

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald

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Thursday, January 22, 2026

www.shellbrookchronicle.com | www.spiritwoodherald.com

Comedy Night big hit for Health Committee



Joel Jeffrey drew many laughs from the spirited audience at the NLHC comedy night fundraiser.

By BEVRA FEE
Spiritwood Herald Reporter

The Northern Lakes Health Committee Inc. (NLHC) put together its second annual Comedy Night event to raise funds for its current project.

Hosted at the Spiritwood Civic Centre on the evening of Jan. 17, the comedy night began with a catered supper provided by Sawatsky Catering, and the usual 50/50 draw with added raffle prizes. Then, once bellies were full, Saskatchewan-based comedians Joel Jeffrey and Connor Schram gave their receptive audience plenty to laugh about.

The NLHC is currently gearing up to renovate its practitioner rental home to accommodate a basement suite for add-

ed space. Having partnered with the Town of Spiritwood and the Northern Lakes Health Foundation to purchase a rental home in a tight rental market in 2022, the committee will be replacing basement windows for egress, adding a separate entry, and equipping the basement to be fully functional as a separate living quarters.

On the heels of last year's successful comedy night, the committee made the decision to add a comedy night as their major fundraiser for 2026 as well. With a recommendation from Quick Dick McDick — last year's special guest comedian — the committee booked Saskatchewan funny guy Joel Jeffrey. Jeffrey, in turn, suggested bringing along Connor Schram, who is also a home-grown talent.

Opening up the evening's entertainment, Schram had the audience laughing from the get-go with his good-natured ribbing of neighbouring communities (sorry, Prince Albert and North Battleford) and his high-level observations of Spiritwood itself.

"You have a park named SAD SAAC — no offence to the citizens in charge of naming the parks, but why couldn't you have called it JOYCE WILLICK Park?"

With a highly successful gig as the opener, one audience member questioned how the headliner was going to be as funny.

For his part, Joel Jeffrey did not let anyone down in the hilarity department. Largely relying on self-deprecating humour, wife jokes, jokes about his kids, jokes about his youth, and even a

comical re-telling of his recovery week after a vasectomy, Jeffrey entertained the audience at length before retreating to the wings to meet with fans and autograph his best-selling book, *The Great Saskatchewan Joke Book*.

When the 50/50 draw was made, and the pot worth half of \$1,235 was awarded to Sherri Muir, she generously donated her winnings back to the committee. Emcee for the evening, Tammy Wingerter (NLHC president), then presented the raffle winnings to fellow committee member and spouse, Bryan Wingerter.

Once the cans are recycled, the bar tab is paid and the caterer's cheque clears the NLHC is looking to realize a profit in the neighbourhood of \$15,000.

More photos on page 2

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Comedy Night big hit for Health Committee



Connor Schram (back left) and Joel Jeffrey (back right) with NLHC committee volunteer Diane Wingerter.



The NLHC fundraiser included a catered meal before the two-act comedy night.



Joel Jeffrey entertains the crowd at Spiritwood.



Connor Schram got the audience warmed up with plenty of laughs.

Shellbrook Legion hosts cribbage tourney

By NANCY CARSWELL
Shellbrook Legion

The Royal Canadian Legion Shellbrook Branch 111 held its branch cribbage tournament on Saturday, Jan. 10.

Members enter the open or closed events. The open winners' pathway leads to Zone, District, and Provincial tournaments. The closed pathway includes Dominion. The Dominion tournament will be held in Branch #9 in Windsor, N.S., from April 24 to 27.

Member Lloyd O'Brodovich won the singles open, with Alan Carswell as runner-up. There were no competitors in the doubles or team categories.



Shellbrook Legion member Kait Olson and Padre David Bodvarson enjoy a game of cribbage at the branch tournament on Saturday, Jan. 10.

WITCHEKAN WILDLIFE FEDERATION Annual Awards & Banquet Night

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2026

SPIRITWOOD CIVIC CENTER

COCKTAILS – 5 P.M.; SUPPER – 6 P.M.;
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Bring any unused 2025 hunting tags to be entered into a draw!

FORM 6

VILLAGE OF MEDSTEAD SALE BY TENDER

- The Village of Medstead offers for sale the following property.
Property Description:
Lot 11 Blk 1 Plan AM2577 and Lot 12 Blk 1 Plan AM2577
- A tender must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "Property Tender" addressed to the Village of Medstead, Box 148, Medstead, Sask. S0M 1W0
- Tenders must be postmarked by 4:00 p.m. on February 20, 2026
- A certified cheque to the municipality for 5% of the amount of the tender must accompany the tender.
- Highest, or any tender, not necessarily accepted.
- Successful bidder will have 30 days to provide the balance of cash to complete the purchase.

Dated the 23rd day of January, 2026.

Lora Hundt
Administrator
Village of Medstead

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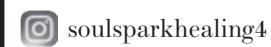
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Shellbrook curling season a hit so far

By JORDAN TWISS
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

Despite a later than expected start, due to a delay in the installation of the ice at the rink, Shellbrook's curling season is officially in full swing – albeit, with some changes to what Shellbrook Curling Club member Gayle Draper and her fellow board members were hoping to offer this year.

At the outset of the season, plans had been made to host a shorter social league for curlers beginning in November and running to mid-February. Then, after the February break, the hope was to introduce a new two-person league that would run until mid-March.

While the experiment with the two-person league will now have to wait until next season, the Club's first-ever two-person Stirling Bonspiel, held at the end of November, showed there is an appetite for the format.

"[The Stirling Spiel] was very well received by our curlers," Draper

said. "The format was fun and makes for a quick game, while really being able to work on the consistency of one's deliveries."

With adaptation being a core theme of the season, Draper says she's lucky to have a larger and revitalized board and corps of volunteers to help leagues, bonspiels, and sponsored nights run smoothly and provide the most benefit and opportunity to curlers. Through this increased involvement, she adds, the club is hoping to host four bonspiels this season (including the Stirling Bonspiel and the January Cash Bash that was held on Jan. 9 and 10).

However, as is the case at many small-town rinks, the biggest challenge is getting enough curlers on the sheets.

"We are always actively pursuing different ways to try to pique curlers' interest and



The sheets were buzzing with activity, when the Shellbrook Curling Club hosted its January Cash Bash Bonspiel on Jan. 9 and 10.

ensure that when we do get them out, they have a great time, they get to play on great ice, get to enjoy a great atmosphere, and have a wonderful small-town experience that makes them wanting to come back for more," Draper said.

The focus on fun has allowed the club to draw a full complement of eight teams to its Thursday evening

league. And, perhaps most importantly, it ensures there's plenty of interest in the club's youth-targeted Rockstars Program, which aspires to foster a passion for curling in the next generation.

Offered to kids in Grades 1 through 8, the Curling Canada program focuses on skill development, fun and long-term growth. Organized and run by past

board member Alysha Shillington and a small team of program assistants, each week of the program brings new lessons that encompass more of the skills crucial for success in curling, such as delivery, release, sweeping, communication, and strategy.

While the club typically offers two shorter Rockstars sessions throughout the curling season, the late start this year meant changing to one session that will run the length of the season. This did nothing to deter prospective curlers, as 24 kids are signed up for the program.

For Draper, a vibrant Rockstars program is

vital to the success of the Shellbrook Curling Club, and the sport of curling in Shellbrook, both in the present and in the future.

"This program has brought so many families into our curling rink that might not have otherwise set foot in the building which has really been great for the facility," she said.

"These kids are the future of our club and we want to keep our club and this sport attractive for not only the kids but also for the families that are coming to support them. It's a sport that truly encompasses that small town feel and brings people of various demographics together in our community."



Layla Brad practices the basics of delivering a rock.



Shellbrook Curling Club board member Gayle Draper teaches Rockstars program participants a curling lesson.

