



SHS boy's team wins Provincial Curling gold

Spiritwood High School's boy's curling team competed in the Saskatchewan High School Athletics Association (SHSAA) Provincials in Swift Current over the weekend, going undefeated to bring home Provincial gold.

The team, consisting of lead Bohdan Booth, second Owen Beaulac, third Jayden Dauvin, and skip Deon Laventure, had a perfect 2021-2022 curling season from start to finish, winning every game from Districts through to the end of Provincials.

The team's road to Provincials began in mid-February with the District competition held in Wilkie. The team topped all competitors in bracket play before claiming the District title with a win over the home team.

Next, came Regionals in Saskatoon at the end of February. Sweeping and shooting their way to another undefeated record, the Spiritwood rink triumphed over Saskatoon Holy Cross in the semi-finals before handing another defeat to Wilkie in the A final to claim the Regional championship as well.

All this winning paved the foursome's road to Provincials. Here, after a year of no high school athletics due to the COVID-19 pandemic, coach Brad Nemish says he didn't know what to expect from his team.

"Usually, you have an idea of what some of the teams you might be facing around the province look like," he said. "This year, other than a few teams we had played before, we didn't know as much [about the other teams]."

With the lack of intel on the other rinks, Nemish says he could only really rely on what he knew about his own team.

"We knew we had a good curling team, but you don't really know how that translates when you get into a new arena with different ice," he said. "Our expectation was just to do our best and see what happens."

Luckily, the team jumped out to a strong start in the Provincial pool play on Friday, opening its tournament against the PA St. Mary 1 foursome. Though the ice in Swift Current was different than what the boys typically play on at home, they adjusted within a few ends and secured a 5-2 victory.

"Once they picked up on the ice, and we figured out where to put the broom and what weight to throw, they just cruised from there," Nemish says.

Cruised is right. The Spiritwood squad earned 9-2 and 6-2 victories over Esterhazy and host team Swift Current, respec-



Spiritwood High School's boy's curling team won Provincials gold in Swift Current over the weekend. From left: lead Bohdan Booth, second Owen Beaulac, third Jayden Dauvin, and skip Deon Laventure. Back row: Coach Brad Nemish.

tively, to end the round robin with a 3-0 record.

This earned the team a semi-finals date with Bellevue on Saturday morning. The team stayed perfect, scoring a 7-1 victory to earn its place in the gold medal game.

On the other side of the competition, the Saskatoon St. Joseph rink enjoyed an undefeated run through round robin play and squeaked by Esterhazy by a score of 7-6 in the semi-finals to make the championship match.

Though both the Spiritwood and Saskatoon St. Joseph rinks competed at the same Regionals contest, they never met on

the ice. In this, their first and last meeting of the competition, the Spiritwood boys ended their perfect season with a 7-4 win and the gold medals.

As a proud coach, Nemish says the Provincials gold all comes down to one thing: consistency.

"We were comfortable playing any style of game, whether it was a hitting game to start or getting more rocks in play," he said.

"The nice thing about our team is the boys can all throw all the different shots. If we needed to hit with our lead position, which is traditionally more of a drawing

position, we were comfortable with everybody in every position being able to make every shot."

The Provincial gold for the boy's team continues three consecutive years of Provincial curling gold for Spiritwood High School curling teams.

In 2019, the mixed foursome of Olivia Parker, Jordan Tuttroen, Emma Beaulac, and Dalton Wasden became the first Spiritwood team to bring Provincial gold medals back to the community. The mixed team defended its title in 2020, with Owen Beaulac filling the place of Jordan Tuttroen.

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WP Sandin takes second place in Conference basketball

The gymnasium at WP Sandin Public High School was the site of 3A Girls Conference Basketball action over the weekend, as the Aardvarks welcomed in squads from five opposing schools to compete for one of two spots in Regionals.

Joining the Aardvarks for the tournament were teams from Creighton Community School, Kinistino Public School, Lashburn High School, Rosthern Junior College, and St. Walburg School.

The Aardvarks got to take it easy on day one of the tournament, having earned an automatic pass to the semi-finals along with St. Walburg.

Instead, Rosthern Junior College faced Lashburn and came out on top by a score of 61-43 to punch its ticket to a showdown with St. Walburg, and Creighton Community School dominated Kinistino Public School to the tune of 81-33 to faceoff against the Aardvarks.

WP (64) vs Creighton (63)

After Saturday morning opened with the ladies from St. Walburg topping Rosthern Junior College 59-43, it was finally time for the Aardvarks to take centre court against the Creighton Kodiaks.

The Aardvarks looked disorganized and uncertain on offense in the opening minutes of the first quarter, allowing the Kodiaks to jump out to an early lead. Following an early substitution, the Aardvarks settled into their offensive rhythm and shored up their defences, ending the first quarter down 20-17 thanks to a late six-point rally by the Kodiaks.

The Kodiaks were strong under the Aardvarks' net to start the second quarter, snatching up rebounds and broadening their lead. Meanwhile, the Aardvarks continued to struggle to make key shots against the Kodiaks' defence.

The Aardvarks rallied through the middle of the quarter, finding their footing on defence and beginning to create turnovers and secure rebounds. This allowed them to close the gap to 1 at one point, until the Kodiaks roared back to take a 36-29 tally into the third quarter.

The Aardvarks got out to another slow start to kickoff the third quarter, but quickly turned the game around with some clutch plays on both sides of the ball. With the help of a few fouls by the Kodiaks, the Aardvarks even managed to take their first lead of the game. From here, the teams traded off the lead, with the Kodiaks finally getting the better of the exchanges to end the third quarter up 46-43.

The Aardvarks and Kodiaks both started slow in the fourth quarter, continuing to trade off the lead until the Kodiaks broke the game open with a pair of three-point shots in the final few minutes of the game.



Point guard Marissa Skavlebo sails over St. Walburg defenders in action from the Conference final.

The Aardvarks managed to close the gap with free throws, but the Kodiaks appeared to dash their comeback hopes by netting a two-pointer with just seven seconds left on the clock. Instead, the Aardvarks took the win on a clutch three-point shot from point guard Marissa Skavlebo, to earn a place in the finals against St. Walburg.

WP (47) vs St. Walburg (73)

Still reeling from their buzzer-beating win over the Kodiaks, the Aardvarks were given little time to rest before the St. Walburg Saints came marching in for the Conference final match up. It showed through the first half of the game, as the Saints were able to outpace the Aardvarks to take a 49-29 lead into halftime.

This continued through the third quarter, as the Aardvarks struggled to execute on both sides of the ball and scored just five points, falling even further behind the Saints.

The Saints continued to dominate the Aardvarks underneath their own net, hauling in rebounds and racking up basket after basket. The Aardvarks finally showed signs of life late in the fourth quarter, rallying to take a 73-47 defeat.

"The Conference playoffs allowed us the opportuni-

ty to play teams we normally do not compete against," Aardvarks Coach Devon Thorpe said of the Conference tournament. "The competition level of the playoffs was good, with a number of close games."

Calling his team's comeback win against the Creighton Kodiaks one of the most memorable games in his coaching career, Thorpe said he was impressed with the way his team executed as a defensive unit through its two Conference tournament games.

That said, he saw plenty the team still needed to work on during the week-long break before Regionals.

"As we head into Regionals, our team will focus on reviewing our offensive systems and communication on defense," he said. "We will make a few adjustments to our systems and be ready for the weekend."

While the Saints claimed the Conference championship, the Aardvarks will also be heading to Regionals, which will be played this weekend.

The Aardvarks will open their tournament with a match against Osler VCA.



Four Aardvarks defenders converge on a Creighton Kodiaks player to shutdown her options.

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Please contact your local school for registration details.

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NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF ASSESSMENT ROLL VILLAGE OF PARKSIDE

Notice is hereby given that the assessment roll for the Village of Parkside for the year of 2022 has been prepared and is open to inspection in the office of the assessor from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the following days: Tuesdays, March 22nd, 2022 to April 20th, 2022.

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 her or her assessment is required to file his or her notice of appeal with the Secretary of the Board of Revision, Western Municipal Consulting Ltd., Box 149, Meota, SK S0M 1X0 by the 20th day of April, 2022.

Dated this 17th day of March, 2022.
Assessor Gwen Olson

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF ASSESSMENT ROLL

Pursuant to subsection 214 of *The Municipalities Act*, Notice is hereby given that the Assessment Roll for the Resort Village of Pebble Baye for the year 2022 has been prepared and is open to inspection by calling (306)468-3104 or emailing resortpebblebaye@gmail.com for an appointment between March 18th and April 18th, 2022. 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 a successful appeal, with: The Assessor, Resort Village of Pebble Baye, Box 449, Canwood, SK S0J 0K0. Contact for the Secretary for the Board of Revision is Nor Sask Board Services, 642 Agnew St., Prince Albert, SK S6V 2P1 Phone: 1-306-314-5418

Appeals to be submitted by the 18th day of April, 2022.

Dated at Canwood, Saskatchewan, this 18th day of March, 2022

Terry Lofstrom, Assessor
Resort Village of Pebble Baye

Aarestad album raises funds for Ukraine

Over the last three decades, Debden area singer, songwriter, and musician Cyndi Aarestad has become a household name in the region through her recordings and volunteer performances at community events, special occasions, senior's facilities, and churches.

"I grew up in a musical family where playing instruments and singing was just part of the everyday fabric of our lives," Aarestad said. "We also sung a lot at church and also as a family group in nursing homes at a young age."

Calling music a God-given gift she feels the need to share, Aarestad says she's continued to make music because it's a central piece of who she is.

