



Telemiracle magic comes to Shellbrook



Kinettes and Kinsmen enjoyed a visit from Telemiracle Teddy during their Day of Kindness. From left to right: Amber Larson, Robin Collins, Scott Galloway, Kelsie Price, Jay Ferster, Rachael Simpson, and Tasje Sharron.

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Every February, the Shellbrook Kinettes and Kinsmen campaign tirelessly to raise funds for Telemiracle on behalf of the community.

Through their hard work, and with the support of the community, Shellbrook's annual Telemiracle fundraising total has typically ranged anywhere from \$10,000 to \$14,000, with all of those funds remaining within Saskatchewan to help families with special medical needs.

This year, however, some of Telemiracle's hallmark magic came to Shell-

brook a little early, as the Kinettes and Kinsmen were aided in their fundraising efforts by Teddy the Telemiracle mascot.

"We were able to have Telemiracle Teddy out and about throughout the community for the past almost two weeks," Kinette Tasha Cyr said. "He popped in at the rink last weekend, had a mascot battle with W.P. Sandin's Aardvark, and had fun skating on Family Day."

This year's Telemiracle campaign featured a few new fundraising efforts, organized by Kinette Tara Lenz, including a couple dirty soda sales and a puck toss and a senior Shellbrook Elks game.

But in keeping with a tradition established during the COVID-19 pandemic, the primary fundraising vehicle for the groups was an online auction, made possible by donations from local businesses and community members.

Once again, the auction was a success, raising \$9,090 for Telemiracle.

"This community goes above and beyond to help our Kin groups," Cyr said. "It makes it so we can continue to do what we can to help better our community."

In the midst of all their fundraising efforts, the Kinettes and Kinsmen took time on Family Day (Monday, Feb. 16) to give back to the community by host-

ing its annual Day of Kindness.

In past years, Day of Kindness has generally received an unkind welcome from Old Man Winter, with temperatures often hovering in the -40s throughout the day. This year, thanks to some rare co-operation from the weather and the hard work of the Kinsmen, families were able to spend the day at the outdoor rink.

Cyr estimates that 50 to 60 people stopped in throughout the day to enjoy free skating, hot dogs, hot chocolate, and s'mores. To help keep guests warm, the Kinsmen set up a couple of fire pits and a trailer.

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SPIRITWOOD
PHARMACY GROCERY

*Down on the corner...
First & Main*

Big River mayor reflects on community challenges

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

As he looks back at 2025, Big River Mayor Dave Krawetz says the town was able to make great strides on several key municipal projects aimed at improving community infrastructure, safety, and the community's long-term resilience.

The crowning gem of the town's work was the completion of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP)-funded Rink and Community Centre Revitalization project, which Krawetz says will ensure the vital facility remains viable for community members of all ages for many years to come.

The ambitious project included the replacement of the old ice plant with a more energy efficient model to better support the arena and curling ice surface, as well as the installation of new lighting throughout the entire building, including the arena, curling rink, community centre, Town and RM offices, and library.

Upgrades were also made to dressing rooms and the walkways to the ice surface, with the installation of rubberized flooring, new benches, and bathroom and shower facilities, and the canteen received an overhaul with stainless steel sinks and taps, a more energy efficient grill, a stainless steel prep table, and a stainless steel cooler.

Safety was also a focus of the project, as a non-slip coating was applied to a large portion of the lobby floor, and a fall protection system was installed to protect anyone who has to work on the roof from slips and falls.

Beyond the rink and community centre, Mayor Krawetz said the town continued work on its Climate Ready Plan which he says is "intended to help Big River prepare for and adapt to the impacts of climate change, while guiding future infrastructure and operational decisions," continued work on its sidewalk improvement project, and upgraded ageing fire hydrants.

While much was accomplished throughout 2025, Mayor Krawetz says Big River isn't unique among Saskatchewan municipalities, in that the community's needs outweigh its fiscal capacity.

"Like many small communities, Big River faced ongoing challenges related to limited funding, particularly for protective services such as fire protection and policing," he said. "Rising operational



The Big River Arena and Community Centre was a key priority for the town throughout 2025, receiving extensive upgrades.

costs and constrained revenue sources have placed pressure on the Town's ability to maintain service levels in these critical areas."

While fiscal restraints pose challenges, Mayor Krawetz says the community also has social challenges to confront, including an increase of drug trafficking in the area, and the availability of adequate housing.

In particular, Mayor Krawetz says the community faces a shortage of Saskatchewan Housing Authority housing units for seniors.

"The lack of suitable seniors' housing places added pressure on fam-

ilies, caregivers, and existing housing options within the community," he said.

"The Town of Big River remains in communication with the Ministry of Social Services and Saskatchewan Housing Authority to explore additional solutions that would benefit both the community and the Ministry moving forward."

Looking ahead to 2026, Mayor Krawetz says the town is in the midst of the budgeting process, with administration reviewing revenues, costs, and capital needs. The formal budget is scheduled to be presented to council for discussion at its March 16 meeting.

As was the case in 2025, Mayor Krawetz says the biggest challenge in 2026 will be the rising cost of everything and the town's

fiscal constraints. How challenging these fiscal restraints are, and the priorities the town will focus on this year, will be dependent upon the availability of external funding.

"Inflation, higher utility expenses, and rising costs for goods, services, and contracted work have made it increasingly difficult to keep property taxes and water and sewer rates affordable for residents," he said.

"To keep Big River thriving, increased and sustained funding support from both Federal and Provincial governments is essential."

Other keys to ensuring Big River thrives into the future, says Mayor Krawetz, include making investments to support economic development, attract new residents, and promote growth.