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TOWN OF SPIRITWOOD PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that the Council of the Town of Spiritwood intends to adopt a bylaw under the *Planning and Development Act, 2007* to amend Bylaw No. 486/13, known as the Zoning Bylaw.

INTENT

The proposed Zoning Bylaw amendment will allow shipping containers to be used, placed or stored in the PR – Parks and Recreation District.

REASONS

Currently shipping containers are only allowed to be located in the Industrial and Highway Commercial zoning districts. This amendment will also allow shipping containers to be located in the Parks and Recreation District.

PUBLIC INSPECTION

Any person may inspect the bylaw at the Town Office, located at 212 Main Street, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM on Monday to Thursday, and 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Friday, excluding statutory holidays. Copies of the bylaw are available at the Town Office at a cost of \$5.

PUBLIC HEARING

Council will hold a public hearing on February 10th, 2026, at 6:45 p.m. at the Town Office to hear any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed bylaw. Council will also consider written comments received at the hearing or delivered to the undersigned at the Town Office before the hearing.

Issued at the Town of Spiritwood this 22nd day of January, 2026.
Rhonda Saam, Chief Administrative Officer

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OPINION

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January 22, 2026

Principles forgotten as world order shifts

Since the re-election of United States President Donald Trump, the world has been flipped on its head.

The chaos created by Mr. Trump's revolving door of economic, political, and military threats against whomever offends his fragile ego on a given day has thrown the established global order into disarray, forcing even the United States' closest allies to look elsewhere for a sense of stability and security. And in the midst of all the turmoil, it's become nearly impossible to tell where anyone stands on any issue.

On the campaign trail in the 2025 federal election, Prime Minister Mark Carney pointed to China as one of the greatest threats to Canada's security. While certainly true, given China's efforts to interfere with Canada's democracy and its aggressive use of retaliatory tariffs, it's equally true that a country cannot exist in the global community without having some sort of relationship with China, which boasts the world's second largest economy.

And so, it shouldn't have been too surprising when Mr. Carney traveled to Beijing with Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe last week, to meet Chinese President Xi Jinping and work to reset Canada's relationship with the country.

Indeed, Mr. Carney teased this idea back in December, and addressed the risks of doing so.

"The question is how deep is the relationship and how clear are the guardrails around that relationship," he said.

"There are areas, artificial intelligence, critical minerals, defence, where clearly the security threats are such that we would not have a deep relationship with China in those areas."

Even with this, and even though Saskatchewan's producers were being punished by 100 per cent tariffs on canola oil, canola meal, and peas, as well as 76 per cent tariffs on canola seed, Mr. Carney's trip to Beijing was treated by his opponents as a betrayal of Canada.

The tariffs, as many will recall, were

a response to Canada's decision to join the United States and the European Union in imposing a 100 per cent tariff on Chinese electric vehicles and a 25 per cent tariff on Chinese steel and aluminum.

The opposition supported the EV tariffs. However, Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre was also critical of Mr. Carney's failure to get China to back off its canola tariffs.

So, to be clear, Mr. Carney was expected to get the canola tariffs removed while keeping Canada's EV tariffs in place, all without deepening Canada's diplomatic or economic ties with China in any significant way. And the way to do this, suggested Mr. Poilievre, was to cancel a \$1 billion loan to B.C. to purchase Chinese-made ferries.

And closer to home, Carney was simultaneously expected to negotiate a deal "in Canada's best interest" with Mr. Trump, who has made it clear he won't accept anything but a deal that favours only the United States.

To the opposition's chagrin, no doubt, day one of Mr. Carney's trip to China ended with the signing of an MOU to strengthen talks between ministers in several areas, including oil and gas resource development, liquefied natural gas along with liquefied petroleum gas, and emission reductions.

Mr. Carney's delegation also signed several other agreements to boost exports of Canadian pet food to China and increase tourism, and renewed an agreement to combat crime, including child sexual exploitation, transnational organized crime, and money laundering.

On day two, Mr. Carney reached a deal that will see canola seed tariffs lowered to 15 per cent, and canola meal, peas, lobsters, and crabs exempted from anti-discrimination tariffs until at least the end of the year. In return, Canada will allow up to 49,000 Chinese EVs into the country each year at a tariff rate of 6.1 per cent. Missing from the agreement was canola oil.

Outside China, Mr. Carney's govern-

Shellbrook Chronicle

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P.O. Box 10, Shellbrook, Sask. S0J 2E0
Phone 306-747-2442 or Fax 306-747-3000

Editorial: chnews@sbchron.com
Advertising: chads@sbchron.com

Jordan Twiss & Meghan Penney, Co-Publishers

Jordan Twiss, Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter
jordan@sbchron.com / chnews@sbchron.com

Bevra Fee, Spiritwood Herald Reporter
(306) 883-7058 or bevrafee@yahoo.ca

Meghan Penney, Advertising Sales & Composition/Pagination chads@sbchron.com

Bookkeeping/Reception
306-747-2442 or accounting@sbchron.com

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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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YOUR TWO CENTS

Trump has flipped his noodle

Dear editor,
The rule of law in the United States has been slowly eroding for decades. Unfortunately, this conditioning process has chipped away at international law, as we have seen in Venezuela where President Donald

Trump threatened the vice president with assassination if she doesn't do what she's told.

It's difficult to believe. Trump aggressively intimidates and humiliates friend and foe alike with open threats to invade: Greenland, Colombia, and even Mexico. However, today, it remains beyond Trump's reach to explicitly threaten Canada with military intervention. The world would be outraged!

However, the implicit threat remains. Beware, after his open threats to other countries and his annexation rhetoric against Canada becomes normalized, Canada is certainly not immune.

Trump wants our oil, our minerals, and our rare earths. He needs only to invent a lame excuse, like he did with fentanyl, to legally justify under American law a physical violation of Canadian sovereignty. Trump's so-called "Don-roe Doctrine" states that

he will dominate the western hemisphere.

For example, he has only to seize one ship loaded with oil going to China, under the auspices of national security, to "instantly" stop all exports of oil to anyone but the United States, leaving Trump free to buy at whatever price he chooses.

Trump not only needs to win, he needs to humiliate. In the absence of the rule of law, Trump has been blatantly abused by those who hate him, which has galvanized his determination.

They tried to bankrupt him, defame him, and even kill him, and now he doesn't care. He has flipped his noodle. He will do what he wants.

The world has entered a very dark time. Hopefully Prime Minister Carney will stay out ahead of him.

Earl Jones,
Rabbit Lake, Sask.

Canada must decry imperialist agenda

Dear editor,
I am opposed to the US invasion into Venezuela and the proposed invasion into Iran. I fear that Canada has left its peace keeping objective and now takes sides with the aggressor rather than the oppressed.

In 2015, we supported the removal of the democratically elected president of Ukraine, Yanukovych. Lies were continuously telling us what an evil person Yanukovych was and how he needed to be removed.

We have had Iran under our thumb since 1953. Sanctions against the country for decades. Sanctions hurt the poor people and children. Removing food, medical supplies and an opportunity for the people to make an honest living. Also with Venezuela. Sanctions against the country for 35 years.

Canada has supported Israel and company for their atrocities on the people of Gaza. It is abhorrent for me to be categorized as a right wing Christian when I see what this group of people support.

Canada has lots of territory and resources. We do not need to join in Imperialist conquests. We impoverish and destabilize other countries and set up crooked puppet governments who sell out and buckle under the corporate and US government attack.

There is a day of reckoning. If not in this world, certainly in the next. In the movie, The Lonesome Dove, Gus and his men were preparing to hang some murderous horse thieves. When the noose was ready for Jake, he said, "I didn't mean no harm." Gus replied, "You ride with horse thieves, you hang with horse thieves."

Laverne Isaac, Saskatoon, Sask.

