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Annual Fleming Pie Auction raises \$8,700

BY ED JAMES

The village of Fleming is the first community you drive past when entering Saskatchewan on the Trans-Canada Highway heading west. It is known for several unique and historic items—the first being the vintage Windsor Bar & Grill. Just down from it can be seen the foundation markers of the radio relay tower that was once used to broadcast hockey games into Manitoba. There is also Green Acres Ball Park, which is a full-size baseball diamond complete with professional lighting. There was at one time a very historic western Canadian grain elevator that was destroyed by senseless vandalism several years ago. And finally, the whole village itself was once the photo on the back of the old Canadian one dollar bill many years ago. Gone but not forgotten!

The major community centre in Fleming is its community hall. The hall is the centre of many major events during the year, and each day part of it is converted into a morning coffee shop, where on display are photos and items of the town from back in the day.

However, the community hall is also the site of a major fundraising event to support the hall's operation and upkeep. The event is the Annual Pie Auction. This event brings in community members from both sides of the Manitoba and Saskatchewan boundary for an evening of auction fun and humor. This year it was held on Friday, April 5.

On this night as you enter the building, you can pick up your bidding number, buy some draw tickets on a few special baked items and then sit at the decorated tables where snacks are provided and a selection of free beverages are available.

The auction this year, as in past years, was well handled by local auctioneer Ty Cutler who was the recent winner of the Rookie Buckle from the Man-Sask Auctioneering Competition in Virden on March 22. He was helped by the pie wranglers Kari Kosior and Charlotte Stephen.

The bidding started off slow, but not for long! Bids started below \$50, soon passing the \$100 mark, and one item selling for close to \$500! Throughout the evening there was some bidding rivalry among some of the crowd and jokes to go along with it, but it was all in good fun. At least I did not see any pie fights that evening!

Continued on page 23



Ty Cutler auctioning off pies.



Kari Kosior and Charlotte Stephen with the Fleming Elevator and Canada \$1 bill cake that went for \$470.

Ed James and Kara Kinna photos



Shown here on the left is pie wrangler Kari Kosior presenting Anika Thorn with her cake pops as she had the highest bid on them in the children's auction.



People looking over the selection of pies before bidding starts.

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Esterhazy sending three to bowling national competition

BY SHAYNA ZUBKO

Three local bowlers out of the Esterhazy Bowlarena club will be competing at National Bowling Competitions in Ottawa and Gatineau in May. Brittany Beitel-Schaefer will be competing for the Saskatchewan Women's Team. Dylan Mutrie and Donovan Walz will be competing as the senior boys' representatives for Saskatchewan in the Youth Bowling Council Nationals.

For Brittany, she has been an avid bowler who has been doing it since she was young and this is her second time attending a national level competition. The first time was as a youth bowler in 2002 and she went to Gatineau. She will be competing as part of a team of six women from Saskatchewan, who get to represent the province in Ottawa at the end of May and beginning of June. Beitel-Schaefer competed at zone level to become one of the top nine women bowlers in the province. Currently, she is ranked fifth in the province out of 13 who were competing for a place on the women's team. She is the only bowler from the local area to be on the team; other members are from Yorkton, Humboldt, and their coach is from Wadena.

"The team is awesome, if one person isn't doing well, the rest works to pick them up and carries them along. We work really well together," says Beitel-Schaefer.

Beitel-Schaefer looks forward to representing the province next month. "I really enjoy tournament bowling," she says. "It requires endurance to be able to put in so many games in a weekend competition."

The senior boys' team for the YBC National Championship of Dylan Mutrie and Donovan Walz will be coached by Tim Zich. They will be bowling in Gatineau at the beginning of May. Together they will be the representatives for Saskatchewan boys aged 15-19. This is Mutrie's second time attending, and it will be Walz's first opportunity to attend and compete. Both have been bowling since they were young. Mutrie as young as three years old and Walz as young as four. Together, they complimented each other at the provincial tournament, and provided needed balance. They maintained a strong standing throughout the tournament and were



Boys team of Coach Tim Zich, Donovan Walz and Dylan Mutrie.

able to finish with a 73-point lead at the end to beat out 12 other teams. Both are excited and nervous to be representing Saskatchewan. They look forward to three days of bowling and over 30 games to be played while they are there.

Tim Zich will be coaching the boys in their competition. This is his second

time attending national competition as a coach. Previously, it was in 2002 when Beitel-Schaefer attended as a youth. This is only the second time Esterhazy has been able to send a team, but is the first time it has sent a senior boys team. Esterhazy



Womens Team Saskatchewan representative Brittany Beitel-Schaefer.

as a region, has done very well this year. Coach Zich says, "If they bowl as well as they did at provincials, they've got a shot [at medalling]. The hope is that it will be memorable, and they have a good time. But that they also take it serious."

Overall, this is a great opportunity for the local bowlers. The hope is that it will also be good for the local club, as there are currently only 13 youth bowlers, and at one time there were as many as 85. Beitel-Schaefer says, "I hope it brings more people through the doors, because it would be good to keep the alley up and running."

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The World-Spectator - Moosomin
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Pie wranglers and Kari Kosior and Charlotte Stephen, and auctioneer Ty Cutler.