The canteen was upgraded with stainless steel appliances and fixtures, and other improvements.



A new ice plant was installed to improve efficiency for both the arena and curling rink surfaces.



The dressing rooms had new benches and rubberized flooring installed.

VILLAGE OF SHELL LAKE ADMINISTRATOR

The Village of Shell Lake invites applications for the position of an Administrator (4 days/week).

Duties include:

- Organizing and attending all council meetings, ensuring bylaws are in place and up to date, recommending new initiatives to council and implementing council priorities.
- Prepare and monitor the annual financial plan, including the general operating and capital budgets and administer the entire taxation process.
- Complete required forms and reports.

The successful applicant will have the ability to work independently and manage time, possess strong communication, analytical and organizational skills in addition to respecting confidentiality. Possessing computer skills, specifically using MuniSoft, Word, Excel. Experience with MuniSoft software is an asset.

Preference for candidates with a Local Government Authority certificate, UMAAS Standard Certificate, or accounting and administrative skills from previous work experience and willingness to complete the required courses.

Closing date for applications: Until position is filled.

If you are interested in a rewarding career with pension plan benefits, please submit a detailed resume with references and salary expectations in confidence to the address listed below.

Mayor Wendy Penner
Village of Shell Lake
Box 588
Hague, SK S0K 1X0
(306) 220-4217

Email: wendy4379@gmail.com

We thank all those that apply but only those applicants selected for an interview will be notified.

VILLAGE OF DEBDEN ASSESSMENT ROLL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Assessment Roll for the Village of Debden for the Year 2026 has been prepared and is open to inspection in the office of the Assessor from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, February 24th to March 26th, 2026 the following days: Tuesday to Thursday.

A bylaw pursuant to section 214 of *The Municipalities Act* has been passed and the assessment notices have been sent as required.

All appeals must be filed with the Secretary of the Board of Revision, Nicolle Hoskins, sent electronically to secretary@westernmunicipal.ca or via mail to Box 149 Meota, SK S0M 1X0. A notice of appeal accompanied by the appeal fee made payable to VILLAGE OF DEBDEN, which will be returned if the appeal is successful, must be submitted by 3:00 p.m. on March 26th, 2026.

Dated this 24th day of February, 2026.

Tamara Couture
Assessor

4-H Public Speaking contest takes centre stage

By **BEVRA FEE**
Spiritwood Herald
Reporter

The Northern Spirit 4-H Club held its annual public speaking event on Saturday, Feb. 21, at the Pioneer Centre in Spiritwood. The slate of over 30 participating members proved the strength of the Club, and the quality of the speaking was a nod to their courage and creativity.

With four separate age categories — Cloverbud, Junior, Intermediate, and Senior — the topics ranged from farm life (frozen watering bowl woes start a lot younger when in 4-H), cows (good and bad ones), horses, pet dogs, horses who think they are pet dogs, and pesky younger brothers, to the more research-laden topics of GMOs.

Judging the afternoon lineup of speeches were a mix of teachers (current and retired), education assistants, and former 4-H public speakers from the community.

The speeches are competitive, as the winners in each category will go on to the District-level

contest that is scheduled for March 29 in Shell Lake. But although it is a competition, the main strength gained by the 4-H members is the courage to present themselves in front of peers, family, and friends in order to build their character and skills for a world where 4-H has also prepared them to be leaders.

Indeed, a quick search on Google reveals exactly what grips the young 4-Hers, “Glossophobia, or the fear of public speaking, is a common social anxiety affecting up to 77 per cent of people, often driven by fear of negative evaluation or judgment. Symptoms include intense panic, sweating, and rapid heart rate. It can be overcome through thorough preparation, cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT), breathing techniques, and practice in safe environments.”

To help combat the dreaded “glossophobia” 4-H created the public speaking aspect of being in the Club!

With encouragement from parents and grandparents and a couple of very special

big sisters, the youth of the Northern Spirit 4-H Club presented a very entertaining afternoon. The youngest age group, the Cloverbuds, were expected to deliver a speech of one to three minutes in length.

Cloverbud members range in age from 5 to 7 years old. The Junior members are 8 to 12 years old and are expected to deliver a two-minute to four-minute speech, while the Intermediate members are from 13 to 15 years of age and deliver three-to five-minute speeches. The Senior members, who may either be well-versed in public speaking or may have recently joined 4-H and are in the early stages of public speaking, range from 16 to 18+ and deliver speeches between four and eight minutes in length.



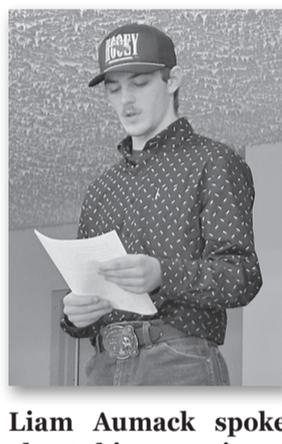
Members of the Northern Spirit 4-H Club pose for a relaxed photo after the nerve-racking part of the day is done.



Judges Lana Kylie, Brandy Swistun, and Holly Youst deliberate over their scoresheets.



Cloverbud winner **Casi Lepage** speaking about why Grandpa is her best friend.



Liam Aumack spoke about his experience at an Ontario 4-H forum, good enough for runner up in the Senior age category.



Judges Haley Tetreault and Brandy Swistun address the audience before naming their top two placements in the Cloverbud age group.

Ahtahkakoop Health Centre receives funding boost

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation has received more than \$2 million in funding from the federal government to support its health centre in managing ongoing challenges related to substance abuse and overdoses in the community.