Over the years, she's developed an eclectic style that mixes elements of country, folk, southern gospel, inspirational, and worship music, writing about 2,100 songs and producing more than two dozen recordings and drawing inspiration from everything, whether it be prayer, reading, conversations with others, or simple, everyday tasks.

Her first few albums, made mostly with the intent to share them with family, friends, and her church, were recorded in a friend's home studio, with basic equipment

and often times over the course of a weekend.

With the advent of the digital age and recording software, Aarestad was able to move the recording to her own home. The transition came with a lot of trial and error and a huge learning curve for someone who admits to not being tech-savvy, but Aarestad says the development of online music sharing has allowed her music to reach across the

globe and even land on European music charts.

Now, with her forthcoming 26th recording, titled *Offerings*, Aarestad is trying something different once again.

"Recording professionally has always been a dream, but just not financially feasible," she said.

"My brother has a musician friend in Toronto who runs his own studio, and for a number of

years we've talked about getting together to record. Late last spring, it finally fell into place and my brother graciously offered to finance the project."

The friend in question was Phase One Studios' owner Steve Wingfield, who helmed the project by producing, arranging, playing instruments, and providing backing vocals. Wingfield also oversaw the recording of Aarestad's vocals with Cole Assman of Saskatoon's Contrast Recording via Zoom. And once those vocals were recorded, he worked his magic with mixing and additional instrumentation to complete the sound.

"I was thinking it might take longer than it did, but with the input from Steve it was actually pretty relaxed and we were done in about five hours," Aarestad recalled.

Due to release on March 25 (or April 8 on iTunes, Spotify and other streaming services), *Offerings* features one brand new track and six re-recorded songs that span 18 years of Aarestad's music career.

Aarestad hopes the project will serve as a demo to introduce her music to new audiences, and even some of Wingfield's Nashville connections.

Given current global events, Aarestad also wants to use her music to support a good cause. That's why, from March 15 to April 5, all proceeds from sales of *Offerings* through her website will be donated to aid agencies providing relief to Ukraine.

"With the timing of this project getting done close to when the war in Ukraine began, it just seemed the right thing to do," she said.

"It's really gripped my heart, partly because of my heritage connection (her grandfather was

born in Ukraine), but also just to see so much needless suffering. Many people are contributing in whatever way they can, using what they have at their disposal, and I felt to use this opportunity that I was given, to give back to others in such desperate need."

Aarestad said she will provide a breakdown of where the funds are donated, for transparency.

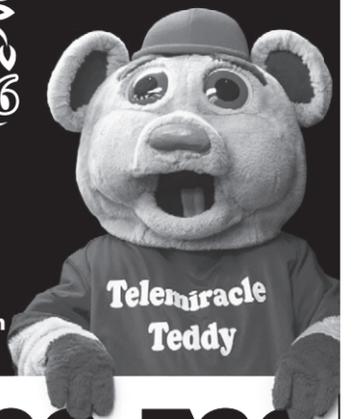
In the meantime, *Offerings* can be found at <https://cyndiaarrestad.ca/audio-downloads>.



Offerings, the latest recording from Debden area singer, songwriter, and musician Cyndi Aarestad releases March 25. From March 15 to April 5, proceeds from sales will be donated to relief efforts for Ukraine.

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LAKE COUNTRY

While Ukraine suffers, Moe shills for oil and gas

Any energy sector companies that regularly contribute to the political campaigns of Premier Scott Moe and his Sask. Party colleagues must certainly feel like the investment was a good one.

Nowhere in Canada (except in Alberta, perhaps) will you find a more vocal advocate for the interests of Canadian oil and gas – or, for that matter, a more steadfast critic of anyone who does anything to harm or inconvenience the industry.

To hear the Sask. Party tell the tale, there's no ill or injustice in the world that cannot be remedied or rectified by Canadian oil and gas.

Need to heat your home? Turn to Canadian oil and gas.

Need to fuel up your truck? Turn to Canadian oil and gas.

Need to cure cancer? Turn to Canadian oil and gas.

Okay, the last one was a slight exaggeration. However, the Sask. Party's fervour for the energy sector could easily lead one to question whether they believe it to be true.

Mr. Moe's fervour, in particular, seems to have reached new heights over the past month, starting with Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24.

As of last week, Russian President Vladimir Putin's attempt to restore his country to the glory days of the USSR had killed more than 400 civilians (and these are just *confirmed* deaths) and thousands of Ukrainian soldiers.

Yet in the midst of all this senseless bloodshed, and with the world seemingly teetering ever closer to World War Three, Mr. Moe (or his social media team) just can't seem to stop tweeting about oil and gas.

Indeed, since Russia's invasion began, Mr. Moe has tweeted about oil and gas as often as he's tweeted out messages of support for Ukraine or updates about how his government is helping Ukrainians who are fleeing the conflict.

He began the very day of the invasion, condemning Russia's actions as "evil" and calling for "severe and immediate" sanctions to be imposed on the country, including on its oil and natural gas ex-



JORDAN
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News Editor

ports.

There was nothing wrong with this message. Indeed, seeing as Russia supplies 10 per cent of the world's oil, it only makes sense to penalize its industry to send a clear message to Mr. Putin.

However, Mr. Moe didn't stop there. Just over 24 hours later, oil and gas were on his mind again. Only this time, he struck a more partisan tone.

"Just to be clear, both Canada and the US will continue to import oil from Russia," he tweeted. "Because our national governments consider the construction of oil pipelines from western Canada a greater threat than Russia, apparently."

Exploiting a humanitarian crisis to take potshots at his political opponents was bad enough. But Mr. Moe's tweet was also inaccurate.

According to Canada's Energy Regulator, Canada hasn't imported Russian oil or gas since 2019. The United States, meanwhile, announced a ban on Russian oil, natural gas, and coal last week.

Mr. Moe was back at it again on March 7, tweeting out a smarmy, "If only there was a reliable source of oil somewhere closer..." in reference to an article suggesting U.S. President Joe Biden might ask Saudi Arabia to increase its oil production to offset Russian oil and gas.

Two days later, he tweeted out a call for "North American energy security," while using a conveniently edited video clip from the Legislature to lambaste the Sask. NDP as "hypocrites" for opposing pipelines and supporting the federal carbon tax.

There's nothing wrong with "standing up for Saskatchewan," as Mr. Moe always claims to be doing. And given the energy sector's importance to the province's economy, it makes sense for Mr. Moe to do whatever is in his power to promote and protect it.

However, using Russia's invasion of Ukraine as an opportunity to score partisan political points crosses a line – especially when Mr. Moe has spent the last few months calling for an end to the divisions caused by COVID-19 mandates (most often in a tone that suggests those



who followed the mandates shouldn't judge those who refused to).

In addition to being poorly timed, Mr. Moe's shameless shilling for the province's energy sector isn't helpful.

Promoting Canadian oil and gas won't stop Russian bombs from falling on Ukrainian hospitals. Nor will it provide succour to the millions who are fleeing the conflict, or make Canadian oil and gas magically appear in the tanks of European countries that remain dependent on Russian energy exports.

At best, Mr. Moe's comments could one day begin a conversation about how to make the world less reliant on products from tyrannical regimes (especially the ones so common in oil producing countries).

But even if this conversation were to happen, there's no reason to believe Canadian oil and gas is the best or only solution to the problem.

What's more, there's even less reason to believe it would be the solution the world would choose. People, after all, tend to prize the bottom line above all else, and producing a product "more ethically and sustainably" tends to be more costly.

Indeed, if Mr. Moe truly wants "North American energy security," the way forward isn't the tired old rallying cry of

"Drill, baby, drill," or the construction of miles upon miles of pipeline.

Oil and gas will be part of the equation for the foreseeable future, but the true path to sustainability and energy independence is through the proliferation of renewable energy.

Instead of tweeting unhelpful partisan comments about events he has no control over, perhaps Mr. Moe should look inward and focus on the things he can change for the taxpayers in the province he was elected to serve.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has pushed the price of gas to levels never seen before, exacerbating rising inflation and making life even more costly for those who can least afford it. Fortunately, it's within the power of Mr. Moe's government to provide relief by regulating prices at the pumps (Mr. Moe has said his government won't lower the fuel tax) or, say, by reversing its one point increase to the provincial sales tax it introduced a few years back (which, guaranteed, has been more costly to Saskatchewan residents than Mr. Moe's nemesis, the federal carbon tax).

If Mr. Moe and his government are truly standing up for the people of Saskatchewan, it's time for them to prove it by helping the province's most vulnerable.

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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.

Member of



Report from the Legislature

This week marked the start of the spring sitting of the Saskatchewan Legislature. As we gathered to open the Assembly for the first time this year, Ukraine fights for their right to enjoy the same democratic process. Pins, flags and buttons with blue and yellow emblems could be spotted throughout the building this week as our hearts and minds remain focused on Ukraine.

Saskatchewan stands with our friends and family in Ukraine as they face an attack on their homes by Russia. A motion introduced by Premier Scott Moe was approved, calling for Russia to stop their unprovoked aggression towards neighbouring Ukraine.

Communities across the province have been coming together to show support through vigils, prayer events and protests against the violence. These events held in unison with

thousands more around the globe are sending a message that the world will not tolerate this act of war.

We have made several commitments to help those who need assistance, including a \$100,000 donation to support humanitarian efforts on the ground. SaskTel has waived long-distance and texting fees from Canada to Ukraine. We are working with post-secondary

institutions to determine the impact on our international students. The Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority has delisted Russian products from their distribution centre and removed them from retail stores.

