

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald

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www.shellbrookchronicle.com | www.spiritwoodherald.com

Christmas spirit arrives in Shellbrook

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

Shellbrook became a Christmas village out of a Hallmark movie on Saturday, Dec. 2, as the Shellbrook Kinettes, the Town of Shellbrook, and the local business community held events throughout the day, and well into the evening, to get everyone into the holiday spirit.

Santa Fun Day

Starting in the afternoon, the Kinettes and the Town of Shellbrook kicked off the Christmas festivities with the second annual Santa Fun Day, held at the Shellbrook Community Hall from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

A successor to the Kinettes' perennially popular Cookie Walk, Santa Fun Day saw both Santa and Mrs. Claus take time out from their busy schedules to visit kids and families from the Shellbrook and the surrounding area.

For Kinetette Kim Lamotte, the day is about making sure kids have the opportunity to see Santa, as some may not be able to make it to the city to see him. True to everything the Kinettes do, however, there's also a community aspect to the day, as the Kinettes request donations of non-perishable food items for the Shellbrook and District Ministerial Food Bank in return for photos with Santa.

Apart from the Santa photos, Santa Fun Day offered plenty of activities for kids to take part in, including Christmas cookie decorating (and eating, of course), gingerbread house building, and a hot chocolate bar with all the fixings.

Kids could also take part in Christmas craft making, colour, play Christmas-themed games, write letters to Santa (which have since been forwarded along to him), and fill up some snack bags for Santa's reindeer at the new Reindeer Food station.

All in all, it was enough to keep kids and families busy and entertained for the three-hour window.

Costs for the free community event were recouped through a \$5 soup and bun sale.



Santa had his hands full for this photo at the Shellbrook Kinettes' Santa Fun Day.

Photo courtesy of Nigel Maxwell, paNOW

Given the success of the second annual Santa Fun Day, the Kinettes are already looking forward to (and brainstorming for) next year's event.

Twinkle Tour

As afternoon spilled over into evening, Christmas spirit remained bright for the Kinettes' fourth annual Twinkle Tour, which also serves to encourage donations for the food bank.

Though many houses in town are decorated, this year saw just 12 houses officially entered in the tour (compared to 40 last year). Still, a long procession, led by Santa and Mrs. Claus, lined up along Elevator Road to take part in the tour and enjoy all the lights.

The addresses of this year's entrants, and a map of their locations, are available on the Kinetette Club of Shellbrook Facebook page for those who wish to do the tour on their own time, and votes can be submitted via survey, or by email to ShellbrookTwinkleTour@gmail.com, until noon on Saturday, Dec. 9.

The survey can be found here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5FXJSB8>

Prizes of \$300, \$200, and \$100 are available for the first place, second place, and third place entries, respectively. The cash prizes are made possible by the Shellbrook Business Improvement District (BID) Committee.

Moonlight Madness

An old tradition was made new again on Saturday night, as Shellbrook's business community and a handful of community organizations helped Moonlight Madness make a festive return to Shellbrook's Main Street from 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Main Street was closed off between 1st Avenue and Railway Avenue, allowing for a large fire pit to be set up in the middle of the street by the Lake Country Wildlife Federation for wiener and marshmallow roasts. The street was also a place for kid's games, pony rides, and Christmas carolers, and Santa and Mrs. Claus even stuck around to visit with

those who came out to take in the festivities.

Apart from all the excitement outdoors, stores and restaurants along Main Street and beyond kept their doors open late (or opened when they'd normally be closed) and offered some Moonlight Madness specials, allowing shoppers to check off some of the names on their Christmas shopping lists.

With so much to take in, Shellbrook's Main Street was buzzing with the Christmas spirit — even after the cold and the fog rolled in. And those who attended are already waiting for Moonlight Madness to return again next year.

More photos on pages 2 & 3



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Spiritwood campaigns against Scotiabank closure

By DAVE HYNDMAN

Anyone familiar with the story of Don Quixote or the biblical story of David and Goliath will have some understanding of the task facing a small group of citizens from Spiritwood and the surrounding area who are campaigning against the recent decision by Scotiabank to close its Spiritwood branch and move all accounts to the branch in Prince Albert.

Scotiabank recently alerted Spiritwood branch customers of the move, which is set to take place in mid-July of 2024. Since most banking is done by online activity, most customers won't be badly affected by the closure of the branch in Spiritwood, Scotiabank claims.

However, that logic doesn't take into account those unfamiliar with computers and online banking, those people who depend on the physical presence of the bank, and the staff who serve their banking needs.

The Spiritwood branch has been in operation since 1928 and for those 95

years has been an integral part of the growth, development, and health of the community and the area. Customers of the branch are within an area of approximately 9,500 sq. kms.

A committee formed following the notice of the closure has already taken steps to try to convince Scotiabank to reverse its decision and recognize the role the branch plays in the lives of the people of the area. These steps include a petition, on which many people have already signed and have been placed in locations in Spiritwood and the communities surrounding Spiritwood to obtain more signatures.

In addition, about 200 signed form letters have been sent to Scotiabank, and the committee hopes that many more will write letters pointing out the impact the closure will have on their businesses and their lives. Emails can be sent to escalatedconcerns@scotiabank.com, or letters can be sent to Escalated Customer Concerns Office, 44 King Street West, Toronto ON, M5H 1H1.

Scotiabank is undeterred, so far, in-

dicating in replies to emails from concerned citizens that its mind is made up and it is not going to change its decision to close the Spiritwood branch.

The local committee realizes that it doesn't stand much of a chance to reverse Scotiabank's decision. But it is important, they believe, to let Scotiabank know how they feel.

Nobody gave David much of a chance against Goliath, either.

Word of the Spiritwood Scotiabank branch's closure began rolling out to the branch's clients in early November.

At the time, questions regarding the full rationale for the decision, the possibility of any future presence, the fate of the building, and how the process will roll out, went unanswered by Daniela Dasilva, Scotiabank's senior manager of corporate communications in Toronto, who instead issued only a prepared statement in response.

"With customer preferences changing, and more day-to-day banking being done digitally, we are continuing to evolve how we serve our customers

and invest in areas that make it easier for our customers to bank with us from wherever they are," she said.



A group of about 10 people met to discuss the next steps in trying to convince Scotiabank to reverse its decision to close its Spiritwood branch.

Christmas spirit arrives in Shellbrook



Pony rides were among the offerings for children to take part in during Moonlight Madness.



Santa visits with folks keeping warm around the fire at Shellbrook's Moonlight Madness.



Shellbrook's Main Street was abuzz with holiday spirit when Moonlight Madness made a return to the community on Saturday, Dec. 2.



Christmas carollers stopped outside Woodland Pharmacy to share festive songs with shoppers.

RABBIT LAKE AND DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

Over the last year, our agricultural association has been pleased to donate financial assistance to various organizations within our community and outside of the community.

- Apart from the expenditures associated with building the new pavilion and bunnock courts, the RLDA has donated:
- \$2000.00 to the Rabbit Lake and District Museum
 - \$5000.00 to the Medstead School Playground Fund
 - \$5000.00 to the Rabbit Lake Community Hall
 - \$5000.00 to Rose Gill Lodge (The Rabbit Lake Health Centre)
 - \$2658.00 to Spiritwood Community Kitchen

Additionally, the Ag Assoc sponsored the Tuesday night "Bunnock and Burgers" over the summer, the Kids' Halloween Party and Candy Bags for Kids at the Community Christmas Supper.

Thank you to the Ag Assoc Committee members, all who have donated time and product, worked at events and to all who continue to support the Ag Assoc.

Your support helps to make things happen in our community!

Lake Country Co-operative Association Limited Notice of Call for Delegate Nominations

Lake Country Co-operative Association Limited is seeking candidates to fill the following 2024 Delegate positions:

ALVENA	— One 3-year term	MARCELIN	— One 2-year term
BIG RIVER	— One 3-year term	NIPAWIN	— One 3-year term
BIRCH HILLS	— One 3-year term	PADDOCKWOOD	— One 3-year term
BIRCH HILLS	— One 2-year term	PRINCE ALBERT	— Five 3-year terms
CANWOOD	— One 3-year term	PRINCE ALBERT	— One 1-year term
CHOICELAND	— One 3-year term	SHELLBROOK	— One 3-year term
DOMREMY	— One 3-year term	SMEATON	— One 3-year term
DOMREMY	— One 2-year term	SMEATON	— One 2-year term
KINISTINO	— One 3-year term	SPIRITWOOD	— One 3-year term
LA RONGE	— One 3-year term	SPIRITWOOD	— One 2-year term
MARCELIN	— One 3-year term	WAKAW	— One 3-year term

Delegate Nominations will be held December 15 to December 21, 2023. Nominations will not be accepted after 5:00 pm on December 21, 2023. Eligibility requirements, roles & responsibilities can be found within the nomination packages which can be obtained online at www.lakecountryco-op.crs or by contacting the Lake Country Co-operative Association Limited Administration Office 306-764-9393 or info@lakecountrycoop.ca.



