says the government is working hard to recruit and retain healthcare providers in Saskatchewan but knows they “are not going to be able to provide absolutely” within the province’s borders.

“I don’t think that’s realistic,” he said.

Women travelling to a private clinic in Calgary for mammograms are not eligible for this new support. However, the government says they will receive a \$1,500-travel and accommodation reimbursement for each patient, plus one support individual, through a different funding arrangement.

Spiritwood RCMP news highlights

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

On April 27, 2024, at approximately 6:15 p.m., the Spiritwood RCMP Detachment received a report of a single vehicle rollover on a rural road near Witchekan Lake First Nation.

Officers responded immediately along with Spiritwood Fire Department and EMS.

While it was initially reported that the driver of the vehicle, a 51-year-old male from Spiritwood,

Sask., was airlifted to hospital by STARS Air Ambulance with serious injuries and declared deceased, the RCMP later issued a correction and an apology stating the man hadn’t died.

Meanwhile, the passenger of the vehicle was taken to hospital by EMS with injuries described as serious in nature.

Spiritwood RCMP investigated the incident with the assistance of a Saskatchewan RCMP collision reconstructionist.

Drug Seizure

On April 30, 2024, at

approximately 3:30 p.m., the Spiritwood RCMP Detachment received a report that a conservation officer with the Provincial Protective Services Branch had conducted a traffic stop in Leoville, Sask.

Spiritwood RCMP responded, and investigation determined the driver of the vehicle was wanted on warrant from the detachment for failing to appear in court.

During the subsequent investigation, officers located and seized approximately 43 grams of crack

cocaine, approximately 52 grams of methamphetamine, bear spray, brass knuckles, an imitation pistol, drug trafficking paraphernalia, and a sum of cash in the vehicle.

Two adult males were arrested at the scene.

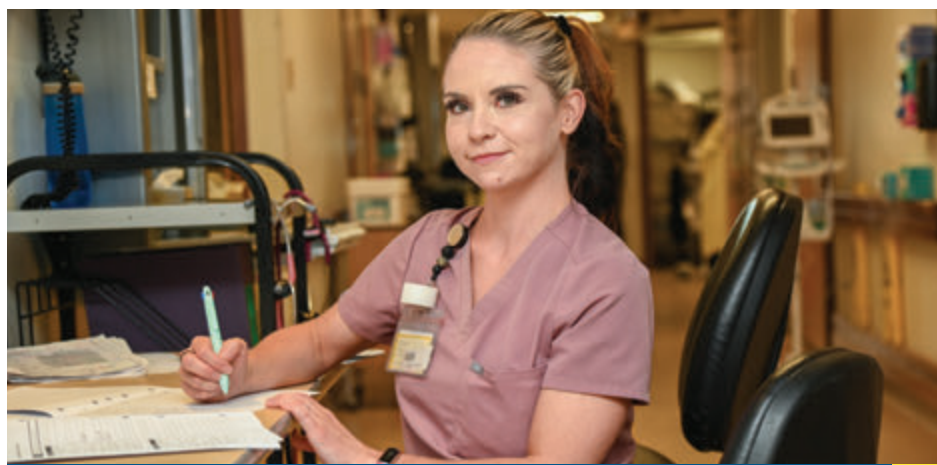
As a result of the investigation, 30-year-old Mathew Whitstone and 40-year-old Byron Peekeekoot, both from the

Pelican Lake First Nation, are each charged with: one count of possession of property obtained by crime less than \$5,000; two counts of possession for the purpose of trafficking; one count of possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose; one count of unauthorized possession of a firearm/prohibited weapon or restricted weapon; and one count of carrying a con-

cealed weapon.

Whitstone was arrested on warrant and additionally charged with two counts of failing to comply with release order condition, and Peekeekoot was additionally charged with one count of possessing a firearm contrary to order.

Whitstone and Peekeekoot are scheduled to appear in Spiritwood court on June 25.



Celebrating Nurses Across Saskatchewan

National Nursing Week from May 6th to 12th is an opportunity to celebrate our nurses for their contributions to the health and well-being of Saskatchewan residents. They are valued members of our health care teams and they help save lives every day.

Saskatchewan appreciates our highly trained, dedicated registered nurses, registered psychiatric nurses, licensed practical nurses and nurse practitioners. [Thank you to over 19,000 nurses working across the province for the difference you make in the lives of patients within the communities you serve.](#)

Significant investments this year support continued progress on the province’s ambitious Human Resources (HHR) Action Plan to recruit, train, incentivize and retain more health professionals, including nurses. Many key successes have resulted from the HHR Action Plan, including nearly 1,100 nursing graduates hired since the plan was launched.

The Government of Saskatchewan recognizes our nurses strengthen health care teams and play a very important part in meeting the health care needs of our rapidly growing province. We remain committed to supporting our nurses.

Learn more about Saskatchewan’s Health Human Resources Action Plan and health care opportunities at saskatchewan.ca/hhr



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Sask. Party favouritism undermines democracy

One thing we can always count on is the human tendency to make things more complicated than they ought to be.

Take politics, for instance, and more specifically our democratic system, where, in principle, the will of the majority is supposed to rule.

In practice, however, the democratic system is riddled with processes that are undemocratic from beginning to end, and the so-called majority has less power in shaping these processes than one would think (especially when ideology enters the picture).

When it comes to choosing who runs in a specific constituency, it's the political parties who have the final say. And sometimes, parties don't even bother with the formality of a nomination process, meaning we're stuck with whatever we get.

Moreover, while a political party's members may ultimately have a say in who becomes the party's leader, leadership races are hardly a democratic affair.

The federal Conservative Party's 2020 leadership race, for instance, boasted an entry fee of \$300,000 – the highest in Canadian history – making it inaccessible to all but a select few with large enough bank accounts or connections to the right people in the right places.

Indeed, the only thing democratic about our democracy is that each registered adult gets a vote.

But even then, the winner takes all nature of the first-past-the-post system invalidates a large number of votes in every election.

What's more, once a majority government has been elected, the electorate is relatively powerless to remove it from office if it proves to be inept or corrupt (outside of waiting four years for the next election to roll around).

And as for the "will of the people," which governments are supposed to represent, it's too often superseded by the corporate and other interests that worm their way into the system through the financially-driven candidate nomination process.

For politicians, then, it becomes less and less about doing the greatest good for the greatest number of people, and more and more about scratching the backs of those who have scratched yours.

We've seen this plenty of times since Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberal federal government came into power in 2015 – in Mr. Trudeau's lavish island holidays with wealthy friends, and in his government's many scandals: SNC Lavalin,



JORDAN TWISS
~
News Editor

and WE Charity to name but a few.

Lately, however, all eyes have been on the Sask. Party government, which over the last year has been blazing its own scandal-ridden trail, raising serious questions about its ethics and the interests it's serving.

Last spring, in a desperate attempt to bring surgical wait times back down to pre-pandemic levels, the Sask. Party trotted out its tired, old strategy of turning to the private sector, granting a \$6 million sole-

source contract to the Calgary-based Clearpoint Health Network to perform hip and knee surgeries.

Later in the year, the company was also given a contract to perform up to 1,000 mammograms at a cost of \$2,000 a pop (upwards of 10 times more expensive than the average cost for scans elsewhere).

This might be fine, if the private sector had ever delivered any lasting wait time reductions in healthcare, it's also been more costly for taxpayers.