And most importantly, we are committed to providing a safe place for those fleeing the brutal attacks. Around two million people have fled the country so far. To put that into perspective, the entire province of Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia would have to pack up what they could carry and leave. Europe will not be able to help all of those people alone. They need our assistance.

The Government of Saskatchewan has met with Ottawa to let the federal government know that we will accept an unlimited number of Ukrainians fleeing the violence. Priority will be given to

Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee applications received from Ukraine.

Our government is working with community members to ensure support, programs and services are ready for when our friends arrive. The Ukrainian Canadian Congress of Saskatchewan will receive \$335,000 in funding for dedicated community coordinators to provide information and assistance to individuals or groups who want to help our new neighbours. They will assist Ukrainians with settlement and language services, along with potential employment opportunities.

Saskatchewan is ready, willing and able to help in this global effort to stand against tyranny.

As the Spring Sitting progresses, our government will outline plans for 2022 and beyond. Plans that will show the world that Saskatchewan has



HON. JEREMY HARRISON
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the people, resources and drive to lead the nation. Great progress has been made in recent months, and we will keep on track to ensure that hard work will benefit everyone who calls Saskatchewan home. The forestry sector is an example of the work that goes on over the course of several months and, in some cases, years. Sales in 2021 increased 60 per cent over 2020, reaching an all-time high of \$1.8 billion. We are on track to achieve our goals of doubling forestry growth by 2030 and

substantially increasing the value of our exports.

These gains are just the beginning, as we anticipate over 2,600 more jobs in the sector thanks to timber allocations announced last fall for four major projects. These projects include an oriented strand board mill for Prince Albert, expansion of the Carrot River sawmill, upgrades to increase lumber production at the Big River sawmill, and the re-opening of the Prince Albert pulp mill totalling nearly \$1 billion in capital investment.

And we were pleased to welcome the newly elected MLA for Athabasca, Jim Lemaigre to the Legislature this week. Jim was chosen by the people of Athabasca in a by-election last month. This will be the first time the constituency has been represented on the government side of the Assembly since 2007. It's great to have such a strong voice for northern Saskatchewan on our team.

YOUR TWO CENTS

Ukraine conflict offers perspective on freedom

Dear editor,

Watching the images and hearing the stories of the people of Ukraine as they flee their homes and attempt to fend off the aggressive advancement of the Russian Dictator's troops has been astonishing and heart breaking. The resolve and commitment of the Ukrainian people to keep their freedoms intact is a timely lesson for all of us. It is a time to look around and examine the multitude of personal and collective freedoms that we enjoy by living in Canada.

The power of the Ukrainians and thousands of others protesting the war in cities around the world is in stark contrast to the events we recently witnessed in Ottawa and other places in Canada. The men bemoaning their lack of freedom as they sat in their hot tubs looking like the party couldn't get any better was absurd. The Honker Convoyers used their trucks to gas people with diesel fumes for days on end while destroying the hearing and health of many with their constant honking. In Ukraine, parents had to teach their children how to hit the ground, cover

their ears and keep their mouths open so they wouldn't have their eardrums blown out from nearby explosions.

The Honkers blamed all of their ills on one person and used vulgar language along with hate symbols to promote this falsity. This behaviour is now showing itself in other parts of the country, like some kind of un-teaching moment. The Honkers flaunted their wealth and stomped on the freedoms of thousands. They left a mess behind, both physical and financial, that only the most arrogant would do. As people fled Ukraine, a real news person showed an image of an overflowing garbage can by the side of the road, demonstrating that people were still attempting to respect their homeland and have some level of normalcy.

I noted a film clip of a small child in Poland who had just crossed the border from Ukraine. Some wonderful people had thought to have buckets of pocket-sized toys available for the children. The little guy reached in his hand and carefully stirred and examined all the contents before picking one. I hope that it offered him some mo-

ments of consolation throughout the days ahead. Meanwhile, in Ottawa, children were used to hinder law enforcement from doing their job.

The Honker Convoy disrupters wanted us to perceive them as the poor victims and freedom as some abstract term that meant anything but what it does. Perhaps the contrast of current events in Ukraine and the actions of the Honkers will help us to have a better perspective on the fragility of freedom and life itself. The millions of dollars that the Honkers in Ottawa caused to be wasted by their actions is deplorable. Just think what good could have been accomplished if all that energy could have been used in a positive manner to help people in real turmoil in Canada and around the world.

Nancy Lyle,
Spiritwood, Sask.

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Are you a non-profit volunteer organization located in or around the Town of Shellbrook?
Do you offer access to sport, culture and/or recreation?
Are you looking for some help funding?
The SaskLotteries Community Grant Program Applications are now available at the Shellbrook Town Office.
For more information, please visit the Sask. Lotteries website: www.sasklotteries.ca
Application Deadline is March 31, 2022
For projects/programs from April 1, 2022 - March 31, 2023
For any questions please contact Jessica Kernohan, Recreation Director, at the Town Office: 306.747.4949
recdirector@townofshellbrook.ca




RCMP warns of released offender residing on Big River FN

The Saskatchewan RCMP is advising residents of the Big River First Nation, and members of the general public, that a man who finished serving a sentence for violent and sexual offences, and is considered at high risk to re-offend, has elected to reside in the community.

"The following information is intended to enable members of the public to take suitable preventative measures, not to embark upon any form of vigilantism or other unreasonable conduct directed at this individual," the Saskatche-

wan RCMP cautioned in a press release.

Released on March 10 after serving his sentence, Bradley Corey Keenatch, 38, shared with the Saskatchewan RCMP his intentions to reside on the Big River First Nation.

Keenatch is described as about 5'10" and 179 pounds, with brown eyes and short black hair. He has the word Charmaine tattooed on the interior of his right arm, and a complex drawing with black roses tattooed on his left hand, wrist and lower arm.

Keenatch has a criminal record that contains both violent and sexual offences connected to substance use, and a history of re-offending and non-compliance with release conditions. During his periods of incarceration, he completed several educational programs for high intensity sex offenders, substance

abuse, violence prevention and Indigenous cultural awareness.

However, given his criminal history and the limited progress he made during these educational programs, police believe he is at a high risk of re-offending sexually and/or violently after his lawful release.

To help mitigate the risk to public safety and contribute to Keenatch's rehabilitation, police say the Saskatchewan RCMP High Risk Offender Unit is currently working with its provincial partners to have conditions imposed

on Keenatch for a period of two years after his lawful release.

In the meantime, Keenatch has been ordered by court to obey, among others, the following conditions:

- Keep the peace and be of good behaviour.
- Live at an approved residence and not change residence.
- Stay inside the approved residence from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. every night.
- Not possess or consume alcohol or drugs not prescribed by a medical doctor.

- Not enter or be in any place of which the main purpose is to sell alcohol, such as bars or liquor stores.
- Not possess any firearm, ammunition, crossbow, prohibited weapon, restricted device, prohibited ammunition or explosive substance

"The entirety of this information is shared to raise awareness about the presence of a high-risk offender in your community so that you may take informed decisions about entering

in contact with this person," the Saskatchewan RCMP advised a second time. "This information is not to be used to carry out unlawful and harmful acts against this person."

Residents who have questions or concerns about the Keenatch's release are encouraged to contact Big River RCMP at 306-469-2590. Those wishing to report an incident involving Keenatch being in violation of his conditions can call the detachment, or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) to do so anonymously.



Bradley Corey Keenatch.

Crop insurance enrolment deadline extended to April 14

Federal Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau and Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister David Marit have announced the 2022 Crop Insurance enrolment deadline is extended to April 14, 2022. Due to logistical challenges because of the ongoing supply-chain issues posed by the pandemic, there was a delay in the delivery of the 2022 Crop Insurance packages to producers' addresses. These challenges occurred after the packages left the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corpo-

ration (SCIC) on Feb. 25, 2022.

"Prairie producers continue to inspire us with their resiliency and ability to rise to the challenges of the past year," said Marie-Claude Bibeau, federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food. "Risk management programs like crop insurance are essential to help producers prepare for the future, and we want to ensure they have the time they need to make decisions that are right for their business."

"We want to ensure producers have

additional time to review their operation's risk management plans for the upcoming growing season," said Marit. "SCIC offers a full suite of programs to support producers, including Crop Insurance. We understand the challenges the Saskatchewan agriculture industry is currently facing, and I encourage producers to take the time now to review all Crop Insurance options and select features best suited for their operation."

As of March 10, 2022, the 2022 Crop Insurance packages were circulated and distributed to producers' addresses. Producers can anticipate receiving their packages in their mailboxes within the next few days.

SCIC staff are available to assist producers with their Crop Insurance endorsement and coverage details. Producers can also access and modify their Crop Insurance details directly through SCIC's online Crop Insurance portal, CropConnect. Producers must select insured crops and coverage levels or make additional changes by April 14, 2022, or coverage will remain the same as the previous year. For more information, contact a local SCIC office, email customer.service@scic.ca, or call 1-888-935-0000.

Crop Insurance is a federal-provincial-territorial Business Risk Management program under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership. Under Crop Insurance, premiums for most programs are shared 40 per cent by participating producers, 36 per cent by the Government of Canada and 24 per cent by the Government of Saskatchewan. Administrative expenses are fully funded by governments, 60 per cent by Canada and 40 per cent by Saskatchewan.

VILLAGE OF LEASK PUBLIC MEETING

Public Meeting will be held on
Monday, March 21, 2022
at the Leask Community Hall at 7:00 p.m.