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Senior Elks, Raiders keep win streaks going

By JORDAN TWISS
*Shellbrook Chronicle
 Reporter*

The Shellbrook Elks Senior Hockey Club continued its successful second leg of the 2025-2026 Twin Rivers Hockey League season, playing host to the Allan Flames on Saturday, Jan. 17, and scoring another big win to catapult to third place in the league standings.

The Elks took their time on Saturday night, waiting until the midway point of the first period to draw first blood on a goal from Levi Logan, assisted by Payton Kachur and Nick Martin. Shortly after, Kaiden Couture made it 2-0 Elks on assists from Logan and Ethan Beaulac.

However, the lead would only last until the end of the period. Taking full advantage of a late Elks penalty, the Flames' power play narrowed the gap to 2-1. Then, just over a minute later, the Flames tied the game up at 2-2 to send the action to the second period.

After the brief intermission, the Elks returned to the ice with renewed energy and purpose and took no prisoners through the first half of the second period by scoring

four unanswered goals. Logan struck first, with assists from Kachur and Couture, then Cole Duperreault scored a couple minutes later on assists from Cole Tanchuk and Matthew Flodell.

With the Elks on a power play, Kachur was the next to score, on assists from Logan and Tanchuk, and Jody Blais capped off the four-goal run just over a minute later with assists from Beaulac and Ethan Skauge.

The Flames managed to get on the board once shortly after the midway mark of the second period, but the goal was effectively negated by an Elks power play goal from Blais, assisted by Dallas Galloway and Couture.

Taking a 7-3 lead into the third period, the Elks took no chance and continued building their lead on a goal from Duperreault, assisted by Kamden Logan and Beaulac.

The Flames struck back shortly after, then scored again on a late power play to push the score to 8-5 for the Elks, but a shorthanded hat trick goal from Levi Logan, assisted by Kachur, put the Elks back up by four goals.

Though the Flames tacked on one last power play goal, it

was already too little, too late.

With the 9-6 win, the Elks sit at 9-5-0-0 on the season.

This weekend the team is busy on the road, with games against the Birch Hills Blackhawks on Saturday, Jan. 24, and the Hanley Huskies on Jan. 25.

Raiders (9) vs Stars (5)

Over in the Saskatchewan Prairie Hockey League, the Blaine Lake Raiders continued their regular season domination during a road trip to Glaslyn to meet with the Glaslyn North Stars.

Coming out strong, the Raiders jumped out to an early lead on a goal from Tysen Smith, assisted by Brandon Lesko and Kelly Friesen. But the lead was soon erased by a North Stars goal, and on a late power play the North Stars leapt ahead 2-1.

When the action moved to the second period, the Raiders wasted no time knotting things up at 2-2 with an unassisted goal from Friesen. Then, with the help of a string of power plays, the Raiders tacked on three more goals to jump ahead 5-2 before the end of the period.

Lesko kicked off the scoring with back-to-back goals, drawing assists from Friesen

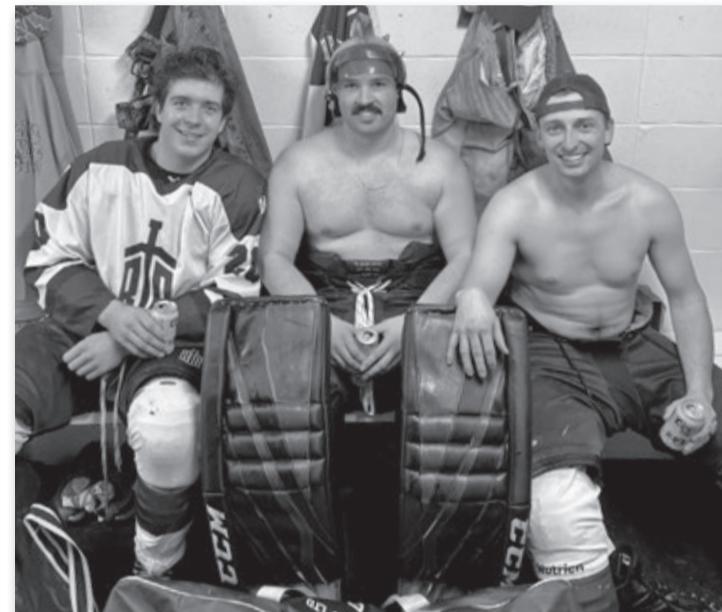
and Kyle Schmidt on the first, and Friesen and Thomas Jean on the second. Then, Adam Horner capped on the scoring with an assist from Braiden Onishenko.

Leaving nothing up to chance in the third period, the Raiders tacked on two early goals to go up 7-2. Friesen kicked off the scoring with his second of the game, assisted by Clay Casavant and Lesko, and Schmidt followed up on assists from Friesen and Lesko.

As the period wore on, the

Raiders and the Stars traded off goals, with the Stars netting three while the Raiders scored two to skate away with a 9-5 win. Lesko scored both Raiders goals, the first one unassisted, and the second assisted by Schmidt on the power play.

With the win, the Raiders now sit at 11-0-0-0 on the season. This weekend, the team will play a doubleheader on home ice, facing the Neillburg Monarchs on Friday, Jan. 23, and the Turtleford Tigers on Saturday.



Goalie Matthew Flath earned player of the game honours after the Raiders' win over the Stars.

Celebrate Agriculture - Become a Crop Reporter



February 10, 2026, is Canada's Agriculture Day – an opportunity to celebrate Saskatchewan producers and agribusinesses.

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AGRICULTURE

January 22, 2026

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New canola variant shows promise

Regular readers will be aware that I am a huge believer in good science and research being crucial to the future of both agriculture and the broader world as well.

So when new developments become available which offer the farm community something that improves what they do, it's something to applaud.

In this case it's a tip of the hat to BASF, which has a new canola hybrid being released — still apparently a few years away in Canada — that is better suited to thrive in

hotter and drier regions of the Prairies.

The fact that the new variety — InVigor Gold — can be grown more successfully in areas where canola has not previously been all that successful is a huge step forward.

Heat tolerance, of course, is also an important feature as climates are changing (you can research the reasons but whatever the reasons weather is evolving), and that may well push more of the Canadian Prairies into hotter and drier conditions.

So, while today InVigor



CALVIN
DANIELS

Gold might be looked at for its potential to push canola into acres where it has not normally done well or even been grown at all, its greatest promise may be in becoming a viable option if weather continues to dial toward

hotter.

However you look at it, the development of InVigor Gold is rather significant — in particular because this is only the first release, and you know the next generations to improve drought and heat tolerance even further are already in development.

This is an example of why crop research is so important.

Now, of course, BASF is doing the work — investing the dollars in research — because the company fully anticipates recouping those costs and in

fact making significant long-term profits based on the development. It is for them, after all, a profit-driven business.

But this doesn't mean that it's not also good news for producers.

That is one of the reasons it remains so important to producers and the public — through government — to continue to fund crop research too.

It is important that next generation varieties — especially those which may be important in the face of climate change — come from varied sources. It just does

not seem like a good idea that future varieties all be controlled by one or two profit-driven corporations.

In that regard, having producer-driven research, funded at least in part by consumers through government investment in research, is hugely important.

InVigor Gold looks to be a most intriguing development, but it should not be the only variety focused in heat and drought tolerance. It should be the vanguard of a new family of varieties created by many.

Sask., feds invest \$9.7 million in crop research

By MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

Submitted

Federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Heath MacDonald and Saskatchewan Minister of Agriculture David Marit have announced \$9.7 million to support crop research in Saskatchewan.

This investment includes \$7.2 million to support 39 new crop research projects through the Agriculture Development Fund (ADF) and \$2.5 million through the Strategic Research Initiative (SRI) to study the long-term management of herbicide-resistant kochia and wild oats.