LAKE COUNTRY

R.M. OF MEDSTEAD NO. 497

SEASONAL MAINTENANCE/EQUIPMENT OPERATOR POSITION

The R.M. of Medstead No. 497 invites applications for an experienced full time Seasonal Maintenance/Equipment Operator. The Seasonal Maintenance/Equipment Operator will be responsible for mowing this municipality's ditches, rock picking, mulching in conjunction with the grader operators, installing and repairing signs and other jobs as directed by the Reeve. Opportunity may be present in the future to move into a grader operator position. Pay rates depending on experience.

The R.M. of Medstead No. 497 is located in central Saskatchewan located approximately forty five minutes north of North Battleford.

Applicants must possess a valid Class 5 driver's license and have skill and experience in maintenance and operation of equipment including tractor, mower, rock picker and mulcher.

Submit written resumes stating experience, expected wage, two references and a current driver's abstract by 4:00 p.m. on December 11th, 2023. All resumes shall be marked "Seasonal Maintenance/Equipment Operator Position" and dropped off at the RM Office, mailed to the address below or emailed to rm497@sasktel.net.

R.M. of Medstead No. 497
Box 12
Medstead, SK S0M 1W0

Council thanks all applicants for their interest in this position but only persons selected for interviews will be contacted.

The R.M. of Medstead No. 497 reserves the right to reject and refuse any or all expressions of interest.

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Carol Festival makes hearts merry & bright

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The Shellbrook & District Arts Council provided a holly, jolly start to the Christmas season, when it hosted its 36th annual Christmas Carol Festival on Sunday, Dec. 3.

The Carol Festival is one of the longest-standing traditions in the community, routinely packing the Shellbrook Theatre to capacity with talented local and area performers and an always-appreciative audience.

This year carried on that tradition, as an audience of close to 300 filled the seats. And though this year's program listed only 11 official numbers (including one that was cancelled due to illness), festival-goers were treated to the musical gifts of about 80 performers, and a few holiday surprises along the way.

"People just like an old-fashioned Christmas concert, and they like to see the talent of local people. It's a warm atmosphere of people with natural talent who enjoy performing without a big production," said Arts Council member Judy Hjertaas of the Carol Festival's longevity.

"[On Sunday], we had an audience with a baby that was three weeks old and people in their 90s. It's something for all ages."

For Hjertaas, the highlight of every Carol Festival comes after the show, when she slips into the ticket booth and gets to watch audience members leaving the theatre with big smiles on their faces and positive words to say about the concert.

Given the work that goes into making the

Carol Festival happen, she says the kind of joy it brings to the audience is all she could ever really hope for.

Planning for the Carol Festival typically begins in September, with calls to past performers and then call backs closer to the show date. This can be a challenge in itself, as it's important to keep the show fresh and surprising year after year, meaning performers and songs can't be repeated too often.

Once the Arts Council has its line-up reasonably solidified, including the accompaniment for performers, programs need to be printed and volunteers need to be gathered to work sound, lights, and the stage for the show, and to help decorate the theatre.

"There's a lot of work that goes into it that people never really realize," Hjertaas said. "There are so many details."

This year's Carol Festival delivered the perfect mix of familiar and new, as Kerri English and her students opened the show with a medley of small and large ensemble Christmas tunes. Up next, budding singer Bailey Price, and her mother Savannah Price, took the stage individually to perform "Rocking

Around the Christmas Tree" and "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," respectively.

Continuing the first act, Lauren Cromartie took the stage, with accompanists Dave Hjertaas, Myron Wall, Jaden Schutte, and Leo Stieb, to perform "Stars of Bethlehem" and "Come on Ring Those Bells," and the Helm Singers showcased their harmonies on a pair of tunes.

Prince Albert's Watsonaires closed out the first act with a diverse medley of Christmas tunes, leading into a community singing of "O Little Town of Bethlehem" and "Joy to the World."

Following the intermission, Karen Beauchesne and Murray Hannigan delighted the crowd with "The Prayer"

and a spirited rendition of "Baby it's Cold Outside," and Kerri English returned to the stage with student Becky Wilson to perform some fiddle numbers.

After this, first-time performers Ron and Laurie Samson performed "Jolly Old Saint Nicholas" and "O Holy Night," and Murray Hannigan returned to the stage (with some special guests) to sing his rendition of "Hallelujah."

Before the show could end for the evening, Karen Beauchesne sent the audience home laughing with her highly theatrical performance of "I'm Getting Nuttin' for Christmas," and all performers and audience members joined in on a rendition of "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."



The Helm Singers (from left, Pam, Kim, and Debbie) lent their family harmonies to a pair of Christmas tunes.

Christmas spirit arrives in Shellbrook



A little one gets some help decorating her gingerbread house.

Photo courtesy of Nigel Maxwell, paNOW



Christmas cookies were available for decorating (and eating) at Santa Fun Day.

Photo courtesy of Nigel Maxwell, paNOW



Murray Hannigan and Karen Beauchesne got moving with their take on "Baby it's Cold Outside."



Kerri English and Becky Wilson played a medley of instrumental Christmas tunes.



First-time performer Ron Samson (accompanied by wife, Laurie) entertained with a pair of Christmas tunes.



Bailey Price showcased her talents at the Christmas Carol Festival with her rendition of "Rocking Around the Christmas Tree."

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No excuse for poor Sask. Party budgeting

A little over a year ago, when it was introducing its affordability plan to help the people of Saskatchewan weather the storm of post-COVID inflation, the Sask. Party government faced pointed questions about whether it would also invest some of the funds from its \$1.5 billion budget surplus into the province's ailing healthcare system.

Finance Minister Donna Harpauer responded in the negative, noting it would be imprudent to spend the money

when the budgetary surplus was predicated upon high natural resource prices – a byproduct of Russia's invasion of Ukraine earlier in the year. The temporary boom, she added, wouldn't last forever (a reality with which this government is very much familiar).

Months prior to these comments, the Sask. Party government had expanded the goods and services covered by the PST (this was partially rolled back in the affordability plan). At the time, Ms. Harpauer said it was necessary to lessen the province's reliance on non-renewable resource revenues.

How right she was about the need for the province to get off the non-renewable resource revenue rollercoaster.

A month after the 2022-2023 provincial budget was tabled, potash prices surged to an all-time high. But what goes up must come down, and by the end of October of this year, prices had plummeted by nearly 80 per cent, resettling closer to the norm prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite this, the Sask. Party government's 2023-2024 budget was still optimistically forecasting a \$1 billion surplus, followed by smaller surpluses in each of the next three fiscal years.

This rosy outlook changed drastically last week, however, as the government's mid-year fiscal update revealed the government was now projecting a \$250 million deficit (a reversal of financial fortunes to the tune of nearly \$1.3 billion).

"Two large factors outside of the government's control play into this forecast. The drought was unforeseen, reducing projected crop production by 20 per cent in 2023, when compared to 2022," Harpauer said of the surplus-turned-deficit.

"Potash prices and sales dropped because potash from Russia and Belarus flowed to large markets including China and India, despite being subject to West-



JORDAN TWISS
~
News Editor

ern sanctions in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine."

Ms. Harpauer wants us to believe these circumstances were "unforeseen" and "beyond the government's control."

But were they really?

As previously mentioned, potash began its free fall after the tabling of the province's 2022-2023 budget. And by the time Budget 2023-2024 rolled around, it had already lost more than 60 per cent of its value – causing Nutrien to shelve a planned production

expansion.

Beyond the government's control? Absolutely. But, seeing as it knew the resource price boom was temporary (as all of them are), the Sask. Party government had at least a year to adjust its budgeting and offset this very much foreseen loss in revenues.

As for the drought that plagued the province's producers this past summer, there were plenty of signs to point to it happening – if only the Sask. Party government had paid attention to environmental conditions and trends in recent years.