Public Meeting Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Meeting process
3. Doctor Recruitment
4. 2021 Review
5. 2020 Financial Statement
6. State of Village Reports: Lagoon, Landfill, Water Plant, Water and Sewer Lines, Hydrants, Garbage Truck, Village Equipment and Buildings
7. Hardware Store
8. Questions
9. Adjourn

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saskrivers@sasktel.net

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AGRICULTURE

March 17, 2022

www.shellbrookchronicle.com | www.spiritwoodherald.com

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald 7

Canada missing the boat on methane-reducing feed

It would be nice if there was consistency in the approach of government on issues.

You will not always agree with, or support, a political view, but those who do more than rail against a party they don't support will at least recognize those we elect tend to do what they feel is best for the future of the country. And the fact that each party's vision can be quite different is why we have such heated debates.

At present the federal Liberal party has its political eye set rather firmly on the target of

reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Canada moving forward, in hopes of addressing what they see as the human impact causing climate change.

Of course, many readers here will be shaking their heads that climate change is a false reading of data at best, and a flat-out conspiracy having been created for some nefarious reason, but there is mounting science that something is going on. Since we don't exactly have an alternative to living on this planet, we probably should be looking at how



CALVIN DANIELS

best we might help nature on this one.

The Liberals have hung their hats on the carbon tax as a way to get people to undertake better practices to reduce emissions. People do tend to react when something hits them

in the pocketbook, so the idea that if they are taxed they'll make better decisions in terms of what they use and do in terms of things creating greenhouse gases has some merit.

But anything with the word tax is never particularly popular, and the carbon tax is much-hated by many Canadians.

That said it is an effort on behalf of the Liberals.

But then turn the page to another day and the system in another area is stalling science being available in Canada.

In late February, the

European Union approved use of a feed additive which can reduce methane emissions from cattle by 30 per cent or more.

Livestock, and in particular cattle, are definitely methane emitters, and anything that can help agriculture be less of an issue in that regard should be applauded.

But here in Canada, the product may not be on the market for years because Health Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency have classified the additive as a veterinary drug.

This is one of those

stumbling blocks that has long escaped me, why the science in one country is basically ignored in another. In this case, the EU isn't a jurisdiction with questionable regulations. In fact, generally they are more stringent in regulating farming.

And in Canada we have a government clearly wanting this country to be 'greener.' It seems a perfect opportunity for some gentle persuasion or legislation if needed, to provide livestock producers access to have less impact in terms of methane emissions.

Sask. run-off report highlights varying conditions

The Water Security Agency (WSA) is sharing the spring runoff forecast for 2022. This forecast is based on conditions as of March 1.

WSA actively monitors snowpack and precipitation during the winter months to forecast the province's available water supply through the summer and fall and to prepare for any potential issues. WSA completed snow surveys in mid-February to assess the water available for runoff. For the most part, water supplies from the province's major reservoirs are expected to continue to meet the province's needs in 2022.

As previously reported, the hot and dry conditions throughout 2021 caused most areas of the province to go into winter with drier than normal moisture conditions. Therefore, despite signifi-

cant amounts of snow, some areas with dry conditions at freeze-up are still predicted to have normal to below normal runoff.

The Shellbrook and Spiritwood areas, however, are expected to see above average and well above average runoff, respectively. Meanwhile, conditions in the Leask, Marcelin, and Blaine Lake areas are expected to be near or below normal.

Looking province-wide, WSA is currently expecting a below to well below normal snowmelt runoff response over much of southern Saskatchewan. Only areas east of Moose Jaw are forecast to receive near or above normal runoff. Below normal runoff in the southwest may result in some water supply issues, including shortages and potentially water

quality related issues later in the year. With a significant snowpack, above to well above normal snowmelt runoff yields are expected across central areas of the province. However, flooding is not expected at this time.

With significant snowpack within the North Saskatchewan River Basin, there is an elevated risk of a dynamic ice breakup event occurring on the North Saskatchewan River. This may result in ice jamming and flooding similar to what was observed on the river in 2020. The public should remain vigilant when near melting waterways as ice jamming and breakup can be unpredictable.

With an alpine snowpack that is generally well above normal, the agency is optimistic that flows on the Saskatchewan River System and levels at Lake

Diefenbaker will be better than what was observed in 2021. The WSA will continue to protect and manage our water supply to support industry and habitat.

When developing this snowmelt runoff outlook, WSA assumes normal weather conditions going forward to the conclusion of the melt. Any increased runoff potential would be reflected in the April forecast provided runoff is not already underway. The current report can be found on the wsask.ca website under Provincial Forecast.

**Advertising Deadline is
FRIDAY 4:00 P.M.**

MEADOW LAKE LIVESTOCK SALES LTD.



To consign cattle or
for on-farm appraisals
please contact
Brent, Blair or Brody

Wed., Mar. 23, 2022

Regular Sale 9:00 a.m.

Presorted Internet Calf Sale 12:00 p.m.

Producers wishing to market cattle prior to sale day
please contact the office 306-236-3411 for delivery.

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Office 306-236-3411 ~ Fax 306-236-3412

Email: mlstockyards@sasktel.net ~ market info visit: www.mlstockyards.com

PRINCE ALBERT LIVESTOCK SALES

A Division of Northern Livestock Sales



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for on-farm appraisals
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Glen, Boyd or Frederick

Mon., Mar. 21, 2022

Regular Sale 8:30 a.m., Presort Sale 11:00 a.m.

Sat., Mar. 26, 2022

Double F Cattle Co. Purebred Bull Sale 2:00 p.m.



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to sale day please contact the
office 306-763-8463 for delivery.

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Office 306-763-8463 ~ Fax 306-763-4620

For market info visit: www.northernlivestocksales.ca

Spiritwood Lions honour members

By Bevra Fee

The Spiritwood & District Lions Club met for their regular meeting on March 3 at the Civic Centre in Spiritwood. Among the new business ideas that were discussed, four long-time Lions members were given pins in recognition of their service.

Chevron pins were sent from Lions District Governor, Marianne Kramchynsky, along with a note of congratulations: "Congratulations to all of the recipients – the four of you represent 140 years of service from the heart!"

Lions Wayne Pauls, Marg Pretli and Bryan Ferguson were presented with their chevron pins by Lion Sonja Nielsen, president of the Club. In addition, Lion Sonja was presented with a chevron pin by past president, Lion Marg Pretli.

The Spiritwood & District Lions Club wishes to echo the note of congratulations to our members, who have achieved outstanding milestones with their years of dedication to our community and their service through our club.



Lion Sonja Nielsen presenting to Lion Bryan Ferguson.



Lion Sonja Nielsen presenting to Lion Marg Pretli.



Lion Marg Pretli presenting to Lion Sonja Nielsen.



Lion Sonja Nielsen presenting to Lion Wayne Pauls.

Team Mayo tops Spiritwood Ladies Bonspiel

The Spiritwood Curling Club hosted its annual Ladies Bonspiel on March 12. They had 13 teams who signed up to participate in the event, marking a better turnout than the bonspiel has had in recent years.

There were four pools and all teams played a round robin. From there, the teams in first and second place in their respective pools moved on.

The Laurie Mayo team placed first in the A side to claim the 2022 Spiritwood Ladies Bonspiel Championship.

Elsewhere, Gail Radke's foursome placed first in the B side, and Team Koetse topped the C side contest.

To wrap it up, the day consisted of curling with lunch and supper provided to the players. There was also a shooter bar on the ice and raffles to cap off the night.

The Spiritwood Curling Club mentioned that they will be hosting its annual Open Bonspiel coming up on the weekend of March 17 to 20.



The team skipped by Laurie Mayo beat all comers to become champions in the Spiritwood Curling Club's 2022 Ladies Bonspiel.



Team Radke won the B side title.



Team Koetse finished on top in the C side contest.

JUNIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

JUNIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR SCHOLARSHIP CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

SaskPower Powering our future®

swna SASKATCHEWAN WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS ASSOCIATION

For over the past four decades The Saskatchewan Weekly Newspapers Association, in partnership with SaskPower and the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, have recognized the youth of Saskatchewan through the Junior Citizen of the Year Award.

These prestigious awards are given to youth who:

- Have a positive lifestyle
- Have had the ability to overcome life's challenges
- Have a strong sense of caring and responsibility
- Are dedicated to community and school
- Inspire others
- Are between the ages of 8 to 18

This year four deserving youth will receive a **\$3000 bursary**, provided by SaskPower, to use towards their post-secondary education. Someone you nominate could be one of them.

Visit www.swna.com for further information and nomination forms
Nominations close March 31, 2022

Record Setting Forestry Sales

In 2021, Saskatchewan's forestry sector reached an **all-time high of \$1.8 billion in product sales**, an increase of 60 per cent from 2020. This creates and sustains jobs in our province's north and contributes to our goal of doubling the forestry sector by 2030.

For more information visit saskatchewan.ca/news



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

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

Rivier students hit the slopes on field trip

The Grades 4, 5 and 6 students of Rivier Elementary School hit the slopes for their first official outing since the COVID-19 pandemic began two years ago. About 35 students from the school went to the Table Mountain Regional Park on March 2, taking part in skiing and snowboarding.

The students were accompanied by Rivier staff, and some parents were also there to watch while the kids enjoyed the opportunity for some outdoor exercise as part of the school's physical education program. They had the opportunity to snowboard and ski throughout the day, and some parents and staff were also able to join in on the fun.

Furthermore, there were also lessons on skiing and snowboarding offered to beginners. Those who participated

in the training picked it up quick and easy — especially since they weren't afraid to stumble and fall.