"Investing in agricultural research is an investment in the future," MacDonald said. "It helps address current and emerging challenges while creating new opportunities for farmers. We will continue to support agricultural research to ensure producers have the tools, knowledge, and solutions they need to succeed now and in years to come."

"Saskatchewan's position as a global leader in crop exports is built on decades of investment in research and the dedication of scientists in crop development," Marit said. "Investments in agriculture research remain key to driving economic growth."

ADF projects are selected through an annual competitive process to identify research with the potential to help Saskatchewan's farmers remain innovative, profitable and competitive. This year's crop projects include a range of topics, including: evaluating the performance of subsurface drip irrigation; identifying new ways to build resistance to wheat stem sawfly; enhancing tolerance to drought and phosphorus deficiency in lentil crops; managing rice worm infestations in northern Saskatchewan; wild rice production; and validating bale wrapping material made from flax straw and oat hulls.

The Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan work closely with industry partners on ADF projects to leverage funding to support research that aligns with industry priorities. This year, projects are supported by an additional \$3.2 million from 13 industry partners, including:

- Alberta Canola Producers Commission;
- Alberta Grains;
- Alberta Pulse Growers;
- Canary Seed Development Commission of Saskatchewan;
- Manitoba Canola Growers;
- Manitoba Crop Alliance;
- Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR);
- Saskatchewan Barley Development Commission (SaskBarley);
- Saskatchewan Oat Development Commission;
- Saskatchewan Oilseeds Development Commission

(SaskOilseeds);

- Saskatchewan Pulse Growers (SPG);
- Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission (SaskWheat); and
- Western Grains Research Foundation.

"Producers are constantly growing, changing and innovating farming operations to capture growing potential and maximize on-farm efficiencies," SaskWheat outgoing Board Chair Jake Leguee said. "Today's ADF and SRI funding announcement signals to us as producers that we have strong partners with government to tackle agriculture challenges and continue to unlock potential."

The SRI provides targeted funding to address complex challenges facing the agricultural sector. The 2026 SRI project, led by Dr. Shaun Sharpe at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), will accelerate development of sustainable solutions for producers to manage herbicide-resistant kochia and wild oat. The collaborative initiative involves a multidisciplinary team from AAFC, the Universities of Saskatchewan, Regina, and Manitoba, and the National Research Council. The multi-year research project represents a \$3.2 million research investment with \$2.5 million in government funding and \$730,000 from SaskWheat, SPG, SaskOilseeds, Sask-

Barley, RDAR and Alberta Grains.

The ADF and SRI are supported through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a five-year, \$3.5 billion investment by federal, provincial and territorial governments to strengthen competitiveness, innovation, and resiliency of Canada's agriculture, agri-food, and agri-based products sector. This includes \$1 billion in federal programs and activities, and a \$2.5 billion commitment that is cost-shared 60 per cent federally and 40 per cent provincially for programs that are designed and delivered by provinces and territories.

For more information, including a full list of the above projects, please visit: saskatchewan.ca.



DISCRETIONARY USE APPLICATION FOR A BEAUTY SALON AT 208 HORSESHOE CRESCENT

The Council of the Town of Blaine Lake intends to consider an application for a Discretionary Use Application by Chelsey Campbell to establish a Beauty Salon at 208 Horseshoe Crescent.

This property is zoned Residential District – R1 under Bylaw 2013-05 and a beauty salon is considered a discretionary use in the Residential R-1 District.

Legal Description: Lot 6, Block C, Plan BT4121

Civic Address: 208 Horseshoe Crescent



Public Hearing Details:

Town Council will consider this application at a Public Hearing scheduled as follows:

4:00 PM, February 24, 2026

Council Chambers – 301 Main Street

Submissions: Any person may make a written submission and/or speak to Town Council by providing notice, delivered to the Chief Administrative Officer no later than 4:00 PM, Monday, February 23, 2026.

DATED at Blaine Lake, Saskatchewan, this 22nd day of January, 2026.

James Puffalt, MBA, RMA, CMMA, Prairie Rising Consulting Chief Administrative Officer

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REPEAL MUNICIPAL HERITAGE PROPERTY DESIGNATION

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Town of Blaine Lake intends to consider a bylaw to repeal the designation of the following Municipal Heritage Property:

Property Name: St. Andrews Roman Catholic Church

Civic Address: 102 Second Avenue East

Legal Description: Lots 10 and 11, Block 6, Plan H 3043

Original Designation Bylaw: Bylaw No. 3/83, April 12, 1983

Reasons for proposed repeal: Building has deteriorated to the point of potential demolition

Meeting Details:

4:00 PM, February 24, 2026

Council Chambers – 301 Main Street

Objections: Any person may file a written Notice of Objection stating reasons, delivered to the Chief Administrative Officer no later than 4:00 PM, Monday, February 23, 2026.

If objections are received, a public hearing will be convened by the Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation Review Board before Council decides.

DATED at Blaine Lake, Saskatchewan, this 22nd day of January, 2026.

James Puffalt, MBA, RMA, CMMA, Prairie Rising Consulting Chief Administrative Officer

A Guide to

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION



Hands-on learning and paid co-ops power success in Sask Polytech's Electrical Engineering Technology program

Editorial provided by
Saskatchewan Polytechnic

Supportive instructors, paid co-op placements and practical training are features of Saskatchewan Polytechnic's Electrical Engineering Technology program helping students build skills and confidence in a growing technical field.

"We engage in a variety of community outreach activities to attract students, including hands-on workshops and partnerships with local schools and organizations," says Babith Varghese, Electrical Engineering Technology program head. "Workshops provide a basic

introduction to the lab and equipment and can help make prospective students more comfortable with the learning environment."

Students say they value Sask Polytech's small classes, hands-on learning, approachable instructors and paid co-operative education work terms.

For Ella Kessler-Holderness, the decision to enrol was rooted in family. "My dad and stepdad are both engineers," she says. "They taught me to love math and I wanted to follow in their footsteps."

After a gap year working in reception at a vet clinic, she's now thriving

in her first semester. "The labs are really interesting. It's like a puzzle you put together," she says.

That sense of support is echoed by Runhe Wang. She spent a year upgrading math and science through the Adult Education program at Sask Polytech's Saskatoon campus before applying.

"I wanted something with strong technical skills and good long-term career opportunities," she says. "The lab work is amazing. We build circuits, measure voltage and current and troubleshoot together."

Like her classmates, Tamika Ehrmantraut

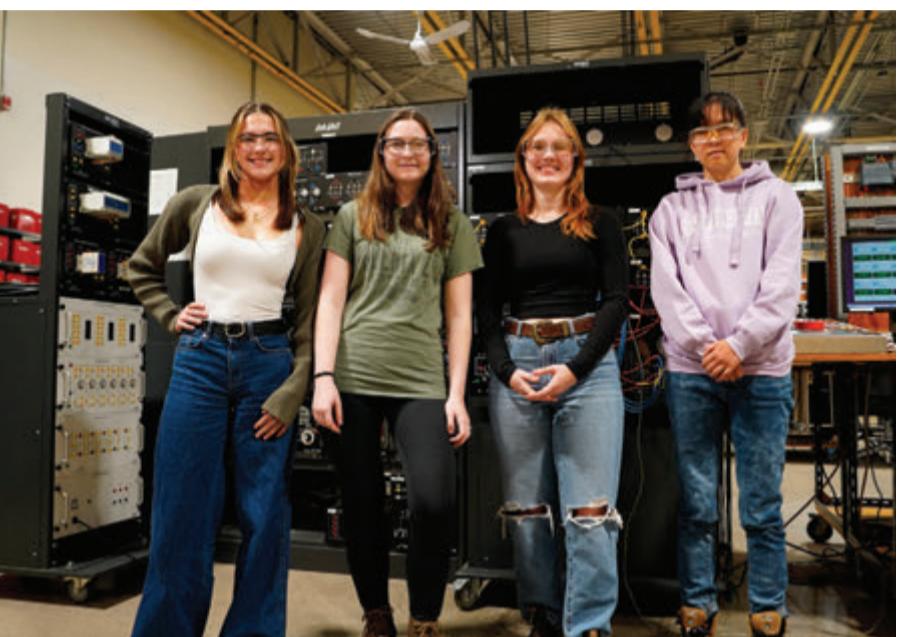


Photo provided by Saskatchewan Polytechnic

loves the hands-on approach. "The labs teach me the most because I'm a hands-on learner. It's rigorous but so worth it."