Why, just two years ago, the province experienced severe drought conditions, which, according to Statistics Canada, cut overall crop production by 47 per cent compared to 2020.

The dry or drought-like conditions may have improved marginally from 2021 to 2022. But the federal government's Canadian Drought Monitor still reported abnormally dry and moderate-to-severe drought conditions in areas of the province throughout much of the year.

Indeed, by the time freeze-up came in 2022, Saskatchewan's Water Security Agency was also reporting the province had seen "well below normal" precipitation for the year, leaving Saskatoon and Swift Current areas in "extreme agricultural drought" conditions.

And these conditions hadn't improved any when the first spring runoff reports for 2023 began rolling out, as below average snowfalls deepened and expanded dry and drought-like conditions across Saskatchewan.

What else, aside from flashing lights and alarm bells, did the Sask. Party government need to be able to predict this past summer's drought?

Now, knowing about the possibility of severe drought may not have mitigated any of the additional \$853 million the



Sask. Party government had to spend on agriculture this year (mostly on crop insurance payouts).

But again, forewarned is forearmed. The Sask. Party government had the knowledge at its disposal, and could have made adjustments to its budgeting processes to offset or lessen its losses and extra expenditures.

Instead, the Sask. Party kept its head fixed firmly in the sand and pretended to be surprised at how things played out.

If there's any solace to be found in this scenario, it's in Ms. Harpauer's declaration that she is not considering any austerity measures or tax increases to return the province's books to black – though, only, she said, because the PST was already expanded recently.

However, it should be noted that the government's shiny new \$250 million deficit comes despite a \$414.7 million boost to taxation, with corporate income tax up \$289 million and PST revenues up \$150 million from budget projections.

Also up is the province's net debt, which rose by \$918 million to \$15 billion. It falls to taxpayers to foot the bill for this debt through their taxes, meaning more than \$822 million in taxpayer money will go towards government debt interest payments this fiscal year, rather than being spent on healthcare, education, or social services.

When it comes to what taxpayers are getting for shouldering the increased debt and tax load foisted upon them by the Sask. Party government's fiscal mismanagement, the jury is still out.

As the Sask. Party blows through at least \$765,000 to host a pavilion at the COP28 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Dubai from Nov. 30 to Dec. 12 (all because it wasn't happy with being restricted to a 45-minute presentation at the federal government's pavilion like other provinces), Saskatchewan taxpayers are still waiting for a sign the government is interested in any of their immediate priorities.

Affordability? Not a concern, says the Sask. Party government, which in October tabled an "affordability-focused" Throne Speech without any actual affordability measures to help Saskatchewan taxpayers in their day-to-day lives.

Healthcare? All good, says the Sask. Party government, as women are being transferred to Calgary to get timely mammograms and hospitals are turning away patients.

Education? Just fine, thanks, says the Sask. Party government, which has now squandered \$145,821 on billboard campaigns to spin the narrative, rather than giving schools and teachers the resources they need to deal with larger and increasingly complex classrooms.

More and more, it seems that Saskatchewan taxpayers are getting less and less for their money.

If a private company was this bad at managing its finances, it would swiftly go out of business.

Unfortunately, barring a change in voter sentiment, Saskatchewan taxpayers will be left with the current government's mismanagement for a long time to come.

Shellbrook Chronicle

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Spiritwood Herald

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

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Report from the Legislature

Saskatchewan continues to receive good news on its economy. Our province ranked first in the nation in month-over-month retail trade growth, increasing by 3.0 per cent from August to September 2023. That's a growth rate of five times the national average! The total value of retail trade was more than \$2.1 billion in September 2023. These numbers are proof that Saskatchewan's economy continues to grow and that our province has the resources the world needs.

Our government continues to work to build and protect our economy so that it can continue to grow. Recently, our government announced the team of experts who will make up the Saskatchewan First Act's Economic Assessment Tribunal.

The tribunal's first referral for economic analysis and consideration is the federal government's Clean Electricity



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~
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Regulations (CER). The CER was published by the federal government this past summer. In the months ahead, both the federal oil and gas cap and Federal Fuel Standard will also be referred to the tribunal.

No other province has an independent tribunal whose exclusive role is to analyze and quantify the dollar figure harm of federal policies and legislation. The Saskatchewan First Tribunal will help protect the economic future of families,

communities, and businesses.

As we continue our plans to build and protect Saskatchewan's economy, our government recently invested \$80 million in the Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC) to pursue the development of a microreactor in Saskatchewan. SRC will apply the research and knowledge gained from this initial microreactor project to support our province's nuclear industry and better understand the potential for future microreactor projects.

This first microreactor is expected to be operational by 2029. This project will create economic development opportunities and jobs while helping to provide a custom solution for our province's unique energy needs.

As our provincial economy continues to grow, so does our province's critical minerals sector. Saskatchewan is home to

23 of the 31 critical minerals on Canada's list, plus the world's largest deposits of potash and high-grade uranium.

This year, we have seen great progress toward our goal to increase Saskatchewan's share of Canadian mineral exploration spending to 15 per cent by 2030. In 2023 alone, our province's share of the national total in mineral exploration is projected to increase to over 12 per cent.

More than 100 companies are actively advancing mineral projects in our province, from early-phase exploration to larger scale projects such as BHP's \$6.4 billion Jansen Stage 2 expansion. Our government will continue to work with resource sector partners and stakeholders to grow our critical minerals sector.

A strong and growing economy allows our government to invest in programs and services



HON. JEREMY HARRISON
MLA

~
Meadow
Lake
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that matter to the people of Saskatchewan. Our government is working to ensure patients have access to urgent breast cancer diagnostic procedures. A new initiative will accelerate urgent diagnostic breast cancer procedures, including breast mammograms and biopsies.

To help increase accessibility to breast cancer diagnostics, the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) has implemented improvements including extend-

ed hours of service and performing additional volumes in Saskatoon. A centralized booking system for breast imaging and 3D breast imaging will also be implemented across the province.

The highest-risk patients are now receiving diagnostic care here in Saskatchewan. Eligible patients on an urgent wait list will receive procedures at a private medical facility in Calgary with travel and accommodation expenses reimbursed to a maximum of \$1,500. To learn more about the out-of-province breast cancer diagnostic initiative, please visit www.saskatchewan.ca/medical-imaging.

As we near the end of the fall session of the legislature, I look forward to hearing from you. Your questions and concerns help me represent your best interests in the legislature. Feel free to reach out to my constituency office.

Sask. Rivers makes changes to comply with pronoun policy

By MICHAEL OLEKSYN
LJI Reporter, PA Daily Herald

The Saskatchewan Rivers School Division has formalized their parental consent policy in their administrative procedures to comply with Saskatchewan's new pronoun policy.

Director of Education Neil Finch said they had to make the changes to follow provincial law.

"There is now the legal implications if we don't follow it," Finch said. "We have to follow the new bill."

Finch said the changes ensure that parental permission is required if students want to use different pronouns or names. Under the policy, parents will have to fill out a form giving their consent.

Parents can also change it directly on the student registration, although that's not a new change.

"We've had that happening for years but (there's) the additional form if parents don't decide to just change the registration form," Finch explained. "There's a form for them to fill out so that would be the major changes of having a basically it's a parent permission form."

The school division's administrative procedure did not address the pause on involvement of any third-party organization connected to sexual health education.

The change follows former Education Minister Dustin Duncan's announcement in August of new paren-

tal inclusion and consent policies for Saskatchewan schools.

According to the province's new policy, schools must seek parent and guardian permission when changing the preferred name and pronouns used by students under the age of 16 in the school.

For students 16 and over, parent or guardian consent is not required.

The inclusion and consent policy also states that parents and guardians must be informed about the sexual health education curriculum and have the option to decline their children's participation.

On Sept. 28 a Regina judge granted an injunction that halted the policy until it was further argued in court. In his written decision, Justice Michael Megaw said the injunction was necessary to prevent any "irreparable harm."

In response, Premier Scott Moe recalled the legislature early to invoke the notwithstanding clause.

The notwithstanding clause allows governments to override certain sections of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, shielding the law from "judicial invalidation." The clause cannot be used on the grounds that it violates democratic rights, mobility rights, or minority language rights.

The law was passed in the Legislature using the Notwithstanding Clause on Oct. 21.

