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### Shellbrook, Leask craft sales draw crowds



Cindy and Mallory Jess have a look at bookmarks and mystery books at the Shellbrook Kinettes' Winter Market.

#### By JORDAN TWISS

Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Early Christmas shoppers had a plethora of unique, locally crafted Christmas items to peruse and purchase on Nov. 15 and 16, as annual Christmas craft sales rolled into Shellbrook and Leask.

Starting in Shellbrook on Saturday, the Shellbrook and District Arts Council's Christmas Craft Sale continued its nearly four-decade legacy of showcasing local and area artisans at the Shellbrook Community Hall, which was set up beforehand by members of the U18 AA Parkland

All told, Shellbrook Arts Coun-

cil member Lorraine Adamson says there were 26 vendors with wares spread across 37 tables for 530 guests to browse through. Doing double duty as an organizer and a vendor, Adamson says all the other vendors she spoke to seemed happy with their sales on the day. Meanwhile, the steady stream of customers ensured the Community Hall was abuzz with activity all day long.

Calling the craft sale a "kick off" for people to do their Christmas shopping, Adamson says one of the things that has made the event so enduring is its social nature.

"The social aspect is important," she said, noting that the soup and sandwich lunch served up by the Shellbrook Royal Purple gave patrons even more reasons to stay and visit.

"People may come and buy nothing, or a buy a pie or some baking, but they wander around and get ideas. And a lot of them talk to the vendors and ask them about their craft, which is quite nice, too."

Also helping to boost the craft sale. says Adamson, is the Shellbrook Kinettes Winter Market over at the Shellbrook Senior's Centre.

"It makes it worth the while to come to town, because there's not just one event, they can go see two of them," she said.

As the organization's name implies. the Shellbrook and District Arts Council is all about promoting the arts within the community. That's why, Adamson says, vendors at the craft sale need to be selling handmade goods, rather than corporate products like Tupperware or Scentsy.

As a chief fundraiser for the Arts Council, the craft sale helps it put on its annual Carol Festival each year. But Adamson says the Arts Council has more plans up its sleeve.

"We're trying to kick off a new identity. We've got some new membership, and we're trying to establish a series of performers coming in, so that we can bring entertainment in," she said, hoping the group will bring something different that will be enjoyed by the community.

Continued on page 9



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### Shellbrook remembers veterans' sacrifices

**By JORDAN TWISS** Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Following a Veterans' Week filled with acts of remembrance in Shellbrook's schools and library, the spirit of remembrance remained strong on Tuesday, Nov. 11, when veterans, legion members, RCMP officers, community members, and dignitaries filed into the Shellbrook Theatre to pay tribute to those who have died for, served, and continue to serve Canada.

Remembrance Day service began with the presentation of the colours, called for by Shellbrook Legion president Alan Carswell. This was followed by the singing of "O Canada," the invocational prayer by Padre Dave Bodvarson, and the singing of the hymn, "Great is Thy Faithfulness."

Maintaining the connection between faith and remembrance, Lorette Palm read Isaiah chapter 1, verses 16 to 18, on behalf of the Shellbrook Anglican Church, which call on the faith-

the oppressed." Meanwhile, tor Jordan Clark from Shellbrook Pentecostal Assembly read Matthew chapter 25, verses 31 to 40, in which Jesus reminds his followers that what they do to the most

ful to "learn to do right,

seek justice, and defend

Taking inspiration from these two scripture lessons, Pastor Chris Dean delivered the morning's sermon and drew parallels between the faithful and the men and women who have served Cana-

vulnerable, they also do

to Him.

"Today, we remember and honour the memories of those, who at great cost to themselves, served their country in order to serve the needs of others," he said. "People who understood that service meant sacrifice, and considered yours and my safety... worthy of that sacrifice."

Sharing his own scripture lesson, from Proverbs chapter 4, verses 4 and 5, Pastor Dean also



Allison Irvine lays a wreath on behalf of Shellbrook's First Responders.

reflected on the act of remembrance as an act of obtaining wisdom and learning from our mistakes.

"When we fail to pass on what we have learned as a society, a culture, a global community, we again and again face the horror and grief of violence, oppression, and waste. So, we say we will remember. More specifically, we say we will remember them," he said.

"Let's remember that they wanted something far better for us, and let us treasure and value it."

As the service continued, Deacon Ron Johnson said the Lord's Prayer, Pastor Bodvarson offered the benediction, and all in attendance observed a moment of silence before the reading of the honour roll by Shellbrook Legion member Nancy Carswell.

Following this, Danay Smart sang a song, guests were invited to lay wreaths at the portable cenotaph set up on the stage, and the ceremony concluded with the retiring of the colours and the singing of God Save the King.

All were invited to enjoy lunch at the Shellbrook Legion Hall after the service.

### Pastor Chris Dean delivers the Remembrance Day sermon.

### Leask Legion holds Remembrance Day ceremony

By VALERIE PRIESTLEY Leask Legion

Leask Legion #79 celebrated Remembrance Day Week by attending the Leask Community School Service, as well as hosting a service at Wheatland Lodge on Nov. 6. Wreaths and poppies were distributed and sold in the communities of Leask, Blaine Lake, Marcelin, and Muskeg Lake.

As always, these communities showed great support, and all monies raised from this campaign will go to support veterans and their families.

On Nov. 11, the Remembrance Day Service was held at the Leask Legion Hall, beginning at 10 a.m., followed by a march to the Cenotaph where the wreaths were laid. A lovely lunch was then served at the Legion Hall. Approx. 140 people attended and 43 wreaths were laid.

One of the Legion's members, Carol Lafond, had the good fortune to attend the 80th Anniversary of the Liberation of Holland, which her dad, Al- Pastor Josh VanZandbeek delivers his Remembert Lafond, was a part of. She put together a slide brance Day address. show highlighting her experiences at this event, which was shown during the service.



ADVERTISING DEADLINE IS FRIDAY 4PM







Comrade Valerie Priestley officiates Leask's Remembrance Day service.

### Highlights of a Shellbrook Town Council meeting

By JORDAN TWISS Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

(The following council highlights are not the approved minutes of council for Nov. 10.)

Shellbrook's Town Council held its governance and priorities meeting and regular meeting in person and via teleconference on Monday, Nov. 10.

In attendance were Mayor Amund Otterson, Councillors Pam Boettcher, Brent Miller, Kathleen Nording, Arlette Segberg, and Tim Settee, and the town's CAO, Sigourney O'Halligan.

Absent was Councillor Cheryl Ledding.

The governance and priorities meeting, typically reserved for high-level longer-term municipal strategic planning saw council briefly discuss issues related to water and wastewater.

In the midst of the discussion, Councillor Segberg asked if council could have a clearer picture of where the town stands with current loans, voicing concerns about tying the hands of future councils by taking on too much debt.

Meanwhile, Councillor Miller asked if there were plans in place for the available money once the wastewater treatment plant loan is paid off (an annual budget hit of more than \$250,000), and whether those funds could be directed to reserves to save for the future. Council was receptive to the idea, noting that it would depend on whether or not other budgeting priorities cropped up.

The lion's share of the governance and priorities meeting was devoted to the previous week's recreation roundtable, which brought together the town and representatives from community groups in hopes of opening doors of communication and fostering collaboration.

While overall positive on how the meeting went, Mayor Otterson expressed hopes that future meetings would be more productive and forward-looking, not about looking backward and pointing fingers.

Perhaps the biggest roadblock at the meeting was concern from community groups about the liability provisions in the town's new user agreement. Acknowledging the concerns, CAO O'Halligan noted that the provisions aren't about shifting liability from the town to user groups, but rather about making them aware of potential liabilities.

The roundtable meeting ended on a positive note, with a suggestion that the town explore options to bring user groups under its umbrella for insurance and liability. However, Councillor Boettcher expressed confusion about why the town is so concerned about the matter.

up the Wrapping governance and priorities meeting, Mayor Otterson called council's regular meeting to order, beginning with the customary Treaty 6 land acknowledgement in recognition of Truth Reconciliation. Then, council approved the meeting's agenda, adopted the minutes of its Oct. 27 meeting, and moved on to the reports of administration and committees.

In her report, CAO O'Halligan noted that her current priorities are pre-budget planning and finalizing the town's application for the Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund (CHIF) grant, a federal-provincial-municipal grant the town is hoping to obtain so it can begin work on the water treatment plant project.