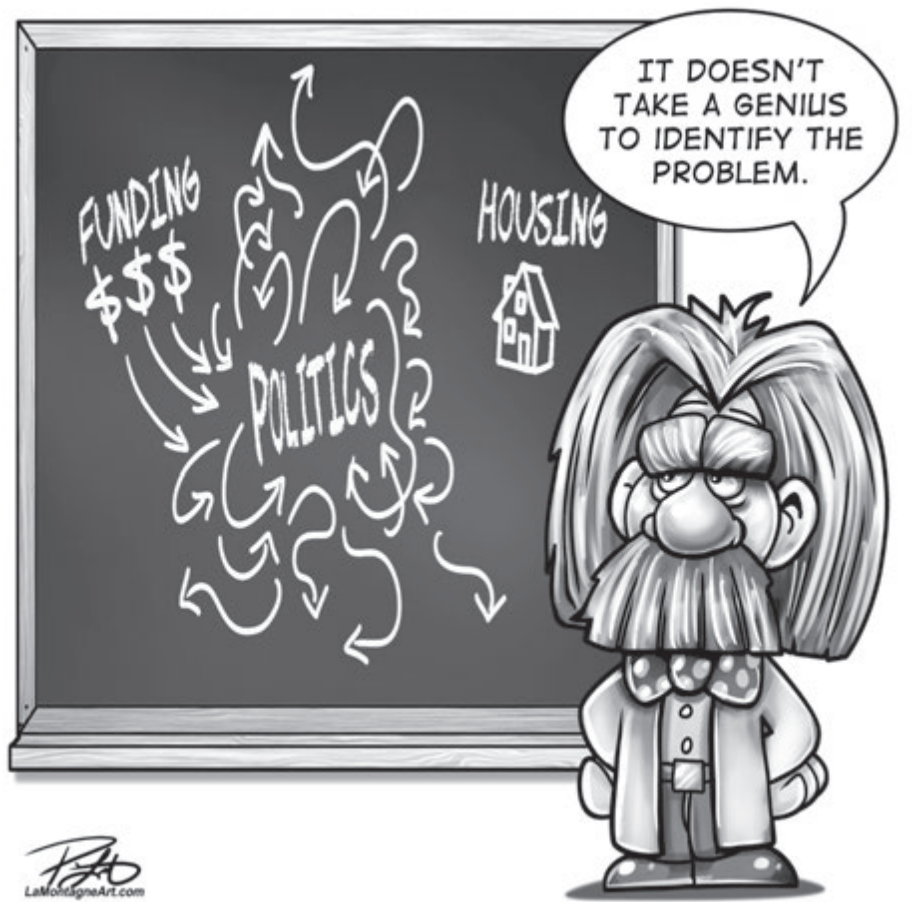
But this has never been the case. And to make matters worse, we soon learned a subsidiary of the Clearpoint Health Network was a previous Sask. Party donor, and the company boasts former Sask. Party Finance Minister Kevin Doherty as a lobbyist.

Come the fall of 2023, conflict of interest questions were swirling around Regina-Northeast MLA Gary Grewal, who owns two Regina motels – the Sunrise Motel and Thriftlodge Regina – that conveniently upped their rates when the Ministry of Social Services was footing the bill for its clients.

Through months of probing by the Sask. NDP, we soon learned Mr. Grewal's motels had only received \$282 in business from the Sask. Party government before he became a Sask. Party MLA in 2020. But by the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the two motels were doing \$384,178 in government business, accounting for 12.5 per cent of the Ministry of Social Services' hotel expenditures.

Mr. Grewal has sworn up and down that he's not involved in the day-to-day operations of the businesses, and says there's nothing out of the ordinary about their prices. Even still, the stink of the scandal was enough to convince him not to seek re-election.

Just as the dust was settling on Mr. Grewal's alleged ethical lapse, the Sask. Party government began facing questions about the Tire Stewardship of Saskatchewan



(TSS), and its handling of the contracts for tire recycling in the province.

Overseen by the Ministry of Environment, the TSS is accused of arbitrarily deciding to split the province's tire recycling contracts between the northern and southern regions of Saskatchewan. Previously, there was only one contract for the entire province, handled by Saskatoon-based processor Shercom.

In late 2020, Shercom and the TSS began negotiating a contract renewal, but hit a stalemate over three demands made by Shercom: a voice in the future of the industry, assurance of tire supply, and an increase in tipping fees (which hadn't been increased since 2012). The TSS rejected the first two demands outright, and countered with a 30 per cent decrease in tipping fees.

With the two parties unable to find common ground, the TSS awarded the tire recycling contract for the south of the province to California-based Crumb Rubber Manufacturers (CRM) in late 2022.

Shercom owner Shane Olson alleges that the TSS's conditions effectively "excluded" Shercom from bidding on the tire recycling contracts and resulted in the loss of about 60 jobs.

Mr. Olson also questions the TSS's business case for splitting the contracts between northern and southern Saskatchewan, noting larger jurisdictions like B.C. and Manitoba only have one processor, and that past attempts in Saskatchewan to split operations between companies have ended in bankruptcies.

Meanwhile, other questions raised by the Sask. NDP have centered around former

Finance Minister Kevin Doherty's involvement as a lobbyist for CRM. Both the TSS and Environment Minister Christine Tell claim Mr. Doherty was hired as a lobbyist after the contract was awarded.

Facing continued questions from the Sask. NDP over the decision to "freeze" a Saskatchewan business out of a business it's been in for more than three decades, Premier Scott Moe offered no answers and instead accused the Opposition of "smearing" Saskatchewan businesses.

The accusation was pretty rich, given the previous week saw the Sask. Party roll out attack ads via text message attempting to vilify Sask. NDP leader Carla Beck for attending the same event as Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and federal NDP leader Jagmeet Singh.

It became even richer last week, when we learned the Sask. Party government has been paying former Prime Minister Stephen Harper's consulting agency \$240,000 per year since 2019.

And because the government heavily redacted the document the Sask. NDP requested through freedom of information legislation, taxpayers don't even know what they're paying Mr. Harper's firm for (other than to, "support the province's increased focus on international trade and engagement").

At this point, one can only wonder what the next Sask. Party scandal will be, when (not if) it will reach the public, and which government influencer will be the beneficiary.

With this Sask. Party government, we can rest assured it won't be us.

Shellbrook Chronicle

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

Spiritwood Herald

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

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

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Report from the Legislature

Our government continues to invest in the things that matter most to Saskatchewan people – classrooms, care, and communities. These investments are only possible due to the strength of our province's growing economy. That's why our government is committed to investing in the province's key economic sectors – so that growth continues and we can re-invest the benefits of that growth into our great province.

The Ministry of Energy and Resources and its \$53.8-million budget will support our growing economy with a focus on Saskatchewan's world-class natural resources. Included in the ministry's budget is \$10 million in funding over 10 years for the Public Geoscience Initiative, which will increase exploration to drive the province's Critical Minerals Strategy.

To help ensure the permitting process for the exploration of natural resources is efficient



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and effective, the budget provides the Ministry of Environment funding for enhancements.

In recognition of the important role of critical minerals, the budget introduces the Saskatchewan Critical Mineral Innovation Incentive for new pilot projects and the complementary Critical Mineral Processing Investment Incentive for new or expanded value-added processing projects.

To further encourage investment in the provincial economy, the budget includes enhancements to several industry programs. The Saskatchewan Petroleum Innova-

tion Incentive application period has been extended an additional five years and the funding cap has been increased to a maximum of \$100 million in royalty credits. The Oil and Gas Processing Investment Initiative program has also been extended an additional five years and increased the funding cap to a maximum of \$500 million in Crown royalty credits.

The Saskatchewan Commercial Innovation Incentive has been extended by one year to allow for a program review, which will include engaging with industry. The annual program cap on the amount of non-refundable tax credits that may be issued has been doubled to \$7 million annually under the Saskatchewan Technology Start-Up Incentive and eligibility has been expanded to start-ups in the cleantech and all agtech sectors, as well as expanded by one year.

Another new addition under the budget is the Multi-lateral Well Program, which will facilitate the development of previously inaccessible

or uneconomic oil plays and will attract increased oil well drilling to Saskatchewan.

The budget provides a \$140-million Clean Electricity Transition Grant (CETG) to SaskPower for use towards in-year clean electricity operating costs, which will help maintain affordable power rates for customers. The CETG is tied to electricity-sector revenues.

Saskatchewan established the Small Modular Reactor Investment Fund to support the future development of the province's first small modular nuclear reactor, which will provide zero-emission baseload power. The fund will receive annual allocations tied to electricity sector revenues, with all investment income earned retained in the fund. By the close of this fiscal year, it is projected the fund will be a \$568.4-million asset for the province.

The budget invests \$570.6 million in agriculture, an increase of \$22.4 million, or 4.1 per cent, from last year.



**HON. JEREMY HARRISON
MLA**
~
Meadow
Lake
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jharrisonmla@sasktel.net

This funding will allow the Ministry of Agriculture to fund agricultural research and enhancements to crop insurance while investing in programming for producers and agri-businesses.

In recognition of the challenging weather and soil conditions faced by some producers, the ministry's budget provides \$431.7 million to fund federal-provincial risk management programs, including Crop Insurance and Agri Stability. This is an increase of \$23.7 million from last year.

With regards to forestry, the budget provides

funding to accelerate work on the Forest Resource Inventory Project, helping to achieve the Growth Plan goal of doubling Saskatchewan's forestry industry.

These investments are creating strong results across our economy. We recently received news that Saskatchewan's GDP ranked second in the nation for growth in 2023 at 1.6 per cent. That's ahead of the national rate of 1.2 per cent.