—with files from Jayda Taylor/Daily Herald

Sask. RCMP seeks wanted man

By JORDAN TWISS
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

The Saskatchewan RCMP's Warrant Enforcement and Suppression Team (WEST) has renewed calls for the public to report all information on the whereabouts of 45-year-old Willard Bear, who is wanted for being unlawfully at large.

The call to help police locate Bear first went out on Jan. 26, 2023, when Correctional Service Canada requested WEST's assistance in lo-

cating him.

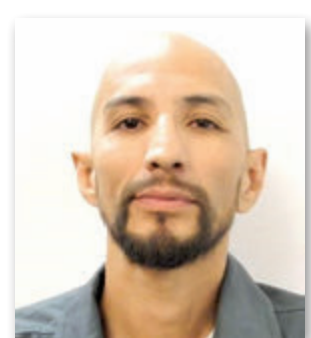
Bear is described as 6' and 165 lbs. He has black hair, sometimes worn shaved, and brown eyes. He wears glasses and may have a beard.

As of last week, investigators believed Bear may be in the Big River First Nation area.

Anyone who sees Bear is urged not to approach him. Instead, sightings can be reported to your local police service.

You can reach your local RCMP detachment by dialling 310-RCMP (7267). Information can

also be submitted anonymously by contacting Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or www.saskcrimestoppers.com.



Willard Bear is wanted for being unlawfully at large.

What happens when you don't advertise?

Very little.

OBITUARIES

Arthur (Art) Arstall



Arthur (Art) Arstall was born in Rabbit Lake, SK on January 17, 1931. He was the 7th of the nine children of Harry and Ettie Arstall. Art went to Misterton School, which was a one room schoolhouse that went to Grade 8. However, Art quit in Gr. 7 right before final exams to go farming for his dad. After this he went and worked for various farmers on their threshing crews. He later decided to go to Saskatoon and moved in with his older sister Alice and her family. There he started to work at various places doing construction, along with

working at Government Elevators and the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool. Around this time, he met Irene Moore through her best friend Carol who was Art's niece. They started dating when he was 15 and dated for 5 years until Art got enough courage to ask Irene to marry him. They had to have her dad sign for them on their wedding day, on July 25, 1964, because the legal age was 21 at the time. In preparing for his marriage, Art saved his money to purchase 2 quarters of land across from his mom, while Irene saved up the money to buy the furniture they needed for their home. When they arrived on the property there was an old shack that they lived in until Art built them a house from the logs he sawed off the property. A year later they welcomed a son, Les, to the family. They loved their son so much they decided to have another son, Tim, 10 months later. Art taught the boys at an early age to drive the tractors and trucks, to haul and stack bails as well as care for the animals. One

day Aline Bellamy, one of Jehovah's Witnesses, came by and introduced Art and Irene to the Bible. They began studying with Aline & her husband Lyle and enjoyed what they were learning and started a new chapter in their life. Ten years after Tim was born, they welcomed their only daughter, Linda, into the mix, the redhead, blue-eyed girl which Art had prayed for. And three years later to their surprise they welcomed a third son, Curtis, to complete the family. For 30 years Art enjoyed farming his land near Mullingar until his retirement in 1997. At this time, they decided to move closer to Spiritwood. They bought 9 acres of land south of Spiritwood to settle, and they even brought along horses, dogs, and a few cats. Even though retired, Art was a very active man who added a fence line to the property. He and Irene made their property a little piece of paradise with lots of fruit trees and gardens. They often shared their garden harvest with everyone. As the years passed Art's family grew bigger with love by gaining a son-in-law and daughters-in-law. He loved to spend time getting to know each one of them, as each one held a special spot in his heart. Even though "I

love you" didn't often come you knew when they did, he meant it. In time, he received 7 beautiful grandchildren that brought him lots of joy and love, especially when he could spoil them and then return them. In 2018, with the acreage becoming difficult to care for, they moved into the senior's duplex in Spiritwood. In 2020, Irene's health became difficult for Art to care for on his own, so they made a final move to Shellbrook to live with their daughter Linda and her family.

Farming wasn't always all work and no fun. Art enjoyed taking breaks from the farm life by snowmobiling with his kids or taking them to many different lakes to fish, camp or day trips and even buying a boat. At times adventuring to other provinces, sight-seeing, or just taking a ride somewhere. Art also loved to sing and write songs. He even had one of his songs copyrighted. He enjoyed singing to his kids and really everywhere he went; even on the farm equipment and travelling in the car. Even in the last few years when singing was hard to do, he tapped his feet to the music instead. He enjoyed playing softball and was an excellent runner, even chasing a wolf in the field for something to do. Art was a hospitable man. If you came over to his home, you were always invited for food whether it be lunch or supper and there was always a pot of coffee on. Neighbors

all around would come over to have an eventful game of Kaiser, if you were on Art's team you were sure to win. Art enjoyed playing board games, especially Scrabble and cards as well. As he got older, he would often play solitaire to pass the time. While most of the cooking was done by Irene, his children and grandchildren always looked forward to his famous biscuits during family meals. They were never the same each time; sometimes he would add cheese, other times honey. But there were always two or three for everyone as one was never enough.

While family and friends held a special place in Art's life, what was most important to him was his strong faith and love for his heavenly Father, Jehovah. He symbolized his dedication to God by water baptism, on October 25, 1998, along with two of his sons. Art shared his faith in a better future soon to come with ones he talked to right up until his passing. He trusted that in Jehovah's due time he would be resurrected along with others who passed away (Acts 24:15). He found great comfort in the words found at Rev. 21:4 that God "will wipe out every tear from their eyes and death will be no more, neither mourning nor out cry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away."

Art is survived by: His loving wife of 59 years, Irene; son Les and his wife Michelle

and their daughters Jasmine and Emma; son Tim and his wife Gwen and their son Timothy; daughter Linda and her husband Jason and their children Brett and Kiera; son Curtis and his daughter Alexandria and son Javen and their mother Heather; his older sister Alice and younger brother John; his sisters-in-law Kathy, Thelma and Luella along with numerous nieces nephews and other relatives.

Art was predeceased by his parents Harry and Ettie Arstall; his siblings: infant Harry, May, Henry, Richard, Charlie, and Ann: Parents Gilbert and Annie Moore; siblings-in-law Roy, Wally, Mary, Ivy, Melvin, Joe and David.

Arthur Arstall, late of Shellbrook, SK, passed away on Monday, November 13, 2023, at Parkland Integrated Health Center in Shellbrook, SK. Funeral Service was held at 2:00 PM on Saturday, November 25, 2023 at Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses 4350 2nd Ave West Prince Albert, SK. The funeral was shared via Zoom. A complete obituary will be updated when available.

Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit www.beaulacfuneralhome.com. Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home and Crematorium, Lynn Anderson Funeral Director, Shellbrook, SK 306-747-2828.

Michael "Mike" Kuzyk



Michael "Mike" Kuzyk
May 27, 1933 – November 7, 2023

In loving memory of Michael "Mike" Kuzyk, was born May 27, 1933, Humboldt, SK and passed away November 7, 2023, Leoville, SK at 90 years of age.

Mike is lovingly remembered by: his loving wife of 64 years: Denise Kuzyk (née Piché), his sons: Anthony (Denise

of Turner Valley, AB and family: Andy (Laura) - Jase and Olivia and Michelle (Reid) Wooldridge - Ivy, Daniel (Ann) of Bonnyville, AB and family: Julia (Tyler) Vallée, Amanda Kuzyk, Lynn Kuzyk (Scott Dyer), Allan of Pierceland, SK and son: Nickolas Kuzyk, his siblings: Mary (Clarence) Charbonneau of Leoville, SK, Stella (Lenard) Arndt of Saskatoon, SK also numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

He is predeceased by his parents: Prokop "Peter" and Paraska "Pearl" Kuzyk, his siblings: Marshall (1948), Walter (1976), and William (2005), his sister-in-law: Mary (2008).

A Private Mass of Christian burial was held Saturday, November 18, 2023, at 1:00 pm at Beau "Lac" Funeral Home,

Spiritwood, SK with Father Ramel Macapala as celebrant. Music ministry was provided by Gilles Francoeur.

Mike's Final resting place is in the Leoville Cemetery.

Following the interment, Mike's family invited friends and family to join them for lunch and fellowship at the Golden Ring Senior Centre, Leoville, SK.

Memorial donations may be made to Residents and Family Council c/o Evergreen Health Centre, Leoville, SK in memory of Mike Kuzyk as tokens of remembrance.