Elsewhere, she said the town is in the process of submitting a request to the province requesting an exception for its CSOs to be able to patrol in a 100 km/hr zone. Meanwhile, the public works crew is working on laying gravel on main driveway access points and parking stalls at residences affected by last fall's sewer and water project on 1st Avenue East.

In the recreation committee report, the town's facilities manager and administration were instructed to explore options for liability signage in townowned facilities.

Rounding out the reports, CAO O'Halligan informed council that the Airstrip Steering Committee is pursuing grant funding to sand seal or put a finish on

the runway. The grant is a 50 per cent matching grant, and the committee has agreed to pay its share of the cost.

Moving to the Mayor and Council forum, Councillor Miller asked if a letter had been sent to Scotiabank about the upcoming branch closure in 2026, and was told it would be in the mail once it was signed by Mayor Otterson. He also informed council that a family being sponsored by the Shellbrook Pentecostal Assembly was expected to arrive in the community soon.

Meanwhile, Councillor Boettcher expressed concerns about the lack of public skating times on weekends, and asked for something to be done about the weeds in the playground at Centennial Park.

Shifting to new business, council began by greenlighting the town's application for the CHIF grant for the water treatment plant project.

In a related motion, it also agreed to engage

Associated Engineering as the contractor for the preliminary design of the water treatment plant, as CAO O'Halligan noted that having a contractor in place would make the town's grant application more appealing. During the discussion, Councillor Miller suggested the town should hire an independent manager to oversee the project when it begins, in an effort to cut costs.

Carrying on, council agreed to release \$89,874.14 in funds the town was holding in trust for the former Rhythm Works Dance Studio executive following the sale of the dance studio. The funds will be used to renovate and upgrade the Shellbrook Theatre.

Closing out the meeting, Council approved the new Community Engagement - Request for Funding Policy, which sets out the criteria by which applications for municipal funding will be judged to ensure every application is treated fairly.

# Big River pays tribute to veterans

By MAISIE KRIENKE
Submitted

The Big River Legion #136 hosted a special celebration on Nov. 11 to pay tribute to all those who have served. More than 130 people gathered at the Legion for this special service.

The Sergeant at Arms, Heath Robinson, along with the Colour party consisting of representatives from the RCMP, Government of Saskatchewan, fire department, ambulance, and air cadets opened the ceremony with the placement of flags as everyone stood for singing of "O Canada".

Reverend Dave Whalley, along with Bertha Smith, shared prayers and scripture readings. Reverend Whalley outlined the many roles our Legion plays in supporting the families of those who fought for us.

The students of our schools displayed their thoughts of Remembrance Day by decorating the walls with their beautiful pieces of artwork.

Following The Lord's Prayer, everyone stood for the singing of God Save The King and the Act of Remembrance. Peter Lamothe then directed

everyone to the Cenotaph where more than 100 wreaths were presented in memory.

The ladies of the Legion Auxiliary served a delicious lunch and a great visiting session was then enjoyed by all.

"We will remember them!"



The Big River Cenotaph was adorned with wreaths and other tributes following the community's Remembrance Day ceremony on Nov. 11.

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### Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald



CANADA KEEPS CAVING TO

TRUMP'S TANTRUMS. IT'S

BECOMING EMBARRASSING.

OH, WE PASSED *EMBARRASSING* 

MONTHS AGO.

### Conservatives can't ignore warnings about Poilievre

Though Canada's democracy affords opposition parties the opportunity to take the reigning government to task over its perceived failings, budget day is likely the day they look forward to the most.

It's the day the government lays all its cards out on the table, shows the work in the mathematical equation of what it's done, what it wants to do, and how it plans to get there.

While this means the

spotlight shines brightest on the government – as news outlets break down the budget into the simplest terms for the average Canadian opposition parties also get to bask in the glow.

Instead of lambasting the government on a single issue, they can criticize it for everything all at once and, one would hope, explain how they could do better.

Two weeks ago, when Prime Minister Mark Carney tabled his government's first budget with a projected \$78.3 billion deficit, it essentially threw the opposition parties a slow pitch right down the middle of the plate.

An effective opposition, if Canada had such a thing, would have been able to hit it out of the park. Instead, the opposition parties mostly whiffed.

As of writing, the diminished and disorganized NDP hadn't even responded to the budget, except to say that it would study the document before deciding how to vote on it, or whether to abstain from voting (a move that would effectively allow the budget to pass).

Apart from this, budget week played out as it almost always has – the rare exception being 1979, when Conservative Prime Minister Joe Clark's government was toppled because it couldn't find bipartisan support for its budget.

The Bloc Québecois, which had laid out a number of pre-budget demands for Mr. Carney, made its lack of support for the budget clear, in- Mr. Carney's first budget was Mr. part of the problem.



**Twiss** 

News Editor

troducing an amendment calling for an increase to old age security at age 65, interest-free loans for firsttime homebuyers, and an enhancement of the Canada Health Transfer, among other things.

The amendment was promptly defeated by a coalition of Liberal, Conservative, and NDP MPs, opening the door for the Conservative budget amendment to be brought forward.

In a post-budget statement, the Conservatives called it an amendment to "make Canada affordable again." It proposed to eliminate the industrial carbon tax, cut wasteful spending to bring down debt, inflation, and taxes, open opportunities for Canada by developing our prodigious resources, and clear away bureaucracy to build affordable homes.

Much like the Bloc's amendment, the Conservatives' amendment was soundly defeated, leaving only the final vote on the budget itself.

But rather than the spotlight being trained on the palpable tension around the vote and the potential for a winter election, it soon shifted to turmoil within the Conservative

First, Acadie-Annapolis MP Chris d'Entremont announced he was resigning from the Conservative caucus to join Mr. Carney's Liberals, stating that he often felt like the Conservative Party "was part of a frat house rather than a serious political party" and criticizing the leadership style of Pierre Poilievre.

Then, just two days later, Edmonton-Riverbend MP Matt Jeneroux announced he was quitting politics altogether.

In the midst of these unexpected departures, rumours and whispers were swirling about other defectors in the Conservative Party's ranks (though, no others came forward).

After he fought his way back to the House of Commons by winning the Battle River-Crowfoot by-election



Poilievre's first true test.

Yet, in a week that should have had Mr. Carney playing defence, it was Mr. Poilievre who was left on the back foot, facing questions about the unity of his party.

Mr. Poilievre and his party certainly didn't demonstrate much in the way of maturity with their response to Mr. d'Entremont's decision to cross the aisle, bitterly framing it as a betrayal rooted in his personal grievance over not being named Deputy Speaker.

If Mr. d'Entremont was the only Conservative to call into question Mr. Poilievre's leadership style, it would be easy to buy in to the Conservative Party's efforts to spin his decision to quit the party as selfish.

But multiple former Conservative strategists have spoken critically about Mr. Poilievre's leadership in just the past few months. And, although the Liberals and Conservatives are basically neck and neck in the polls, Mr. Poilievre was trailing far behind Mr. Carney as Canadians' preferred prime minister over the summer, with half of Canadians saving they'd be ashamed to have him as their prime minister.

There comes a point when a per-

Mr. Poilievre is beyond this point.

Back when he was first elected to Parliament in 2004, Mr. Poilievre's vitriolic rhetorical style could have been waved off as the product of youthful exuberance and a lack of maturity and experience.

That Mr. Poilievre is still effectively the same person after 21 years in government, speaks to an inability or unwillingness to change and grow as a person and a politician.

Last week, during his first press conference in the wake of losing two MPs, Mr. Poilievre displayed this by saying he won't be changing a thing going forward. And when he got tired of facing questions, he fired back at one reporter with, "Are you with the CBC by the way?"

This is not the way for Mr. Poilievre to become prime minister, or for the Conservative Party to form government.

Mr. Poilievre has tried leading the Conservative Party in his signature style ever since he became party leader, and we've seen the results. Not only did his leadership cost the party a 20+ point lead in the polls, it also resulted in him getting booted from his own seat.

If Mr. Poilievre changes nothing son needs to stop, reflect, and realize between now and the next election, that maybe – just maybe – they're what reason do Canadians have to vote for him?