Both Ehrmantraut and Abby Allen joined the program after a year of university. They were drawn to Sask Polytech for its smaller classes and easier access to instructors. "The big class sizes at university were off-putting and I could never reach out to my teachers," says Ehrmantraut. "At Sask Polytech, the instructors know our

names and are always around to answer questions."

Allen agrees, "I enjoy how hands-on the program is. In the first week, we were in the lab building circuits. I'd absolutely recommend this program to anyone considering it."

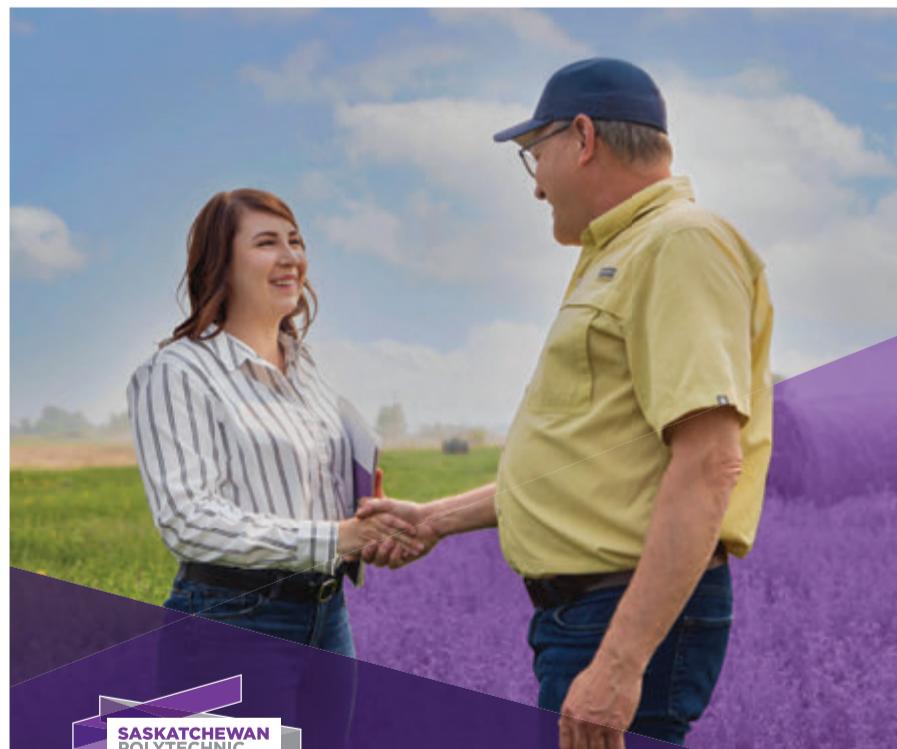
Varghese says that co-operative education is a major selling point of the program for all students. "During co-op, students have the opportunity to earn competitive wages, and after

graduation, many secure well-paying positions."

Kessler-Holderness says that co-op education sold her on the program: "Getting work experience while still studying is amazing and made me want to apply."

When asked about advice for other students applying to the program, Kessler-Holderness says, "If you are interested in puzzles and putting stuff together, this program is for you."

Learn more at saskpolytech.ca.



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and apply today.

NEWSPAPERS

Build Literacy

Expand Minds

Educate Students

Inspire Achievement

A Guide to

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION



Start Your Path at Medicine Hat College

Editorial provided by
Medicine Hat College

Medicine Hat College (MHC) is more than a place to learn, it's a community where you can build skills, confidence, and connections. Located in sunny Southeast Alberta, MHC offers a wide range of programs to help you prepare for the career you want.

Here, learning goes beyond the classroom. With hands-on experiences and supportive instructors, you'll turn your goals into real opportunities. Whether you're working toward a certificate, diploma, degree, university transfer, or apprenticeship, MHC has a path that fits your future.

Business Programs: Turn Ambition into Action

Through the School of Business, you gain real-world experience with projects, case studies, and mentorship from industry professionals. Programs include Business Administration diploma with majors in Accounting, Financial Services, Marketing, and Management, as well as specialty options like Sport & Event Marketing and Management and Service Dog & Canine Management Studies.

Arts, Science & Education: Where Creativity Thrives

If creativity and innova-

tion inspire you, the School of Arts, Science & Education offers programs such as the Bachelor of Applied Art & Design, Environmental Biology & Reclamation Technology, Kinesiology, and Sustainable Innovation. Education pathways include Early Childhood Education and a collaborative Bachelor of Education, with university transfer options available.

Health & Community Services: Making a Difference

The Yuill School of Health & Community Services prepares you for careers that change lives. With simulation labs, clinical place-



Photo provided by Medicine Hat College

ments, and small classes, you graduate ready to serve with confidence. Programs include Practical Nursing, Paramedic, Pharmacy Technician, Child & Youth Care Counselling, Addictions Counselling, and more.

Trades & Technology: Building Futures

For those who prefer hands-on work or technical problem-solving, the School of Trades & Technology offers training in Automotive Service, Carpentry, Electrical, Welding, and other trades. Technology programs include Computer Aided Drafting & Design, Engineering Design and Architectural Technology, Information Technology, and Power Engineering Technology.

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Choose from over 40 certificate, diploma, degree, trades, and university transfer programs.



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WWW.MHC.AB.CA

Bring Your Brightest Ideas to Life



RCMP news highlights

By JORDAN TWISS
*Shellbrook Chronicle
 Reporter*

A man and a woman from Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation were arrested just outside Shellbrook on Thursday, Jan. 8, after fleeing from police and colliding with two police vehicles.

At approximately 9:50 a.m. that morning, the Big River RCMP Detachment received a report about a robbery, and determined through investigation that the report was tied to a car that had been stolen at gunpoint in Debden on Dec. 31. No physical injuries were reported in that robbery.

Later on Jan. 8, officers with the Big River RCMP Detachment located a car that matched the stolen vehicle's description on Cyr Road, near Debden. Officers activated their vehicle's emergency equipment and initiated a traffic stop. The car did not stop for police.

Shortly after, police say, the same car was observed travelling on Highway #55, south of Debden. Officers set up a tire deflation device just outside of Shellbrook, which the car struck, causing its tires to de-

late. The car continued moving and collided with the rear of one police vehicle and the side of a second police vehicle before coming to a stop.

Two individuals exited the car and fled on foot, and were arrested by officers shortly after. As a result of this incident, two police vehicles were damaged. The police officers inside the vehicles were not physically injured.

As a result of continued investigation, 34-year-old Albert Williams from Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation is charged with one count each of dangerous operation of a motor vehicle, flight from peace officer, resisting/obstructing peace officer, and possession of property obtained by crime over \$5,000.

An adult woman, who has yet to be named by police, was also arrested at the scene in relation to an outstanding warrant.

Williams' next court appearance is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 28, in the Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation Court.

The Big River RCMP Detachment continues to investigate, and was assisted in its investigation by the Ahtahkakoop-Shellbrook RCMP Detachment and the

Prince Albert RCMP's Controlled Traffic Services Saskatchewan (CTSS).

Three arrested in robbery

Three individuals have been arrested, and one more suspect is sought by police, in connection with an armed robbery in the community of Little Red River.