Announced in the Yukon last week, the new money will be added to previously announced funding for a total of just over \$3.1 million, according to a news release issued last week.

“If we want a stronger Canada — one where people in every community can live healthier and safer lives — we need to tackle the illegal drug crisis together. That means giving communities the support they need to care for their people in ways that truly reflect their realities,” said Minister of Health Marjorie Michel in a statement.

“The organizations receiving funding are offering urgent health services, social supports, and culturally grounded programs that are making a real difference and saving lives every day.”

The Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation says the money will help it implement a Community Health and Safety Initiative and provide naloxone training and distribution, family-focused education and support, and youth engagement programs.

Ahtahkakoop’s project was one of 23 projects to receive funding as part of the federal government’s announcement.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

VILLAGE OF CANWOOD OPERATIONS ASSISTANT

The Village of Canwood is accepting applications for the position of **Operations Assistant**. This is a permanent part-time position. The operations and maintenance of the Public Works and Utilities and all other duties as assigned by the Village Foreman, maintenance, snow removal, grass cutting, garbage pick-up and execution of all functions. Position offers competitive benefits package.

The successful candidate will possess:

- Minimum of Grade 12/GED
- Valid Class 5 driver’s license, abstract must be supplied
- Must be willing to submit to a criminal record check
- Be able to work independently and follow directions
- Ability to service and maintain Village equipment is preferred
- Experience operating various heavy equipment (Grader, Skidsteer, etc)
- Be willing to work towards the Class 1 Water Treatment & Distribution Certificate
- Be willing to work towards Class 1 Wastewater Treatment & Collection Certificate

Applicants should submit a detailed resume with references:

Village of Canwood
571 Main Street
Box 172
Canwood, SK S0J 0K0
Canwood.town@sasktel.net

Posting closes on **March 5, 2026 at 3:00pm**. The Village of Canwood wishes to thank all applicants for their interest and advises that only those to be interviewed will be contacted.

Tax Enforcement List

Town of Spiritwood
PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

Notice is hereby given under *The Tax Enforcement Act* that unless the arrears and costs appearing opposite the land and title number described in the following list are fully paid before the 27th day of April, 2026, an interest based on a tax lien will be registered against the land.

Note: A sum for costs in an amount required by subsection 4(3) of *The Tax Enforcement Act* is included in the amount shown against each parcel.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

Lot Sec	Block Twp	Plan Range	Title No.	Total Arrears	Advertising Costs	Total Arrears and Costs
14	C	63B01799	148319961	\$ 3,513.30	\$ 30.00	\$ 3,543.30
3	34	78B14408	132245849	\$ 1,263.04	\$ 30.00	\$ 1,293.04
15	33	95B14103	128345036	\$ 2,846.45	\$ 30.00	\$ 2,876.45
7	5	AP518	154367983	\$ 2,978.98	\$ 30.00	\$ 3,008.98
8	34	84B12395	154151737	\$ 1,777.43	\$ 30.00	\$ 1,807.43
2	12	BK4385	148867262	\$ 2,752.11	\$ 30.00	\$ 2,782.11
4	18	BK4385	158009339	\$ 2,444.75	\$ 30.00	\$ 2,474.75
6	32	85B03858	156874977	\$ 3,960.65	\$ 30.00	\$ 3,990.65
2	34	78B14408	119485176	\$ 3,053.91	\$ 30.00	\$ 3,083.91
19	4	AP518	148844739	\$ 3,429.27	\$ 30.00	\$ 3,459.27
6,7	19	67B01961	158357650	\$ 2,314.36	\$ 30.00	\$ 2,344.36
15	11	CA5071	143036614	\$ 1,909.34	\$ 30.00	\$ 1,939.34
7	32	95B14103	131433735	\$ 5,508.41	\$ 30.00	\$ 5,538.41
2	9	AP518	128671027	\$ 3,327.04	\$ 30.00	\$ 3,357.04
10	28	79B16288	119485345	\$ 2,601.41	\$ 30.00	\$ 2,631.41

Dated this 26th day of February, 2026.
Treasurer

Defence strategy key to Canada's security

Since shortly after World War II – and especially since the end of the Cold War – Canada hasn't had much cause to defend itself militarily.

Instead, Canada's soldiers spent most of the latter half of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century acting as global peacekeepers, establishing Canada as a global leader in conflict resolution – except, of course, when it answered the call to defend the United States in the wake of 9/11 and joined the war in Afghanistan.

With no global conflicts posing a direct threat to Canada's security or sovereignty, and with the military power of the United States serving as a safeguard if such a threat did arise, it's understandable that Canada's own defence spending has lagged over the past few decades.

Indeed, after the end of the Korean War in the early 1950s, Canadian military expenditures peaked at over 7 per cent of Canada's GDP.

By the 1980s, defence spending had already dropped to just 2 per cent of Canada's GDP. And, despite Canada's NATO commitment to maintain defence spending at 2 per cent of its GDP, it dipped even further to about 1 per cent of its GDP by 2014, and has hovered around there ever since (though Canadian defence spending notably rose from \$19.9 billion in 2014 to \$29.9 billion in 2023).

At the same time, the size of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) was cut by 30 per cent from 90,000 active troops in 1990, to 62,000 active troops in 2005. Similar to Canada's defence spending, this number has remained almost unchanged since then.

Canada's status as a laggard on defence spending, and its failure to meet its NATO commitments on defence spending and the acquisition of new military equipment, has frequently been a source of tension with its international allies.