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### Dry Creek Penguins receive Golden Anniversary Award

By GRANT PERSON Submitted

It was something that has happened countless times over the last 76 years. A group of guys, linked by a common passion, met early in the morning to jump into a vehicle and travel down the road to represent a ball team. This time there was not a tournament to go to although if the bodies would have allowed it,

they would have suit-Regina to go to.

The annual Softball Saskatchewan Awards Luncheon was held on Oct. 25 to honour excellence in Saskatchewan Softball. There were 14 awards presented to mark the achievements of individual players, umpires, organizations, and teams during the ceremony.

The Golden Anniver-

sary Award was of pared up for a game — but ticular interest to Dry there was a ceremony in Creek Ball Club. This was the first time this award was presented. Softball Saskatchewan felt that it needed to recognize teams that have existed for over 50 seasons. The executive director of Softball Sask. said that it was a slam dunk that a team that has been in existence for 76 seasons be the first to be presented with the award.

Throughout the last 76 years, over 240 players have put on the Dry Creek Penguin uniform. Thousands of kilometres have been travelled. Hundreds of games have been played. Thousands of great plays have been made. It is believed by many that no other ball team has operated under the same name for as long as the Penguins.

What started out as a team from just east of Canwood at the Dry Creek School has continued to be a name commonly found in the finals of many tournaments around Saskatchewan and Alberta. Dry Creek has won provincial titles in 1975, 1982, 1989 and 1998. In addition to these titles, the Penguins have also been in as many Provincial finals during the years.

The only way that the team can continually be in operation for so many years is the dedication and passion that has been exhibited by the group that are proud to call themselves Penguins. There is a special bond that exists among this group of players who have played for Dry Creek. This bond has led to lifelong friendships that has been evident throughout the many years on the diamonds.

The team has spanned three generations of players. Not only have the players dedicated themselves to the team, countless Dry Creek fans have travelled to the many games both near and far in order to support the Penguins.

For the last two years, Dry Creek have played in the Saskatoon leagues using mainly players that have grown up seeing the team compete throughout the years. There is still a sense of pride that has lasted for 76 years for all those who have the chance to play for the Dry Creek Penguin Ball Club.

The 77th season will soon be here and the players on and off the diamond will be once again be grateful to be on the diamond to hear the words, "Play Ball."

### Shellbrook Curling Rink gets "rock solid" cleaning



Shellbrook community members volunteered their Friday evening to give the local curling rink and lobby a much-needed deep cleaning. Five of the community's finest, equipped with great attitudes, window cleaner, vacuums, rags, and various cleaning products, undertook a task of a thorough, much needed cleanup of the area. This community effort highlights civic pride and a commitment to maintaining local facilities, in addition to all they do to enable and manage. Pictured, left to right: Paul Beaulieu, Janet Nyberg, Gayle Draper, Tricia Bell, and Richard Bell. Submitted by ANONYMOUS COMMUNITY MEMBER



Past Dry Creek Penguin players accept the team's Golden Anniversary Award. From left to right: Dale Benson, Glen Person, Grant Person, Lawrence Kvinlaug, Barry Person, Lorne Benson, and Darren Andersen.





### RCMP seek suspect in armed robberies

**By JORDAN TWISS** Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The Prince Albert RCMP is seeking the public's assistance in locating a suspect involved in a string of armed robberies on the Wahpeton Dakota First Nation on Friday, Nov.

The detachment received reports about the robberies around 4:30 p.m. that day, and initial investigation determined a vehicle was driving erratically at a

high rate of speed on Whitefield Road near the Wahpeton Dakota First Nation. The vehicle lost control and collided with a power pole.

The suspect, armed with a firearm, then attempted to steal three other uninvolved vehicles. One of those vehicles left the road and entered a slough during the driver's altercation with the suspect.

The occupant of the third vehicle exited their vehicle after the suspect shot a firearm into the air; the suspect got in this third vehicle five counts of uttering prohibited, assault with and drove away. The vehicle was later located abandoned in Prince Albert by the Prince Albert Police Service.

Police believe the suspect may have been injured as a result of the initial collision with the power pole, and have since identified him as 20-year-old Kalen Felix from the Sturgeon Lake First Nation.

As a result of continued investigation, Felix has been charged with seven counts of pointing a firearm,

threats against a person, three counts of robbery with a firearm, two counts of weapons possession contrary to order, and one count each of careless use of a firearm, possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose, possession of a firearm when knowing possession unauthorized, possession of a restricted firearm/ prohibited weapon with ammunition without a licence/registration, dangerous operation of a motor vehicle, possession of property obtained by crime over \$5,000, operation while impaired of motor vehicle, operation while

a weapon, discharge firearm with intent, and possession of a weapon obtained by crime.

A warrant has been issued for Felix's arrest, and the Prince Albert RCMP is working to locate Kalen Felix and



Kalen Felix.

confirm his wellbeing.

Felix is described as 5'7" and 140 pounds, with black hair and brown eyes, and multiple tattoos, including one under his eye and another above his eye-

Anyone who sees Felix should not approach him. Instead, report all sightings and information on the whereabouts of Kalen Felix to Prince Albert RCMP by calling 310-RCMP (7267). Information can also be submitted anonymously by contacting Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or *www.sask*crimestoppers.com.

#### **COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

SPIRITWOOD: Wapiti Regional Library - Tuesday 10am - 5pm; Wednesday 10am - 5pm; Thursday 1pm to 5pm; Friday 10am - 5pm

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

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

BLAINE LAKE: Wapiti Library - Wednesday 1pm - 6pm; Thursday 1pm -6pm; Friday 1pm - 6pm; Saturday 10am - 3pm. Contact us for more info 306-497-3130, www.wapitilibrary.ca.

BIG RIVER: Wapiti Library - Tuesday 11:30am - 4:30pm; Wednesday 11:30am - 4:30pm; Thursday 11:30am - 4:30pm. Phone # 306-469-2152 CANWOOD: Canwood Branch of Wapiti Regional Library Hours: Tuesday

9:30am - 4pm; Wednesday 10:30am - 5pm; Phone: 306-468-2501 DEBDEN: Wapiti Library hours: Tuesday 10am - 4pm; Wednesday 12pm -6pm. Librarian: Aline Hannon

LEASK: Wapiti Library & Legacy Gallery Hours - Tuesday 9am - 2pm; Wednesday 2pm - 8pm; Friday 9am - 12pm

MARCELIN: Wapiti Library - Saturday 10am - 2pm; Thursday 2pm - 8pm. 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.

BIG RIVER: Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting – Every Wednesday, 7:30 pm @ Train Station in Big River (Railway Avenue)

SHELLBROOK: Kinette Club of Shellbrook presents Small Business Christmas Party - Friday, December 12, Shellbrook Community Hall. 5pm Cocktails; 6:30pm Christmas Supper; 8pm Comedian Darryl "Junior" Koszman & friends with dance to follow. Tickets: \$50 ea. or \$350/table of 8. \$10 entry fee for dance entrance after 10pm. Limited tickets available. For tickets contact shellbrook\_kinettes@hotmail.com or Shellbrook Kinettes facebook page. All proceeds to Shellbrook Community Hall improvements.

SHELLBROOK: Kinette Club of Shellbrook - Twinkle Tour! Sunday, December 7. Meet & line up on Elevator Road at 5:30pm. Register your home prior to December 2 via email: shellbrooktwinkletour@gmail.com

SHELLBROOK: Kinette Club of Shellbrook – Santa Fun Day! Saturday, November 22 – 11am to 3pm, Shellbrook Community Hall. Pictures with Santa, Santa Letter Writing, Gingerbread Houses, Reindeer Food, Hot Chocolate Bar, Chili & Hot Dog Sale, Mini Christmas Village. Entry: Please bring non-perish-

PARKSIDE: A Journey Under the Stars - The Christmas Story: A Live Narration Event. Sat., Dec. 6, 6pm, Main Street, Parkside, SK. We invite you to take a walk with us through the historic event that changed the world forever. From Mary receiving the promise to the birth of Jesus in a manger, you will experience the Christmas story like never before. Free Admission & Parking; Live Entertainment; Marketplace, Hot Beverages, Sleigh Rides. Parkside "Light Up" to follow. For more info: 306-714-0255

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### Senior Elks fall to 0-2 against Waldheim

By JORDAN TWISS

Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The Shellbrook Elks Senior Hockey Club braved foggy conditions on Sunday afternoon, travelling to Waldheim for an early afternoon showdown against the Waldheim

The Elks have enjoyed a slow start to its 2025-2026 regular season campaign, having only played one game prior to Sunday's match.