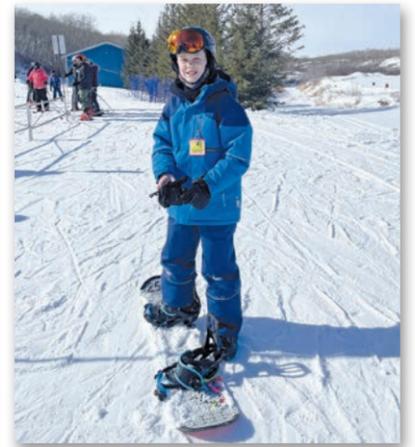
Although winds were blowing at about 25 km/h throughout the day, the kids never seemed bothered by the cold. And in addition to all the skiing and snowboarding, a couple people went to the lift called the black diamond, which is considered a short blue run in the mountains.

According to the staff of Rivier Elementary School, all in attendance enjoyed the school's first trip in two years. It was a day full of fun activities, learning, and building relationships.

On March 31, Rivier students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 will get to enjoy their first field trip since the pandemic, when they make a trip to Ski Timber Ridge in Big River.



A handful of adventurous students (and staff and family members) took a ride on the ski lift.



Some Rivier students chose to snowboard rather than ski.



About 35 students from Spiritwood's Rivier Elementary School took part in a field trip to Table Mountain Regional Park on March 2.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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

SHELL LAKE: Wapiti Regional Library - Tuesday 12:30 pm - 4 pm; Wednesday 12:30 pm - 4 pm

BLAINE LAKE: Wapiti Library - Wednesday 11 am - 6 pm; Friday 11 am - 5 pm; Saturday 10 am - 4 pm. Contact us for more info 306-497-3130, www.wapitilibrary.ca.

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

CANWOOD: Canwood Branch of Wapiti Regional Library. Tuesday 10 am - 4 pm; Thursday 10 am - 4 pm; Friday 12 pm - 5 pm. Kids Club is Fridays 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm, Crafter's Choice is the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month.

DEBDEN: Wapiti Library hours: Tuesday 10 am - 3 pm; Wednesday 3 pm - 7 pm. Librarian: Aline Hannon

LEASK: Wapiti Library & Legacy Gallery Hours - Tuesday 10:30 am - 5 pm; Friday 10:30 am - 5 pm; Saturday 1 pm - 4 pm

MARCELIN: Wapiti Library - Tuesday 2 pm - 7 pm; Thursday 2 pm - 8 pm; Saturday 9 am - 2 pm. For information on all your library needs, please contact 306-226-2110.

SHELLBROOK: Shellbrook Branch of the Wapiti Library located at 105 Railway Ave., West (Provincial building). Library Hours: Monday 2 pm - 6 pm; Tuesday 12 pm - 8 pm; Wednesday 2 pm - 8 pm; Thursday 12 pm - 6 pm; Friday 9 am - 4 pm.

LEASK: Leask Sports Centre Ltd. - Open House, Free Skate & Annual General Meeting. Thurs., March 17, 2022, 4:00 - 7:30 pm | AGM @ 6:30 pm at the Sports Centre.

SHELLBROOK: You are invited to the Shellbrook Skating Club's Year End Ice Show! This year's theme: Movies. Guest Pair Skaters: Our very own Ashlyn Schmitz & Tristan Taylor. Friday, March 18 - 5:00 pm at the Shellbrook Rink. Free Admission.

SPIRITWOOD: SARCS (Spiritwood Area Recreation, Culture and Sport Inc.) is now accepting requests for the "Saskatchewan Lotteries Community Grant"! Non-Profit Community Sport, Culture and Recreation Programs - Programs running from: April 1, 2022 - March 31, 2023. Deadline to apply: Must be received by March 31, 2022. Email spr@sasktel.net or call (306) 883-2176 to receive Funding Request Form.

SPIRITWOOD: Spiritwood Skating Club presents CANDY RUSH Ice Carnival feat. local skaters. March 20 @ 2 pm. Sellables: 50/50 | Candy Raffle | Flowers | Candy Bags | Concession. Admission by donation.

TRIPLE YOUR ADVERTISING

We'll advertise your important community event in our Community Calendar FREE for two weeks prior to the event with purchase of a 2 column x 2" Display ad for only:

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Our 1st annual Parkland U18 AA Tournament was a huge success!!!

But it's only because of all our AMAZING volunteers, coaches, parents, billet families, referees, rink attendants, canteen staff, visiting teams, time clock workers, announcers, raffle table workers, music players and all those who played a role in the weekend's success!



Back Row: Doug Hobson (coach), Tylee Sylvestre, Jake Boettcher, Tyler Roy, Peter Bird, Bronson Parker, Anson Favel, Brendan Aug, Sheldon Moe (coach)
Front Row: Carson Ledding, Cody Morash, Ashton Tanchuk, Tavis Galloway, Jase Martin, Corvan Stewart, Kaiden Couture, Kendon Skalicky, Shae Stewart

A special extra thank you goes out to our manager/assist coach Sheldon Moe for organizing the weekend!

Monique Moe, Cheryl Ledding and Stacy Tanchuk for all your ladies hard work in all those extra special touches for the prize tables, meal organization and time commitment!

Scott Galloway for committing a full weekend of being the voice of the tournament! You do know how to call a good game!!

Our Referees!! Thank you for spending the weekend with us! It was a great weekend of awesome hockey!!

We would also like to thank Arnie's Grill for the many hours they spent, not only running the canteen all weekend, but for preparing the pre-ordered meals for the hockey teams. Great food and great service... Thank-you!

Our boys!! To the 2021-2022 Parkland AA Elks!! Hold your heads high boys!! That was an amazing weekend!! You played your best games and showed us all how far you've grown as a team this season!!

To our graduating players, we thank you for allowing us to be your family, your team, your community for your final season of minor hockey. We wish you all the best in your futures! Once an Elk, always an Elk!

And most importantly our sponsors. We thank you again for your donations towards our team. We have some amazing support in our community and surrounding district!!

- RUSS'S AUTO BODY
- SHELLBROOK PHARMACY
- RICHARDSON PIONEER
- PINE RIDGE COTTAGES
- BROSTON ENTERPRISES
- TJ DISPOSALS
- PARKLAND MEATS
- CPS
- SUNLIFE
- RIVERSIDE DODGE
- SHELLBROOK BIGWAY
- ROCKY ROAD
- SHELLBROOK CHEV OLDS
- KEVIN LARSON
- LOU'S BAR & GRILL
- COLDWELL BANKER SIGNATURE (TREVOR BOETTCHER)
- 4 HORSEMAN FITNESS
- STANLEY MISSION BAND OFFICE
- CURTIS & PATRICIA SKALICKY
- SHELDON & MONIQUE MOE
- GALLOWAY TRUCKING
- CHERYL LEDDING
- DEREK KLEIN
- WOODLAND PHARMACY
- MIKE SHARRON
- MIKE & STACY TANCHUK
- TERRI-ANN STOREY (PAMPERED CHEF)
- RICHELLE ANDERSON (TUPPERWARE & NORWEX)

Thank you to all!! See you all next season!!

Silvertips drop two in league finals

The Shellbrook Silvertips kicked off the Twin Rivers Hockey League finals over the weekend, travelling to Birch Hills for a showdown with the Birch Hills Blackhawks on Friday night before returning home for game two on Sunday.

The Tips were the underdogs entering the best-of-five series, having lost both their regular season matches to the Blackhawks by sizeable margins (10-4 and 9-4, respectively). While the team played some of its best hockey of the season, it came up empty-handed over the weekend, taking tough losses in both games.

Tips (4) vs Hawks (6)

Having played much of the semi-finals in comeback mode, the Tips decided to try something a little different in game one of the finals against the Blackhawks. In what was a low-shoot-

ing affair, the Tips drew first blood just past the halfway mark of the first period, when Nathaniel Martin scored on assists from Dallas Galloway and Dylan Smith.

The Blackhawks fired a return salvo just a few minutes later, knotting the score at 1-1 on a goal from Kyle Njaa. Chad Grambo and Boedy Donald earned assists on the play.

The Tips tried again in the second period, reclaiming the lead just shy of two minutes into the frame. Jody Blais netted the goal, on helpers from Daryl Blais and Brendon Canaday.

In what was the busiest period of offense for the Blackhawks, the team rattled off three unanswered goals on just 12 shots to jump out to a solid 4-2 lead. Brady Keller started the scoring with back-to-back goals, taking an assist from Trent Swenson on the first,

and Brandon Juravinski and Tyson Novakoski on the second.

Cole Jones struck just a minute after Keller's second goal, earning an assist from Donald.

On the heels of this defensive meltdown the Tips rallied to take a one-goal deficit into the third period, thanks to a late goal from Gage Helm. Smith and Galloway assisted on the goal.

Repeating the first two periods, the Tips tied the game at 4-4 early in third frame. Cody Belair netted the goal,

with assists from Dorin Canaday and Evan Williams.

The Hawks fired back three minutes later, when Jones netted his second of the game on an assist from Keller. The Tips tried their best to stage another comeback but failed to get another puck past Blackhawks goalie Kyle Kushniruk, allowing Reed Gunville to cement the 6-4 victory for Birch Hills with a late empty netter. Njaa assisted on the goal.

Continued on page 11



Birch Hills goalie Kyle Kushniruk is left looking after a shot sails over his shoulder and in for a Silvertips goal.

SGI customers to receive rebate

This spring, SGI customers will receive a \$100 dollar rebate for each vehicle they had registered as of March 9, 2022.

Everyone who registers a vehicle pays into the Auto Fund, Saskatchewan's self-sustaining, not-for-profit basic vehicle insurance program. The Auto Fund does not take or receive money from the Government of Saskatchewan. The Auto Fund has a Rate Stabilization Reserve (RSR) that acts as a "rainy day" fund to cushion customers from sudden increases in their vehicle insurance.