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

Wesley Norman Schmalz



Wesley Norman Schmalz
May 8, 1950 – November 28, 2023

It is with heavy hearts that the family of Wesley Norman Schmalz, known to all as Wes, announce his passing on November 28,

2023 at the age of 73.

Wes spent his career working as a Correctional Officer at the Edmonton Institution until he moved to the family farm in Shellbrook, SK in 2008 where he continued to work at the Healing Lodge in Duck Lake. Wes then retired to Oliver, BC in 2015. Wes' passion was physical fitness. Any free time he had was spent walking, bicycling, kayaking and lifting weights. He also enjoyed hiking and fishing.

He is predeceased by his parents Alphonse and Esther Schmalz and his brother Lea Schmalz of Shellbrook, SK.

Wes is lovingly

remembered by his daughter, Trina Brooks (Chris) of Cold Lake, AB and his son Tyson Schmalz of Edmonton, AB;

His three grandchildren, Holden, Hannah and Sam Brooks of Cold Lake, AB;

His sister Elaine Markham (John) of Calgary, AB;

His nephews Brandon Markham of Calgary, AB, Chad Schmalz of Red Earth Creek, AB and Craig Schmalz of Lloydminster, AB;

His sister-in-law Asta Schmalz of Shellbrook, SK.

A memorial service for Wes will be announced at a later date.

Condolences and tributes may be directed to the family by visiting www.nunes-pottinger.com.

Addressing Breast Cancer Diagnostic Wait Times

The highest-risk patients have been identified and are receiving diagnostic care here in Saskatchewan. Eligible patients on an urgent wait list will be able to receive procedures at a private medical facility in Calgary. The Ministry of Health will reimburse travel expenses to a maximum of \$1,500 for patients participating in this program. **To learn more about the out-of-province breast cancer diagnostic initiative, please visit saskatchewan.ca/medical-imaging.**

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

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



Exemptions point to flawed climate policy

Exceptions to rules are rarely the perfect solution.

Every time an exception is created, it tends to put the spotlight on one of two things.

The first thing the need for an exception suggests, is that the thing the exemption is for is flawed from the outset.

And, when one sees an exemption, it usually means someone or some group is being given a break others are not getting – and that ultimately isn't likely to be the best thing either.

Which brings us to federal Bill C-234, a private member's bill that would remove farm propane and natural gas used to dry grain or heat and cool barns from carbon pricing.

This is one of those situations where the existence of C-234 speaks to the probability that carbon pricing itself is a flawed thing.

Certainly, few in Saskatchewan would suggest the Liberal government has handled its carbon pricing policy very well.

You can of course make



CALVIN DANIELS

the argument the world needs to do something to effect some positive change in terms of our environment, but does Canada largely going its own way when far bigger countries are doing little

accomplish real change?

Or is largely symbolic?

Of course, being a world leader also has some merit worth considering, and it is a role Canada often plays.

So, we need to assign plenty of blame to how the federal government is handling the issue.

But what about the private member's Bill?

In Saskatchewan, an exemption for on-farm propane and natural gas is widely supported, especially in the agriculture community, but it is still an exception.

If passed, the exemption is good news for ag producers. But let's not shy away from the reality it would afford farmers a benefit that others aren't in line to get.

If we remember the feds' carbon policy is something of a bugaboo, anything which lends favour to one sector may not be applauded by everyone else.

In a world where farmers are a declining minority, forging alliances is a positive thing, and the exception will not help in that regard.

Someone in vote rich Toronto might not appreciate, understand, or ultimately care that an exemption for farmers makes sense – at least, of course to the ag community – so giving future support to farmers on any issue might be impaired.

Such are the pitfalls associated with exemptions. By nature, they can create or enlarge chasms between sides.

In this case, the exemption might address questionable federal policy, but it's still an exemption.

OBITUARY

Valerie Wonderham



(Jayda, Axl);

Lisa (Issac Saba) (Sofia, Elias, Ivy);

Trinity Louise Fusick.

She is also survived by her special fur baby, Finn.

Valerie was born in Shellbrook in 1955 and went to school in Shellbrook before attending Robertson Secretarial College in Saskatoon. She worked for Scotiabank in various capacities and in various locations: Shellbrook, Saskatoon, Red Deer, Alberta and Penticton, B.C. Following her retirement from the bank she took training as an organic inspector and conducted organic inspections throughout British Columbia.

In 1990 she married Henry Wonderham and together with their special babies--Mover, then Casey and finally Finn--they enjoyed a full, productive life, travelling extensively to those special places where she could be "in nature" and "listen to the quiet."

Valerie was blessed with a beautiful voice. At a very young age she appeared on "Tiny Talent" a television program produced by CKBI Prince Albert. And through the years she performed with numerous choral groups in both Saskatchewan and British Columbia and was constantly in

demand as a soloist for weddings, funerals, anniversaries and other special occasions.

In 2019, Valerie and Henry returned to Shellbrook from B.C. After Henry's passing in 2021, she concentrated her energy on reconnecting with nieces and nephews, attending hockey games, concerts and the various activities in which they were involved. She also resumed old and steadfast friendships, revived her connection with the land south of Shellbrook where she grew up and rekindled her love for cattle. If help was needed to move cows to another pasture or if an orphan calf needed to be bottle fed, she was there, any time, day or night.

She will be greatly missed by those whose lives she touched—both two and four-legged creatures alike.

The family would like to thank everyone who helped her, especially Helen Moesobo in Peachland, B.C., Jaynie Malloy in Penticton, B.C. and Gloria and her staff at Mihilewicz Assisted Living Care Home in Shellbrook.

Valerie was interred at the Brightholme Cemetery on November 25, 2023. Memorial donations can be made to the Brightholme Cemetery Fund or to the SPCA.

We wish to announce the passing of Valerie Wonderham (née Schmalz) at the Mihilewicz Assisted Living Care Home in Shellbrook, Saskatchewan on November 20, 2023.

Valerie was predeceased by her husband Henry Wonderham, her parents Harry and Louise Schmalz and her infant brother, Daryl Schmalz.

She is survived: by her siblings Wayne Schmalz (Margaret George) of Shellbrook; Myron (Caroline) Schmalz of Prince Albert; Patricia Schmalz (Mark Fusick) of Shellbrook;

and by numerous nephews and nieces:

Eric (Lesley née: Nystrom) Schmalz (Freya Louise, Erik);

Edward (Christina née: Hark) Schmalz (Arlise, Leila, Maximus, Katrin);

Adam (Brianne née: Lypchuik) Schmalz

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Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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

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

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

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

CANWOOD: Canwood Branch of Wapiti Regional Library. Tuesday 10am - 3:30pm; Thursday 2pm - 6pm; Friday 1:30pm - 5pm. Kids Club is Fridays 3:30pm - 4:30pm, Crafter's Choice is the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month.

DEBDEN: Wapiti Library hours: Tuesday 10am - 4pm; Wednesday 1pm - 7pm. Librarian: Aline Hannon

LEASK: Wapiti Library & Legacy Gallery Hours - Tuesday 9am - 2pm; Wednesday 3pm - 6pm; Friday 1pm - 5pm

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

SHELLBROOK: Shellbrook Branch of the Wapiti Library located at 105 Railway Ave., West (Provincial building). Library Hours: Monday 2pm - 6pm; Tuesday 2pm - 8pm; Wednesday 2pm - 8pm; Thursday 12pm - 6pm; Friday 10 am - 5pm (Story Time 10:30am - 11:30am); Saturday 10am - 4pm.

SPIRITWOOD: Witchekan Wildlife Federation – Horn Scoring – Friday, December 8, 6:00 p.m., Ag Barn in Spiritwood

SHELLBROOK & AREA: Christmas Hampers (Shellbrook, Parkside Holbein, Mont Nebo & Canwood) Those requesting Christmas Food Hampers, pick up an application form from any church or Bigway. Complete the form and make sure the application is sent to: Food Bank c/o Shellbrook Pentecostal Assembly, PO Box 1118, Shellbrook, Sask., S0J 2E0, before Dec. 11, 2023. Hamper pick-up: Wed., December 20, 5:30-7:30. Call/Text Dave Bodvarson 306-747-7235, John Slemming 306-561-7807 or Linda Lundy 306-960-6879.

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Alouettes put stop to 'dynasty' talk in Winnipeg

Dynasty? What's all this talk about a Canadian Football League dynasty?