These tensions came to a head with



JORDAN TWISS
~
News Editor

the re-election of U.S. President Trump, who spent the first year of his term uttering a revolving door of threats against Canada's sovereignty and economy.

As Mr. Trump works to establish the United States' dominion over the Americas, making it one of three regional superpowers alongside China and Russia, Mr. Trump's message has been that the United States' long-time allies have to stand on their own

– that, or pay an exorbitant amount of protection money to the U.S.

In response to the shift in attitude from the U.S. under Mr. Trump, one of the first major commitments made by Prime Minister Mark Carney was to increase defence spending to 5 per cent of Canada's GDP by 2035 and deepen Canada's ties with its NATO allies.

The need to make good on this commitment only became more apparent at the start of the new year, when Mr. Trump turned his attention to annexing Greenland, which is an autonomous territory of Denmark and an ally of the United States under NATO.

In response to Mr. Trump's threats, Mr. Carney used his platform at January's World Economic Forum gathering in Davos, Switzerland, to call on the world's middle powers to unite as the long-standing international order "ruptures."

"In a world of great power rivalry, the countries in between have a choice: compete with each other for favour, or combine to create a third path with impact," he posited.

"We shouldn't allow the rise of hard power to blind us to the fact that the power of legitimacy, integrity and rules will remain strong if we choose to wield it together."

Last week, as part of Mr. Carney's plan to bolster Canada's defence spending and cement the country's status as a reliable middle power ally, Mr. Carney unveiled his government's new \$6.6 billion Defence



Industrial Strategy, which establishes defence spending benchmarks for Canada to achieve over the next decade, including buying and maintaining most of the military's equipment in Canada.

"Defending Canada means more than the size of our military," Mr. Carney said during the unveiling of the strategy.

"It also means the strength of our industries, the resilience of our economy, and our capacity to act independently when it matters most. Our national security and our economic security go hand in hand."

Serving as an extension of the government's "Buy Canadian" policy, the strategy will see the government prioritize buying from Canadian defence manufacturers.

Should this prove unfeasible, it will partner with allied nations to acquire equipment, and only buy "from abroad" as a last resort.

By 2035, the government says 70 per cent of federal defence contracts will be awarded to Canadian companies (currently, only 43 per cent of contracts go to Canadian firms).

In the same timeframe, the new strategy also pledges to raise the serviceability rates of Canadian military equipment to 75 per cent of the navy's ships, 80 per cent of the army's vehicles, and 85 per cent of the

air force's planes.

At the moment, the serviceability rate for the navy sits at 68 per cent, the army is at 51 per cent, and the air force at 42 per cent.

The government expects the strategy will create as many as 125,000 jobs.

But, of course, this is all contingent upon the government living up to its commitments. And as Conservative defence critic James Bezan sagely points out, this isn't a guarantee.

"We've already seen with their defence policies that have come out so far that they have missed the target on almost every aspect... and have allowed over \$12 billion to lapse in the last 10 years," Bezan noted.

To be certain, Mr. Carney's government faces a long, uphill road of undoing the decades of institutional complacency that have led to the degradation of Canada's defence capabilities.

But, even though Mr. Trump's presidency and imperialist agenda won't last forever, its impacts on the global order will be profound and long-lasting, and the dangers presented by other global powers cannot be ignored any longer.

And so, Mr. Carney's government must succeed where past governments have fallen short, and it must do so sooner rather than later.

Shellbrook Chronicle

Serving the Communities of Shellbrook, Canwood, Debden, Big River, Parkside, Leask, Marcelin, Blaine Lake, Holbein, Mont Nebo, Mayview

Spiritwood Herald

Serving the Communities of Spiritwood, Shell Lake, Leoville, Chitek Lake, Mildred, Rabbit Lake, Medstead, Mayfair, Bapaume, Belbutte, Glaslyn

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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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Tim Hortons opens in Shellbrook

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

A daily Double Double is now officially on the menu in Shellbrook.

In the midst of a heavy wintry blast, Shellbrook's brand-new Tim Hortons, located at the intersection of Highway 3 and Highway 55, served its first customers on Wednesday, Feb. 18. The restaurant is the latest franchise to join Lake Country Co-op's expanding gas station and C-store.

Owned by Trev Dieno, and with a management team that consists of Kamal Saini, Ben Wasmuth, and Rhyse Dieno, the new Tim Hortons location has been in the works for roughly two years. Along with the new Lake Country Co-op building, Trev Dieno believes it will be a great addition to the community — and to road trips for anyone who happens to be traveling through Shellbrook.

"Shellbrook is the 'gateway to the north,' and with the state of the art drive thru and latest restaurant design and newest equipment available, we will be

well positioned to serve the community and travellers great products quickly and professionally," Trev Dieno said.

"Being at the corner of two busy highways, we felt it was a great location for a new Tim Hortons."

Trev Dieno says the Tim Hortons could eventually employ as many as 40 full-time and part-time employees. Though its current operating hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily, it's expected to expand to open from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily.

Meanwhile, a grand opening celebration, offering a plethora of prizes, Tim cards, mugs, hockey cards and more, is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, March 7.

For Lake Country Co-op's part, Director of Marketing and Community Relations Brittney Rosenberg has said the expansion of the C-Store, liquor store, and gas station is progressing well and on schedule, with interior finishes and the installation of the canopy being completed in recent weeks, and the relocation of the fuel tanks expected to occur over the

next couple of months.

Rosenberg says the new gas station, convenience, and liquor store portions of the new 10,000 square-foot location should be open in early spring. Subway is expected to open in the new building sooner.