Shown here is Maren Stewart of Rocanville, in her grandmother Beryl Stewart's arms, after she bid for and won a pie in the children's auction held at the Fleming Community Hall.

Annual Fleming Pie Auction raises \$8,700

Continued from page 21

Halfway through the evening a new auction event was held. It was an auction for the children only. They each had their own bidding number and their bids were in one dollar increments. This turned out to be a fun event and was filled with excitement on everyone's part. The children became very involved with the action and understood the concept. However in several cases they were bidding against themselves or their siblings because they were so caught up in the bidding action. A popular item with the younger bidders were the chocolate covered cake pops!

Three items of the evening that got a lot of sales action were a very large and colorful cherry cheesecake, a very unique and beautiful slab cake from the Moosomin Co-op bakery department which featured a full-sized image of

the former Canadian one dollar bill that showed the town of Fleming on the back and one of the historic grain elevator that was lost in a tragic fire several years ago. It was the highest selling item, and went for \$470.

The last item of great interest was a pan full of cinnamon buns from Berry Good Farms—baked by Lana and Myron Wiebe, who were the former owners of Wiebe's Family Restaurant of Moosomin. They were well known for the tasty buns. The dozen cinnamon buns sold for \$275!

This year the auction organizers also held a week-long online auction as well and that went over well. That evening the live auction was live streamed online as well.

Cindy Green, the head of the Fleming Community Organization said, "The annual Fleming Community Organization's Pie Auction was one of the best we have ever

had, raising \$8,700! The money raised will be used for any hall repairs or improvements that are needed. We are also planning to use some of the money to make additions to the children's playground area equipment located behind the hall.

"The children's auction was a big success and a lot of fun for everyone at the hall. The turnout was great with people from communities on both sides of the boundary. We even got support from the protesters of the Federal Carbon Tax at the border. They bought two pies for \$160 as their group said that they like to support small Canadian communities.

"Thank you everyone for supporting our small community and we hope to see you next year!"

Ed James and Kara Kinna photos



Kari Kosior presents a pie to her daughter Rayna, who was one of the winning bidders.



Kara Kinna and Kevin Weedmark with a cherry cheesecake they won the bidding for.



Shown above are some of the younger bidders in the children's auction. They were a very active group of bidders!



There was a good crowd that came out for the pie auction.

Spy Hill News

Linda Gander

306-534-2021

I was glad to see that Shirley Walz is back home in Spy Hill after a month stay in the hospital. I talked with her yesterday at her home in the Spy Hill Manor and she said she was sure glad to be back. Now she has Home Care coming in to help her out. That's a heck of a long time to have to be confined in a hospital, especially when the weather is starting to really feel like spring is here.

A meeting was held in Spy Hill on April 10 at the Museum and the main concern was, what can we do to raise some money for the museum? So, we decided to have a raffle later on in the year and approach some of our local businesses to see if they would donate a bit of cash for a couple of the draws or a gift certificate that would be used right here in town.

We also discussed having another garage sale, if we can get enough items in—which shouldn't be a problem because we had a lot of people donate at our sale last year.

Funding for hiring is also on the list, if we can get some help from our Community Club. The museum was open for seven weeks last year with Tannis Scherman doing an excellent job at the museum buildings. As to when the place will be open to the public, well, that will be decided at the annual meeting, which is going to be held on May 13 at 7:30 pm at the Play House.

It was also suggested that when it does open, we will have a light snack of some kind—like a coffee and a muffin for all who come for the opening for this year's season. Posters will be put up to let you know what the scoop is.

We will also be looking for another treasurer as Jean Istace wants to give up her position giving her a little more breathing space. I hate to see her leave, as it is hard to

find someone to take on the job, but who knows, maybe someone will step up and help us out!

Sandra Clarke, our president, brought some items for our museum, consisting of various baseball trophies from past years and even a crest from the good old days of playing ball at Bavelaw School where I attended school in my younger years.

There are some books that came from the library that will also be put in the museum. They were books that were some of the first ones that were in our library when it started out at the former George Barker residence. Lots of stuff to look at. The meeting ended about 2:30 pm.

The former old school building or as most people know it, Moe's Bakery building here in town, has now been sold and the new owners have been busy removing various things from the inside. It is great that the building will be now in use as looking after a place that is vacant is a difficult job—one always has to check on it to make sure the water and heat are on. Sandra Clarke was pretty happy to have sold it and now does not have to worry about the upkeep of the building.

Keep in mind the brunch that will be taking place in our Spy Hill Hall on April 21, which is a Sunday.

Anyone wishing to help our quilting group out with some stitching can come and see what we have been doing in the basement of the Golden Jets in Esterhazy. Feel free to also get in touch with me at 306-534-2021 for any information. Our goal is to keep on sending out quilts to anyone dealing with cancer, which of course are free of charge. We love making these quilts, makes a person feel useful in the world, such as it is today.

Enjoy our spring-like weather!

Welwyn News

Phyllis Harper
306-733-2155

Ed and Cindy Cuthill of Brandon were recent visitors with his mother Shirley Cuthill.