On Friday, Jan. 9, around 11 a.m., the Prince Albert RCMP Detachment received a report about the robbery. Through initial investigation, officers determined

that two suspects went to a house in the community of Little Red River with a shotgun and demanded keys to the resident's truck, in which they fled.

No physical injuries were reported to police.

Two hours later, RCMP officers located the stolen truck on Sturgeon Lake First Nation. They attempted a traffic stop, but the vehicle backed into a ditch and the occupants fled. After a short foot pursuit, the driver and two passengers were arrested without incident.

As a result of inves-

tigation, 35-year-old Karalynn Naytowhow from Montreal Lake Cree Nation, 20-year-old Lacey Halkett-Turner from the community of Little Red River and 40-year-old Clarence Turner from Sturgeon Lake First Nation are each charged with one count of possession of property obtained by crime under \$5,000.

Turner is additionally charged with one count each of flight from peace officer and resist/obstruct peace officer, while Naytowhow has been charged with three

counts each of armed robbery and possession of weapon for dangerous purpose, and one count of break and enter with intent, pointing a firearm, and firearms possession contrary to order.

Naytowhow, Turner, and Halkett-Turner made their first appearance in Prince Albert Provincial Court on Monday, Jan. 12.

The Prince Albert RCMP Detachment continues the investigation into the identity of one of the suspects from the armed robbery.

Sask NDP highlights affordability challenges

By SASK NDP
Submitted

Saskatchewan families are facing greater financial pressure than anywhere else in Canada as Scott Moe unapologetically continues to pile on added taxes, rates hikes and fees.

New data released by Statistics Canada last week found nearly 47 per cent of Saskatchewan people report finding it difficult or very difficult to meet their household's financial needs — that figure was higher than anywhere else in the country.

The data covers the second quarter of 2025 and was up dramatically from

the 31 per cent reporting it to be difficult or very difficult to meet their household's financial needs in the first quarter of the year.

In less than two weeks, Scott Moe and the Sask. Party plan to pile on increases to household power bills and on the insurance for 98 per cent of the vehicles running in Saskatchewan.

"It's clear we have a Premier and a government that stopped caring about the people they were elected to serve long ago," said Sally Housser, Saskatchewan NDP Shadow Minister for Energy & Resources. "Not only do we have the great financial anxiety in the country, but Scott Moe insists only on making it worse."

Earlier this month, Saskatchewan NDP Leader Carla Beck demanded an emergency legislative session to cut Sask. Party taxes on groceries and clothing and to pass the Rent Control Act, introduced by the Official Opposition during the Fall Sitting. Rent in Saskatchewan has increased for 42-straight months.

"We could go into the Legislature right now and lower the cost of living for Saskatchewan families — your move, Premier," Housser said. "The Saskatchewan NDP knows it's time for change. People are tired of 18 years of Sask. Party lies, waste and chaos. Frankly, they're tired of paying for this government's mess.

"It's time for change."



PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REPEAL MUNICIPAL HERITAGE PROPERTY DESIGNATION

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Town of Blaine Lake intends to consider a bylaw to repeal the designation of the following Municipal Heritage Property:

Property Name: CN Station Building located at the corner of Main Street North and Railway Avenue East

Civic Address: 103 Railway Avenue East

Legal Description:

THEFORE, the Council of the Corporation of the TOWN of BLAINE LAKE, IN THE PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN enacts as follows:

- There is a designated as being of architectural and historical value or interest the real property known as the CN STATION BUILDING and a portion of CN STATION GROUNDS being;

All that portion of the South East quarter of Section Thirty-Six (36) in Township Forty-Four (44) in Range Seven (7) West of the Third Meridian in the Province of Saskatchewan, lying in the Canadian Northern Railway Station Grounds as shown on Plan No. AA 1996 and more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at a point on the South East limit of station grounds where it is intersected by the production North West of the North East limit of Main Street thence North East along the South East limit of station grounds One Hundred and Thirty Feet (130 feet), thence North West perpendicular to said South East limit of station grounds One Hundred Feet (100 feet), thence South West and parallel with said South East limit of Station Grounds One Hundred and Thirty Feet (130 feet), thence South East in a straight line to point of commencement.

Reserving to the Crown All Mines and Minerals

Original Designation Bylaw: Bylaw No. 3/81, May 26, 1981

Reasons for proposed repeal: Current tenant has moved, building will become vacant and removing heritage designation will enhance an opportunity to redevelop and preserve this building.

Meeting Details:

4:00 PM, February 24, 2026

Council Chambers – 301 Main Street

Objections: Any person may file a written Notice of Objection stating reasons, delivered to the Chief Administrative Officer no later than **4:00 PM, Monday, February 23, 2026**.

If objections are received, a public hearing will be convened by the Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation Review Board before Council decides.

DATED at Blaine Lake, Saskatchewan, this 22nd day of January, 2026.

James Puffalt, MBA, RMA, CMMA, Prairie Rising Consulting
 Chief Administrative Officer



DISCRETIONARY USE APPLICATION FOR GRAIN STORAGE AND GRAIN DRYING AT PARCEL X – RAILWAY AVENUE NORTH

The Council of the Town of Blaine Lake intends to consider an application for a Discretionary Use Application by Lumec Farms (Cadrain Grain Storage) to expand storage and install grain drying equipment at their location at Parcel X – Railway Avenue North.

This property is zoned General Industrial District – I1 under Bylaw 2013-05 and expanded storage and grain drying is considered a discretionary use in the General Industrial District I1.

Legal Description: Parcel X, Plan 102194715 – SWP Lease 400529

Civic Address: Parcel X – Railway Avenue North

Discretionary Use Conditions:

- Noise – emit no noise of industrial production audible beyond the boundary of the lot on which the operation takes place
- Dust or Ash – no process involving the emission of dust, fly ash or other particulate matter is permitted
- Odor/Toxic gases – no odorous or toxic gases or other substances is permitted
- Glare or heat – no industrial operation shall be carried out that would produce glare or heat discernible beyond the property line of the lot
- External storage must be in a neat and orderly manner or suitably enclosed by a fence or a wall to the satisfaction of Council
- Industrial wastes shall not be discharged in the town sewers or drainage courses.

Public Hearing Details:

Town Council will consider this application at a Public Hearing scheduled as follows:

4:00 PM, February 24, 2026

Council Chambers – 301 Main Street

Submissions: Any person may make a written submission and/pr speak to Town Council by providing notice, delivered to the Chief Administrative Officer no later than **4:00 PM, Monday, February 23, 2026**.

DATED at Blaine Lake, Saskatchewan, this 22nd day of January, 2026.

James Puffalt, MBA, RMA, CMMA, Prairie Rising Consulting
 Chief Administrative Officer

Jays having championship-style off-season

Mid-January is not normally the time of year for baseball-related sports columns, but what the Toronto Blue Jays are doing this off-season can't wait for spring.

The Jays, owned by Rogers, made truck-loads of money in 2025 when the team went all the way to the World Series, falling one game short against Los Angeles Dodgers. Rather than stuffing all that loot in a storage room at company headquarters on Bloor Street, the owners have authorized the use of that excess dough to make manager John Schneider's team even more powerful in 2026.

Expectations will be high when the 162-game regular season begins in late March, and why not? The Jays have bolstered their starting pitching corps, added a major slugger to their lineup and signed a relief pitcher who might just be a real closer. (Memories of Jeff Hoffman, he of the seven blown saves in 2025, second-most in

the American League, won't be long forgotten.)

With a solid starting pitching staff already established with Kevin Gausman, breakout star Trey Yesavage, Shane Bieber, and Jose Berrios, the Jays have added one of the best free agents available, Dylan Cease, to a seven-year, \$210 million pact. A seven-year veteran, Cease played five seasons with the hapless Chicago White Sox before being traded to San Diego, where he played the last two seasons. His stat numbers aren't overwhelming, but he's a 1A starter, as is Gausman. Added to the starting pitching staff is right-hander Cody Ponce, who was 17-1 last season in the Korean Major League, where he was voted Most Valuable Player. The Jays gave Ponce a three-year deal worth \$30 million.