However, against a team who has had more games to work out the kinks and shake off the rust, the Elks struggled to score – even though they rattled off a blistering 67 shots to the Warriors' 28.

The power play, more than anything, was the determining factor in Sunday's game, accounting for the first five goals.

When the Elks got into penalty trouble just 90 seconds into the game, the Warriors wasted no time making them pay, going up 1-0 on a goal from Emmett Lehmann, assisted by Nolan Enns. The Elks repaid the favour in the dying minutes of the first period, with Cole Duperregult scoring on assists from Brendon Beaulac and Dallas Galloway.

The second period belonged entirely to the Warriors, as they scored back-to-back power play goals, less than two minutes apart, just past the midway point of the period to go up 3-1. Lehmann scored the first goal, on an assist from Rylan Schmidt, and Mike Baron scored the second, with an assist from Graydon Troesh.

When the action moved to the third period, the Elks got the power play scoring started, closing the gap to 3-2 on a goal from Levi Logan, assisted by Duperreault and Galloway.

But this was as close as the Elks would get, as Gabriel Gardipy restored the Warriors' two-goal lead at even strength, on assists from Liam Krikau and Lehmann. Then, in the dying seconds of the game, James Mollier made it 5-2 Warriors on assists from Tanner Baht and Christian Anderson.

The Elks now sit at 0-2 on the season. This weekend, the team makes its long-awaited debut on home ice, hosting the Clavet Cougars on Friday, Nov. 21. Puck drop is set for 8:15 p.m.

On Sunday, Nov. 23, the Elks welcome the Hanley Huskies to the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre for a 4 p.m. puck drop.



November 20, 2025

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### Carney Budget highlights opportunities for ag

The Mark Carney led Liberal government in Ottawa recently unveiled its first budget, and agriculture actually featured more significantly than one might have anticipated.

The two most obvious items have direct farm implications.

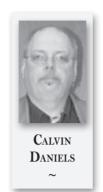
- The federal government proposes to increase the AgriStability compensation rate to 90 per cent from 80 per cent and the payment cap per farm to \$6 million from \$3 million.
- · The Advance Payments Program canola will see \$97.5 million spent over two years to increase the interest-free limit on

advances to \$500,000 for the 2025 and 2026 program years.

But it is what might be called agriculture-adjacent items within the budget that might offer the greatest intrigue for farmers.

Not surprisingly, given the upheaval and uncertainty caused by the prone to change his mind U.S. president Donald Trump, the budget sets a goal to double non-U.S. exports over 10 years.

This is a forced measure to be sure, but even if Trump is out of office at some point - you don't have to be too far into conspiracy theories to at least wonder if he



will leave office quietly — it's a positive. Growing exports beyond the U.S. simply diversifies options for Canada if things were to settle back to a pre-Trump re-

The move to diversify those markets will generate \$300 billion more in trade, suggests the budget. Since Canada exports so much agriculture produce, it will be responsible for a good chunk of the \$300 billion and that impacts back on the farm.

The budget notes the trade goal includes a new strategic exports office at Global Affairs Canada, which help guide Canadian companies toward international business opportunities, with the Asia-Pacific region being an area of particular focus for Canadian exports going forward.

This, again, is not a surprise; the region has a massive population and that means demand for many products, including food, so it can be a major growth market for Canadian agriculture.

The government pledged \$5 billion over seven years toward a diversification corridors fund through Transport Canada, beginning in 2025-26.

Europe also garners mention as a target area for more exports. Again, based on population and of course ability to pay, it's another area makes obvious sense to push for greater sales.

So, there are some immediate positives, and some hoped for ones in the budget for agriculture, but it comes at the cost of an increasing debt load for the coun-

This might not surprise many either least of all opposition MPs, who have to lambaste the government over the budget as a matter of principle.

The tariff uncertainty of Trump, and the general political upheaval of our closest neighbour and at least one time key ally, has to make budgeting a challenge.

Time will tell if Carney and company managed the uncertainly well. But initially, at least, agriculture seems to have been remembered in the budget, which has not always been the case.

### Sask NDP blasts ER policy

By SASK NDP Submitted

In a desperate bid to cover up their widespread healthcare failures, the Sask. Party government has issued a new province-wide protocol that will see hospital emergency rooms remain "open" even when just one health care work is on-site, a registered nurse.

The damning memo, copies of which have been provided to the Official Opposition, lays out the requirements for declaring publicly that an emergency room is closed —

began doing this week daily they change the rules, and at 4 p.m. It makes it clear that an emergency room cannot close even if there are no doctors or lab technicians on site. This hospital is to remain open if one RN is working onsite by themselves.

The leaked memo seems to suggest that it is safe to have one RN (with no help from other healthcare professionals) manage an ER and acute care beds and over see both point of care testing, virtual care, and care for patients. This is incredibly dangerous.

"There's a sad old trick that failing governments use something the government instead of fixing the problem,

hope people don't notice," said Jared Clarke, Saskatchewan NDP Shadow Minister for Rural & Remote Health. "The Sask. Party is playing dangerous politics with emergency room care. This attempt to hide their destruction of the health system over the past 18 years is going to get someone killed.

"Saskatchewan's incredible frontline healthcare workers are doing everything they can to provide care, it's this government that fails them time and time again."

The Saskatchewan NDP has documented more than five hundred rural emergency room service disruptions since June 1st of 2025 alone. In response to the ongoing crisis in rural care, Clarke indicated in September he would be bringing forward legislation requiring public notification of emergency room closures during the Fall Sitting and he formally introduced his bill on Oct. 30. The memo from the Saskatchewan Health Agency detailing requirements to declare an emergency room closed was dated Oct. 25.

"The Sask. Party is trying to make it look like they've fixed the problem, but all they've done is move the goalposts," Clarke said. "You can't just change the rules. You have to fix the problem — and that's something the Minister of Health either doesn't understand or won't do.

"It's the Sask. Party that drove healthcare here to dead last in all of Canada and they can't be trusted to fix it. It's time for big bold change and that's exactly what the Saskatchewan NDP will deliver."

The Saskatchewan NDP is continuing consultations on the future of healthcare and people are welcome to provide input at YourCareYour-

### Sask. looks to accelerate school building

By MINISTRY OF EDUCATION Submitted

Education Minister Everett Hind-Schools Faster Act, a new piece of legislation designed to streamline the acquisition of land for school construction in rapidly growing neighbourhoods.

"Our government is building schools to support the growing number of families calling Saskatchewan home and helping give students their best start," Hindley said. "The Building Schools Faster Act will bring greater predictability to school planning and development in communities that are quickly expanding."

Municipalities will be responsible for acquiring sufficient serviced land for the construction of new schools in new development areas. The legislation commits the provincial government to a consistent cost-sharing it is critical that our neighbourhoods ful that a clearer, simplified process formula with municipalities to share have schools ready to welcome famin the purchase cost.

These changes aim to reduce de- ing. The Building Schools Faster Act dren while balancing the needs of all ley has introduced The Building lays caused by land negotiations and gives municipalities the tools needed stakeholders." ensure land can be secured more efficiently, particularly in growing neighbourhoods in Regina and Sas-

> Amendments to The Planning and Development Act, 2007, will provide municipalities with the tools they need to acquire school sites in new neighbourhoods, such as the authority to collect a school land development charge from subdivision developers and the ability to increase the amount of public land (municipal reserve) in a subdivision by an additional two per cent.

> "Access to quality education is one of the cornerstones of a thriving city," Mayor of Regina Chad Bachynski said. "As Regina continues to grow,

ilies and support children's learn- serve families with school-aged chilto plan ahead and secure land more efficiently, ensuring that schools are built in step with community growth. We welcome this legislation and look forward to working with the province and developers to deliver vibrant, complete neighbourhoods where families can learn, play and succeed."

"Schools, playgrounds and green space are essential hubs of a vibrant community, especially new and growing neighbourhoods with young families," Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Board of Education Chair Diane Boyko said. "We appreciate the Government of Saskatchewan's commitment to reducing delays in building new schools. We are hopewill speed-up development to better

The changes will apply to new development areas, not the redevelopment of existing school sites. The legislation is expected to be passed in spring 2026.