Doug and Barb Cuthill and Gary and Sandra Harbury curled in the Minot Shirt-sleeve Bonspiel on the weekend.

Trent and Tera Harper, Carol Blair of Moosomin, Orville and Phyllis Harper, Tanis Peppin and Sheldon Langley of Rocanville spent a week in the Dominican at Puerto Plata and report that the beautiful weather and snorkeling in the ocean was "fantastic."

Judy Lewis of Virden and Laura Kempthorne of Brandon visited last week with Shirley Cuthill.

The Welwyn Slapnats Rec Hockey team

played in a tournament in Minot on the weekend. They won one game and lost two.

Sheila and Deb Marsh were Yorkton visitors on Wednesday.

Joe and Pat Santer were at Balgonie during the Easter weekend visiting with family Gerri and Jeff Paterson and family as well as Yvonne and Al Johnston's family.

Deannie and Mark Fowlie from Airdrie, Alberta were visitors at her parents Joe and Pat Santer from Thursday to Monday. Cody, Chloe and June Fowlie of Winnipeg also visited their grandparents on Friday and Saturday. All attended Cody's hockey game in Virden. It was the first game in a best of three and the Aces lost 5-6.

Wawota News

Myrna Olson • 306-739-2519 • molsons_40@hotmail.com

Lori Ries of Eston spend several days in Wawota recently. While here she helped her dad Clarence Lamontagne celebrate his birthday on March 23.

Garth and Tanya Brisbois enjoyed a holiday to South Carolina, U.S.A.

Our Easter visitors were Justin Olson and Tamara Buckingham and Callie of Saskatoon and Stacey Heffernan, Kate and Sarah of Regina. Stacey, and the girls stayed until the following Friday before returning home.

Happy 85th birthday (April 3) to my older brother, Wayne Brehaut of Athabasca, Alberta. He and his wife Jean travelled to Ottawa to visit Jean's sisters but Wayne was interested being in Brockville, Ontario for the solar eclipse.

Sarah Weatherald, Madeleine, Amelia and Kathryn travelled to Ottawa to spend the Easter week with her parents, Peter and Linda Maher.

Last weekend was a busy one in Wawota. The United Church held their annual Time and Talent on Sunday. This has been a fundraiser for the church since 1996. The online auction ran for two weeks and was completed at 12 pm on Sunday. In the evening they held a roast beef supper with a silent and live auction. It was well attended and is a good fundraiser for the church.

The annual Sledge Hockey Tournament was also on in Wawota on the weekend! Will have more information on this next week!

St. Lazare News

Robin Tremblay
306-683-2464

Lil Sather and Rene Denbrok have returned from a trip out west.

Town-wide yard sales are planned for May 25. Tables will be available to rent at the rink. Please register with Jen Fouillard so a site map can be prepared.

Join the crowd for a lunch at the Centre on Wednesday, April 17 at 11:30 am. Pulled

pork is on the menu.

Get well to Ivan Tremblay and Marguerite Bagley.

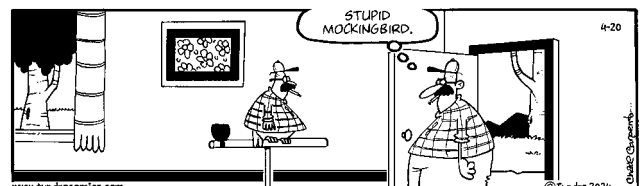
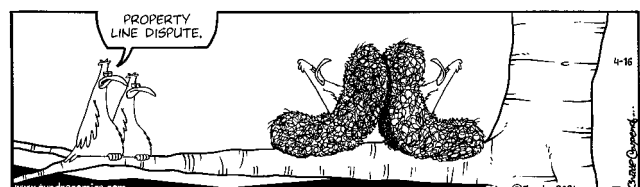
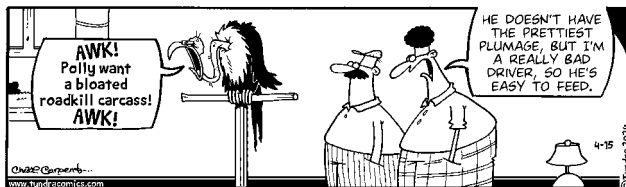
Sympathy to Brendon and Kayla Fouillard and family on the passing of Kayla's mother.

Sympathy also to the Jessop family on the passing of Lorne Jessop.

The World-Spectator's deadline is noon on Thursdays

Tundra

Chad Carpenter



Moosomin Town Council

Town renews membership in SETPC

At the Moosomin Town Council meeting on Wednesday, council discussed whether Moosomin should renew its membership in the South East Transportation Planning Committee. Currently, councillor Greg Nosterud is the town's rep for SETPC.

"I think it's important," said councillor Garry Towler. "It may not seem like it but just from what (Steven) Bonk said (about Highway 8 being repaired) the other day, I think we can fill in the blanks between a lot of things."

"I think it's helpful having me on the executive," added Nosterud.

A motion was made to renew the town's membership.

Rec news

In his rec report, Rec Director Mike Schween reported that the Iron Man weekend brought in \$18,000 for the Sportsplex, and that he may have two major sponsors for new pickleball courts being built at Bradley Park.