This total dollar value of the province's 2023 GDP is \$77.9 billion – a record high. Saskatchewan has one of the strongest and fastest-growing economies in the nation. This record growth doesn't just happen – it's a reflection of the policy environment that has fostered and incentivized record investment and record exports.

As our government continues to make strategic investments into key sectors of the Saskatchewan economy, we look forward to hearing your feedback. You can reach me at my constituency office.


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 TOWN OF SHELLBROOK PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN				
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Note: A sum for costs in an amount required by subsection 4(3) of <i>The Tax Enforcement Act</i> is included in the amount shown against each parcel.				
DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY	Title No.	Total Arrears*	Costs	Total Arrears and Costs
LOT 5-BLK/PAR 10-PLAN T2539 EXT 0	127795720	2,216.74	445.00	2,661.74
LOT 17-BLK/PAR 11-PLAN T2539 EXT 0	140785386	1,522.63	445.00	1,967.63
BLK/PAR 51-PLAN 101718097 EXT 10	152646701			
BLK/PAR 52-PLAN 101718086 EXT 10	152646712	20,538.42	389.00	20,927.42
BLK/PAR 53-PLAN 101718075 EXT 11	152646723			
LOT 1-BLK/PAR 28-PLAN 60PA01329 EXT 8	155792234	5,650.74	445.00	6,095.74
LOT 7-BLK/PAR 4-PLAN Q508 EXT 0	139058860	1,600.14	445.00	2,045.14
LOT 8-BLK/PAR 52-PLAN 102108642 EXT 0	153061781	8,424.79	389.00	8,813.79
LOT 11-BLK/PAR 52-PLAN 102108642 EXT 0	155769799	9,610.38	445.00	10,055.38
LOT 5-BLK/PAR 1-PLAN S3193 EXT 0	116719005			
LOT 6-BLK/PAR 1-PLAN S3193 EXT 0	116719027	2,280.17	445.00	2,725.17
CONDO PLAN 102303447 EXT 0 UNIT 1	152257192	2,449.78	351.00	2,800.78
CONDO PLAN 102303447 EXT 0 UNIT 2	152257204	2,449.78	351.00	2,800.78
CONDO PLAN 102303447 EXT 0 UNIT 3	152257215	2,449.78	351.00	2,800.78
CONDO PLAN 102303447 EXT 0 UNIT 4	152257226	2,449.87	351.00	2,800.87
CONDO PLAN 102303447 EXT 0 UNIT 5	152257237	2,528.69	351.00	2,879.69
CONDO PLAN 102303447 EXT 0 UNIT 6	152257248	2,528.66	351.00	2,879.66
CONDO PLAN 102303447 EXT 0 UNIT 7	152257271	2,528.65	351.00	2,879.65
CONDO PLAN 102303447 EXT 0 UNIT 8	152257282	2,528.69	351.00	2,879.69
CONDO PLAN 102303447 EXT 0 UNIT 9	152257293	2,528.66	351.00	2,879.66
CONDO PLAN 102303447 EXT 0 UNIT 11	152257327	2,528.67	351.00	2,879.67
CONDO PLAN 102303447 EXT 0 UNIT 12	152257349	2,528.67	351.00	2,879.67

* Penalty is calculated to the date of the Notice and will continue to accrue as applicable.

Dated this 2nd day of May, 2024
Kelly Hoare, Administrator



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Happy National Nursing Week!

Studio 747 wins accolades at competition

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The dancers of Shellbrook's Studio 747 had a busy 2024 competition season, travelling a little farther afield through the months of March and April than they have in previous years.

Taking part in new competitions against different dance studios, the dancers left it all on the stage with each performance, bringing home a laundry list of accolades and awards.

"Our goal as dancers is to always improve from our last performance and I believe our dancers did just that," said Kelly Woodley, owner and director of Studio 747.

Starting in late March with Studio

747's first trip to the Moose Jaw Invitational Dance Carnival, Studio 747 made its presence felt in a big way by winning awards for highest mark beginner group, promising contemporary group, promising beginner jazz group, and promising open lyrical group over the course of the three-day competition.

From April 12 to 14, the dancers returned to familiar territory and reunited with familiar faces at the Prince Albert Festival of Dance. In the face of what Woodley says was fierce competition from strong studios, Studio 747's dancers held their own, claiming their fair share of first-place finishes and awards for outstanding performances.

The next weekend, the dancers took

another long trip to compete against a whole new group of dancers at Regina's Glam Dance Competition. Once again, they performed to the best of their ability and were well rewarded by the judges.

Awards received included high mark open hip hop group, high mark beginner hip hop, outstanding open jazz group, outstanding novice jazz group, high mark beginner tap group, high mark beginner jazz group, high mark open lyrical group, high mark novice lyrical group, the highest group mark of the entire competition for the senior

lyrical number "I Have Nothing," and a plethora of outstanding solo awards. Additionally, Woodley was recognized with the overall choreography award.

Noting that he and instructor Bailey Doucette are proud of the dancers' accomplishments this season, Woodley says he's glad he decided to have the dancers travel to new competitions in Moose Jaw and Regina.

"While we love our friends dearly, it is always exciting and inspiring to venture out of the box and explore what Saskatchewan's talented dance community has to offer," he said.



Instructor Bailey Doucette (far right) with winners of high mark open hip hop group and high mark beginner hip hop group at Regina's Glam Dance Competition.



Studio 747 owner Kelly Woodley (right) with winners of high mark novice lyrical group and high mark open lyrical group.

NURSING WEEK 2024 Celebrating the nursing team

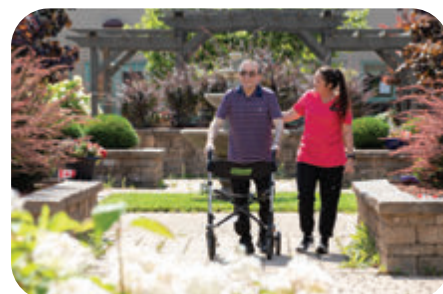
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Humans need to reconnect with their food

While I would not suggest anyone trust a post on social media as fact without delving into the statement further with some research, there are times when something gets posted that is at least worth a moment's pause to consider.

As I readied to write this week's column, I happened upon a post which wondered with some amazement how we have become a culture that considers Twinkies, cocoa puffs, and Mountain Dew safe, but raw milk and compost-grown tomatoes

unsafe.

Like most things on social media, the statement is a bit simplistic as there is a good reason milk has been pasteurized for decades, and one should hold some trust in processed foods following rules established by the bodies that monitor such things.

That said, there is a kernel of truth in the statement too, one which alludes to how disconnected we are from our food sources.

There is a fear that many are increasingly concerned about how



CALVIN DANIELS

farmers produce food and question whether they are producing food that is safe to put on the dinner table.

Fertilizers and crop protection products are seen as dangerous bugaboos by many.

Of course, we don't want wheat grown with ergot because farmers have no access to fungicides. And, we don't really want meat from sick livestock on the barbecue either, so vaccines and antibiotics used ethically are not a great evil.

But questioning food is not wrong either, if one researches carefully and trusts the best science, since it's the only option in ultimately determining food safety.

And, when asking questions about one's food, it should certainly

include processed foods, because something like microwaveable bacon, and seemingly indestructible Twinkies warrant a closer look.

The answer should be to get back to having greater control of our food source.

Maybe a front lawn where we work to kill every weed – often with chemicals – is not the answer.

What if the patch of land grew our potatoes?

What if we forgot an ornamental shrub for a fruit tree?

Maybe our second vehicle sits outside so – in forward thinking communities at least – we can have a few laying hens for eggs?

Could we create mini co-operatives where a few buy a sow that a farmer raises, so the participants get a side of pork each year as part of membership?

Our food is important, and we need as much control as is reasonable to each individual.

And, of course, ask questions, but always be aware of the source of any answer offered.

Innovation Sask. invests in ag research projects

Innovation Saskatchewan is investing \$170,000 in two industry-led research and development (R&D) technologies through the Saskatchewan Advantage Innovation Fund (SAIF) and Agtech Growth Fund (AGF).

These dual R&D grant programs accelerate the commercialization of game-changing technologies in agriculture, mining, energy, manufacturing, and healthcare and help bring them to market.

"Saskatchewan companies are leaders in innova-

tion and the advancement of cutting-edge technologies," Minister Responsible for Innovation Saskatchewan Jeremy Harrison said in a statement. "The SAIF and AGF programs support companies in our province's core sectors to accelerate their technologies, driving job creation and economic growth."