The 'D' word was banded about in Winnipeg and area, because the Blue Bombers were appearing in their fourth consecutive Grey Cup game, and were aiming to win their third Cup in four years.

Instead, after falling 28-24 to Montreal Alouettes in the 2023 game in Hamilton, the Blue Bombers have now lost back-to-back Grey Cup games and any talk of a 'dynasty' has been put on the back burner.

The Toronto Argonauts got in the way of the Bombers winning three Cups in a row last year, with a 24-23 victory. But when the Eastern Division's best regular-season team, the Argos, were hammered 38-17 by Montreal in this year's East final, many Bomber fans presumed the road to Cup glory would be even easier with the Argos out of the way.

But the Als were hav-

ing none of that. On a roll going into the Grey Cup game after winning seven consecutive games dating back to Sept. 22, Montreal overcame a 10-0 deficit and outscored Winnipeg 21-7 in the second half to win their first Grey Cup since the Anthony Calvillo-led 2010 team.

The victory was especially sweet for Als' quarterback Cody Fajardo and head coach Jason Maas, both of whom were dumped by the Saskatchewan Roughriders after the 2022 season. Maas, the Riders' offensive co-ordinator, believed in Fajardo, but that belief was not shared by Riders' head coach Craig Dickenson, who benched his QB for the final two games of the season, and then fired Maas at the conclusion of the 2022 campaign. Maas was subsequently hired by the Alouettes to be their head coach, and free agent Fajardo was quick to join Maas in Montreal.

The rest is history.



BRUCE PENTON

Montreal stumbled along to a 6-7 record by mid-September before winning out. With Maas calling the shots and Fajardo playing like an all-star, the Als won their last five games in the regular-season, dumped Hamilton in the East semi-final, and then stunned the Argos in the East final. And the roll continued against the Bombers.

"No one expected us to be here — no one expected us to make the playoffs, no one expected us to beat a 16-2 Argo team and no one sure as hell expected us to beat a Winnipeg team we didn't play well all year,"

Fajardo told reporters after the game. Indeed, the Bombers had no trouble with Montreal during the regular season, winning 17-3 and 47-17. That Bomber domination appeared to continue during the first half of the Grey Cup game, before Fajardo and the Als took over in the final 30 minutes.

Eight straight wins did it for Montreal. And the 'dynasty' talk in Winnipeg has been silenced.

• Kansas City Chiefs' coach Andy Reid, quoted in Peter King's Football Morning in America: "I've always said if we could figure out how to get all the countries to play (football), we wouldn't have wars. We'd just go play football. It'd be a great place."

• Headline at theonion.com: "Motivated Kawhi Leonard Circles Date Of National TV Matchup On Calendar To Sit Out"

• Mike Bianchi of the Orlando Sentinel: "Worst days in Cleveland history: (3) When LeBron left for Miami. (2) When the Cuyahoga

River caught on fire. (1) When the Browns signed Deshaun Watson!"

• Steve Simmons of Sunmedia in Toronto: "Oakland has hit for the cycle now that the A's are moving to Las Vegas. Oakland has lost teams in MLB, NBA, NFL and NHL"

• Super 70s Sports, on X, on how NFL teams often misjudge quarterbacks on draft day: "The Panthers are looking at their Bryce Young receipt and still on hold with customer service."

• Pete Paczko, on X, prior to the Grey Cup game in which former Roughriders Jason Maas, the coach, and QB Cody Fajardo were to play central roles: "What time is the torch and pitchfork gang heading to Mosaic Stadium if Fajardo and Maas win this?"

• Jay Ornait on TSN's Sportscentre, promoting a story about offensive co-ordinator Matt Canada being fired by the Steelers: "When things go badly in Pittsburgh, the Steelers blame Can-

ada."

• Comedy writer Brad Dickson of Omaha: "Today Deion Sanders said he thought the 'four heads' — known to most of us as Mount Rushmore — was in Southern California."

• Dickson again: "In Hell the only sports channel is the Peacock Network."

• Janice Hough of leftcoastsportsbabe.com: "Nothing is certain but death, taxes, and the Detroit Lions, even in their best year, playing a turkey game on Thanksgiving."

• Jack Finarelli on his sportscurmudgeon.com website, previewing the Panthers-Titans game on U.S. Thanksgiving weekend: "Give thanks if you are in a part of the country where this game will not be shown in your viewing area."

• Headline at fark.com: "UConn's Azzi Fudd out for season after serious injury to anterior cruciate ligament."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Senior Elks drop two over weekend

By JORDAN TWISS
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

A week removed from their stunning upset of the Willow Cree Chiefs, the Shellbrook Elks senior hockey club looked to springboard off their positive momentum during a weekend filled with hockey action.

On Friday night, the Elks travelled to Dalmeny to face off against the defending Twin Rivers Hockey League champions, the Dalmeny Sabres. Then, on Saturday, the team returned to the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre to cap off a busy day of holiday festivities in the community with a game against the Clavet Cougars (the Elks did their part, by asking spectators to bring donations for the Shellbrook and District Ministerial Food Bank).

Elks (4) vs Sabres (8)

When the Shellbrook Elks and the Dalmeny Sabres took the ice at the Dalmeny Arena on Friday night, they delivered the fireworks in the first period by racking up a combined six goals. Facing another undefeated team in the Sabres, the Elks came out looking for another upset, drawing first blood on a goal from Cole Duperreault, assisted by Devin Dicus and Ethan Skauge.

As the teams remained evenly matched through the first period, a power play for the Sabres proved to be a key difference maker, allowing Dawson Rowley to tie the game at 1-1 on assists from Kyle Martin and Travis Swanson. Adam Oszceyski, meanwhile, put the Sabres up 2-1 less than a minute later, with assists from Terrin Belosowsky and Lyndon Johnson, and Chance Adrian made it 3-1

Dalmeny shortly after on assists from Oszceyski and Belosowsky.

Despite the swift reversal in fortunes, the Elks proved they were in the game to compete, as Duperreault scored his second of the night, unassisted. Then, with just two seconds left on the clock, Rylan Moe tied the game at 3-3 with an assist from Duperreault.

If the first period between the Elks and the Sabres was almost perfectly matched, the second period was its antithesis, as the Sabres rattled off four goals to just one from the Elks. Rowley started by netting his second of the night, with assists from Rylan Couture and Corbin Schmidt, then Braden Trapp struck four minutes later on an unassisted goal, pushing the score to 5-3.

With their first and only power play of the game, the Elks made the Sabres pay, as Duperreault netted his hat trick goal with assists from Tyler Rock and Matthew Flodell. But the Sabres had an answer in the form of a goal by Travis Swanson, assisted by Martin and Rowley. Then, the Sabres' power play proved dangerous again, yielding a goal for Jayden Cantre, assisted by Quincy Adrian and Os-

zceyski.

In a quiet third period, the Sabres offered the only offensive highlight: a goal from Quincy Adrian, assisted by Belosowsky and Oszceyski, cementing an 8-4 loss for the Elks.

Elks (5) vs Cougars (6) SO

Returning to home ice after Friday's loss to the Sabres, the Elks once again looked in top form in front of their home crowd on Saturday evening. Taking advantage of an early power play, Matthew Kutnikoff led the Elks to an early lead on a goal assisted by Cole Duperreault and Matthew Flodell.

But, as the period wore on, the Cougars responded with an unassisted goal from Dillon Sawarski, and a power play goal of their own from Brody Vogel and Sawarski.

As dangerous as the Cougars' power play was, the Elks' penalty kill was also a threat, as Duperreault tied the game at 2-2 on a goal assisted by Rylan Moe and Flodell. Then, late in the frame, Nathaniel Martin put the Elks up 3-2 on a goal assisted by Brendon Canaday and Kutnikoff.

In an evenly matched second period, both goals came early, starting with an Elks goal

from Tyler Rock, assisted by Flodell. Once again, though, the Elks were burned by the Clavet power play, as Mark Schneider scored on an assist from Casey Fitzsimmons.

With an early power play in the third period, Moe gave the Elks some insurance, putting them up 5-3 on helpers from Flodell and Rock. All the Elks had to do from here is hold on to their lead and claim victory.

Unfortunately, Brody Vogel had other ideas, scoring back-to-back goals to tie the game at 5-5 and force overtime. Vogel's first came at even strength, with assists from Schneider and Cody Schlosser, while his second came on the power play, thanks to assists from Layne Schroeder and Schneider.