He also said there are now 375 kids registered for swimming lessons, with the first two sets of lessons verging on being full. He said the pool will be opening in a few weeks.

He said work on the shed for the loaner sports equipment program at Bradley Park should be starting soon,

and that it will be a one of a kind program in Saskatchewan.

He said work on Golf World and the Pickleball courts at Bradley Park should also start soon.

Street cleanup

Town Foreman Mike Stein reported to council that the town crew has been busy sweeping streets, with the sweepers out in full force the last few days. He also said work will start soon on patching potholes with cold mix on the town streets.

Town offers to help with grad

Councillor Garry Towler told Junior Councillor Molly Martens that the town would like to help with grad in any way that they can in light of the teachers' job action.

Martens said that the students and parents don't know what is happening yet, and the plan is to just wait it out for the time being.

"The parents are waiting to step up. We are just waiting to see what happens with the STF," added councillor Kyla Fingas.

The rest of the council agreed that the town would be willing to help out as much as they can if it's needed.

Concerns about town cleanup

Councillor Kyla Fingas said she has not yet set a date for the town-wide cleanup which is usually held in early June each year. She said student participation has been a big part of the day in the past, but with the STF job action, students are not allowed to do field trips, and with the cleanup day usually falling on a weekday during school hours, the students may not be able to help out.

Councillor Chris Davidson suggested trying to get the Chamber of Commerce or other groups involved.

Temporary road closure approved

Council approved a request from the Pipestone Air Cadets to close part of Main Street from Broadway Avenue to Windover Avenue for a half an hour on May 13 for the cadets' annual review.

Land acknowledgement

Councillor Garry Towler wondered if the town should be including a land acknowledgement at the start of every meeting and CAO Paul Listrom said he'd look into it.

VIEWPOINT

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

2024 Gutsy Walk

Dear Editor,

On Sunday, June 2, I am walking in the "2024 Gutsy Walk" to support and raise funds for Crohn's and Colitis Canada.

My theme this year is "Do What Makes You Happy"—within the law of course. The money raised from this walk brings happiness to hundreds of people with bowel disease.

We all know someone with bowel disease—possibly ourselves. Happiness for them is medication that helps, a day without pain, paper on the toilet roll, support of family/friends and Crohn's and Colitis Canada.

Crohn's and Colitis Canada works behind the scenes to help those that suffer every day. I am calling on you to help me spread the happy in the form of a donation to Crohn's and Colitis Canada.

I have a "Gutsy Walk" online donation page. If you would prefer to donate online, please contact me and I will email you my link. It is easy to follow. It allows you to use your credit card and print your income tax receipt immediately.

All donations help create happiness. An income tax receipt will be issued from Crohn's and Colitis Canada for donations of a minimum of \$15. I am happy to receive donations in cash or cheque form. Cheques are made payable to Crohn's and Colitis Canada. All donations must be received by May 29.

Donations can be mailed to:

Nancy Apshkrum
P.O. Box 82
Moosomin, SK
S0G 3N0

If you have questions or would like me to pick up your donation, phone or text (306) 435-6767. Please leave a message if need be.

Thank you in advance for joining my team and sharing some happiness.

Respectfully,

Nancy Apshkrum
Moosomin

What will the end look like?

Recent events between the Saskatchewan Teacher's Federation and the Government Bargaining Committee begs the question, what will the end look like? What will it look like for both the government and the education side of the ongoing debate. Is debate even the correct word? It seems to be more of an entrenched stalemate, made so by the digging in of heels on either side of the proverbial table, because to be honest, with only 10 days of bargaining, plus five days of conciliation, very little has been accomplished at the actual table.

A review of the facts: billboards were used to villainize teachers within two months of discussions beginning, the primary issue has been classroom complexity and class sizes, negotiations fell apart quite quickly as a result of the lack of willingness to bargain in good faith. The response from the teachers' side of things was to slowly and strategically withdraw services. Now, we are at the point where teachers have withdrawn all voluntary services.

There is a divide amongst the public as to who is responsible for this increasingly tense situation. To some the STF are responsible as they are the ones instigating sanctions and removing these "extra" services that are routinely provided by teachers. However, the Government of Saskatchewan, particularly, Scott Moe and Jeremy Cockrill, are responsible as they continue to say that they are offering record level spending for educa-

tion and therefore refuse to agree to either arbitration or putting a guarantee for funding in a contract. I just want to say, let's be honest, every increase in funding, is yes, record level funding. It can be deemed so because it is a new high. That doesn't change the fact that it is not enough. It is not enough when you consider the "record level" inflation, massive increase of students in the province, and also the unprecedented level of needs within the classrooms. And that is not even considering the withdrawal of funding which happened in the past.

As a classroom teacher, I have seen that the last ten years of education have experienced many changes. Changes that have not improved education. I hear stories from across the province of massive class sizes, high levels of needs, severe mental health concerns, students falling through cracks, violence, disrespect and teachers who are both champions and in survival mode. How many other professions see people going into outright survival mode to make it through the work week? How many other professions are criticized for withdrawing voluntary services, working their contracted hours? How many professions rely, very heavily, on people giving up personal time to be able to accomplish their job? Yes, the students are affected, however unfortunate that is.