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Spiritwood Gerald

### Variety show raises funds for Little Red Hens

Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Wednesday, Nov. 12, brought a showcase of talent and community generosity to the Village of Canwood, when Little Red Hens staged what it hopes will be its first of many variety show fundraisers at the Canwood Elks Community Hall.

The variety show was an idea brought forward by one of the non-profit's founding members, Tani Hamborg, who's done a few shows in the past and felt it would be a fun way to raise money for the organization.

was going to be effec-

we knew it would be fun," admits Little Red Hens co-founder Sarah Johnson. "We love to see our communities coming together and celebrating each other and we have amazing talent right here at home."

With the idea in place, the call went out on Instagram for performers to buy a slot to perform (helping pay for the cost of renting the hall). Soon, the show had an all-star line-up of local talent, including the Stump Lake Slough-Thumping Brothers (Burke, Raef, and Winston DeBruiin), Cherie Restulka, "We weren't sure if it Canwood Community School's choir, Dyan

By JORDAN TWISS tive as a fundraiser, but and Josh Nordquist, Zander Bodnarchuck, Pastor Rick Martin, Harleigh and Tani Hamborg (and Tani's brother Tyler), and Amy and Ebe Johnson.

Meanwhile, Cherish Schutte and community members helped behind the scenes to organize a bake sale for the show.

Lured by the promise of a night of good music and tasty baking, about 80 people came out to last Wednesday's inaugural variety show, and reached deep into their pockets to help raise \$2,003 for Little Red

"We were really blown away by how well the show went, both as a fundraiser and a family event," Johnson said. "The bake sale items almost sold out and the performers were fantastic. It was so good to see everyone, and to see how Little Red Hens has grown into this big extended family is what we always hoped could happen."

Launched in 2023, Little Red Hens delivers free monthly bundles of diapers, wipes, and diaper cream to families in Canwood, Debden, Shellbrook, Holbein, Ahtahkakoop, and Parkside with the support of sponsors.

In the two years



Ebe Johnson on the flute.

since it began distributing bundles, Johnson says 14 mothers have graduated out of the program because their children have finished potty training.

Still, the need in the area is as great as ever. Each month, Little Red Hens supports 75 area families with 100 bundles, and earlier this fall the organization had to start its first-ever waitlist, to allow sponsorships to catch up.

"It was a hard but good decision to not burn our volunteer team out, who put their whole hearts (and in one case, whole garage) into Little Red Hens every month," Johnson said.

In addition to growing its regular monthly services, Little Red hens has also launched the Mama Hen Program, a second wing that offers in-home support for moms o to 18 months postpartum.

The personalized sixmonth program starts with three months of weekly visits (and three months of one-to-two visits per month) by a trained support worker, who helps with chores and childcare to allow

mothers to take some time for self care.

The program is a collaboration the Webb Community Foundation and is run by Michelle Wikerd, the foundation's perinatal therapist/social worker, and Harleigh Hamborg, a postpartum nurse and president of Untroubled Parenting Inc. (Little Red Hens' parent company).

"We're really excited about this, as it's always been a part of our bigger dream to directly deliver a way for moms to recharge," Johnson said.



The Stump Lake Slough-Thumping Brothers opened the show with their take on a song by The Dead South



Canwood Community School's choir, from left to right: Rebecca Schutte, Madalynn Buckingham, Robin Dionne, Brooke Nordquist, Dyan Nordquist, Elisha Johnson, and Sadie Schutte



Cherie Restulka brought a riety show.



spiritual flavour to the va- Tani and Harleigh Hamborg took the stage for a song, accompanied by Tani's brother. Tyler.



Zander Bodnarchuck played Ozzy Osbourne's Crazy Train.



Wife and husband duo Dyan and Josh Nordquist showcased their harmonies.



Pastor Rick Martin sang tunes popular at Cowboy Church.

### Shellbrook, Leask craft sales draw crowds

#### **Continued from 1**

Running in tandem with the Arts Council's Craft Sale, the Shellbrook Kinettes Winter Market saw the Shellbrook Senior's Centre filled with goods from 21 vendors — many of them new to the markey, Kinette Kat Mackin-Smith says.

Keeping things status quo this year, the Kinettes also made space for a community organization to sell baked goods as a fundraiser. This year, the space was occupied by Happy Hearts Childcare Centre, which raised more than \$800 on the day to assist it and meeting the challenges associated with rising costs.

All in all, Mackin-Smith says beautiful weather and an amazing crowd made this year's Winter Market another success. And it only marks the beginning of the holiday season for the Kinettes, who have their Santa Fun Day on Nov. 22, Twinkle Tour on Dec. 7, and a raffle draw for a complete Christmas dinner going until Dec. 4.

"We were thrilled with the turnout, and it was especially exciting to welcome many new vendors this year," she said. "Overall, it was a wonderful day of sunshine, com-



A happy shopper picks out a new friend at the Arts Council's Craft Sale.

munity spirit, and strong door to help keep track of support for our vendors and Happy Hearts." door to help keep track of shoppers, organizer April Smith says having the event

As Saturday rolled into Sunday and a dense fog blanketed the area, the Leask Recreation Board played host to its annual Christmas Craft Sale at the Leask Community Hall.

This year marked the first time the community group has chosen to hold the sale on a Sunday, and while there's no admission at the door to help keep track of shoppers, organizer April Smith says having the event after church helped bring in a much larger lunch crowd of about 75 people.

This lunch crowd, in addition to the variety of wares being sold by the 10 vendors helped the group raise about \$500 on the day, when it would normally just cover its costs. Smith says there's no specific project that these funds will be dedicated to.



Pat Radchuk (right) enjoys a chat and a laugh with a vendor at the Winter Market.



Vendor Norma Galambos had a busy weekend, making

Handmade wooden toys were inspiration for conversation at the Shell-brook Arts Council's Craft Sale.

Vendors and patrons enjoyed visiting at the Leask Recreation Board's Christmas Craft Sale.



Diane Clements browses a vendor's wares at the Arts Council's Craft Sale.

# FIELD OF DREAMS ORGANIZERS

This year's Field of Dreams has once again shown what can happen when a community comes together with heart, hard work, and a shared purpose. From planting the first seeds of canola to harvesting the golden fields, every hour you gave and every effort you made has helped turn an idea into something truly meaningful. What started as a simple field has become a symbol of teamwork, generosity, and community spirit. None of it would be possible without you — the volunteers who give your time, energy, and passion year after year. Thank you Sugar Hill Ventures, Nutrien Ag Solution, Lake Country Co-op, and Jeff Ledding Farms, for making the Field of Dreams a reality. Your hands have grown more than a crop — you've grown community.



### Minutes of an RM of Blaine Lake meeting

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

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Council of the Rural Municipality of Blaine Lake #434 which was held in the RM Municipal Office, on Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025.

Present at the meeting were the following Council Members and Administration: Reeve Glenn Lamontagne, Division 1 — Michael Chudskov, Division 2 — Lee Dolezal, Division 3 — Courtney Swystun, Division 4 Alan Lavoie, Division 5 John Priestley, Division 6 Lionel Casavant, Administrator Linda Klimm, and Assistant Administrator Alan Tanchak.

The meeting was called to order by Reeve Glenn Lamontagne at 6:59 a.m.

Lamontagne: That Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approves the agenda for the Regular Meeting of Council held on September 16, 2025 with the following additions: Resolution #442/24 - change meeting time for regular meetings, Resolution #305/25 - contractor obtained to do grader #643 repair. Carried

Priestley: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake resolution amend #442/24 to change the meeting time to 9 a.m. for scheduled regular meetings in October 2025 to December 2025. Carried

Priestley: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approves the Aug. 19, 2025, Regular Meeting minutes as presented. Carried

Dolezal: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 accept the August 2025 Statement of Financial Activities, Income Statement, **Budgetary Control, Chequing**  Account Statement and Bank Reconciliation as presented. Carried

Mark Curry presented his lead hand report to Council from 7:08 to 7:28 a.m.