Strengthening the bullpen is right-hander Tyler Rogers, who compiled a 1.98 earned-run average in 2025 while playing for the Mets and Giants. Rogers,



BRUCE
PENTON

who throws the ball submarine-style, has the lowest release point of any MLB pitcher. He throws low, but comes with high hopes for the Jays to develop a shutdown bullpen for late innings of 2026 games.

And while the Jays led the majors in team batting average (.265) in 2025, their power numbers were middle of the pack. Toronto's 191 home runs trailed leading New York Yankees by 83, and nine teams hit more than 200. So, the Jays went out and signed Japanese slugger Kazuma Okamoto to a four-year contract worth \$60 million. Okamoto, who is likely to play third

base, played 11 years in the Japanese major league and belted 248 homers in that span. Will that power translate smoothly to MLB? It worked pretty well for the Dodgers' Shohei Ohtani.

Reports indicate Toronto is still hoping to resign long-time Jay Bo Bichette, currently pondering free-agent opportunities, and pursuing another slugger, outfielder Kyle Tucker, 29, who hit 22 homers last year with the Chicago Cubs.

On the acquisition of Cease, Schneider was effusive in his praise: "We've been in love with his stuff for a while and there's a real opportunity for him to continue to get better with what we have to offer."

It's official, Blue Jays' fans: Canada has a baseball power.

• Headline at fark.com: "Texas Tech's gamble on a high school coach has paid off As did the Brinks trucks of west Texas oil money they amassed for paying players."

• Notre Dame athletic

director Pete Bevacqua, on the popularity of football coach Marcus Freeman: "Everybody has eyes on Marcus. College has eyes on Marcus. NFL has eyes on Marcus. I bet Hollywood has eyes on Marcus. I wouldn't be surprised if he's in the next Leo DiCaprio movies with Martin Scorsese."

• Steve Hofstetter on Facebook: "First Venezuela misses qualifying for the World Cup by one game, then gets bombed by the winner of the FIFA peace prize."

• Mike Bianchi of the Orlando Sentinel: "The Orlando Magic used to play defence like the '85 Bears. Now they play defence like the Venezuelan Air Force."

• Another one from Bianchi: "Did you see where Atlanta Hawks star Trae Young wants to be traded to the hapless Washington Wizards? In a league where most stars chase championships, Trae Young just asked to be placed in a witness protection program."

• Comedy guy Torben

Rolfsen of Vancouver: "If the Canucks draft Gavin McKenna, will the arena name go back to being GM Place?"

• Rolfsen again: "Las Vegas Raiders have the No. 1 pick in the NFL draft. It will be fascinating to see which young quarterback's career they will destroy."

• Jack Finarelli on his sportscurmudgeon.com site, on the NFL coaching opening in Las Vegas: "Bad roster; bad owner; the specter of Tom Brady hovering around the team; playing in a tough division. Other than those factors, this is a great job."

• Finarelli again, on Tennessee Titans looking for a new head coach: "The Front Office has no clue what it needs or wants and will – at some point – tire of trying to sort among the 13 candidates and draw a name out of a hat."

• Headline at theonion.com: "Steph Curry finally finishes eating mouthguard."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

U18 Elks pick up weekend win, OT loss

By JORDAN TWISS
*Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter*

The U18 AA Parkland Elks were busy on the road this past weekend, travelling to Warman to face off against the Warman Wildcats on Friday, Jan. 16, before heading to Tisdale to meet the North East Wolfpack on Saturday night.

The team had a strong outing, picking up a hard fought win over the Wildcats, then losing an OT nailbiter to the Wolfpack.

Elks (7) vs Wildcats (6)

Despite starting Friday night's game with an early penalty, it was the Elks who made the Wildcats pay for their careless play when Davin Hart drew first blood on an unassisted shorthanded goal.

The Wildcats regrouped after the misstep, getting the better of the even strength play for the remainder of the first period and scoring a pair of goals to take a 2-1 lead into

the second.

The Elks struck first again in the second period, tying the game at 2-2 on a goal from Cohen Ball, assisted by Brady Hujber. But the Wildcats responded with two goals in just 39 seconds to reclaim a two-goal lead.

In a period filled with offensive highlights, Hujber cut the gap back down to one, with an assist from Hart, just before the midway point of the period. Then, after a 10-minute stretch without any goals, Canden Olsen tied the game at 4-4 on assists from Lyndon Soonias and Burke Florence.

The tie was short-lived, as a defensive collapse by the Elks allowed the Wildcats to strike twice in the final 40 seconds of the second period and pounce ahead 6-4.

Taking a two-goal deficit into the third period, the Elks tightened their defences and kept the Wildcats off the board, allowing Cohen Ball to close the score to 6-5 on an assist from Arland Anderson.

Shortly after, with the help

of a power play, Hujber netted his second of the game with an assist from Logan Fisher. Then, with time quickly winding down, the Elks clinched the comeback win on another unassisted goal from Hart.

Elks (3) vs Pack (4) OT

In Tisdale the following night, the Elks got the jump on the Wolfpack by scoring early on a goal from Brady Hujber, assisted by Cohen Ball and Canden Olsen. And after a mostly deadlocked period, a late power play helped the Elks break the stalemate

and jump ahead 2-0 on an unassisted goal from Davin Hart.

In another mostly even period, the Elks outshot the Wolfpack 21 to 14. But it was the Wolfpack who netted the period's only goal, cutting the score to 2-1 for the Elks.

When the action moved over to the third period, the Wolfpack struck first to tie the score at 2-2 and both teams continued to fight for any advantage they could find.

Just as overtime was looking inevitable, the Wolfpack

found the back of the net to push the score to 3-2. But the Elks tied the game right back up 17 seconds later on a goal from Logan Fisher, assisted by Aiden Tait and Boston Gagnon, to force overtime after all.

In the abbreviated extra period, the Elks came up just short, allowing the Wolfpack to skate away with a 4-3 win.

Following the weekend's action, the Elks now sit at 5-14-1 on the season. The team has no games scheduled this weekend.

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Sask. inks nuclear MOU with UAE

By MINISTRY OF
TRADE & EXPORT
DEVELOPMENT
Submitted

The Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC) and the Global Institute for Energy, Minerals and Society Inc (GIEMS), have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Emirates Nuclear Energy Company (ENEC).

The MOU is for the organizations to collaborate on the development of a nuclear energy program in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). It will include evaluation of technologies related to small modular reactors and microreactors, nuclear plant efficiency and reliability.

"With our vast uranium deposits, skilled workforce, and cluster of experts, Saskatchewan is the best region in the world to partner with on nuclear innovation," Trade and Export Development Minister Warren Kaeding said. "The UAE shares

many energy transition goals with us, and our international trade and investment office in Dubai paired with our investment attraction efforts have been instrumental in forging this partnership. I look forward to seeing how this new MOU will advance technologies that benefit both our regions."

The program will also include collaborative work in waste management, technology transfer innovation and adoption, the application of artificial intelligence and robotics in nuclear energy, and capacity building and knowledge exchange.

ENEC has over 20 years of experience and has become a world-class nuclear energy organization with a workforce of more than 3,000 people from 50 nations.

"Rising global electricity demand, fueled by AI, data centers, and energy-intensive industries, underscores the urgent need for global collaboration in advancing nuclear energy technologies," ENEC Managing Director and Group Chief Executive Officer Mohamed Al Hammadi said. "Our collaboration with SRC and GIEMS aligns with

ENEC's strategy to responsibly expand civil nuclear energy worldwide, leveraging collective expertise and innovation to deliver secure, reliable, and sustainable energy solutions."