It is important to note that the current situation of job action is about the long game. The truth of the matter is that if the education system in Saskatchewan continues on its current trajectory, the system will crumble. Has anyone looked at education in the United States? Has anyone thought about how that is exactly what we don't want to emulate? There is a dire need for improvement to facilities, a dire need for support within the classroom, and a dire need for more qualified teachers. How can any of this be achieved? Simple. Greater funding from the top. Provincial funding has been reduced from 13.5 per cent of the overall budget in 2019 to 11.3 per cent presently. The STF asked the government to include one line in the contract, "The parties agree that the Multi-Year Funding Agreement and the accountability framework will be followed and honoured." The answer was no. The provincial government needs to consider what they want the future of this province to be. The root of all jobs is education. Without a foundation of a solid education system, how can we maintain a workforce that is innovative, informed, and willing to put in the work to build a stronger province? Saskatchewan has one of

the youngest populations in Canada, we need to make education work for the population.

So, this brings me to my initial question again. What will the end of this entrenchment look like? Are we waiting until the election set to happen in October? Right now, there are certainly more questions than answers. The reality of this is, it is not easy being in the middle of an ongoing debate. Work-to-rule means that there is no extra within the schools, no extra help, no time to complete daily tasks, yet an overall expectation that everything gets completed. Sports, drama, clubs, homework help are all at a standstill and it is hurting both students and teachers. It is not easy seeing all of it play out (or not play out?), but the feeling is that something needs to be done now, so that the future is better, stronger and more secure. That there will be a better future for both educators and the youth of this province.

Shayna Zubko
Esterhazy

(Shayna is a teacher at Esterhazy High School)

Update on First Aid being offered in schools

Dear Editor,

Just an update on a previous letter that I wrote about offering First Aid in schools.

After doing some checking into it more thoroughly, the Moosomin school is now offering First Aid Training by elective to several high school grades.

As for enrolment to date there are approximately 30 per cent of eligible students enrolled (great news).

This is truly a huge life skill and hats off to them for their work to begin and apply this development program.

So moving forward, let's continue the conversation and get more students enrolled and hopefully the demand increases to a point where it can be offered to more grades in the future. It is truly a grand step forward!

Randy Young
Wapella

Auction Notice

Retail Liquor Store Permits

A Retail Store Permit (RSP) allows a business to sell beer, wine and spirits in closed containers for off-site consumption.

SLGA permits are being made available through a public online auction beginning April 15 and ending on April 24 in the following municipalities:

- RM of Biggar
- RM of Canwood (2)
- RM of Cupar
- RM of Estevan (2)
- RM of Fertile Belt
- RM of Francis
- RM of Longlake (2)
- RM of McKillop
- RM of Moose Jaw
- RM of Saltcoats
- RM of Swift Current (2)
- Warman (2)
- Weyburn
- White City (3)

Please note that the auctions are for the interest in the permit only. There are no physical buildings or assets. Successful bidders will be required to meet SLGA's licensing requirements before receiving the permit.

Further details are available at: www.slga.com.

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Partial solar eclipse

A partial solar eclipse was visible across the area Monday afternoon. These photos were taken in Moosomin. At left is the sun at the height of the partial eclipse. Above is the sun shining through a heart shaped cloud during the eclipse.

First week of work to rule quiet

Contingency plans made in response to job action

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Teachers across the province wrapped their first week of increased sanctions from the Saskatchewan Teacher's Federation that nobody says they wanted to see happen. But they happened regardless.

Effective April 8, a withdrawal of voluntary services began, with an indefinite end date. What this means is all extracurricular activities and noon-hour supervision usually undertaken by teachers will no longer occur for the foreseeable future. In addition, STF members are abiding by strict work hours, coming to school 15 minutes before the beginning of their workday and leaving 15 minutes after classes end. The actions are in response to contract talks with the province hitting a snag on April 5.

The effects of the job action has left school boards scrambling for volunteers to fill rolls usually assumed by teachers.

"To assist in maintaining noon hour supervision we are asking any parents who can have

their children go home for lunch to do so," said Keith Keating, Director of Education with the South East Cornerstone Public School Division in a letter to parents and caregivers of students. "In addition, if you can assist with noon hour supervision, please contact your local school."

According to STF president Samantha Becotte, the answer is simple: return to the bargaining table and the restrictions will cease.

"Teachers provide a lot of voluntary services because they care about kids, and they want to see kids succeed and know the importance of some of those extra opportunities and how they round out the educational experience within schools," she said. "So it's definitely a challenge. No one's happy to be in this situation, but all really hopeful that we're able to get back to the table sometime soon. And in that event, if we were able to get back to the table, all sanctions would be lifted at that point."

Becotte is hopeful that talks will resume soon and is confident that progress is being made.

"I do think that we're kind of inching our way forward and we are making

progress. Like I said, I do hope that we're able to get back sooner rather than later, but we've had the rug pulled out from under us before and so we're cautiously in some of those hopes, but I hope we stay on the right track here."