"Our government is pleased to deliver this benefit back to the people of Saskatchewan," Minister Responsible for SGI Don Morgan said. "The Rate Stabilization

Reserve has a surplus that was largely generated by its well-performing investment portfolio. We believe it's fair that all Auto Fund customers benefit equally, regardless of how long their vehicle was registered or the premium they pay for that vehicle. All drivers are facing higher fuel costs, regardless of what they're driving." Rebates of \$100 will be provided to the owner of each vehicle or motorcycle that was registered as of March 9, 2022. All classes of vehicle (private, commercial, farm etc.) are eligible. Trailers and snowmobiles are not.

Initial estimates put the total cost of the rebates at approximately \$95 million dollars. Rebates will be issued to the person or entity

listed as the registered owner. Customers who had multiple vehicles or motorcycles registered as of March 9, 2022, will receive rebates for all vehicles combined into one cheque.

Over the next number of weeks, SGI will prepare more than 700,000 rebate cheques. Customers are encouraged to ensure their mailing address is up to date with SGI before mailout occurs later this spring at a date to be determined.

Buying?
Selling?
Classifieds
Work!
306-747-2442

PRAISE & WORSHIP

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

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Zion - Canwood
 Sunday School,
 Worship Sunday, 9 a.m.
 St. John's - Shellbrook
 Sunday School,
 Live-stream worship
 service on Facebook,
 Worship Sunday, 11 a.m.
 Rev. Emmanuel Aristide

PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Parkside
 10:30 a.m. Worship
 Pastor Daniel Mooseely
 306-747-3572
 Shellbrook
 Adult Study
 9:30 a.m.
 Sun., 10:30 a.m. - Worship
 Pastor David Bodvarson
 306-747-7235
 Canwood
 11:00 a.m. - Worship
 Pastor Glenn Blazosek
 306-468-2138
 Leask Gospel Tabernacle
 Sunday 11 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.
 Pastor Lorne Valuck

PRESBYTERIAN

Mistawasis
 Sunday worship
 11:00 a.m.
 Rev. Katherine Bretzlaff

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN

Parkside
 11 a.m. - Worship

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. Wendell Brock
 306-460-7696
 H.C. Service with Rev.
 Brock - 1st 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
 Bible Study & Prayer
 Sun., 11:00 a.m. - Worship
 Pastor Bill Klumpenhower

UNITED CHURCH

Big River
 Sundays
 10 a.m. - Worship
 at Anglican Church
 Rev. Dave Whalley
 306-747-2804

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Debden
 Sun. Mass - 9:30 a.m.
 Fr. Dong Doan
 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. Dong Doan
 St. Agatha's - Shellbrook
 Mass - Sunday 11 a.m.
 St. Henry's - Leask
 Mass - Sunday - 9 a.m.
 Mistawasis
 2nd & 4th Sundays, 1:30 p.m.
 Fr. Phong Tran

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

407-2nd Ave E, Shellbrook
 Sat., 9:45 a.m. - Sabbath School
 Sat., 11:00 am -Worship
 Broadcast on
 VOAR 92.1 FM
 Pastor Liviu Tilihoi
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PRAISE & WORSHIP

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

PARTNERS IN FAITH

Lutheran/United/
 Christchurch Anglican,
 137-2nd St. W.
 Spiritwood
 Worship 11:00 a.m.
 Rev. Sarah Urano

UNITED /ANGLICAN

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

CATHOLIC SUNDAY

Spiritwood - 11:15 a.m.
 Leoville - 9:30 a.m.
 Shell Lake - 2:00 p.m.
 Chitek Lake - Closed for
 the Season
 Everyone Welcome
 SATURDAY
 Medstead - 6 p.m.
 Father Ramel Macapala

PARTNERS IN WORSHIP

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 Worship Services
 Sunday 9:00 a.m.
 Pastor Sarah Urano
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 Sat., 9:45 am -
 Sabbath School
 Sat., 11:00 am - Worship
 Broadcast on
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MENNONITE BRETHREN

Glenbush
 10:00 am - Sunday School
 Worship 10:50 am

FIELDS OF HOPE (HOFFNUNGSFELDER) MENNONITE CHURCH

Glenbush
 Worship - 11:00 am

BETHEL

Medstead
 1st Sunday, 10 am -
 Worship
 Pastor David Jensen
 3rd Sunday - 10 am
 Worship
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 Pastor Bill Klumpenhower

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 Pastor Michael Kluthe
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 1st Sun., 7:30 pm
 - Hymn Sing
 Pastor Floyd Berg

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 Pastor Rick Martin

Mickelson's mouth scuttles Saudi Tour

The Saudi Arabian threat to establish a rival golf organization to the PGA Tour appears to have gone out of bounds.

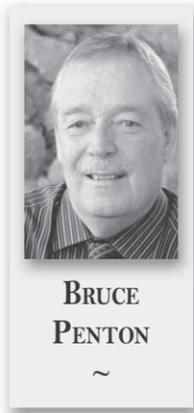
Rumblings for the past year or so about Greg Norman being the face of a Super Golf League, affiliated with the Asian Tour and backed by a \$300 million investment by the Saudi Arabian government, have suddenly quieted down.

Players were signing up, the rumours said. Some of the game's biggest names were reportedly willing to accept millions and millions of dollars from the Saudi-backed tour, being required to play only 14 events per year, 10 of them in the United States. Each event would be 54 holes with no cut, and last-place money being \$92,000. Critics said the whole plan was designed for "sportswashing," a method of trying to clean up the country's negative image through wholesome sport.

Tour player Kramer Hickok says he knew of at least 20 PGA Tour

players who were ready to jump into the Saudi money pit. Dustin Johnson, Phil Mickelson and Bryson DeChambeau, all recent major championship winners, were among the biggest names being bandied about. Jason Kokrak, Lee Westwood, Adam Scott and Ian Poulter were others mentioned as interested, but silent about their intentions due to reported non-disclosure agreements they had signed. Reports indicated the Saudi plan was going to go public during the week of the PGA Tour's flagship event, the Players, in mid-March.

Then, Mickelson's big mouth appears to have scuttled the whole shebang. American writer Alan Shipnuck went public with remarks Mickelson made to him last November during a research interview for an upcoming book. Mickelson was quoted as saying the Saudis were "scary mother-(expletive deleted)" and that he knew they had killed Washington Post re-



BRUCE
PENTON

porter Jamal Khashoggi "and have a horrible record on human rights" ... that they "execute people for being gay."

Mickelson revealed he was involved to the point that he and three other Tour players actually hired the attorneys to draw up a legal document about how the SGL would be run. But, said Mickelson, it was all part of a plan to give PGA Tour players some leverage to extract more money and benefits from the U.S.-based Tour. Mickelson said he wasn't even sure he wanted the Saudi tour to succeed. Sounds like another case of Phil being Phil.

As soon as the Shipnuck quotes went viral, the dominoes started to fall. First Johnson, then DeChambeau, issued statements saying they were staying with the PGA Tour. Rory McIlroy, solidly against the Saudi plan from the beginning, said the proposed new tour was "dead in the water. I mean, who else is going to do it? I don't think they could get 48 guys."

So the Saudi plan is dust. Is Mickelson's reputation and legacy equally damaged?

• RJ Currie of sports-deke.com: "According to Us Weekly Lindsey Vonn and Tiger's ex, Elin Nordegren, have become pals. Word is Vonn gave Nordegren some autographed skis and in return got a slightly used 9-iron."

• Currie again: "Global AgeWatch Index has ranked 96 of the world's best places for seniors to live. Its top three are Switzerland, Norway and the LA Lakers."

• Janice Hough of leftcoastsportsbabe.com,

after LeBron James said a potential third stint with the Cleveland Cavaliers is possible: "LeBron is becoming to NBA teams what Elizabeth Taylor was to husbands."

• Steve Simmons of Sunmedia: "The perfect job for the suspended horseman Bob Baffert: training Russian figure skaters."

• Blogger Patti Dawn Swansson, on Twitter: "One of the Brier skips, Glenn Howard, is 59. The alternate on the Newfoundland & Labrador team, Nicholas Codner, is 15. After games, Codner rocks to Xbox or PlayStation. Howard just rocks."

• Comedy writer Alex Kaseberg: "The NFL became the first sports league to drop COVID protocols. There were never any protocols on the New York Jets' wide receivers because they can't catch anything."

• Another one from RJ Currie: "According to TripSavvy, last year Houston ranked No. 8 out of the 10 best U.S. cities for a quick visit. Or

No. 1 if you were an NFL team."

• Dwight Perry of the Seattle Times: "'The concern about our fans is at the very top of our consideration list,' said MLB commissioner Rob Manfred. Hey, if this baseball thing doesn't pan out, he's got a good start on stand-up comedy."

• Perry again: "Definition of a moral dilemma: You're an anti-masker AND a major-league catcher."

• Headline at fark.com: "On this day in 1973, New York Yankees pitchers Mike Kekich and Fritz Peterson made a stunning declaration: the left-handers announced that they had traded wives, children and family dogs. The 70s were a wild time, man."

• Another one from fark.com: "Jackson Mahomes, who would be totally unknown if he weren't seeking media exposure, says the media is ruining his life."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Silvertips drop two in league finals

Continued from 10

Tips (3) vs Hawks (4) OT

Returning to Shellbrook for game two on Sunday evening, the Tips were almost undeniably the better of the two teams throughout the game. Sometimes, though, the better team doesn't win.