GIEMS, first established at COP28 in Dubai is a pipeline of innovation and talent through the province's largest post-secondary institutions.

"This MOU establishes a framework that connects Saskatchewan's post-secondary research and training institutions with ENEC's nuclear innovation priorities, supporting shared learning, knowledge transfer and capacity building," GIEMS Executive Director Tom Kishchuk said.

SRC will also be a

great addition to this partnership with their prowess in nuclear and uranium research.

"SRC brings decades of applied nuclear research experience to this collaboration, including nearly four decades of operating the SLOWPOKE-2 research reactor," SRC President and CEO Mike Crabtree said. "This MOU creates a strong foundation for sharing expertise, evaluating advanced reactor technologies, and supporting the responsible development of nuclear energy as part of the transition to clean, reliable energy systems."

The agreement is valid for a three year period with the opportunity for all parties to renew.

OBITUARY ~ Barbara Henderson



to visit her brothers.

She was predeceased by her parents Mae Helen and Thomas as well as siblings Isabell and Jack Friesen, Alex Henderson, Thomas Henderson, sister-in-law Rita Henderson and brother-in-law Don Wheaton.

She is survived by siblings Margaret Wheaton and Jim Henderson and many nieces and nephews whom she loved dearly.

Barbara lived in College View Housing Co-op in Toronto for over 30 years. She was active on many committees and had lots of dear friends.

A gathering to mark her passing was held in her memory there.

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Op-ed: Time for feds to give up on gun confiscation

By GAGE HAUBRICH
CTF Prairie Director

There comes a point in almost every Canadian's life where someone sits you down and tells you that no matter how hard you try, it's very unlikely that you are going to make it to the NHL.

That same type of tough love needs to be shown to Prime Minister Mark Carney and Public Safety Minister Gary Anand sangree about chances of successfully following through with Ottawa's gun ban and confiscation program.

Like a hockey player who can't skate backwards, it's never been more obvious that its time to throw in the towel. The program is a clear failure, it won't make Canadians safer, but it will cost taxpayers an untold some of cash.

After banning more than 2,500 hundred different makes and models of firearms over the last six years, the federal government finally launched its confiscation to collect those guns from individual owners with a six-week pilot project in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia.

The government aimed to confiscate 200 firearms during the project. It only collected 25 from 16 different people.

That's a clear failure.

And in typical federal government fashion, the lack of results doesn't mean lack of spending.

The government agreed to give at least \$149,760 to the Cape Breton Regional Municipality to carry out the confiscation. The

government also spent \$26,535 in compensation to the owners of the banned guns.

That means the cost to taxpayers for each gun confiscated is about \$7,000. If this program rolls out across the country, it's going to get really expensive, really quickly.

Failing government programs often face legitimate criticism for two reasons: they cost taxpayers too much money or they don't work.

Ottawa's gun confiscation is a case where both ring true. Taxpayers will be on the hook for potentially billions of dollars to pay for it and it won't make Canadians safer.

The first problem is the cost.

The government has committed \$742 million to carry out its gun ban and confiscation scheme, according to Budget 2025, but the government has not been transparent on these costs to taxpayers.

The Liberal Party initially said the confiscation would cost \$200 million in 2019. The Parliamentary Budget Officer said it will cost up to \$756 million to compensate owners for their firearms in 2021. Other experts put the final price tag at about \$6 billion.

Taxpayers should be worried about costs ballooning past estimates, because blowing more money than budgeted is a government specialty, especially on gun control programs.

Ottawa initially promised that the long-gun registry would cost taxpayers only \$2 million. The

final tab was more than \$2 billion before it was scrapped.

Despite all those costs, the gun confiscation won't make Canadians safer. And that's something that law enforcement experts have been saying since the government announced the policy.

That's because it's not legal gun owners committing crimes with firearms. And every dollar that the government wastes on this program, is a dollar that can't be used to stop the real problem of gun smuggling.

The union representing RCMP members says Ottawa's program "diverts extremely important personnel, resources, and funding away from addressing the more immediate and growing threat of criminal use of illegal firearms."

"We know that the gun buy-back program is going to have, essentially, zero impact on the crime in Toronto," said Clayton Campbell, the president of the Toronto Police Association.

And examples from other countries prove the point. New Zealand conducted its own confiscation back in 2019 and collected more than 50,000 banned firearms, but violent gun crime increased in the years afterward.

The failure of the Cape Breton project proves Ottawa's gun confiscation is a waste of money that won't make Canadians safer. Instead of pushing forward, Ottawa needs to finally stop limping this scheme along and end it once and for all.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the estate of GEORGE RUSSELL JOHNSTON, late of Mistawasis, SK, deceased. All claims against the above estate, duly verified by statutory declaration and with particulars and valuation of security held, if any, must be sent before April 15th, 2026 to: Dayna Johnston 387 Scenic Glen Place NW Calgary, AB, T3L J5 2-03

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Rev. Emmanuel Aristide

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Rev. Dave Whalley
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Spiritwood - 11:15 a.m.
Shell Lake - 2:00 p.m.

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Spiritwood celebrates Hockey Day

By BEVRA FEE
*Spiritwood Herald
 Reporter*

Saturday, Jan. 17, saw the parking lot of Spiritwood's arena packed with vehicles from the first game at 11 a.m. until the last skates were

unlaced after the 8 p.m. game, as the community gathered to celebrate Hockey Day in Spiritwood.

The official kickoff of events actually began on Friday evening, with the U18 Timberwolves facing off against

their rivals from Eston. While the T-wolves lost the contest, the audience were mostly back again for the U13 Timberwolves taking on the Leoville Huskies the next morning.

The rink was alive with the smell of rink burgers

as the grill was on and busy all day, feeding the crowds that cycled through for the games at 2 p.m., where the U15 Northern Wolves girls took on the Warman Jaguars, and at 5 p.m., where the U18AA North West Sharks ladies went up against the Prince Albert Foxes.

The last game of the Hockey Day slate was the U18A Northern Wolves girls battling the Warman Bengals.

Between games and during games, the bar upstairs was open for fans to relax in the lounge while enjoying the various hockey matches. A successful progressive 50/50 that was guaranteed to be minimum \$500 was ul-



Rink burgers were in high demand all day Saturday at Hockey Day in Spiritwood.

timately won by Jamie Paschke, who received half of a handsome total of \$2,580.

The popular booze raffle was drawn for and awarded to Sara Tipton, while the electric scooter package and the TV prize package went unclaimed

as of printing deadline. The popular puck toss took place at the 8 p.m. game on Saturday evening, and player 'heads & tails' contests added to the fun of the day.

With six years of hockey day celebrations behind them, Spiritwood Minor Hockey deems the 2026 event to be another success.

"This is our major annual fundraiser, but it is also a great way to bring people together for a day of fun in the community while promoting minor hockey. It is important to put on a special day for our players to recognize their hard work throughout the season," said Sheila Turgeon of the Spiritwood Minor Hockey board.



Spiritwood Minor Hockey board member Elliot Kajner tends to the raffle table.

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 10am - 4pm

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

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

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

CANWOOD: Canwood Branch of Wapiti Regional Library 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)

SPIRITWOOD: Wichekan Wildlife Federation Annual Awards & Banquet Night - Saturday, January 31, 2026, Spiritwood Civic Centre. Cocktails - 5pm; Supper - 6pm; Adults \$30; 12 & Under \$15; Preschool Free. Tickets available until January 28 - please call: Lyla 306-841-8284; Pearl & Eric 306-883-2835; Darcy 306-883-8641. Photo Contest - Categories include: Scenery, Hunting, Fishing & Wildlife. Pictures must be printed on 8x10 Kodak paper & can be submitted the day of banquet. Bring any unused 2025 hunting tags to be entered into a draw!

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