Regarding the work to rule action, the provincial Minister of Education noted his frustration, noting that solutions seem to be missed in favour of job action.

"It is very disappointing that once again the teachers' union leadership are moving the goal posts and prioritizing job action that will directly impact students and families instead of returning to the bargaining table to reach a fair deal," Jeremy Cockrill said. "Government and school divisions have found solutions to assure increased investment into classrooms, multi-year predictability for those investments, as well as a framework that would allow teachers to provide feedback on how those dollars are spent in their local school division."

He also noted a "fair deal for teachers must also be a fair deal for Saskatchewan taxpayers."

"The teachers' union leadership's move to block the opportunity for their own members to have a voice is another example of how this round of bargaining has been more about union control than actual solutions for classrooms," Cockrill said. "The teachers' union leadership has also refused to move from their initial proposals, which includes a 23.4 per cent salary increase."

A fair deal for all seems to be one point both the STF and government agree on.

"The act of bargaining, you're constantly moving goalposts and if anything, we are moving closer to an agreement," remarked Becotte. "That has always been our goal is to get to an agreement that's satisfactory for everyone - government, school boards and teachers - but most importantly, students."

"Sometimes the best agreements are the ones that no one's happy in the end of it, so let's just work together to find a place where we're either all satisfied or we're either all equally unsatisfied," Becotte continued. "I want to find a solution. I want to find something that works for Saskatchewan's context, but most importantly, I agree with the minister - it needs

to work for students, and right now the conditions in our classroom are not."

She also pointed to an education report regarding student enrolment, which found a highly unequal balance of new students to full time teachers.

"It showed that since 2015, we've had 15,000 additional students in Saskatchewan, and yet only 10 full time equivalent teachers," Becotte said.

There's also been less mental health counsellors, 80 per cent of teacher librarians cut, and fewer educational psychologists.

"All of those extra professionals have been cut," Becotte said. "The needs don't go away, but teachers want to support kids. It just makes it almost an impossible situation to do everything for all the students when your classes are growing as well."

One statistic previous to the COVID pandemic (and prior to our current population boom) raised the alarm that 40 per cent more students in Saskatchewan require intensive support - another point for the STF's called to increased classroom complexity.

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Over 100 people came out to the support the fundraiser on Wednesday.



Volunteers setting up the raffle table. There were 55 items available in the raffle.

Howard family fundraiser held in Maryfield

BY BARB SWALLOW

On Wednesday, April 10, Maryfield and community packed the lower auditorium hall to help a local family in need. Over 100 people turned out to the pulled pork supper organized by the Maryfield District Lions Club. Those in attendance were asked to make a donation for supper, with all proceeds going to Doreen Howard and her two children Robbie and Isabelle.

Rob and Doreen Howard moved to Maryfield in 2020 where their son Robbie was born in October 2020. Rob worked as a fiber optic technician. His job took him to Manitoba in 2022. Their family returned to Maryfield in the fall of 2023 with new baby Isabelle born in October 2023.

Rob had been diagnosed with liver disease and was on the list for a liver transplant. He spent most of 2024 attending appointments and in hospital in Regina and Moosomin. Unfortunately Rob passed away on March 18, 2024 at the age of 47, leaving his young family.

The fundraiser included a raffle table with 55 items available for the lucky ticket holders. All raffle items were donated by community members.

Following supper a live auction was held. Ty Cutler

volunteered his skills and auctioned an array of items which were also donated by Maryfield businesses and community members. Bidders were very generous as they vied for a wide variety of items—homemade buns, pies (saskatoon, pumpkin, apple, sour cream, and raisin), cinnamon buns, a bundt cake, a brand-new 18" bike and helmet, Hello Fresh, an air fryer, a four t-shirt deal from Dusty Road Boutique, and the list goes on. One of the top sellers was a four pedicure deal donated by Amanda Cairns—one in each of the four summer months.

All proceeds from the evening will go to Doreen and her children to help with outstanding medical bills and funeral expenses.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped in any way. Thanks to Horizon Meats for donating the pork and to Freda Hill and Margaret Penner for cooking it. Thanks to Cromer Valley Store for donating the buns. Thank you to the Auditorium for donating the use of the hall. A huge thank you to Ty Cutler for helping with the auction. Many thanks to everyone who donated food for the supper and to all those who donated items for the raffle table and live auction.

Last, and perhaps most important, thank you to every-

one who came out to show their support with their attendance and with their purchases. Maryfield is truly a wonderful community to call home.



Lions members Barb Swallow and Freda Hill with a little helper at the raffle table.



The live auction, with auctioneer Ty Cutler, during the fundraiser.



Above: Lions president Rob Hill with auctioneer Ty Cutler.

Left: Volunteers serving the meal, which was a pulled pork supper.

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Esterhazy Town Council

Esterhazy Super Sledders request approved at Town Council

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A request from the Esterhazy Super Sledders and ATV Club came before Council during their April 10 meeting, seeking the use of the hall for their upcoming third annual show and shine event on June 8.

Last year, the group had access to the washrooms, power and the parking lot of the hall, but had a couple requests for the 2024 edition of the popular event.