The teams were unable to break the stalemate in overtime, sending the game to a shootout to decide a winner. There, Dillon Sawarski secured the win for the Cougars, as the only shooter to score.

With the two defeats over the weekend, the Elks sit at 2-4-0-1 on the season.

This Saturday, the team travels to Waldheim to take on the Waldheim Warriors at 7:30 p.m. Then, on Sunday, they host the Dalmeny Sabres for a rematch at 2:30 p.m.

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FOR SALE - 2014 Morris C2 air seeder 41 ft. with Bourgault 4350 air cart, \$95,000 or best offer. Buhler grain auger, 13x70, hydraulic swing, 540 PTO, \$10,000. Ph: 306-717-3297, Hafford, Sask. 11-52

CARD OF THANKS

The family of the late Mike Kuzyk wishes to express their gratefulness to the following: Evergreen Health Centre for the four years of love and caring shown to Mike; to Father Ramel Macapala for the celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial; to Yvette and Gilles Francoeur for the hymns provided at the mass; to Beau 'Lac' Funeral Home for the support, compassion, and help shown during this grieving time; to the Leoville Willing Workers who provided a delicious lunch. Sincere thanks for the flowers, cards, food donations, phone calls, and messages of sympathy.
- Denise, Anthony, Daniel, and Allan.

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SGI, RCMP *spotlight impaired driving for holidays*

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Impaired driving is the focus of SGI's December Traffic Safety Spotlight, and drivers can expect to see an increase in police enforcement throughout the holiday season.

Checkstops will be conducted frequently across the province this month, and you never know where or when you'll encounter one. Last year, police across the province held dozens of checkstops during the month of December, and it's a tradition that will continue this year, in addition to other less-conspicuous forms of enforcement.

"Making the choice to find a safe ride ensures not just our own safety but the safety of everyone around us," SGI President and CEO Penny McCune said in a statement. "Together, we can make sure our celebrations are filled with joy, warmth and safety for all."

Any driver may be asked to provide a quick breath sample into an approved screening device to ensure they haven't been drinking. Police also have access to oral fluid testing devices that can determine whether a driver has recently used cannabis.

When it comes to getting home safely during the holiday season (or any other time), SGI advises drivers of multiple options:

- Call a sober friend or family member to come pick you up;
- Select a designated driver for your group (or volunteer to be one);
- Take a cab, a rideshare, a designated driving service or Operation Red Nose;
- Use public transit (you can ride for free on New Year's Eve in Saskatoon,

Regina, Prince Albert and Moose Jaw);
• Stay the night.

While Saskatchewan has made strides in decreasing impaired driving collisions and fatalities over the last decade, even one person hurt is too many, because impaired driving is always preventable.

The Saskatchewan RCMP is also spotlighting impaired driving this holiday season by taking part in Canada Safe Driving Week.

According to police, impaired driving continues to be a safety concern in Saskatchewan. In the first 10 months of 2023, Saskatchewan RCMP and Combined Traffic Services Saskatchewan (including municipal police partner agencies) have found 2,643 drivers who have recently consumed alcohol and/or drugs on Saskatchewan roadways. Of those, 1,560 drivers were charged criminally, while 1,083 drivers received roadside suspensions.

"Getting behind the wheel when you're impaired by drugs or alcohol impacts your safety as well as the safety of your passengers and other road users. We all have the power to make good decisions," says Supt. Grant St. Germaine, the officer in charge of Saskatchewan RCMP Traffic Services, in a statement. "We know people will be celebrating in the next month. Whether you're attending a holiday gathering or hosting your own, plan ahead."

Anyone who sees a suspected impaired driver is urged to pull over and immediately call 911. Signs of a possible impaired driver include: lane drifting; driving too fast, slow or at an inconsistent speed; not using proper signals; making very wide turns; approaching and leaving intersections too slowly or quickly; and driving without headlights or leaving high beams or turn signals on.

PRAISE & WORSHIP

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

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Parkside
10:30 a.m. Worship
Pastor Lorne Valuck
306-747-3572
Shellbrook
Adult Study
9:30 a.m.
Sun., 10:30 a.m. - Worship
Pastor David Bodvarson
306-747-7235
Canwood
Summer: 10 a.m. - Worship
Pastor Bob Wrench
306-468-2138
Leask Gospel Tabernacle
Sunday 11 a.m.
Pastor Josh
1-780-690-2100

PRESBYTERIAN

Mistawasis
Sunday worship
11:00 a.m.
Rev. Stewart Foster

ANGLICAN CHURCH

Leask - All Saint's
Sunday Service - 9 a.m.
St. Andrew's - Shellbrook
Sunday, 11 a.m. Service
Canwood - Christ Church
Sunday, 2 p.m. - Service
Rev. Canon David Butorac
306-961-1634
Minister's Warden:
306-922-5159
H.C. Service with Rev.
Butorac - 2nd Sunday of the month

MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH

Blaine Lake Gospel Chapel
109 Railway Ave. W.
Blaine Lake
306-497-3316
Sunday, 10:30 a.m.
Worship

EVANGELICAL FREE

Big River
11:00 a.m. - Worship
Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.
Summer: 10:30 a.m. - 12
306-469-2258
Youth Nite: Fridays
Mont Nebo
Sun. Worship - 11:00 a.m.
(10:30 a.m. June - August)
306-468-2525

PRAISE & WORSHIP

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

PARTNERS IN FAITH

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

UNITED /ANGLICAN

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

CATHOLIC SUNDAY

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

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Pastor Riek Martin

LAKELAND COMMUNITY CHURCH

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St., Spiritwood)
Sun., 11 a.m. - Worship
Service & Sunday School
Pastor Michael Kluthe
306-883-2380

FIELDS OF HOPE (HOFFNUNGSFELDER) MENNONITE CHURCH

Glenbush
Worship - 11:00 am

BETHEL

Medstead
2nd Sunday, 10 am -
Worship
Pastor David Jensen
4th Sunday, 10 am -
Worship
Pastor David Jensen

MENNONITE BRETHREN

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

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407 - 2nd Ave .E,
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Sat., 9:45 am -
Sabbath School
Sat., 11:00 am - Worship
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VOAR 92.1 FM
Pastor Liviu Tilihoi
306-747-3398

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11 am Worship Service

PARTNERS IN WORSHIP

Shell Lake
Worship Services
Sunday 9:00 a.m.
Pastor Sarah Urano
306-841-7333

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN

Parkside
11 a.m. - Worship

UNITED CHURCH

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

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Debden
Sun. Mass - 9:30 a.m.
Fr. Mariusz Zajac
Big River - Sacred Heart
Sun., 11:30 a.m. - Mass
Whitefish
Sun., 2:30 p.m. - Mass.
Victoire
Sat., 7:30 p.m. - Mass.
Fr. Mariusz Zajac
St. Agatha's - Shellbrook
Mass - Sunday 9 a.m.
St. Henry's - Leask
Mass - Sunday 11 a.m.
Mistawasis
1st & 3rd Sundays 1:30 p.m.
Fr. Tuan Doan

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U18 Elks lose pair on home ice

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Following a mid-week 8-6 road loss to the Saskatoon Sabercats, the Parkland U18 AA Elks returned to Shellbrook for the weekend, hosting the Martensville Marauders and the Saskatoon Riverkings at the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre on Friday night and Sunday afternoon, respectively.

Elks (4) vs Marauders (5) OT

From just past the two-minute mark in the opening frame of Friday night's game against the Marauders, the Elks were firmly in control where the scoreboard was concerned. Tyson Gagnon got the scoring started for the Elks, with an assist from Kamden Shewchuk.

After the Elks and Marauders played to a virtual draw for much of the rest of the period, Corvan Stewart put the Elks up 2-0 in the dying minutes on an assist from Aiden Tait, and Jake Boettcher kept the Elks' momentum alive in the opening minutes of the second period, putting the Elks up 3-0 on assists from Cohen Tait and Gagnon.

Having been very much in the game through the first thirty minutes of action, the Marauders finally saw their efforts pay off and began to close the gap on a pair of goals from Evan Skoronski. The first one was scored unassisted in the middle of the frame, while the second came late in the period, on assists from Tyler Hale and Greyson Sorowski.

As the action moved to the third period, it was the Marauders who held all the momentum, as Sorowski tied the

game at 3-3 early on with assists from Hunter Jaeb and Skoronski. As the period wore on, Jake Bergman gave the Marauders their first lead of the game, scoring with helpers from Deagan Reister and Kohen Pierce.