Casavant: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 authorizes Mark Curry to purchase a mower brush head blade attachment from The Rent-It Store & Tool Supply for a cost of \$162.32. Carried

Chudskov: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 authorizes Mark Curry to purchase a spare tire and rim for the dump trailer from Flaman at a cost of \$211.55 plus applicable taxes. Carried

Councillor Michael Chudskov declared a Conflict of Interest and left Council Chambers at 7:32 a.m.

Lavoie: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 amend resolution #305/25 to provide for a contractor, Nat's Glass, to replace glass for grader #643. Carried

Casavant: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 authorizes Mark Curry to repair the glass on the service truck window from Can-Am Auto Glass & Supplies at a cost of \$75. Carried

Councillor Michael Chudskov returned to Council Chambers at 7:33 a.m.

Dolezal: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approves the List of Accounts for Approval for September 2025, including cheques #7498 to #7541 with the total payable amount being \$240,936.51. Carried

Dolezal: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approves the Additional Accounts for payment as presented by Administration in the amount of \$997.26: SARM \$90.27, SARM \$789.99, Linda Klimm \$117.00. Carried

Dolezal: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approves the presented Council indemnity totaling \$276.24: John, Sept: \$276.24. Carried

Reeve Glenn Lamontagne declared a Conflict of Interest and left Council Chambers at 7:53 a.m. Deputy Reeve Michael Chudskov chaired the meeting in the Reeve's ab-

Swystun: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 sell gravel to Dale's Trucking from the Lamontagne pit at a cost of \$14.50 per yard and that a vote be recorded. Carried

Priestley: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 measure the pile at the Lamontagne pit. Carried

Reeve Glenn Lamontagne returned to Council Chambers at 7:56 a.m. and resumed chairing the meeting.

Chudskov: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake amend resolution #194/25 to approve the List of Accounts for Approval for May 2025 instead of April 2025. Carried

Casavant: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake amend #434 resolution #240/25 to approve the List of Accounts for Approval for June 2025 instead of May 2025. Carried

Dolezal: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 direct Administration to renew the GICs for a variable interest rate and a oneyear term. Carried

Casavant: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 direct Administration to obtain the new Business Plus Corporate Classic VISA as an upgrade from the older VISA. Carried

Lamontagne: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 direct Administration to send a letter to the Fire Board and the Town of Blaine Lake requesting that the fee structure be broken out by each piece of equipment and that the total fleet be present to bill the full \$1,100. Carried

Councillor Lee Dolezal declared a Conflict of Interest at 8:23 a.m. and left Council Chambers.

Chudskov: That Bylaw 08-2025 being A Bylaw to Provide for the Closing and Leasing of a Municipal Road, be read a first time. Carried (Editor's note: the bylaw was unanimously given three readings and enacted at the *meeting.*)

Councillor Lee Dolezal returned to Council Chambers at 8:24 a.m.

Priestley: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 acknowledge the road maintenance agreement received from Pinehouse Business North LP, and that the Reeve and the Administrator sign the agreement on behalf of the municipality. Carried

Councillor Courtney Swystun declared a Conflict of Interest and left Council Chambers at 8:25 a.m.

Lavoie: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approve the subdivision of SW 18-43-06 W3 as per file SUBD-005056-2025, that it is in compliance with Zoning Bylaw 35-81. Carried

Councillor Courtney Swystun returned to Council Chambers at 8:30 a.m.

Dolezal: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 acknowledge receipt of correspondence from SARM relating to a tax loss compensation payment from the TLE Trust Fund in the amount of \$27,777.97 and notification that final payment under the program will be made in 2026. Carried

Chudskov: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 authorizes payment of Invoice #945931 received from 102051721 Sask Ltd. in the amount of \$106,643.77. Carried

Dolezal: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 direct Administration to order pest control supplies from Marcel Baynton in the amount of \$1,084.52 plus applicable taxes. Carried

Swystun: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 direct Administration to check whether the reserve for designated lands can be used for funding the skating rink project for a kitchen upgrade. Carried

Priestley: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 hold a ratepayers meeting in March 2026. Carried

Casavant: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 make application to extend the tender time for the Blind Line Road under the RIRG program. Carried

Dolezal: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 reapply for two culverts located East of NE 17-43-06 W3 and East of NE 18-43o6 W3 under the RIRG program. Carried

Swystun: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 authorize additional gravel to be placed at a 100 yards per mile on the 4 mile stretch of road on Grid 781 from NW 23-42-07 W3 to Highway 12. Carried

Dolezal: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 amend resolution #033/25 to increase the shipping cost to mail a map to \$5 to correspond to the actual cost. Car-

Chudskov: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 adjourn, the time being 9:49 a.m.

### School menstrual product program extended

By SASK PARKS Submitted

Free menstrual products will continue to be distributed to primary and secondary schools across the province through a renewed agreement and ongoing partnership between the Government of Saskatchewan and Shoppers Drug Mart.

Shoppers Drug Mart Inc. will do-

#### CLASSIFIEDS

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Ph: 306-747-2442 Fax: **306-747-3000** chads@sbchron.com the next three years, and the Gov- struating can affect people's ability ernment of Saskatchewan will con- to carry out daily tasks like going tinue to manage their distribution to schools throughout the province.

"Over the last three years, we have sent free menstrual products to more than 670 schools throughout the province," Parks, Culture, and Sport Minister Alana Ross said. "This has made a big difference to thousands of women and girls in our province, and I am delighted that this work can continue through our partnership with Shoppers Drug Mart. We are making sure that these products will remain accessible to those who need them."

In a 2023 public opinion survey conducted by Environics Research on behalf of Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE) - 77 per

nate 12 million period products over cent of Canadians agreed that men-thrive." to school or work. The survey also found that 3 in 4 women aged 18-24 feeling compelled to conceal their periods in school and workplace environments. A situation that can drastically affect a person's ability to participate in school.

"We are proud to renew our partnership with the Government of Saskatchewan because we believe access to period products means access to opportunity for women and girls," Shoppers Drug Mart Interim President David Markwell said. "It's not just about getting students to school, it's about ensuring they can stay there, confident and engaged - because every missed day is a lost opportunity to learn, participate, and

The program launched in October 2023. With the successful implementation to support both primary and secondary schools.

"Providing menstrual products in schools is a simple step toward equitv and dignity for our students," Michael A. Riffel Catholic High School Principal Amy Sanville said. "For some, it can be the difference between being in class or staying home. For others, it can prevent a day of inequitable stress or embarrassment. Student success depends on attendance, and this program removes a needless barrier for about half of our students."

The first agreement runs from April 2023 to March 2026. The program has been extended to March

### Gambling advertising getting out of control

Data about cigarettes causing cancer eventually resulted in tobacco advertisements being banned from print and electronic media, but will the data about lives being ruined by gambling addiction eventually force governments to ban the media distribution of gambling ads?

Probably not, because the amount of money involved is enormous and some of the major media outlets in the United States are not only profiting from those advertisements, but they're involved with betting outlets as co-partners.

Ever tried to put the toothpaste back into the tube? That's where the world is at with sports gambling and it's probably going to get worse before it gets better.

(Full disclosure: Your correspondent gambles on sports, in nickel-and-dime fashion, and while a mini addiction has probably developed, my financial stability is not at stake.)

One can't turn on a televised sports event without seeing gambling firms urging fans to bet this, parlay that, take the under....will your favourite team cover a 7.5-point spread? Television networks reportedly collected \$434 million in sportsbook commercials in 2024. So, as theorized by columnist Colby Hall of Mediate.com, networks aren't covering the rise in problem gambling, which statistically is growing more among young men, "because they're getting paid not

When there is huge money involved in anything — millions and billions — organized crime can't be far behind. The recent criminal charges filed against three National Basketball Association figures also involved four New York-based crime families.

If a point guard for a small college in Utah can be guaranteed a mob-related cash payment of a couple of thousand dollars for intentionally going "under" on his posted point total for a game in mid-January, what would stop a pro hoopster from agreeing to do the same for a couple of hundred thousand dol-



lars?

Don't think it's not happening. The Toronto Raptors' Jontay Porter lost his NBA career after getting a lifetime ban for doing just that; gamblers were informed pre-game that he would bow out of a game, claiming injury, in the first quarter, guaranteeing that his point total would be under a certain number. Those in on the scam laid down big money on Porter's position, and cashed in even bigger.