The Tips came out of the gate strong, applying pressure and generating scoring opportunities but coming up just short on an early powerplay. After shutting down a Blackhawks' powerplay, the Tips had their first stumble when Brady Keller was allowed to pounce on a juicy rebound and tap it home to put Birch Hills up 1-0. Hunter Schnell and Adam Hergott assisted on the play.

The goal would stand as the only point through the first 20 minutes, even as the Tips continued to rack up scoring opportunities and threatened the Blackhawks on a late four-minute penalty kill.

After killing off the remainder of another penalty to start the second period, the Tips finally cashed in on one of their many scoring opportunities.

Dylan Smith redirected a shot from the point to tie the game at 1-1, taking assists from Evan Williams and Dallas Galloway.

The Tips continued to exert their will on the Blackhawks, until a turnover in the neutral zone gave the Blackhawks the opening they needed. Kyle Njaa made no mistakes with the puck, blasting a beautiful

top-shelf shot past Tips goalie Todd Bazley. Hergott and Chad Grambo assisted on the goal.

The Tips recovered and continued to pour on the pressure, finally breaking through when Gage Helm blasted a one-timer through Birch Hills goalie Kyle Kushniruk and into the goal. Smith and Mathew Kut-

nikoff assisted on the play.

The Blackhawks responded quickly, nearly scoring on a shot that bounced off the post and out, then taking advantage of the chaos in front of the Tips goal. Reed Gunville got his stick on the puck to put the Blackhawks up 3-2, with assists from Tyler Tilford and Njaa.

The Tips racked up yet more scoring opportunities to close out the second period but were denied again. They continued to be denied throughout much of the third period, until Smith found the puck in a sea of bodies in front of the Birch Hills goal and managed to tap it home. Daryl Blais provided the lone assist on the last-minute, game-tying goal.

Having won two of their semi-final games in extra minutes, the Tips had to like their odds when they game moved to overtime. Luck wasn't on their side, however, as Tilford scored on a lucky shot off of an offensive zone faceoff to give the Blackhawks the win. Keller and Adam Morrison assisted on the play.

With two losses under their belt, the Tips now have a steep mountain to climb if they want to win the Twin Rivers Hockey League title.

They'll be playing for their lives in Birch Hills this Friday at 8:30 p.m. If they win there, the action returns to Shellbrook Saturday night at 8:30 p.m.



Silvertips forward Brett Mason comes close, but can't corral the puck in front of the Birch Hills goal.

Spiritwood RCMP seize drugs, weapons on Witchekan Lake FN

Four men from the Witchekan Lake First Nation are facing a slew of drug, weapon, and other charges in connection to a bust made by the Spiritwood RCMP detachment at the beginning of March.

On March 6, 2022, Spiritwood RCMP officers located two suspicious vehicles outside a residence on the Witchekan Lake First Nation. As a result of investigation, four adult males were arrested.

A search warrant was then obtained and executed at the residence. As a result of searches incidental to the arrests and the search warrant, officers located and seized: seven firearms, three prohibited weapons, approximately 32.5 grams

of suspected crack cocaine, approximately 23.5 grams of suspected methamphetamine, approximately 105 grams of an unknown substance currently under investigation, drug trafficking paraphernalia, and a sum of cash.

Dennis Marcia (DOB: 1967-09-11) of Witchekan Lake First Nation is charged with: one count, possession (crack cocaine), one count, unsafe storage of firearm, three counts, possession of weapon for dangerous purpose, one count, carry concealed weapon, one count, possess firearm while knowing possession not authorized, one count, possess prohibited weapon in vehicle, one count, possess prohibited

weapon with readily available ammunition, one count, possession of a prohibited weapon, six counts, possession of a weapon, firearm or ammunition contrary to prohibition order, and five counts, fail to comply with probation order.

Shane Witchekan (DOB: 1990-02-01) of Witchekan Lake First Nation is charged with: one count, possession (crack cocaine), one count, unsafe storage of firearm, three counts, possession of weapon for dangerous purpose, one count, carry concealed weapon, one count, possess firearm while knowing possession not authorized, one count, possess prohibited weapon in vehicle, one count, possess prohibited weapon with readily available ammunition, one count, possession of a prohibited weapon, and six counts, possession of a weapon, firearm or ammunition contrary to prohibition order.

Melvin Starblanket (DOB: 1989-05-27) of Witchekan Lake First Nation is charged with: two counts, possession (crack cocaine and methamphetamine), two counts, possession for the purpose of trafficking (crack cocaine and methamphetamine), one count, unsafe storage of firearm, two counts, possession of weapon for dangerous purpose, one count, possess firearm while knowing possession not authorized, one count, possess prohibited

weapon in vehicle, one count, possess prohibited weapon with readily available ammunition, one count, possession of a prohibited weapon, and three counts, possession of a weapon, firearm or ammunition contrary to prohibition order.

Lastly, Brendon Starblanket (DOB: 1989-03-19) of Witchekan Lake First Nation is charged with: two counts, possession (crack cocaine and methamphetamine), two counts, possession for the pur-

pose of trafficking (crack cocaine and methamphetamine), three counts, unsafe storage of firearm, one count, possess firearm while knowing possession not authorized, three counts, possession of weapon for dangerous purpose, five counts, fail to comply with release order, and one count, possession of weapon obtained by crime.

The four suspects made their first court appearance in Spiritwood on March 8, 2022.



Spiritwood RCMP officers seized a plethora of weapons and drugs, following an investigation on the Witchekan Lake First Nation



Access to Highway 55 heading out of Shellbrook was temporarily blocked off Friday evening, when a logging truck dumped its load at the intersection by the Lake Country Co-op gas station and C-Store. Crews eventually got the mess cleaned up and normal traffic was flow restored. The *Chronicle & Herald* reached out to the Ahtahkakoop-Shellbrook RCMP detachment for more details, but didn't hear back before deadline.

Highway 55 access at Shellbrook briefly blocked

GOOD NEWS

MYSTERY VERSUS REALITY

Rev. Dave Whalley DLM(R) First United Church, Big River

There are many things that we can't see, such as the electricity that flows through millions of miles of wire in our world, the radiation that is transmitted in our microwave ovens, the signals that are sent to our radios, TV's, telephones, and our space communications to satellites. All these things cannot be seen by our naked eyes or touched by our hands, but they are real. Despite all the evidence that there are real, invisible and untouchable forces all around us, there are many people who still refuse to believe in God. There are also those who believe in God, but refuse to believe the Creator can do anything out of the ordinary.

Some people don't believe in miracles. Some people don't believe in the power of the Holy Spirit. Some people don't believe the power of prayer can bring a healing touch for a positive change in peoples lives. It seems to me sometimes that the Christian church is completely out of touch with people today, but our faith and church has been, is, and will continue to be a major force in the world.

Have you noticed that many people today appear to be hungry for some experience of what I call a "spiritual foundation"? There is a dramatic upsurge in people interested in the existence of angels and witches and other mystical beings. There are larger numbers of people consulting psychics and fortune tellers. More people today are longing to go beyond the merely rational and scientific world. You and I may scoff at such things but there are many people who would find this appealing because too many of us, especially those of us in the mainline churches, have failed to connect others, let alone ourselves, to the very real power that is spoken of throughout the Bible and the history of our faith.

We have been too "head-oriented" and have placed too little emphasis on the heart for too many years, and the result has been confusion. There is something we ought to acknowledge, something we need to confess and it is that mystical experience is very much a part of our faith. Indeed it lies at the root of all that we believe in, from stories like those we have heard where we see Moses going up on a mountain, and hearing God speak, or Jesus being transfigured by a

bright light in the presence of three of his disciples. Or the joy and indescribable peace that people experience when praying and praising results in inexplicable results, in the scientific sense at least. These are spiritual realities that underpin and indeed, permeate our faith.

Indeed throughout history, right until the present day, many Christians have reported experiences that are outside the realm of rational experience. What do we make of the person who reports that a friend prayed for a sick person, someone who was expected to die within the day, and that this person was given another five years? What do we make of reports that Elijah raised a poor woman's son from the dead or of the hundreds of people who reported that they saw Jesus alive after he was laid in the tomb? If we but believed what we have long preached and read in the Bible, how much different might our world be today?

What I would like to have us understand is that there really are spiritual realities that exist and which defy our conventional wisdom and scientific reason. We don't know how God may choose to work in individual lives. It is arrogant

for any of us to declare that God can only work in one way or another or that God can only be found in one group or another. Most of us would be thrilled to have the kind of mountain top experience that Peter, James, and John had, where they beheld Christ transfigured before them. We would love to go up on a mountain as did Moses and hear God's voice, but we may live a lifetime and never experience any more than a lump in our throat and a calm assurance in our hearts. If that is all we experience, that is enough. God knows what we need.

There are angels whether in heaven or as people on earth. There is a resurrection when people change their lives from bad to good. Miracles do occur when outlooks are not good. Prayers still reach God. And God still speaks, in dreams and visions, and through the words of scripture. The important thing is that we believe not simply in the power of the world that is beyond our everyday sight, but in the truth behind that power, that it is God who makes it so. And that, in believing in God, a higher power, we strive without fear to live out a life worthy of that which Jesus wants us to live.

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NE 16 52 04 W3 Ext 88 Title 130949882 \$177.80
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COMING EVENTS

SHELL LAKE MÉTIS LOCAL 81 Annual General Meeting held at the Métis Hall, Shell Lake - March 31st, 2022 at 7:30 pm. 5-11

Sask. posts big job gains, low unemployment rate

Job numbers released by Statistics Canada for February 2022 show Saskatchewan added 30,100 jobs, an increase of 5.6 per cent, compared to February 2021. Of these, 19,500 were full-time jobs. Month-to-month seasonally adjusted employment increased by 7,400, an increase of 1.3 per cent, the highest employment growth rate in Western Canada. Through the first two months of 2022, Saskatchewan had the second highest rate of job growth in Canada at 2.3 per cent.