SAIF and AGF funding will support two innovative companies in the spring 2023 cohort as they accelerate their R&D projects and commercialization efforts: BrewNature Compost-

ing - Developing a modular composting technology capable of reducing composting times from three months to five days (\$95,000 in SAIF support).

PathoScan Technologies - Developing a rapid crop pathogen diagnostic technology. PathoScan's in-field device will be capable of detecting pathogens in as little as 45 minutes (\$75,000 in AGF support).

BrewNature specializes in converting organic household, commercial, and agricultural waste into nutrient-rich compost 95

per cent faster than traditional methods. The SAIF funding will be used to advance BrewNature's technology and enable it to upscale its operations, enhance its composting processes and develop innovative solutions for organic waste management.

"By leveraging SAIF funding, BrewNature aims to have a significant impact on mitigating climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with organic waste decomposition and promoting sustainable practices in waste management," Brew Nature CEO & Founder Babak Roshani said in a statement. "We are excited about the environmental benefits of our composting technology and its impact on and contribution to the circular economy."

BrewNature also recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding at COP28 with a United Arab Emirates-based company to introduce and advance innovation in composting technology.

PathoScan enables farmers to perform pathogen tests for any crop with its user-friendly testing kits that deliver fast, accurate and cost-effective results while ensuring a seamless user experience. The AGF funding will help refine this technology through comprehensive field testing to ensure its device is robust and effective under different agricultural conditions.

"The AGF funding and support from Innovation Saskatchewan will catalyze our mission at PathoScan to empower farmers with immediate, in-field crop disease diagnostics, drastically reducing response times

and safeguarding livelihoods," PathoScan Founder Tayab Soomro said in a statement. "By minimizing crop losses due to disease, PathoScan will help sustain the agricultural economy, ensure food security and foster a more sustainable approach to farming."

The announcement took place in Regina at Ground Truth Ag, a Spring 2022 recipient of AGF funding for its automated grain grading technology, which significantly improves the process of obtaining and grading grain samples and delivers accurate and consistent results that eliminate discrepancies and save time and money for farmers.

"AGF funding helped us significantly speed up the development time of our automated grain grading

product by allowing us to add infrastructure, advance field testing and enhance our academic partnerships," Ground Truth Ag CEO Kyle Folk said in a statement. "We were able to get to market faster and with a more complete product."

Since 2012, SAIF has committed over \$14.7 million in 59 projects, resulting in more than \$50 million in private investment and \$103 million in post-project investment. Similarly, since AGF launched in 2020, the program has invested over \$4.4 million in 23 projects, resulting in more than \$19.4 million in private investment and \$25.3 million in post-project investment.

For more information about SAIF and AGF, visit: www.innovationsask.ca.

Canwood Library hosts watercolour painting



On Tuesday, April 30, Canwood School's Grade 6/7 class visited Wapiti's Canwood Public Library and did watercolour painting. Bev Wyatt, a library board member, kindly led the session and got the students started with the basic techniques. They got creative with circular patterns and carefully filled it in with light splashes of blues, violets, and greens. The abstract designs of Zentangling (a fun way to create beautiful images by drawing structured patterns) complemented each child's unique perspective and colour interests. The kids left satisfied with their work.

By KARINA JOHNSON, Canwood Branch Librarian

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Canwood Elks & Royal Purple Elks news

By **LORRAINE BENSON**

Canwood Royal Purple Elks Member

Even though there were threats of rain, the annual Elks and Royal Purple Elks flag raising event proceeded on Wednesday, May 1, in front of the Canwood R.M. office. There were members of the club in attendance along with Kindergarten and Grade 1/2 students from Canwood School joining in on the celebration.

The flag will fly for the month of May endorsing the Elks' and Royal Purple Elks' commitment to Hearing and Speech Month throughout Canada. The organization is there to assist children with speech and hearing issues. Please contact a member if you are in need of help in this area.

Elsewhere, the Canwood Elks Lodge donated \$1,000 to the Canwood First Responders. Mr. Grant Person presented a cheque to Lorna Benson (a first responder) for the work they do in our community.

The money was raised from the fish fry held on Sunday, April 21.



Canwood Elks and Royal Purple members were joined by students from Canwood School for the flag raising.



Canwood Elks members present a \$1,000 cheque to first responder Lorna Benson.

Shellbrook Library April activity highlights

By **LORRAINE THIBEAULT**
Assistant Librarian

The Shellbrook Public Library hosted an Acrostic Poetry competition during the month of April using the word L-I-B-R-A-R-Y. Participants came up with some interesting words and phrases describing the library. Ten entries were received and displayed. The winner of the draw for entering a poem was Miranda Niechziol.

On April 5, 12, 19, and 26, Storytime featured frogs, rabbits, and Earth Day. The library tries to encourage a love of knowledge and of reading by combining reading stories aloud with crafts and games.

On April 2, 9, 26, 23, and 30, the Lego Club members created butterflies, piggy banks, flowers, the Three Billy Goats Gruff story, and Earth Day creations. For the Three Billy Goats Gruff session, we read the story and then used Lego pieces to create the characters and scene of the story. At the end, we reread the story based on our Lego creations. We had two small goats, five medium goats, two large goats, two bridges, two trolls, and a red barn. This made for a very interesting story.

For Earth Day, participants created cacti, light bulbs, and watering pots.

On April 3, the library held its first Travel Night 2024. Lorraine Benson presented a PowerPoint

presentation and commentary on her 2018 trip to Hawaii. She had several souvenirs on display – pearl earrings, a towel and a t-shirt featuring a hibiscus. She showed a variety of pavilions, including Aotearoa, Fifi, Tahiti, and Tongo as well as the Dole Pineapple Factory that she visited. There were riverboat dancers displaying a variety of cultures – Fiji, Ceylonian, Polynesian, Tongo, and Hawaiian). One highlight for Lorraine was visiting the site of the Pearl Harbor attack.

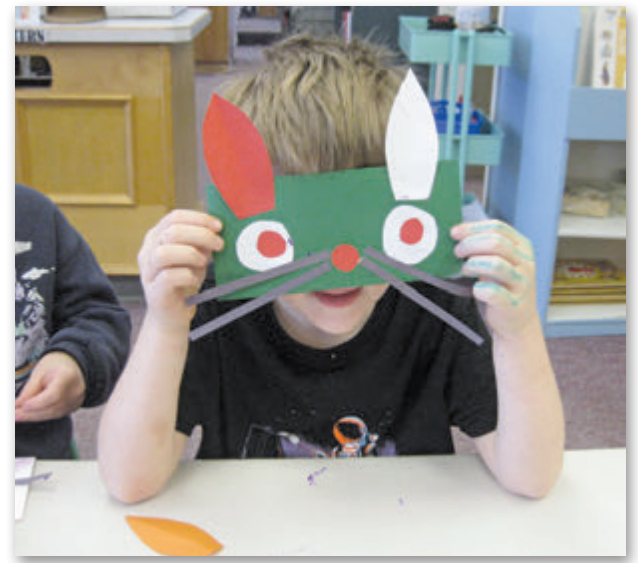
On April 15, Trina Chamberlain, Recreation Coordinator for the Parkland Integrated Health Centre (PIHC) and Corrine Loch, volunteer coordinator for the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) presented on how to volunteer for the PIHC. Corrinne reviewed the process for students to gain a Volunteerism 30 Credit by volunteering at PIHC and other SHA locations.

On April 23, Kathy Alexander presented a session on how to make a hanging basket. Twenty-four people attended the session. Bev Irvine won the hanging basket that Kathy made as she taught guests how

to make a basket. Many handy tips were shared by Kathy and by the participants.

Wapiti Headquarters community services librarian, Lindsay Baker, led a small group of children in a session of Code-a-pillars. Coding pieces were attached to the main caterpillar and instructed the main caterpillar to go forward, right, or left. There were a lot of entertaining sounds and lights to go with the movement.

Lindsay also joined patrons for a session of making pearler bead magnets.



Children made rabbit masks as a Storytime activity.



The library presentation about volunteering on April 15. Pictured, left to right: Xander and Brad Dupuis, Corrine Loch, and Trina Chamberlain.



Children built an interesting re-telling of the Three Billy Goats Gruff using Lego.



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

\$42.6 Million to Address Interpersonal Violence

Funding will go towards 34 community-based service organizations and 54 programs across the province that *provide supports and services to individuals and their families impacted by the critical, complex issue of interpersonal violence and abuse*. Last year, these organizations ensured that over 1,000 adults and 1,100 children had access to safe accommodation and resources to rebuild their lives.