Recently, Portland Trail Blazers coach Chauncy Billups and Miami Heat guard Terry Rozier were implicated in gambling-related endeavours, adding to the ever-growing list of athletes caught up in the idea of making big money the easy, illegal way.

Betting on sports events has long been a common way of life in Europe, but it was generally illegal in North America until the U.S. Supreme Court said in 2018 it would allow states to regulate sports betting. In Canada, betting on sports events has been allowed even longer, as provincial lottery bodies have run Sport Select and other similar games.

Guaranteeing the elimination of criminal activity surrounding sports betting is folly. Bettors are more likely to ask themselves, however, 'am I playing a legitimate game or has the result been predetermined?'

- Super 70s Sports back when O.J. Simpson was a football broadcaster: "Let's go down to the sideline for a report from O.J. who appears to be wearing his murder gloves now so everybody be careful down there."
- Headline at theonion.com: "NBA Reaffirms Commitment To Gamblers Only Ruining

Their Lives Legally"

- Jack Finarelli on his sportscurmudgeon. com site, lamenting the overuse of the phrase 'hostile environment' when referred to a visiting sports team: "A hostile environment is Gaza City in the summer of 2025."
- Columnist Norman Chad: "MLS has been thriving for 30 years, making headlines, crowning champions, building rivalries... and somehow I've spent the exact same 30 years blissfully unaware it even existed."
- Headline at fark. com: "Steelers safety fined \$5K for a) Illegal hits; b) Skipping media availability; c) wearing a black towel instead of a white one." (Answer: C)
- Comedy guy Torben Rolfsen of Vancouver: "I'm not sure about the NHL's Frozen Frenzy (when all 32 teams played on the same night). It sounds like margarita night at an all-inclusive resort in Cancun."
- Columnist Norman Chad: "Somehow, the Dodgers' World Series title has induced Astros

fans on X to complain about LA's team payroll. Let's review the Astros' 2017 World Series season: 'We didn't cheat.' 'Well, we cheated but others did too.' 'It didn't help us that much and we would've won anyway."

- Headline at the onion.com: "Barry Bonds reveals asterisk has spread throughout body."
- Another onion.com headline: "Arch Manning Running Out Of Polite Ways To Decline Eli's Mentorship"
- Comedy guy Brad Dickson of Omaha: "My grandmother Mabel Micek, 106, on why she still enjoys sitting in the stands at Husker home football games: 'It's the only place I go where I'm around people my own age."
- Headline at fark. com: "All 30 teams to be represented at the first MLB Open golf tournament. In other news, the Dodgers have signed Rory McIlroy, Tiger Woods, Jack Nicklaus and Shooter McGavin."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

### Medstead, Glaslyn advance to volleyball Provincials

By JORDAN TWISS

Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

A week after they finished first and second at the senior boy's 1A volleyball Conference tournament in Medstead, the teams from Medstead Central School and Glaslyn Central School competed against one another again at Regionals on Saturday, Nov.

This time, however, it was the Glaslyn squad who was on home turf, hosting teams from Dinsmore, Loon Lake, Kenaston, and St. Walburg for a day of high-stakes volleyball action.

Grouped with Dinsmore and Loon Lake for the round robin, Conference champion Medstead picked up where it left off, topping Loon Lake in two sets with scores of 25-7 and 25-16. The team remained undefeated and dominated Dinsmore as well, winning in two sets with scores of 25-10 and 25-19 and securing first place in its pool.

Meanwhile, Glaslyn's tournament got off to a tougher start, as it faced off against Kenaston. After Glaslyn won the first set of the game 25-19, Kenaston rallied through the second set and won 25-15, forcing a third and deciding set. In a nail-biter, Kenaston took the win by a score of 15-13.

Rebounding from the difficult loss, Glaslyn secured a win over St. Walburg in two sets, with scores of 25-22 and 25-15. Because of the set it won against Kenaston, this victory secured first place in the pool for Glaslyn.

Heading to the finals qualifiers, Medstead faced off against Kenaston and won in two sets with scores of 25-16 and 25-10, while Glaslyn beat out Dinsmore in two sets with scores of 25-21 and 25-14.

Once again, this meant Medstead and Glaslyn were facing off for gold medals.

In a game worthy of its stature, vincials in Rouleau on Nov. 21 and 22.

Glaslyn handed Medstead its only lost set of the tournament, taking the first set of the game 26-24. However, Medstead regrouped to easily win the second set 25-12, forcing a third and deciding set. There, Medstead overpowered Glaslyn, winning 15-9 to bring home the gold.

Now, both teams will head to Pro-



Medstead Central School's senior boys volleyball team won Regionals gold and is off to Provincials.

#### **O**BITUARY

#### Jesse Bates



Jesse Bates, a loving husband, father, papa, brother, uncle, and passed friend, away peacefully on November 9, 2025, surrounded by the family he so deeply cherished. He touched the lives of evervone blessed to know him with his warmth, and gentle humor, strength.

Jesse was a patient

man with a kind and gentle soul — a steady presence whose quiet wisdom and compassion made an impact on everyone he met. He approached life with humility and gratitude, always ready to lend a hand, share a story, or offer a word of encouragement.

The truest joy in Jesse's life was his beloved wife, Melody and their 5 children. Together, Jesse and Mel built a life rooted in deep love, laughter, and mutual respect. More than partners, they were best friends — inseparable in heart and spirit. Their relationship was a testament to devotion companionship, bringing both of them a profound sense of peace and comfort. Through

every season of life, they supported one another, finding joy in the simple moments and strength in each other's presence.

A true jack of all trades, Jesse had a remarkable ability to fix, build, and create. He shared his skills and knowledge generously, teaching his children not just how to do things, but how to do them with patience, pride, and care. His hands were capable, but his heart was what guided everything he did.

He will also be remembered for his sharp wit and endless collection of jokes - somerecalling every punchline he'd ever heard. His laughter was contagious, his humor timeless, and his joy for life unmatched.

An avid outdoorsman, Jesse found his peace in nature. He was a passionate hunter whose respect for the land and love for the hunt earned him recognition in the Boone and Crockett records. More than the trophies, it was the camaraderie, the early mornings, and the quiet beauty of the outdoors that he cherished most.

Jesse Bates leaves behind a legacy of love, laughter, and integrity. He will be deeply missed but forever remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Jesse is lovingly remembered by his wife Melody; daughter Janet (Samuel) and family Brianne (Ryan), Cole (Kalyn), and Kiera; son Corey (Cheryl) and

family Jacey (Kyle) and Kally (Zevan); daughter Crystal (Trevor) and family Angela (Jory), Anthony (Justine), Cody (Emmalynn), Ashton (Breanna), Skylar, Charleigh (Jake), and Abigail; daughter Arlene and family Braedan (Reese), Connor, Kaidence, and Parker; daughter Jessica family Keegan, Matthew (Shaneika), Mia, and Oaklan; great-grandchildren Nash, Sawyer, Noah, and Camryn; siblings Rodney (Olga), Colin (Marilyn), Barry, Derek (Catherine), Darlene, and Maureen (Zolton); numerous nieces, nephews, sisters-in-law, and brothers-in-law.

He was predeceased by his parents Edward Charles and Pauline

Evelin May; brothers Daryl (infancy) and Randy; sisters-in-law Bonnie and Linda; brothers-in-law Aurel, Lee, and Kerry; grandson Landon (infancy); nieces Penny and Tonia.

In lieu of tributes, donations may be made in memory of Jesse to the Lake Country Wildlife Federation (Box 1056 Shellbrook, SK 2E0).

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

#### GOOD NEWS

#### HAVE YOU EVER EXPERIENCED A SEVERE STORM?

#### By PADRE DAVE BODVARSON Submitted

Storms are part of life. I remember my mom, Theresa, telling me how she was struck by lightning. Not everyone survives something like that. It wasn't a direct hit.

I understand the lightening went through the old ringer washer as she was washing clothes. Mom told me she sought some medical advice. My mom was told to go home and rest. Her neighbour came over and told her to scrub the floors and clean the house to keep her body moving. She felt that was life-saving advice she never forgot.

Some 38 years ago, on July 31, 1987, a tornado ripped through east Edmonton causing damage to property in the millions. It has been said "The tornado seared itself in Edmonton psyche as Black Friday."