Unemployment rate fell to 4.7 per cent, the second lowest among provinces. It was down from 7.3 per cent a year ago, down from 5.5 per cent a month ago, and well below the national average of 5.5 per cent (seasonally adjusted). The unemployment rate of 4.7 per cent was the lowest for Saskatchewan since April 2015.

"With significant job gains and a low unemployment rate that continues to drop, Saskatchewan's economy is on the right track as we come out of the pandemic and transition to living with COVID-19," Immigration and Career Training Minister Jeremy Harrison said. "With record agricultural and merchandise exports in 2021, and the strongest year-over-year growth

in manufacturing sales and wholesale trade in Canada, opportunities abound for businesses, entrepreneurs, and workers in Saskatchewan."

Off-reserve Aboriginal employment hit the record high for February at 57,700 jobs, of which 45,000 were full-time jobs - also a record high for the month of February. Employment was up by 3,900 (+7.2 per cent) for 15 consecutive months of year-over-year increases.

Major year-over-year gains were reported for wholesale and retail trade up 11,500 jobs, educational services up 6,000 jobs, and information, culture and recreation up 5,300. Over the same period, the private sector was up 18,500 jobs (+6.0 per cent), female employment increased by 13,100 jobs (+5.2 per cent), and youth (aged 15-24) employment was up 10,300 jobs (+15.1 per cent).

Saskatchewan's youth unemployment rate was 5.9 per cent, the lowest among the provinces and well below the national average of 10.9 per cent (seasonally adjusted).

In February 2022, Saskatchewan's seasonally adjusted employment of 582,000 exceeded (101.4 per cent) its pre-COVID employment level of 574,100 in February 2020.



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When and how to start seeds

By Patricia Hanbidge

One of the most wondrous things about being a gardener is starting seeds. It is also a good remedy on how you can effectively shorten winter! As it is now March, it is time to get serious about what to grow so you are ready for spring!

Growing your own plants from seed allows freedom to grow almost anything you desire! There is an amazing selection of different varieties and cultivars of plants that sometimes makes it rather difficult for us to decide what we should grow. It is easy to get carried away and grow too much as at this time of year we are craving green growth and those tiny little packets don't seem to hold that much! It is only once those plants get growing, we see how a few seeds can easily grow into way too many plants! Instead of planting all the seeds in the package, only plant as many as you will need. Share the leftovers or store them in a cool, dry place.

As far as equipment goes – you certainly do not need too much to supply the essentials of

plant life. They need light, water, warmth, oxygen and food to grow and for the beginning of life we do not even need to fertilize. You do not need any special containers as long as whatever you are using has drainage. I like to use very small vessels when starting seeds, but really anything will work. Years ago, when I was growing dried flowers, I started thousands of plants in tiny one use cardboard drinking cups because I had a lot of them and there was not a lot of dollars to spend frivolously.

I like to use a sterilized soilless media to start my seeds as I always have some of that on hand. For seeds that are very sensitive to bacterial or fungal issues, perlite or vermiculite also works well. I sow the seeds into the media, cover with a plastic film or tray cover and place the seeds in a warm place. Unless you are growing seeds that need very specialized conditions for germination, just keep the trays in a warm location. Over the years I have experimented with lots of different methodologies – but really it is best to keep it simple.

I sow the seeds in media that is moistened with hot water, cover and leave them under lights 24 hours a day until they sprout. The seedlings should have the cover removed gradually to adjust them to a lower humidity. I like using plastic wrap as you can uncover a row or two at a time as all seeds will not germinate at the same speed.

When choosing what to grow, it is easiest to start by growing those plants that are relatively easy to germinate and do not need special conditions. Most seed packages will give directions on how to plant those specific seeds. Generally, small seeds need not be covered with soil but instead gently pressed into the media or soil. Medium seeds can be lightly covered and large seeds can be poked right into the soil. A good rule of thumb is to plant the seed to the depth of their diameter.

The timing of the planting is important as well. Count backwards from the time you can safely plant into the garden and sow the seeds according to that schedule. A general good rule of

thumb for much that we commonly grow is to plant about 8 to 10 weeks prior to the last spring frost, but consider the time to germination of each seed as well.

Once the seeds germinate those young seedlings will need adequate light in order to grow. Placing them directly under a fluorescent light fixture or grow light will ensure that the seedlings are strong and sturdy. If you find that your seedlings are tall and spindly it is because they are not getting enough light and are reaching for the sun.

When the seedlings have their third true leaf, they are ready for transplanting. A light air flow over the seedlings using a fan will help them to grow up to be sturdy plants – but be careful that you are paying attention to the watering. They need to be kept evenly moist but never soggy!

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.



Op-ed: With the right opportunities, Sask. students will excel

**By Patrick Maze,
STF President**

In a world of immense unpredictability, teachers have innovated, pivoted and done all they can to ensure Saskatchewan's students receive the best education possible.

COVID-19 has demonstrated the value of schools in a completely new way. Education is one of society's most important investments because everything from engaged citizens to a strong economy is built on a solid educational foundation.

As we move forward, a critical decision now faces us: how can Saskatchewan build and maintain a world-class public education system that sets every Saskatchewan student up to reach their potential?

Saskatchewan possesses an exceptionally high-quality public education system because our teachers are some of the most educated, well-trained and dedicated professionals you will find. Today's teachers have access to far more information about how students learn and are more responsive to the broad range of learning styles and needs they arrive with at school each day. Because of that knowledge, teachers in Saskatchewan are far more aware of and impacted by classroom complexity.

Educators use the term class complexity to describe the array of needs present in a given classroom. These often include learning, behavioural, cultural, language and accommodation needs. The spectrum of student needs ranges from those requiring intensive support to gifted students, all of which requires the teacher to construct an experience that is challenging, rewarding and enriching while also meeting provincial standards for curricular outcomes. In 2021, 78 percent of Saskatchewan teachers reported that the complexity of their classroom has increased over the previous two years. All of this is compounded exponentially as many classes throughout the prov-

ince get larger and larger. In 2021, a Saskatchewan teacher stated: "Class size and composition are more demanding. How do you meet individual needs when you have 30 students with varying abilities, behaviours and emotional needs?" Class complexity was a growing issue before the pandemic and has been pushed to the forefront by the pandemic.

Neither schools nor teachers are meant to be simple "conveyors of information." Each of us spends a huge number of our waking hours from early childhood to early adulthood at school, meaning that PreK-12 education plays a substantial role in shaping our future. Given this responsibility, all schools need specialized professionals such as those who teach English as an additional language, speech-language pathologists, counsellors, social workers, education psychologists and therapists who ensure that each student's right to a quality public education can be properly fulfilled.

Unfortunately, in Saskatchewan, few school divisions have the necessary funding to ensure these types of professionals are readily or consistently available. The cause of this is simple: over the last decade, PreK-12 education funding has rarely kept up with new enrolments, inflation or student need – and this underfunding compounds over time. In 2021, only 14 percent of Saskatchewan teachers reported that specialized professionals were available when needed – four of every five Saskatchewan students had no access to specialized professionals. As a result, many students find themselves having to wait months to access the professional support they need.

When teachers say that under-resourced schools and overstretched classrooms are having an effect on student learning, it is wise to take their evaluation seriously.

Teachers have the professional knowledge, skill and ability to meet the needs of Saskatchewan students.

Saskatchewan's public education system must supply the human and financial resources so that teachers have the tools to do their jobs.

The Government of Saskatchewan must commit the necessary resources to deal with classroom complexity. Schools must serve as community hubs where students can access health, justice and social services in a timely manner. All schools should have access to the support of community members such as School Community Councils and cultural advisors to work with teachers in ensuring that schools are safe places where all students feel welcomed and seen.

In places where classes are too large, make classes smaller. We should all expect that each student can get the attention they need and deserve from their teacher.

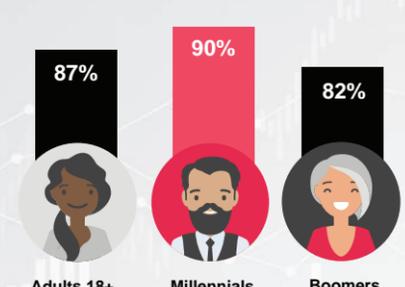
Future provincial budgets will need to reflect this commitment to students. Whether or not we personally have students or teachers in our own lives, as a society we must understand that education is an investment in Saskatchewan's future. In reporting 2009 data from the

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the Conference Board of Canada reported significant returns to individuals based on their educational attainment. Those who did not graduate from high school earned \$80 for every \$100 earned by high school graduates. Those with a university degree earned \$165 for every \$100 earned by high school graduates. Research shows unequivocally that each additional dollar invested in education has a positive impact on gross domestic product and saves future government expenditure on social assistance, health care and criminal justice – it simply makes sense.

It is time for our provincial government to view education as an investment rather than a cost to be managed. There is an opportunity for our public education system to emerge from this crisis more capable than ever of preparing Saskatchewan students for what lies ahead. The Government of Saskatchewan must increase its investment into Saskatchewan's public schools to ensure schools are community hubs where every student has access to the educational, cultural and specialized supports they need. Teachers can do the job – now is the time to ensure they have the necessary tools.

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Results are sourced from a November 2020 national online research survey managed by Totum Research. Interviews were conducted with 855 English and French Canadians in every province, and results were weighted to be nationally representative.

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