For more information
visit [Saskatchewan.ca/budget](https://www.saskatchewan.ca/budget)

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



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 March 6, 2024, in the Municipal Office Council Chambers at Shellbrook, Sask.

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

Vacant: Division 2
Absent: Division 4 - Jay Ferster

Delegations:
11:30 a.m. Foreman Bill Aug update on municipal activities

Reeve Oleksyn called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

Skauge: That the following items be added to the Agenda: Low Bed Trailer Purchase. Carried

Joelson: That the Agenda be adopted as amended. Carried

Skauge: That the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held on Feb. 7, 2024, be approved as presented.

Carried
Skauge: That the Statement of Financial Activities for the month of February 2024 be approved, as presented. Carried

Strube: That the accounts payable dated March 1st, 2024, as attached hereto and forming part of these Minutes, being regular cheque numbers 13948 to 13989 in the amount of \$151,643.00 and payroll cheque numbers 14711 to 14726 in the amount of \$38,577.39 be approved. Carried

Joelson: That the Administrators Report for the month March 2024 be accepted as presented. Carried

Joelson: That Bylaw No. 2024-01 A Bylaw of The RM of Shellbrook No. 493 To Amend Bylaw No. 2018-09 Known as The Official Community Plan as annexed hereto and forming a part of these minutes, be given first reading. Carried

Strube: That Bylaw No. 2024-03 A Bylaw Respecting Permit Fees for Trailer Parks, Campgrounds, Recreation Vehicle Parks and Mobile Home Parks as annexed

hereto and forming a part of these minutes, be given first reading. Carried

Skauge: That the information provided in regards to Civic Addressing be referred to 2024 Budget sessions. Carried

Strube: That the Office Employee Hours of Work Policy 2024-001 be approved as presented. Carried

Strube: That the information provided in regards to the Office Software be postponed to 2024 Budget sessions. Carried

Ten Bos: That discussion in regards to the Salt Shed be postponed until further costs be acquired. Carried

Skauge: That discussion in regards to the Holbein 693 be postponed to the April Regular Meeting of Council. Carried

Delegation Foreman Bill Aug and Todd Lande entered the Council Chambers at 11:30 a.m. to update Council on municipal operations.

Councillor Skauge declared a conflict of interest and was excused from the meeting at 11:46 a.m.

Councillor Skauge re-entered the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

Delegation Foreman Bill Aug and Todd Lande left the meeting at 12:50 p.m.

Reeve Oleksyn was excused from the meeting at 12:50 p.m.

Deputy Reeve Joelson assumed the Chair.

Reeve Oleksyn returned to council chambers at 1:04 p.m.

Reeve Oleksyn assumed the Chair.

Skauge: That the information provided in regards to The National Police Federation be received and filed. Carried

Strube: That the information provided in regards to Fire Committee Meeting held Feb. 20, 2024, be accepted as presented. Carried

Skauge: That the information provided in regards to the Treaty Land Entitlement Trust Fund be received and filed. Carried

Ten Bos: That the North Central Trans-

portation Planning Committee membership fee for April 1, 2024, to March 2025 in the amount of \$600.00 be approved. Carried

Joelson: That the purchase of a 1983 Craig Lowbed Trailer in the amount of \$32,000 plus applicable taxes be approved. Carried

Strube: That the information provided in regards to AG in the Classroom be referred to 2024 Budget sessions. Carried

Skauge: That the time being 2:33 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, for 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. Carried

Administrator Storey left the Council Chambers at 2:33 p.m.

Administrator Storey returned to Council Chambers at 3:13 p.m.

Strube: That the regular Council meeting reconvene at 3:13 p.m. with all members of Council and Administration present. Carried

Reeve Oleksyn was excused from the meeting at 3:14 p.m.

Deputy Reeve Joelson assumed the Chair.

Skauge: That the meeting be adjourned at 3:19 p.m.

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Shell Lake Lions host dinner

By **CORRIE RUSH-BATTERSBY**
Shell Lake Lions

The Shell Lake Lions Club hosted its second Country and Western Dinner and Dance on Saturday, April 27. There was something for everyone, including raffle baskets, silent auction items, online auction items, and a 50/50 draw.

The club was fortunate to have a presentation done by Laurie Ewan, whose son Stephen is a recipient of an Autism Awareness dog, DJ, provided at no cost by the Lions foundation of Canada DogGuide program.

Laurie talked about how the dog has changed their lives. This program also trains dogs for hearing impaired, ca-

nine vision, seizure response, service dog, diabetes alert, and facility support.

A farewell gathering for John and Sheri Dykstra was held on Friday, April 26, after the set up for the Country and Western Dinner and Dance. It is a bittersweet moment, as the Shell Lake Lions lose two members, not only as Lions but also local business owners.

The Shell Lake Lions are deeply happy for them, as they are finally able to move to the east coast to start a new adventure in life. John and Sheri will be missed for years to come. The motto for the Lions is "Kindness matters," and these two amazing people have shown kindness for the last 11 years.



Shell Lake Lions member Corrie Rush-Battersby with Stephen and working dogs, DJ and semi-Retired Bingo.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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

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

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 11am - 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: Spiritwood Horticulture - Plant Sale - Friday, May 10, 2024 at the Farmers Market in Spiritwood 8am - 2pm. Call or text Sue to arrange pick-up for any unwanted plants @ (306) 824-0486

BIG RIVER: The Northern Lights Bluegrass and Old Time Music Camp and Festival, running from August 12-16 and 16-18, 2024, at The Ness Creek Site near Big River, SK, features a dynamic lineup of music, workshops, dances and outdoor activities for all ages. At the music camp (Aug 12 - 16) there will be classes of all skill levels by renowned artists and the introduction of the Wild Sky Forest Kids Camp for children ages 3 - 12. Learn more at northernlightsbluegrass.com

LEASK & CANWOOD: Walter Willoughby Horticultural Society - Bedding Plant Sales. Canwood - Seniors Hall: Tuesday, May 21 from 12-4 pm - To book a table call 306-468-2841. Leask - Seniors Hall: Friday, May 24 from 12-4 pm - To book a table call 306-466-9179. Pie & coffee will be served at both sales!

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Studio 747 showcases Flower Power



Junior hip hop dancers perform "Whatever You Want."



Tiny Tot dancers swing their trunks during "Elephant Rock."



Intermediate jazz dancers perform "Turn Me Loose."



The pre-intermediate jazz group performs "Knock on Wood."



Pre-intermediate tap dancers perform "Crazy Little Thing."



Pre-intermediate ballet dancers perform "Springtime."



The senior ballet group performs "Now We Are Free."



Intermediate lyrical dancers perform "Don't Worry About Me."



Kyra Parsons, Zara Gosselin, and Myla Henry perform their tap routine "Hit the Road."



Senior hip hop dancers kicked off the show with their number "Money."



Primary ballet dancers have some fun with "Puppies at Play."

Golf needs a Scheffler Grand Slam run

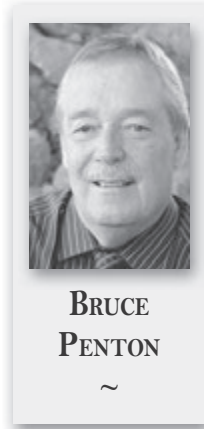
Televised golf is losing viewers. That is a fact, offered up after every tournament. Theories are varied: Fans are turned off by the fight between the PGA Tour and LIV Golf. Too much money is spoiling the game. Tiger Woods, the game's biggest draw for the past two decades, is nothing more than a sad, ceremonial golfer these days. But my theory is that the drama normally associated with professional golf has been muted by the recent success of Scottie Scheffler in the men's game and Nelly Korda on the Ladies Professional Golfers' Association tour. Both are lacking outgoing personalities. About as exciting as a wet washcloth. Dull.

But there is one solution on the men's side. Viewership would skyrocket if Scheffler were to threaten to win the Grand Slam, an accomplishment never achieved in the modern era — winning the Masters, the PGA, U.S. Open, and the Open

Championship (known as the British Open to many) in the same year.

Historically, golf's only 'grand slam' winner is Bobby Jones, the storied Atlanta amateur who won in 1930 what were considered the four major tournaments of his day — the U.S. Amateur, the British Amateur, the U.S. Open and the Open Championship. Woods in 2000 finished fifth at the Masters and then won the next three majors, and then won the Masters in 2001 for the 'Tiger Slam.' He held all four majors' trophies at one time, but they weren't all won in one calendar year, so it didn't count.