First announced in September of 2024, the expansion of the Shellbrook location will double the number of fuel pumps to eight from four. And specifically for card-lock customers, the location will boast 24/7 access to restrooms and showers,

providing comfort and convenience for travellers.

Meanwhile, the wine, spirit, and beer portion of the convenience store is receiving a massive expansion to a full-scale 3,000 square foot retail outlet, complete with a walk-in cooler, and will offer a mix of local products, craft beer, and limited-edition products.

Lake Country Co-op has said it will also be expanding its team, but hasn't confirmed how many new positions will be added at the location.

Spiritwood rink wins silver at Winter Games

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

When the 2025-2026 curling season started, the young Spiritwood area trio of Rory Booth (skip), Liam Simonar (third), and Van Slater (second) set an ambitious goal of winning a medal at the 2026 Saskatchewan Winter Games.

Looking to set themselves up for success, they enlisted the help of local curling coach Ron Craswell, who coached Booth's brother at the Canada Winter Games in 2023, and filled their schedule up with bonspiels and Wednesday night curling in Spiritwood.

However, just as the team was building up momentum, Booth dislocated his shoulder and was out of commission until January — right around the time when the try outs for Team Lakeland were to be held.

What's more, the team had a hard time finding a consistent fourth member, eventually connecting with Dalmeny's Rylan Shutra (lead).

Persevering through this adversity, the team took to the sheets at the Team Lakeland try outs and won the right to represent

the district at the Winter Games, which were held on the Flying Dust First Nation from Feb. 15 to 21.

"Going into the games, I felt pretty good that we'd be able to medal," said coach Craswell. "We were one of the older teams there. There were a lot of young teams representing their districts."

The team was the first to take to the sheets, winning its preliminary match against Team Southwest in a 13-1 rout. They came out just as strong in their first placement match against Team Regina, blanking them 14-0.

The team was kept busier than any other team as the tournament went on, playing a total of six games over the course of three days, with its only blemish in the qualifying round coming in a 5-1 loss to Team Prairie Central on day two.

"We came out firing really strong in our first two games," coach Craswell noted. "Just before the gold medal game, we won two really tight games on the last shot to get into the gold medal game."

The gold medal game gave the team a shot at redemption against Team Prairie Central. Unfortu-

nately, says coach Craswell, the boys' busy schedule and a lack of quality sleep finally caught up to them, leading them to take a 5-3 loss and bring home silver medals.

"We didn't have our best game in the final, but we fought hard to get there. They made some great shots," he said, noting that the team stuck together throughout everything.

"I'm really proud of the boys and how they've improved since the start of the year and how they've persevered in working through injury and illness."

While the end of the Winter Games means Booth, Simonar, and Slater will part ways with Shutra, the Spiritwood area trio's curling season isn't quite over. This coming weekend, they'll be competing at the Saskatchewan High Schools Athletic Association's Regional tournament and hoping to earn a spot in Provincials.

Meanwhile, coach Craswell is already looking ahead to how the team can improve in the next curling season.

"As you get better and the competition gets stronger, the strategy changes a little bit. We'll probably work on strategy next year," he said.



Shellbrook's Tim Hortons served its first customers on Wednesday, Feb. 18.

LAND FOR SALE BY TENDER R.M. OF SPIRITWOOD NO. 496

Land Descriptions:

SW 2-50-10-W3
NE 31-49-9-W3

NW 2-50-10-W3
SE 26-49-10-W3

NE 3-50-10-W3

- NW 2, SW 2 & NE 3 must be sold as a package. Both North quarters accessed through SW 2.
- Land is located approximately 15 miles south-east of the Town of Spiritwood, SK.
- Approximately 735 titled acres, of which approximately 342 acres are cultivated land.
- Includes yardsite — additional details provided on Website.

Conditions:

1. Highest or any Offer not necessarily accepted.
2. Bidding will be conducted by ongoing tender. Once all qualifying bids are received, the top 3 bidders will be informed of the highest bid on each quarter they have bid on. Bidders will then be provided the opportunity to declare their bid final or to increase their bid at least 2% above the last highest bid. Once all bidders have declared their final bid, the bidders shall be informed of the Vendor's decision. **Only the top 3 bidders will be eligible to re-bid.**
3. All bids must be in writing and accompanied by certified payment in the amount of \$10,000 per quarter bid on, payable to Battle River Law in Trust. Payment will be returned without interest if offer is not accepted.
4. Closing Bid Date: March 19, 2026.
5. Possession Date: Within 15 days of obtaining consent of beneficiaries or court approval.
6. Acceptance is subject to approval of beneficiaries of the Estate or Court Approval, to be obtained by Vendor.
7. Balance of purchase price for the successful offer, plus GST (if applicable), to be paid to Battle River Law in Trust on or before the Possession Date or the deposit will be forfeited.
8. All 2026 property taxes payable by Purchaser.
9. Successful offeror(s) to enter formal purchase agreement following tender.
10. Land to be sold as one package or as individual quarters. ***NOTE:** All LSDs in NW 31 are tied and must be sold together. Also NW2, SW 2 and NE 3 must be sold together for access reasons. Package bids must specify price offered for each quarter.
11. Property, including the home and outbuildings, sold "as is".
12. Vendor to have access to the yard to remove scrap metal and personal property until August 31, 2026. All items on the property thereafter remain with the Purchaser.

Further information available on Website: battleriverlaw.ca

For more information contact: Michelle Spence, 306-445-6177, michelle@battleriverlaw.ca

Offers must be received no later than 12:00p.m. March 19, 2026. All tenders must be placed in a sealed envelope marked "Do Not Open: Dagenais Land" to: Battle River Law, #201, 1291 - 102nd Street (Box 905), North Battleford, SK, S9A 2Z3, Attention: Michelle Spence.