I wasn't in Edmonton but Saskatoon. At the time, Marlene and I were pastoring Native New Life Church in Saskatoon. The life of pastoring among the First Nation was camp meetings. We got the blessings to put up a district tent next to Westside Pentecostal Church in Saskatoon.

When the tornado hit Edmonton we were having a camp meeting in Saskatoon. It happened pretty suddenly. The winds came up. Our youngest son, J.D., who was likely about 2 years old, was in the tent with us during the service. The tail wind from Alberta hit Saskatoon.

I recall the big tent started to dance. We had stretched a cord and plugged it into the church next door and that got disconnected in the storm. Which meant we lost the lights in the tent.

One of deacons and I grabbed the centre pole as it began to jump. I can't believe we did that. The crowd got scattered as a fellow called Tracy ran through the tent and shouted "Tornado! Tornado!"

We ran into the church next door. We were all drenched from the rain. No one was hurt. All was well, even after experiencing a severe storm.

Life goes on. You pick yourself up. And by God's grace we resumed the camp meeting in the church building, and the next day we were back in the tent.

I read this recently, "We want Christ to hurry and calm the storm. He wants us to find Him in the midst of it first."

### Sask. adds 19 nurse practitioners

#### By MINISTRY **OF HEALTH** Submitted

The Government of Saskatchewan is delivering on its commitment to expand access for patients to primary care by signing 19 Nurse Practitioners (NPs) to contracts to provide publicly funded primary care services. This number is expected to continue to increase over the coming months with up to 30 contracts available.

"These new Nurse Practitioner contracts put patients first by expanding access to publicly funded primary care services, helping more Saskatchewan families to get the care they need sooner and closer to home," Health

Minister Jeremy Cockrill and refer patients to specialsaid. "Our government is ist services. committed to improving access to quality care for ev- Practitioner Contract Pro- NP contracts were approved the health system and imery patient, no matter where gram opens the door for for funding, but due to sig- prove patient access to prithey live."

This initiative, developed in close partnership with the Saskatchewan Association of Nurse Practitioners (SANP). is part of a broader strategy to ensure that everyone in Saskatchewan has access to a primary health care provider by the end of 2028. NP contracts are helping to deliver on this commitment.

As primary care providers. NPs can provide advanced assessments, diagnose and treat acute and chronic illness, order diagnostic tests, prescribe medications, perform medical procedures

dedicated funding of NP services and increasing access to health care for Saskatchewan residents," SANP President Michelle O'Keefe said. "The Saskatchewan Association of Nurse Practitioners is pleased that the initial pilot project has been expanded to offer up to 30 NPs a contract and will continue to work with the Ministry of Health to diversify how funded NP services are delivered within the province."

Plans were announced in 2024 to create a funding model for independent NPs to provide publicly funded

primary care, followed by an Expression of Interest (EOI) "The Primary Care Nurse in June 2025, Originally, six tunities for NPs throughout nificant interest, the number was increased to 30.

"This funding model supports long-term, relationship-based practice and allows me to spend time on thorough assessments and thoughtful follow-up," Nurse Practitioner for NPower+ Health, Hanna Latina said. "For patients, it means timely access to a dedicated provider with no out-of-pocket cost. All of this leads to better, more holistic health outcomes for patients and stronger communities."

The Ministry of Health will continue working with SANP to implement this initiative, create more oppormary care services across our province.

This new initiative creates more opportunities for Saskatchewan families to access publicly funded primary care delivered by NPs and is an alternative to private-pay NP services.

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There have been many changes here on earth, Since the Good Lord called you home, We so very much wish that you were

still with us, To watch your family grow.

Though years have passed and life goes on, In our hearts one thing remains, We love and miss you dearly, And that will never change.

Sadly missed and forever loved, Erica, Michael, Tessa, Mom, Janet, Jamie, Rhonda, Jim and Families

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### Canwood hosts Provincial Elks bowling

By GRANT PERSON Submitted

During the weekend of Nov. 7, 8 and 9, the Canwood Elks and Royal Purple Elks combined their efforts in order to host the Saskatchewan Elks Provincial Bowling tournament.

Eight teams from Canwood, Bradwell, Nipawin, Allan, and Melfort competed in the weekend tourney.

The weekend started Friday night with a social held at the Canwood Bowling Alley. The noise of pins falling began on Saturday morning, with teams bowling five games throughout the day. At the end of Saturday's games, the standings were tabulated before the bidding began on the Cal-

Sunday's games started at 9 a.m. with the teams all playing three more games.

The weekend featured some great games on the lanes, in addition to an incredible menu of food provided by the host club's food committee.

Laurie Samson accepts the ladies'

high total prize from Terry Ham-

There was not a chance that anyone would leave the bowling alley hungry on the weekend. Dry Ribs, breakfasts both mornings, a soup and sandwich lunch, a lasagna supper, and beef on a bun were all on the menu.

Most of the participants also gathered to watch the Rider/BC game on

After the last pin fell on Sunday, Melfort came out on top of the standings and took home the championship trophy. Canwood #3 finished a close 2nd place.

Other winners on the weekend were: Canwood 2 - Team High Single Game, Terry Hamborg - Men's High Total, Laurie Samson - Ladies High Total, Barry Off – Men's High Single, Sharon Palmer – Ladies' High Single.

The weekend was more than just bowling, as teams renewed and forged friendships. Next November, many of these bowlers will assemble in Melfort to compete for the 2026 title.



Terry Hamborg (right) accepts the men's high total prize from Gail



The Canwood #3 team finished a close second. From left to right: Eileen Hamborg, Tom Wilson, Lorraine Benson, and Art Young.



The Canwood #2 team won the team high single game award. From left to right: Emery Hamborg, Shari Edwards, Trevor Kvinlaug, and Vince White.

### Shell Lake observes Remembrance Day

**By CAROLYN LALONDE** 

borg.

Shell Lake Legion

On Friday, Nov. 7, members of Shell Lake Legion joined Spiritwood members to remember the fallen.

presentations by many

schools. The morning was quite enjoyable, and students were exceptionally well behaved.

Remembrance On Day, the branch hosted its own service, with members of the com-The event featured munity attending.

classrooms from all opened the service with gry.

a prayer, and later spoke about the contributions of Canadian Women during wartime.

Following the service, wreaths were laid, both inside the church and at the cenotaph.

Lunch was served at the Legion Hall, and no Padre David Jensen guest went away hun-



Comrade Don Weiers prepares to dip the Legion Flag for the Last Post, while Comrades Bernard Lalonde (left), Jack Klassen (right), and Christine Wollms salute.

### Sask expands legal naming options

By EHEALTH SASK Submitted

Health Minister Jeremy Cockrill has introduced legislation that will remove certain limitations to naming standards people often face when registering a birth or marriage, or when requesting a legal name change.

The Vital Statistics Amendment Act, 2025 and The Change of Name Amendment Act, 2025 modernize legislation to better meet the needs of Saskatchewan's diverse and growing population.

"As our province's population concommon barriers people encounter when they want to name their baby or request a name change," Cockrill said. "The removal of the maximum number of surnames, as an example, will provide greater flexibility to register different naming conventions, and remove some unnecessary hurdles that have become apparent in recent years. Removing the requirement for spousal notification on name change requests will also help to provide greater safety and security for Saskatchewan people experiencing intimate partner violence."

Key changes include:

- Addressing current surname limitations, allowing for more than two surnames to be registered:
  - Permitting registration of single

names - also known as mononyms when the name holds cultural or religious significance;

- · Removing the requirement to provide proof that a spouse is aware of a name change request to protect privacy and personal safety;
- · Expanding the list of agencies that can be notified of a name change, including law enforcement; and
- · Enhancing the ability of the Registrar to issue certificates or make necessary amendments to registrations without requiring a court order.

The Change of Name Amendment Act, 2025 will lay the foundation for tinues to grow, we are introducing upcoming regulatory changes which legislative amendments to address will expand the list of designated offences that would prevent those convicted of serious crimes from legally changing their name, a commitment made in the 2025 Throne Speech.

The amendments are supported by police and public agencies who rely on proper identification when working with the public, as well as other vital statistics agencies across Canada. In addition to improving how vital event certificates and legal name change requests are managed, these changes better align Saskatchewan legislation with other jurisdictions.

Every year approximately 1,000 Saskatchewan residents request a legal name change.

The legislation will come into force by order of the Lieutenant Governor