Scheffler might threaten to do it this year. It seems that everyone else is playing for second place when he tees it up at a PGA event. He has won four tournaments in his last five starts and finished tied for second in the fifth, missing a six-foot putt on the 72nd hole that would have put him into a playoff with Ste-



BRUCE PENTON

phen Jaeger at Houston. Were he to win the PGA at Valhalla in Kentucky May 16-19, a few more casual viewers would be sure to tune in for the U.S. Open at Pinehurst in June. If Scheffler were to get three in his holster heading into the Open Championship in July at Scotland's Royal Troon, viewership would explode.

On the women's side, Korda has been even more dominant. She has won five consecutive tournaments, including the first major of the season, the Chevron Championship. Korda, whose sister Jessica is also an LPGA player and

whose brother Sebastian is a world-ranked (26th) tennis player, joins two of the LPGA's all-time greats, Nancy Lopez and Annika Sorenstam, as the only ones to win five consecutive tournaments.

Meanwhile, Scheffler will take some time off before the PGA as his wife Meredith is about to give birth to the couple's first child. Winning at Valhalla would give him Woods-like media attention and also ramp up Grand Slam talk. Not to mention giving a big boost to TV ratings.

• Janice Hough of leftcoastsportsbabe.com: "Clippers' Kawhi Leonard to get final Team USA spot for this summer's Olympics. Cool, but so who's everyone's best guess to replace Kawhi when he gets injured?"

• Super 70s Sports: "Sometimes Larry Bird would just haul off and punch lousy white players for perpetuating harmful stereotypes."

• Janice Hough again: "The NFL formally rein-

stated five players today who had been banned indefinitely for gambling violations in 2023. Wonder what were the odds?"

• Comedy guy Steve Burgess of Vancouver, on the eve of the Canucks-Predators NHL playoff series: "Vancouver doesn't churn out insipid, formulaic country music, so I don't see why Nashville should dabble in hockey."

• Jon McCarthy of SunMedia on Jason Day's clothing choices at the Masters: "Day's oversized pants nearly had him cleared for takeoff during Thursday and Friday's blustery conditions."

• A note from Mike Bianchi of the Orlando Sentinel: "If you're scoring at home, Scottie Scheffler has made more than twice as much money (\$16.25 million) in his last five tournaments than Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus combined to make during their entire PGA Tour careers."

• Phil Mushnick of the

New York Post: "Listening to ESPN NHL studio man P.K. Subban — career 'lower-body injury' inflictor — discuss dirty plays that warrant fines or suspensions was a bit like hearing Matt Rempe complain of a headache."

• RJ Currie of sports-deke.com: "Kellogg's has sued tennis pro Thanasi Kokkinakis to stop him using the handle Special K. Ranked 277th, Kokkinakis isn't special — a flake maybe, but not special."

• Steve Simmons of SunMedia: "Bobby Orr is the greatest hockey player I've ever seen. My dad told me Ted Williams was the greatest hitter ever. Many insist Tom Brady is the greatest of all-time. That's a touch of overkill for one city."

• Simmons again: "What do Pete Rose, The Guess Who, Alex Mogilny, Supertramp and Leo Cahill have in common? All of them should be in the Hall of Fame

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Op-Ed: A tale of two government debts

By GAGE HAUBRICH
CTF Prairie Director

Take two Canadian governments: the first doubled its debt since becoming elected and the other has increased its own debt by 166 per cent over the same period.

Which government would you say has better budgeting skills?

Easy — it's obviously the first one because it increased debt less. But the other one doesn't have room to gloat.

So, which two governments are we comparing?

The first is the eight years of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government in Ottawa and the second is the Saskatchewan government over the same time span.

That's what makes Premier Scott Moe's comments on the federal budget a little lacking

in humility.

"It's very unfortunate that this is a government that just won't even try and won't even attempt to curtail some of the spending and the investments that they're making and try to at least get close to balancing the books federally," said Moe, when asked about the feds' deficit.

Trudeau can't be let off the hook for his runaway spending, but Moe should look at his own record with the province's books.

Trudeau's budget contains a \$40-billion dollar deficit and no relief to help cash-strapped taxpayers. Moe's budget saddled taxpayers with a \$273 million deficit and also lacked new tax relief.

Now, the numbers are smaller at the provincial level, but the problem is still serious. The difference is that Moe is

steering the finances of a province of 1.2 million people not an entire country with a population of about 40 million.

Since becoming premier in 2018, Moe has balanced exactly one provincial budget. And that one balanced budget wasn't the result of some newfound financial genius or a reduction in spending, but rather a huge increase in resource prices that drove provincial revenues to record-highs.

Trudeau, on the other hand, has balanced zero budgets since being elected in 2015.

It's all well and good to criticize the Trudeau government for maxing out the taxpayer credit card. But it would also be good if Moe's government did some serious introspection about its own spending habits.

That's because years of failing to balance the budget means that more and more

money must be wasted every year on interest charges on the provincial debt.

This year, the provincial government will be spending \$728 million on interest payments on the debt. That works out to about \$2 million a day. Just imagine waking up every morning and flushing a couple million because you continually failed get your budget under control.

And this isn't a new problem.

Eight years ago, Saskatchewan's debt was about \$7.9 billion. At the end of this year, it's going to be \$21.1 billion. Over that same time, the government wasted about \$4.5 billion on interest charges. That means that more than this year's entire education budget has been wasted in interest in Saskatchewan during that period.

And it's because govern-

ment keeps spending money it doesn't have. The Saskatchewan government is spending about \$2.6 billion more inflation-adjusted this year than it did in 2016-17. And spending like that means deficits.

Those years of deficits aren't because the government has been cutting taxes. The province's revenues are higher than almost ever before. Part of that is because the government hiked the PST from five to six per cent in 2017 and stuck it on more things. And the government did it again in 2022 when it started charging PST on event tickets like Rider games.

Despite the rhetoric, there's more that unites Moe and Trudeau than divides them when it comes to increasing the debt.

If Moe wants to critique Ottawa, he first needs to get his own fiscal house in order.

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OBITUARIES

Barbara Victoria Bradley

BRADLEY – Barbara Victoria

Barbara was born on July 20, 1928, in Dinsmore, Saskatchewan. She passed away peacefully on April 30, 2024, at the age of 95 years, in the Palliative care unit in Big River, Saskatchewan.

Barbara went to school in Saskatoon in Normal School to be a teacher. She came to the Delaronde Lake Saskatchewan area to teach at age 19.

Barbara taught at the Green Mantal District

School and raised eight children along with her husband Edward. She met Edward (School Bus Driver) and they married in 1950. Barbara and Edward were married for 65 years.

Barbara and Edward lived in Big River, Saskatchewan their entire married life.

In Barb's younger years, she and 2 friends ran a catering company called BCD. They were amazing and were always in demand in the community of Big River.

Barb enjoyed many hobbies; camping, curling, walking, picking berries, traveling, and she loved shopping. She was a devout member of the United Church which she attended regularly up until a few years ago. She volunteered for many years with the United Church women's group in many different roles. In her later years, she enjoyed watching curling and was a voracious reader. She enjoyed doing word

and number challenge games daily.

Barb loved making soup for her kids and grandchildren. She reveled in the simplicity of life!

A Celebration of Life was held for Barbara at the Big River Community Hall on Saturday, May 4, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. Barbara was buried at the Big River Cemetery with her husband Edward, and her son Kelly.

Barbara is survived by her children, Hal (Sharon), Blair (Cindy), Arlene (Ron), Heather, Lori (Gord), Greg (Cathy), and Holly (Ron).

She was predeceased by her husband Edward, her son Kelly, and daughter-in-law Sharon.

In lieu of tributes, memorial donations can be made in memory of Barbara to the Lakewood Lodge Auxiliary Big River (Box 846 Big River, SK S0J 0E0).

Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit www.beaulacfuneralhome.com Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home & Crematorium, Tammy Smart, Funeral Director, Big River, SK 306-469-2277.

Narcisse Joseph Robert Caffet

Narcisse Joseph Robert Caffet son of Elizabeth Caffet born April 15, 1934. Narcisse was raised on a small farm 5 miles west of Spiritwood. He went to school in Bapaume, Saskatchewan. He started working at a very young age doing various jobs feeding and milking cows and helping with thrashing. He met the love of his life, a young schoolteacher named Joan Symes and they were married in 1959. They bought a quarter of land with a house 1 mile west of where he grew up. Together, Narcisse and Joan raised five children: Bettyanne, Glen, Patricia, Phillip, and Donald. They have 15 grandchildren and 32 great grandchildren.