With time ticking down in the third period, Gagnon gave the Elks a fighting chance in overtime, scoring an unassisted goal just five seconds before the final buzzer.

In overtime, despite having a number of opportunities to score the win, the Elks ultimately came up short. This opened the door for Bergman to score the game-winning goal for the Marauders, with an assist from Ethan Merri-man.

Elks (5) vs Kings (6)

When the Elks hosted the undefeated Saskatoon Riverkings in November, they unexpectedly pushed their opponents to the limit before ultimately coming out on the wrong side of a 4-2 score.

When the Riverkings returned to Shellbrook on Sunday afternoon, history repeated itself, as the Elks jumped out to an early lead on a goal from Lane Keyowski, assisted by Jesse Nyberg.

The lead was short-lived, as a penalty put the Elks on the defensive and opened the door for Koston Baliski to score for the Riverkings, on an assist from Kash Ringdal.

The score would remain tied until late in the first period, when Cohen Tait struck for the Elks, with assists from Brendan Aug and Brody Anderson.

With a power play near the middle of the second period, the Elks jumped ahead 3-1 on a goal from Colton Sommerfeld, assisted by Kendon Skalicky and Keyowski. But a

late period collapse by the Elks saw the score swing in the Riverkings' favour, as they rattled off three goals in three minutes to take a 4-3 lead.

Carter Stolte started the flurry of goals with a power play marker, assisted by Sawyer Scheidt and Ringdal, and Brock Kolibab followed up on an assist from Koen Giasson. Finally, Scheidt capped off the goals with an unassisted tally.

Back on the power play in the dying seconds of the second frame, Cohen Tait struck for the second time on the afternoon to tie the game back up at 4-4. Corvan Stewart and Sommerfeld assisted on the goal.

The third period saw the Elks and Riverkings play to a stalemate for the better part of 20 minutes, before Baliski broke the deadlock with just under two minutes left, on assists from Ringdal and Scheidt.

A goal that late would spell the end for most teams, but the Elks fired back and tied the score at 5-5 with only 37 seconds remaining. Aug scored the goal with a lone assist from Stewart.

Just when overtime seemed inevitable, however, the Riverkings found a way to steal the win with 10 seconds left on the clock. Caiden Stratyckuk scored the game-winning goal, with Charlie Kay and Cohen Van Horne earning assists on the play.

Following the weekend's pair of losses, the Elks now sit at 5-9-2-0 on the season.

The team's schedule is a little lighter this weekend, with their only game being a road contest against the Humboldt Broncos on Friday evening.

Minutes of an RM of Canwood meeting

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

A regular meeting of the Council of the Rural Municipality of Canwood No. 494 was held in the Municipal Council Chambers, at 641 Main Street, Canwood, SK, on Oct. 25, 2023, commencing at 9:05 a.m.

Present: Reeve Lyndon Pease, Administrator Lorna Benson and the following Councillors for their respective divisions: #1 Ralph Korody, #2 Gerald Muller, #3 Gordon Andrews, #4 Mario Boisvert, #5 Kevin Olson, and #6 Cody Lockhart.

Delegations:

10 a.m.: Dwight Diehl, Public Works Supervisor, Municipal Operations Update

11:45 a.m.: Councillor Indemnity

Muller: That the minutes of the Sept. 19, 2023, Regular Council Meeting be approved. Carried

Olson: That the Statement of Financial Activities for the month of September 2023 for the R.M. General Account be approved as presented. Carried

Korody: That we approve the payments as listed on the attached account listing for a total of \$759,484.73, Council Direct Deposits for September and Payroll Direct Deposits for 2023 Pay Periods 19 & 20. Carried

Muller: That we amend Policy 7.01 by clarifying developer and contractor requirements. Carried

Korody: That we instruct the Reeve and Chief Administrative Officer to duly execute the Clearing the Path annual declaration. Carried

Public Works Supervisor Dwight Diehl attended the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Olson: Further to Resolution No. 12 of May 24, 2023, we authorize the Reeve and Chief Administrative Officer to duly execute the Capital Project Funding Agreement for the conversion of the Wreford Bridge located at NNE 14-50-06 W3 to large diameter culverts. Carried

Olson: Further to Resolution No. 12 of May 24, 2023, we authorize the Reeve and Chief Administrative Officer to duly execute

the Capital Project Funding Agreement for the replacement of culverts located at WNW 31-51-07 W3. Carried

Olson: That the Council of the R.M. of Canwood No. 494 has no objections to the sale of the following Crown Lands and wishes to offer the following comments:

1. The municipality assumes no responsibility for access to the parcels of land;
2. Future development will be conditional to land abutting a developed road (Basic Planning Statement Bylaw No. 2003-6);
3. The Ministry of Agriculture shall insist on the registration of parcel ties where appropriate with Information Services Corporation (ISC) to ensure access is not jeopardized by future land transactions;
4. The Ministry of Agriculture shall register an interest on titles that currently do not abut a developed roadway to ensure landowners are made aware of access issues; and
5. To the best of Council's knowledge, the following comments can be made with respect to the specific parcels of land in this specific lease:

NW 11-50-05 W3 abuts a developed municipal roadway;

SW 11-50-05 W3 does not abut a developed municipal roadway. Carried

Muller: That we host the 2023 Christmas Social on Friday, Dec. 8, 2023, at the Canwood Bowling Alley in conjunction with Highway 55 Waste Management Corporation. Carried

Korody: That we acknowledge the OHC Meeting minutes of Oct. 19, 2023. Carried

Councillor Korody left the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Public Works Supervisor Dwight Diehl left the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Boisvert: That we void Cheques 12646 to 12657 as they were spoiled during printing. Carried

Boisvert: That we acknowledge that the Chief Administrative Officer has reviewed the approving authority of the Development Officer under the Planning and Development Act, 2007, as well as the protection of personal information when dealing with municipal matters. Carried

Andrews: That we abate the 2023 taxes on

the Sask. Ag and Food parcel SW 21-54-05 W3 as the lease was surrendered on Jan. 16, 2023. The cancellation is as follows: Roll #: 2792 000, Legal Description: SW 21-54-05 W3, Municipal: \$250.00, School: \$9.90, Total: \$259.90. Carried

Muller: That we acknowledge the Development and Building Permit Applications of Garth and Cheryl Evans to construct an open lean-to structure, with approval pursuant to Section 5.1.3(1) of the Municipal Zoning Bylaw 2003-7. Carried

Boisvert: That we acknowledge the Development and Building Permit Applications of Adam Gerow to construct a new house, with approval pursuant to Section 5.1.1(1) (c) of the Municipal Zoning Bylaw 2003-7. Carried

Andrews: That we acknowledge the Development Permit of Bradley Benson to move a shed pursuant to Section 9.1.2 of the Municipal Zoning Bylaw 2003-7. Carried

Lockhart: That we acknowledge the Development Permit of Jamie Skarpinsky to move a barn pursuant to Section 5.1.3(1) of the Municipal Zoning Bylaw 2003-7. Carried

Muller: That we acknowledge the Development and Building Permit Applications of Brian J Turcotte to construct a detached garage, with approval pursuant to Section 9.1.2 of the Municipal Zoning Bylaw 2003-7. Carried

Boisvert: That we acknowledge the Development Permit of Denny Little to landscape the lot and apply gravel subject to the condition that the surface drainage will not adversely affect adjacent property or stability of the land. Carried

Olson: That we acknowledge the Development Permit Application of Glen Aiken to construct a maintenance shop pursuant to Section 5.1.3(1) of the Municipal Zoning Bylaw 2003-7. Carried

Pease: That we acknowledge the Permit Extension Application of James and Shannon Fairbairn to complete the cabin interior by Oct. 31, 2024. Carried

Muller: That we notify Mr. David Zdunich that Council is not in favour of his proposal of subdivision on the SE 13-50-07 W3. Carried

Olson: That we approve the Council's Indemnity as presented. Carried

Muller: That we now adjourn at 12:30 p.m.

Shellbrook Chronicle Spiritwood Herald

Office will be closed from

**December 21/23 @ Noon
to January 1/24**

Regular office hours will resume
on January 2, 2024.

**Advertising Deadline is
Friday, Dec. 15/23**

for December 21st, 28th &
January 4th papers.

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May your holiday season contain all the makings of lasting memories for you and your loved ones. We thank our customers, friends and readers for your continued support.

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