"The only difference this year is the Esterhazy Daycare would like to run a pancake breakfast," said Recreation Director Michelle Fuhr. "So they were wondering if they could use the kitchen, but they were hoping that it would be free of charge."

Another ask had to do with inclement weather, that if the clouds should threaten the event with a downpour, the cabaret portion of the event could move inside.

"If the weather's not permitting, they would like to move their stuff into the hall," Fuhr confirmed.

The Super Sledders event coincides

with a slo-pitch tournament and is a fundraiser for the club's Save the Trail campaign. Plans also include local band Route 605 set to perform, with the party rockin' till approximately 1 a.m.

"In allowing the use of the washrooms and stuff, it just makes sense," said Mayor Grant Forster. "It's events that we want to have going in town and it makes it easier for them to put it on. I agree that if they move the cabaret inside, they definitely should be paying for that use."

After discussion by Council, a motion was made and carried to allow the use as requested, but in the event of using the hall that a day rental would be charged.

Other items on the Council agenda including the following:

Gas contract approved

After some discussion on whether to sign a one or three-year agreement with Connect Energy, a motion was made to accept the longer-term contract.

Connect Energy is a Saskatoon-based

natural gas supplier, and has previously been utilized by the Town. For the first year of the agreement, a fixed price of 0.1244 per cubic metre (around \$3.15 per GJ) is applied, then for the next two years, the fixed price of 0.1797 per cubic metre (approximately \$4.55 per GJ) or lower will be applied.

"The fixed price is guaranteed for the entire term, however, depending on market values, if it does drop, we do get the lower price at all times," explained CAO Tammy MacDonald.

Appointed

Council moved that the appointment of Joshua Nitz and Cristin Korchinski as residential building inspectors in the Town of Esterhazy be approved.

Snow in alley a concern

In his report from the Public Works Department, Acting Director of Operations Ron Ferris told Council about an occurrence of improper snow piling. He noted

the pile in question was placed in the alley of Fifth Avenue, which when thawed, melts into surrounding yards.

"I think some attention should be drawn to it," Ferris said. "If people are going to push snow, push it out onto the street at least so we can carry it away so they don't have these issues; or move it down into that block behind the apartment building."

While the issue may be too late to address at this point, CAO Tammy MacDonald suggested the Town use a proactive approach, issuing letters prior to the next snowfall (hopefully many months away) enlightening residents to the issue and to refrain from piling snow in such places.

Municipal potash sharing

Esterhazy is projected to receive \$342,665.66 according to the 2024 Municipal Potash Sharing estimate. This would be an increase of \$39,816.79 or 13.15 per cent from the 2023 final amount received of \$302,848.87.

Mayors weigh in on fall election

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Saskatchewan is in an election year for towns and villages, and while Nov. 13 may be many months away, some leaders have shared their intentions whether or not they will let their names stand on the coming ballot. Municipal elections happen every four years across the province for mayors and councillors.

In Esterhazy, current mayor Grant Forster intends to let his name stand, noting how he would like to see certain projects initiated during his tenure coming to fruition.

"My intention is to run again," Forster confirmed. "We've got the hospital project, it was announced during my term, so I want to see it through. That's my goal is to have that hospital up and running before I voluntarily step down. My intention is to run another term for sure."

With nine years experience on town council back in the 1990s, Forster has been mayor since September of 2018.

"It's a nice opportunity to be able to set the direction and at least be able to give my input as to how I think I want this community to grow and flourish," he said.

He spoke highly of the fellow council

members around the Esterhazy table, noting that while there are sometimes instances where disagreements may arise, "there's lots of laughter around the table and that tells you that things are going good when that happens."

In Moosomin, Mayor Larry Tomlinson admits he's still on the fence with his decision.

"Honestly, I haven't thought that far ahead about running again," he said. "If I did, there's a lot of things I'd like to see done yet."

Over in Rocanville, Ron Reed would also like to retain the mayor's seat, but noted he's also not opposed to letting someone else take a crack at the role.

"I definitely would consider staying on council, whether that's the mayor position, or as a councillor," he said. "I'm open to both."

Much like Forster, Reed would like to see projects like the pool refurbishment realized while in his position.

"I do intend on running for mayor again if the option is available to me," said Reed, who has been on council since 2008. "It sounds a lot longer ago when I say it out loud!"

"I want to see the town succeed," he concluded. "I've planted roots here and raised my kids here, and I have full inten-

tions of making this my forever home."

One mayor who has made her intentions known for some time is Pat Jackson in Kipling.

"I actually made the decision almost four years ago, and I have been quite open with my council and with the community," she said. "I've had a lot of people asking me to run again, because there are only two of us with a fair bit of experience, but I'm also getting very long in the tooth. The time is right."

Jackson has 20 years of experience on council over a 36-year span, and is one of

Kipling's strongest advocates, promoting her town every chance she gets.