Spiritwood area curlers won silver medals for Team Lakeland at the 2026 Saskatchewan Winter Games. From left to right: Skip Rory Booth, third Liam Simonar, second Van Slater, lead Rylan Shutra (from Dalmeny), and coach Ron Craswell.

Sask. Royal Purple reflects on growth

By SASK ROYAL PURPLE
Submitted

The Saskatchewan Royal Purple is looking back on a year that brought significant growth in its efforts to promote brain injury awareness, in both the donations and programming offered by the organization.

“Not every organization or service club sees its cause and influence grow every year,” says Sandi Lougheed, chair of the Saskatchewan Royal Purple’s Charity Partnership Committee. “Our growth reflects the increased awareness being given to the number of brain injuries occurring across our province and the needs of those who survive.”

Since becoming a lodge in 2019, the Shellbrook Royal Purple has played a vital role in the Saskatchewan Royal Purple’s efforts, donating \$5,000 to brain injury awareness initiatives, according to Shellbrook Royal Purple president Elaine Perkins.

And every year, as part of the Royal Purple’s Purple Thursday campaign to highlight the connection between intimate partner violence and brain injuries (1 in 8 women will suffer a brain injury as a result of such violence), the local lodge delivers bags filled with personal care items to the

Prince Albert Safe Shelter for Women.

The Saskatchewan Royal Purple expects this will continue in 2026, as the organization looks to expand its reach across the province and deepen its support for those with brain injuries and the organizations that support them, including the Saskatchewan Brain Injury Association and the Saskatchewan Association for the Rehabilitation of the Brain Injured.

This year alone, the Royal Purple anticipates that donations to Saskatchewan’s shelters will total well over \$5,000 and more than 1,000

care bags will be distributed.

“This is another major expansion for our organization as we reach across our province and bring awareness to include those who survive the brain injuries and require lifelong care to regain, relearn and return to a more normal life,” said Lougheed.

For many years, falls have been the leading cause of brain injury, and programming has been targeted at reducing falls and promoting safety by encouraging people to wear helmets when cycling or skating. Though the tightening of rules in sports like hockey and football has helped, there is still a brain injury in

Canada every 3.5 minutes.

For their part, the Saskatchewan Royal Purple and the Shellbrook Royal Purple both work to promote brain safety awareness in young people through the annual Brain Injury Awareness poster contest for students in Grades 1 through 12.

“Most brain injury associations in Canada don’t have time or resources to concentrate on prevention or the awareness factor,” said Lougheed. “That’s where we can help. We can man the information booths at trade fairs, sponsor poster contests, print posters and placemats and just continue to raise awareness.”

Sask. deepens relationship with Brazil

By MINISTRY OF
TRADE & EXPORT
DEVELOPMENT
Submitted

A delegation from Saskatchewan left for a trade and investment mission to Brazil on Sunday, Feb. 22. The mission is being led by Minister of Trade and Export Development Warren Kaeding and will focus on increasing trade opportunities and furthering established partnerships with the state of Goias.

“Brazil represents enormous opportunity for Saskatchewan,” Kaeding said in a statement. “Not only are they a significant trading partner, but they are also a gateway market to the rest of South America and the Andean region, where we have seen incredible trade growth recently. I look forward to strengthening ties with officials and stakeholders in Brazil, especially in the areas of fertilizers and agriculture.”

Brazil is Saskatchewan’s

fourth largest export market. In 2024, exports to Brazil totaled \$1.1 billion. In the first nine months of 2025, one of the top destinations for Saskatchewan products in South America was Brazil, where exports totaled \$1.3 billion dollars, primarily in potash. Also in 2024, exports to the Andean region increased by 45 per cent. The Andean region includes Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela.

The mission is supported by Saskatchewan’s trade and investment office in Mexico. They are part of the province’s network of nine international offices that facilitate trade and investment opportunities all over the globe. In 2007, the value of Saskatchewan exports was \$19.8 billion, which has since climbed to nearly \$50 billion per year on average over the past 3 years.

The mission will return on Saturday, Feb. 28.

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CUSMA's future shrouded in uncertainty

The Canada-U.S.-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA), which was signed in 2020, is now up for review, and given that Donald Trump is the sitting U.S. president that is frankly troubling.

In terms of trade Trump has basically taken a bull in the China shop approach, tromping over trade partners, tossing tariffs about willy nilly, and basically being a trade irritant with no clear idea of why he does any of it.

One thing we should be aware of, though, is that Trump has a Tex-

as-sized ego, where he likes to put forward that everything is on him — that he is the grand architect of all things. While that is largely a mirage, it is his modus operandi.

So, even though his first administration negotiated CUSMA originally, Trump will be looking to put his new stamp on the trade deal. That may mean as little as having his name on the document — he is shallow enough to be satisfied with such things — but it also might mean ridiculous changes that do



CALVIN DANIELS

not bode well for trade among the three countries that should be collectively a self-contained trade power.

The question is how a deal reasonably gets done without long term irreparable damage to trade relations between

the three countries — a situation already with Trump applied scars which will take time to heal?

Perhaps the positive news is that not everyone stateside is as navel-gazing in terms of trade as Trump.

The Ag Coalition for CUSMA — a coalition of about 40 organizations — are campaigning for the deal to continue after it is reviewed in July.

The coalition has released data illustrating that the current CUSMA deal generates income, jobs — in general, then, it is a positive for trade.