Narcisse worked various jobs during winter months such as logging and running equipment up north. The money he made in the winter would help pay bills that were accumulated while farming and if any was left over, he would buy some cows or land.

Narcisse was a well-mannered man who enjoyed the company of friends and family. He loved playing fiddle, guitar, singing, playing any card games, baseball, and curling. He won baseball championships and won many curling trophies over the years. He was a charter member of the Spiritwood Knights of Columbus Council 5353 for over 61 years. He served on the Spiritwood RM as councillor for many years and then as reeve. He also served on the school board and many other committees in Spiritwood throughout the years. While living in Spiritwood, Narcisse worked as a guard for the Spiritwood RCMP detachment for 20 years and retired in 2014.

Narcisse and Joan moved to Spiritwood in 1994. Joan

passed in 2006 and Narcisse continued to live there until 2022. He then moved back to the farm to live with Don and Nancy. In July of 2023, Narcisse spent 1 month in respite at the Leoville Evergreen Health Centre. He then moved to the Rosegill Lodge in Rabbit Lake, SK where he spent the remainder of his life. Narcisse passed away peacefully in the morning of April 19th, 2024.

Funeral Mass was Celebrated Thursday, April 25, 2024, 11:00am at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, Spiritwood, SK.

Interment will take place at a later date.

Donations in memory of Narcisse Caffet may be made to the Canadian Diabetes Association as tokens of remembrance.

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

Walter Martens

Walter Martens was born September 2, 1933 in Rabbit Lake, SK and

passed away April 11, 2024, in North Battleford, SK at 90 years of age.

Walter is lovingly remembered by: his wife: Rosella Martens of North Battleford, SK, his children and grandchildren: Charlotte (Trevor De Ryck) of Winnipeg, MB and family: Ben (MeiMei Miller) and Daniel, Theo (Michelle Janzen) of Glenbush, SK and family: Thomas (Emma March) and Ella, Valerie (Darryl

Dyck) of Winnipeg, MB and family: Seth (Danica Franz), Matthaeus, and Micah, Myron (Joanne Thiessen) of Winnipeg, MB and family: Anna and Jonas, his siblings: John Martens of North Battleford, SK, Anita Froese of Saskatoon, SK, Hertha Friesen of Rosthern, SK, Peter (Terry) Martens of Cater, SK, his siblings-in-law: Verna (Leroy Peters), Marlene Martens, Margaret Martens, Wilfred (Mary Anne), and Art also numerous nieces, nephews, and many friends.

Predeceased by his parents: Abram and Anna Martens, his siblings: Judith, Henry, Helen, Abe, and Cornie, his brothers-in law: Sam Bergen, Art Froese and Erwin Friesen, his sisters-in-law: Evelyn Martens and Hedy Klassen.

The Committal service was held Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at 10:30 am at Fields of Hope Mennonite Church, Glenbush, SK with Reverend Don Unger officiating. Interment was in the Hoffnungs-felder Cemetery, Glenbush, SK. Pallbearers were Thomas Martens,

Seth Dyck, Micah Dyck, Jonas Martens, Matthaeus Dyck, Ben De Ryck, Anna Martens, Ella Martens, and Daniel De Ryck.

A Memorial service was held Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at 2:00 pm at the Territorial Drive Alliance Church, North Battleford, SK with Pastor Keith Klippenstein, Pastor Don Unger and Pastor Dean Covert officiating. Music ministry was provided by Les Klippenstein, Kathy Covert, Naomi Unger, Matthaeus Dyck, Micah Dyck, Anna Martens, Ella Martens, and Joanne Thiessen Martens.

The eulogy was given by Anna Martens and Ella Martens. Special tributes were also given by Walter's children and grandchildren.

Memorial Donation may be made to Mennonite Central Committee, 600 45 Street West, Saskatoon, SK S7L 5W9 in memory of Walter Martens as tokens of remembrance.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home and Crematorium, Delores Beaulac Funeral Director, Spiritwood, SK (306) 883-3500.

Donald Angus Potts

Donald Angus Potts was born September 27, 1950, Shellbrook, SK and passed away April 13, 2024, Prince Albert, SK at the age of 73 years.

Donald took all his schooling in Shell Lake. Upon completing grade 10 he chose to farm full-time with his parents, Walter, and Olive Potts. Farming became his lifelong career.

He preferred spending time with his cattle and horses to pulling wrenches and trying to fix finicky machinery.

He met his future wife, Linda, (Selsey), in 1973. She had recently moved to the community to teach school. They were married November 2, 1974. Four children followed: Audra in August 1975, Bruce, December 1976, Brent, August 1980, and Rosemarie in April of 1983.

Donald lived in and around Shell Lake throughout his farming years. As his health failed him, he reluctantly moved to long term care in Spiritwood in January 2024.

While at school he enjoyed playing softball, but he chose to farm full-time with his parents, Walter, and Olive Potts. Farming became his lifelong career.

He spent many hours with his trusty horse, Flash, riding to the neighbors, chasing cows or going to a rodeo. He was very proud that he had her trained to load by having her jump up into the truck box and jump down at their destination. Once his children were old enough to ride, he took the family on all day trail rides, leaving for the Allan Lockhart farm at 8:30 am and arriving home at 8:30 pm. We saw a lot of beautiful country on those rides. He also hosted several 4-H trail rides and poker rallies when his children were 4-H members. When riding became too physically demanding, he hitched up Babe and Lady, driving the trails instead. One overnight drive took him to Debden and Keg Lake. Each July he would either ride with his family from home or drive the team and wagon to the annual Hey Days parade in

Shell Lake. He either rode or drove home afterwards. Many years he would say, the day before, "I don't think I'll be going to the parade this year. That hay across the road will be ready to bale!" Linda would just stay quiet and make sure everything was ready because we usually had showers the night before. Sure enough, morning would come, hay was too damp to bale, so off we went!

Donald passed away peacefully, surrounded by his loving family, April 13, 2024.

Donald is lovingly remembered by his wife: Linda, his children and grandchildren: Audra (Marty) of Lloydminster, SK and children: Deandra, Cameron, and Evan, Bruce (Shelly) of North Battleford, SK and children: Riley, Kaylyn and Madison, Brent of Prince Albert, SK, Rosemarie (Clayton) of

Shell Lake, SK and children: Lauren and Amaya, his siblings: Clara of Shellbrook, SK, Barry of Shellbrook, SK, Greg (Sandra) of Shell Lake, SK, his sisters-in-law: Nita and Bev (Russ), his aunt: Verna Creary also numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

He is predeceased by his parents: Walter and Olive Potts, his grandson: Michael Williamson, his parents-in-law: Fred and Betty Selsey, his brothers-in-law: Clifton Brown and Boyd Wilson, his nephew: Armand Brown.

A funeral service to celebrate Don's life was held Sunday, April 21, 2024 - 2:00 pm in the Lions Community Hall, Shell Lake, SK with Delores Beaulac and Pastor Sarah Urano officiating. The eulogy was given by Don's son-in-law Marty Lammle.

Honorary pallbearers were considered "Everyone

who shared in Donald's life" and the urn bearers were Don's sons: Bruce Potts and Brent Potts.

Memorial donations may be made to Partners in Worship, Shell Lake, SK in memory of Don Potts as tokens of remembrance.

Interment will take place at a later date.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home and Crematorium, R. Mark Muir Funeral Director, Spiritwood, SK (306) 883-3500.

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We would like to thank Troy Moore at Shellbrook Primary Health Clinic, staff at Spiritwood Home-care, Dr. Person and staff at Spiritwood LTC; Dr. Lipka and Dr. Balingit and staff at Victoria Hospital in PA for the compassionate care Donald received while under their care.

We would also like to thank our friends and neighbours for the many phone calls, food, and flowers. Special thank you to Merv D for feeding our horses, and Dale L for ploughing the yard.

Thank you to Pastor Sarah and Delores Beaulac for the service, PIW Ladies for lunch, and staff at Beau Lac Funeral Home for their compassion and professionalism in meeting our needs.

Sincerely Linda Potts, Audra, Bruce, Brent, Rose and Families.