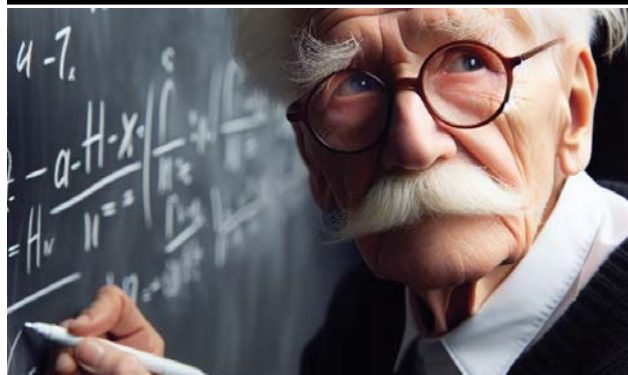
As for anyone stepping up to take on the mayor position in the town famous for its red paper clip, Jackson hasn't heard any intentions just yet.

"At this point in time, our younger councillors have not declared anything, which is their right," she said.

Obviously, it's still early in the year to consider running in an election—it's the season of approving municipal budgets, after all—but starting the conversation can't hurt!

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Looking Back

Five years ago, 2019:

The Moosomin Thrift Store and Food Share made a \$1,000 donation to the Pipestone Kin Ability Centre to aid in the purchase of a liberty swing for Bradley Park. The liberty swing allowed people in wheelchairs to swing.

Ten years ago, 2014:

The Moosomin and District Music Festival wrapped up with the Adjudicator's Showcase at the Baptist Church in Moosomin. A number of awards were handed out to two students—Dominic Van den Bussche and Olivia Kelly—taking Distinction Awards, the top awards at the festival which are given out for an outstanding contribution by an individual. Van den Bussche took the Distinction Award for piano, and Kelly took the Distinction Award in the speech arts category.

Fifteen years ago, 2009:

Children gathered at the Wapella Library to paint an Easter craft with a little help from their parents and a number of volunteers. The wooden Easter chick was painted yellow and finished off with a bow.

After a rookie season that saw him dress for 11 games with the Hamilton Tiger-Cats, former Fairlight area resident Jordan

Rempel was traded to the Saskatchewan Roughriders. The offensive lineman joined eight other Saskatchewan-born players that were on the Rider roster.

Twenty years ago, 2004:

Moosomin lobbied for a third intersection into the town from the Trans-Canada Highway; Juno Award-winning folk singer Connie Kaldor performed at the Moosomin Community Theatre; Bud Holloway, who at the time was playing for the Yorkton Harvest AAA Midget hockey team, received a scholastic award and was named Rookie of the Year. He also finished second on the team in scoring.

One hundred years ago, 1924:

A method by which X-ray photographs could be taken of the veins and arteries in the living body was reported to have been discovered by Dr. J. Berberich and Dr. S. Hirsch of Frankfurt on Main. Until that point in time, the contrast between the blood and the surrounding tissues in the living body had been too slight to produce distinctive shadows on the X-ray plate. The Frankfurt doctors, by injecting a harmless salt of strontium into the blood vessels, claimed to produce such strong shadows that the most minute ramifications of the veins and arteries could be seen.

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COMING EVENTS

SGS PIPESTONE GENEALOGY FAMILY TREE RESEARCH

SGS Pipestone Genealogy Branch invites you to the Moosomin Library 701 Main St. on Wednesday, April 18 at 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. to help with your family tree research. There will be a power point presentation on beginner genealogy at 1:00. Bring a flash drive to save your discoveries. 29:1p

ST. MARY'S GIGANTIC GARAGE SALE

Friday, May 3, 4:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. and Saturday, May 4, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. St. Mary's Church basement 1107, Carlton St., Moosomin, SK 29:3c

SOUTHWEST ASSINBOINE CHAPTER OF THE RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA LUNCH MEETING

Tuesday, April 16 at 11:45 a.m. in The Virden Legion Clubhouse. Corner of Eighth Ave. and Wellington St. W. Lunch will be \$15 Presentation on Hearing and Hearing Aids. Please bring a donation for Virden and Area Food Cupboard. Contact Peggy McGrath for Lunch numbers at 204-845-2058 27:2c

COMING EVENTS

MARYFIELD AUDITORIUM MOVIES

This week's movie at the Maryfield Auditorium. Friday, April 19 & Saturday, April 20 at 7:00 p.m. **Ordinary Angels.** Doors open 30 minutes before showtime. Adults \$7, Students \$6, Children \$4. 48:tfc

MOOSOMIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Next Chamber of Commerce meeting will be Tuesday, May 28, 2024 at 11:45 am at the Canalt. Guest Speaker will be the SK Education Minister Jeremy Cockrill. Lunch is served and everyone is welcome! 15:tfc

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the estate of Jeffrey Paul Nicol, late of Esterhazy, Saskatchewan, deceased. All claims against the above estate, duly verified by statutory declaration and with particulars and valuation of security held, if any, must be sent to the undersigned before the 30th day of April, 2024. Glenn Nicol, Administrator, Estate of Jeffrey Paul Nicol Box 488, Esterhazy, SK, S0A 0X0. 28:2c

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The family of John Selby would like to thank the staff at Cobblestone House for the care John received. We would also like to thank the nurses at SEICC, and to Amanda at Carscadden Funeral Chapel. Thank you to all that came to John's service and special thanks to the Welwyn Legion and the Belles and Beaus. Your thoughtfulness is much appreciated. 29:1p

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