That is important to recognize but whether anyone in the coalition is among the billionaire elite Trump typically seems to listen to is unclear.

Certainly, the farm-oriented Midwest have leaned toward Trump in the past, but it doesn't mean the president listens to their needs.

As for the three-way deal, it is not perfect, but such partnerships rarely are. The area of trade across three countries is so immense, no deal will satisfy every scenario to the full sat-

isfaction of all three signatories.

What such a deal should do is smooth the roughest edges to make trade flow as freely as possible. And given recent confrontations thanks to Trump's heavy-handed methods, some additional softening of those edges is sorely needed.

Whether the CUSMA can survive to exist after this summer as a document that is positive for all three nations is a massive question mark, one which will hang over trade in the coming months.

Sask., Feds continue support for crop insurance

By **MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**
Submitted

Federal Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Heath MacDonald and Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister David Marit announced continued funding for the 2026 Crop Insurance Program, administered by the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC).

"As governments, we are committed to providing responsive business risk management programs that meet the needs of our producers," MacDonald said. "These programs continue to evolve to ensure coverage accurately reflects local conditions and give producers the tools they need to make on-going business decisions."

"Every season brings both opportunity and uncertainty," Marit said. "SCIC's programs are built to support producers in managing risk and making confident, forward-looking decisions. Reliable coverage not only strengthens individual operations but also contributes to the long-term economic growth of Saskatchewan's agriculture sector. Now is the time to review your options and select coverage that best supports your operation."

In 2025, over 85 per cent of seeded acres were insured through the Crop Insurance Program. Despite variable growing conditions across the province, many producers experienced improved production compared to recent years, supported by strong, on-farm management decisions. These results have helped renew strength in the Crop Insurance Program, ensuring it remains reliable in supporting farmers and ranchers year after year.

This year marks 65 years of SCIC supporting Saskatchewan farmers and ranchers with relevant and dependable business risk management programs. SCIC continues to inno-

vate the design and delivery of their programs. Leveraging technologies allows SCIC to enhance program accuracy and responsiveness for Saskatchewan producers. Earlier this year, the Corporation introduced Satellite Forage Insurance as a localized, responsive and accurate approach to managing forage risk. SCIC works closely with producers and industry to ensure programs remain relevant and responsive. Through ongoing collaboration, SCIC remains committed to developing programs to meet the evolving needs of Saskatchewan agriculture while advancing customer service provided to producers.

"Saskatchewan's farmers and ranchers understand the importance of managing risk when it comes to variable weather and markets," Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) President Bill Huber said. "Crop Insurance is one of the tools available to help operations manage production risk and plan for the future. We appreciate the work that has gone into these programs so far, and we encourage all levels of government to continue working together so producers have reliable, effective options to help them navigate these challenging conditions and keep their businesses strong."

"For 65 years, Crop Insurance has been the cornerstone of risk management for Saskatchewan farms, offering the stability needed to invest in future growing seasons," Agricultural Producer Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) President Bill Prybylski said.

"APAS is pleased to see SCIC adapting to industry needs with initiatives like Satellite Forage Insurance. Embracing technology that better captures real-world conditions is a meaningful step toward addressing the accuracy concerns of livestock producers. We strongly encourage all farmers and ranchers to review their coverage ahead of the March 31

deadline to ensure their operations are protected against the challenges of weather and market volatility."

The deadline for Saskatchewan producers to apply, reinstate, cancel or make changes to their Crop Insurance contract is March 31, 2026. Producers must select their insured crops and coverage levels by this date. For more information or to make changes to their coverage, producers can speak with their local SCIC office. If no action is taken, last year's coverage continues for 2026.

Planning ahead is key for effective risk management. Producers are encouraged to review and update their coverage annually to ensure it re-

fects their operation's needs. In addition to Crop Insurance, SCIC provides a suite of programs to support producers, including AgriStability, Livestock Price Insurance and the Wildlife Damage Compensation and Prevention programs. For more information, call 1-888-935-0000 or visit scic.ca.

Crop Insurance is a federal-provincial-producer cost-shared program that helps producers manage production quantity and quality losses. Support for the program is provided by the governments of Canada and Saskatchewan under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP).

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Shellbrook Chronicle
& Spiritwood Herald

Telemiracle magic comes to Shellbrook

Continued from 1

“This day is important to us. It is a little bit we can give back to say



Fire pits were set up to help keep families warm.

thank you to our community and all they do for us,” Cyr said, also giving kudos to the Kinettes and Kinsmen who volunteered throughout Day of Kindness.

“I am sure grateful for this Kin family. They do so much for this community, and do it all out of the goodness of their hearts.”

With Telemiracle 50 just around the corner, the Kinettes and Kinsmen aren’t done fundraising just yet, and Cyr says it’s important to raise as much money as possible.

To this end, the Kinettes will once again be on stage at Telemiracle answer phones during the telethon.

“Show them some love and call in your donations when you see them on stage,” Cyr said.

Locally, donations can be mailed to Shellbrook Kinettes, Box 147, Shellbrook, SK, SoJ 2E0, or you can call Cyr (747-7331) to arrange pick up.



Dirty sodas were on the menu at Day of Kindness to help raise funds for Telemiracle.

Spiritwood Library activity highlights

By **HEATHER GATZKE**
Branch Librarian

The Spiritwood Public Library was part of the Winter Festival excitement that the Spiritwood schools organized. The Library had an indoor snowball fight for their station that saw five groups, totalling 56 kids, come through to have some fun. The snowballs were large white pom poms the size of snowballs. Everyone had a blast and no one was too concerned over which side one.