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Rev. Sarah Urano

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

CATHOLIC SUNDAY
Leoville - 9:30 a.m.
Spiritwood - 11:15 a.m.
Shell Lake - 2:00 p.m.
SATURDAY
Medstead - 6:00 p.m.
Everyone Welcome
Fr. Ramel Macapala

COWBOY CHURCH
Spiritwood
Every Wednesday Night
7 pm
Spiritwood Legion Hall
Pastor Rick Martin

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

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

LAKELAND COMMUNITY CHURCH
(Corner of 1st Ave. and 4th St., Spiritwood)
Sun., 11 am - Worship
Service & Sunday School
Pastor Michael Kluthe
306-883-2380

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Minutes of a Big River Town Council meeting

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

The regular meeting of the Council of the Town of Big River was held in the Community Centre Board Room, 606 1st Street North, on March 19, 2024, at 8:03 a.m.

Present: Mayor David Krawetz, Councillors Rick Croshaw, Chad Dunn, Sandra Gilbert, and Lana Meyers, and Administrator Noreen Olsen.

A quorum being present, Mayor David Krawetz called the meeting to order at 8 a.m.

Croshaw: THAT the March 19, 2024, Agenda be adopted with the power to add. Carried

Gilbert: THAT the Administrator's Report be accepted as presented. Carried

Dunn: THAT the regular written Sewer and Water and Maintenance reports to Feb. 29, 2024, be accepted. Carried

Croshaw: THAT we purchase the EZ-Kleen model #EZO3504G-H-PSR, 4.0 gpm @ 3500 psi, w/Honda engine, electric start; unit is complete with hose reel, 100' of hose, wand, etc., and delivery to Big River for \$9,800.00 plus applicable taxes. Carried

Delegations: Sgt. Heath Robinson, Big River RCMP Detachment, attended the meeting from 10 a.m. to 10:40 a.m.

Croshaw: Regarding the RCMP Annual Performance Plans for 2023-2024, THAT the

Council of the Town of Big River identifies the following as problem areas and needs of our community and request the RCMP to focus their resources and related police service in their next fiscal year:

- drug trafficking/use;
- continue to visit the schools;
- the increase of rural and property crime;
- making their presence known by routing around town as opposed to using the most direct routes to get from A to B;
- continuing with the initiative to decrease impaired driving and distracted driving; and
- traffic enforcement along Highway 55 including speed limit and no parking zones, be monitored more often due to safety concerns. Carried

Meyers: THAT the minutes of the Feb. 21, 2024, Regular Meeting be adopted as presented. Carried

Croshaw: THAT the Statement of Financial Activities for the month of February 2024 be acknowledged. Carried

Meyers: THAT the Bank Reconciliation for the month of February 2024 be acknowledged. Carried

Gilbert: THAT the Journal Entries for the month of February 2024 be acknowledged. Carried

Meyers: THAT accounts for approval to

include cheque nos. 20896 through 20948 for a total of \$134,071.91 be approved for payment. Carried

Croshaw: THAT Correspondence be filed as presented. Carried

Dunn: THAT the 2024 Landfill/Transfer Station Committee Budget be accepted as presented, a copy of which is attached hereto and forming a part of these minutes. Carried

Croshaw: THAT Lana Meyers be appointed as the primary representative and Sandra Gilbert be appointed as alternate representative to the Regional Library Board. Carried

Meyers: THAT the Big River Cemetery Committee 2024 budget be accepted as presented, a copy of which is attached hereto and forming a part of these minutes. Carried

Gilbert: THAT Terry Olsen be paid for 58 hours of overtime with the option to save half of the hours to be used prior to Dec. 31, 2024. Carried

Gilbert: THAT Town employees who required to take the First Aid, AED, CPR refresher course be advised That the training is being offered on April 11, 2024, and the Council of the Town of Big River encourage employees to remain certified, and further That Council members and Fire Fighters be included in the training, and costs associated be paid by the Town. Carried

Gilbert: THAT the Town enter into an agreement with Watier Enterprise to supply and install new flooring in the basement of the Centennial Building and the CN Station, such agreements to be attached to

these minutes. Carried
Gilbert: THAT the 2024 Big River and District Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) Budget be accepted as presented, a copy of which is attached hereto and forming a part of these minutes. Carried

Krawetz: THAT the Town of Big River commit \$2,000.00 towards the Regional EMO funding. Carried

Croshaw: As recommended by the Personnel Committee, THAT the Town of Big River extend an offer of employment to Kim McLellan for the position of Maintenance Personnel, such offer of employment attached hereto and forming a part of these minutes. Carried

Croshaw: As recommended by the Personnel Committee, THAT the Town of Big River extend a trial offer of employment to Joshua Pond for the position of Maintenance Personnel, such offer of employment attached hereto and forming a part of these minutes. Carried

Gilbert: THAT the Town of Big River advertise to hire one summer employee for 35 hours per week Monday to Friday, starting May 15, 2024, until Sept. 15, 2024, at an hourly wage of \$16.00 per hour. Carried

Gilbert: THAT the Town of Big River adver-

tise to hire one summer employee for 40 hours per week, Tuesday to Saturday, starting May 1, 2024, until Sept. 15, 2024, at an hourly wage of \$25.00 per hour. Carried

Dunn: THAT the Board/Committee Reports be filed as presented. Carried

Gilbert: THAT the Town of Big River apply for the SGI-Provincial Traffic Safety Fund for the following items to improve pedestrian and school zone safety within the Town limits: to purchase an industrial line paint sprayer for application of crosswalk lines in the school zones. Carried

Rick Croshaw left the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Gilbert: Once the Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency (SAMA) provides the 2024 assessment values, THAT pursuant to subsection 214 of The Municipalities Act, That the assessment roll for the Town of Big River for the year 2024 be prepared and will be open to inspection in the office of the Assessor from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday inclusive, for 30 days. Carried

Gilbert: THAT at this time, the Town of Big River is not planning to designate or maintain utility easements as pathways, although the

public may utilize the pathway at their own discretion. Carried

Krawetz: THAT the Town make a \$1,000.00 donation to STARS to help with growth and sustainability of STARS continuing to fly in Saskatchewan. Carried

Gilbert: THAT the Council of the Town of Big River support the Country at the Creek Music Festival 2024 by sponsoring a Bronze Package for \$350.00. Carried

Dunn: THAT the Town of Big River dedicate Block Y Plan 1410 as Municipal Reserve, pursuant to Section 188 of The Planning and Development Act, 2007, and THAT an interest be registered on the title. Carried

Gilbert: THAT the Town of Big River has no objection to renewing the five-year lease agreement with the Big River Seniors Association Inc. No. 64 for the use of the CN Station, such agreement be attached to these minutes. Carried

Meyers: THAT Bylaw 2024-02 a bylaw to Regulate Mobile Food Vending Units be introduced and read a first time. Carried (*Editor's note: the bylaw was unanimously given three readings at the meeting and adopted.*)

Mayor David Krawetz adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

NDP: Sask. Party votes down gas tax relief

On Thursday, May 2, Scott Moe's Sask. Party voted against temporarily suspending the provincial fuel tax, despite the high cost of fuel making life harder for Saskatchewan people.

"Saskatchewan people are breaking the bank just to fill the tank, in part because of the provincial gas tax," said Official Opposition Leader Carla Beck in a statement. "I think this no-vote shows just how out of touch the Premier and his MLAs have become with the challenges facing working families."

Every legislative sitting, the provincial Opposition is allowed one priority motion that can trigger a standing vote on an important issue. After hearing from working families in all corners of the province concerned about the rising cost of living, the Opposition forced a vote on the following: That the Assembly calls upon the government to suspend the collection of the provincial fuel tax from gasoline and diesel for a period of six months in order to help families struggling with the high cost of living.

Provincial governments in Manito-

ba, Alberta, Ontario, and Newfoundland and Labrador have already delivered gas tax relief. That makes Scott Moe the only Prairie premier not to deliver gas tax relief, despite Saskatchewan people overwhelmingly relying on cars and trucks to get to where they need to go.

"It's just wrong to deny relief to hard-working families at a time like this, especially after this tired and out-of-touch government made the cost of living worse with power bill hikes and more taxes," said Affordability Critic Trent Wotherspoon in a statement.

According to Statistics Canada, Saskatchewan was one of only three provinces to see median market income fall since 2018. When Scott Moe took office that year, families made on average \$67,500. Today the figure is \$65,900, a 2.37 per cent decrease despite inflation in Saskatchewan increasing by 16 per cent over the same timeframe.

Beck and her team have called on the Moe government to suspend their provincial gas tax every single day of this session.



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EMMANUELLA McDOUGALL, REGINA
OBIAJULU UDEMGBA, SASKATOON

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