On Feb. 11, there was an early dismissal Valentine’s Day themed craft that was enjoyed. Bracelets were made using beads and cards were created by scratching off the black and revealing the coloured paper underneath.



Kids work on Valentine’s Day-themed crafts.



The Winter Festival fun included an indoor “snowball” fight.

Growing microgreens in winter

By **PATRICIA HANBIDGE**
Orchid Horticulture

Winter is a great time to get busy growing inside! It helps to ease the chilly winter weather and it graces your table with local food that is extremely nutritious. What a wonderful thing!

Two of the easiest things to grow that are edible are sprouts and microgreens.

There is a difference between growing sprouts and growing microgreens although growing either is relatively easy. Both sprouts and microgreens are crunchy, flavourful and packed with nutrition and are great to use in salads, sandwiches or as an exotic garnish. If you are growing sprouts, then you need no lights or other equipment. Successful sprout harvesting is complet-

ed by repeatedly rinsing and draining the seeds in a jar or other vessel. The seed, and the growing roots and shoots are consumed. Growing microgreens requires more specialized equipment and only the shoot is consumed.

Growing microgreens is a fast, simple indoor process that utilizes shallow trays, growing medium or growing mat, seeds and a bright source of light. A general time frame is one to three weeks from seeding to harvest. Microgreens are harvested above the soil or grow mat and offer a larger range of flavours and colours due to their longer grow time. Microgreens are generally higher in chlorophyll and other phytonutrients than sprouts and also offer a higher quantity of vitamins, enzymes, fatty and amino acids. They are a nutritious powerhouse.

To grow microgreens successfully, select a shallow container that has drainage holes in the bottom. Fill it with a few centimetres of

sterilized potting soil or alternatively a growing mat. Please note that it is important to keep all aspects of production clean to prevent the introduction of pathogens and mould. The size of the seed directs the seeding process and also dictates if it is necessary to soak the seed prior to sowing. If you are growing arugula or mustard, which are very tiny seeds, just sprinkle them on the surface of the soil. If you are growing sunflowers, beets or other large seeds, it is best to soak the seed prior to sowing. When sowing just cover the seed with your media. Water by mister from above or soak from below so the growing space is just moist – not wet. Cover the tray with a lid or plastic wrap and place in a dark place for two to five days (depending on the seed type). Once the seeds have begun to sprout, remove the cover and move underneath your source of light. Check daily and water as needed. Harvest can be anytime after the first true leaves open,

but I prefer to let many of the greens grow a little bit more.

There are many sources for the seeds that are suitable but remember that it is best to buy from a reputable source that provides “seed quality” rather than “food quality” seeds to ensure a good germination rate. My favourite source for seeds to sprout has and will likely always be Mumm’s (<https://sprouting.com/>) as they are a local business that is totally dedicated to selling a quality product and have superb selection. They are located in Parkside Saskatchewan, and are a great example of a successful rural business. However, you may also purchase sprout seeds in health-food stores, specialty shops and many other mail-order houses and shops.

Hanbidge is the Lead Horticulturist with Orchid Horticulture. Find us at www.orchidhort.com; by email at growyourfuture@gmail.com on facebook @orchidhort and on instagram at #orchidhort.



Skating ‘Around the World’ in Medstead

By **BEVRA FEE**
Spiritwood Herald Reporter

The Medstead Skating Club presented its 2026 skating carnival with the theme ‘Around the World’ on the afternoon of Sunday, Feb. 22, at the Medstead Arena. With a program of 20 skating numbers — ranging from solos to small groups to two full-club numbers — the young skaters of the Medstead club put on a colourful display of skills and entertainment.

Led by Coaches Sherryl Britton and Grace Driedger, the program was fun-filled, with the younger skaters showing off their newly-learned balance and the advanced skaters demonstrating their grace and agility from endless hours of practice.

With two of the Club’s members freshly back from representing their area at the Saskatchewan Winter Games in Meadow Lake, the level of skill demonstrated by Abigail Wirth and Grace Driedger indicated their competition-level strength. Both skaters help deliver the Medstead Skating Club’s winter programming, Abigail as a program assistant and Grace as a coach.

Commenting on her recent Winter Games experience, Driedger noted the honour of representing her home



A mix of experienced skaters and novices take to the ice for the opening number.

town, “It meant so much to represent our little town of Medstead and to see the top figure skaters of Saskatchewan.

She added, “Even though I did not get a medal, I had so much fun performing and watching the other sports. I gained the ability to just skate and not worry about anything — I just did what I practiced. I didn’t worry about what mark I got or whom did better, we all earned our spot to

be there! I learned a lot about my tempo, how to make everything flow nicely, and to enjoy being one of the many top skaters in the province.”

The added experience shone through in Driedger’s solo number, where her Star Gold Artistic skating performance was the epitome of “grace,” combined with skill, and her delivery came off as confident and heart-felt.

Adding to the program were the

popular fundraisers for the Club — filling a box with baking for a flat rate and the 50/50. Another successful display of Skate Canada Saskatchewan-sanctioned skating is in the books in Medstead, and the local skaters are well on their way to representing their hometown well.



In addition to taking part in Sunday’s show, Medstead skaters Abigail Wirth (left) and Grace Driedger also represented the community at the 2026 Saskatchewan Winter Games.



Program Assistants Abigail Wirth and Brynn Stuart sit rinkside to help with the younger skaters.



Coach Sherryl Brittain assists one of the youngest members of Medstead Skating Club, Harold LaClare.

CTF: Sask. budget must tackle massive debt

By **GAGE HAUBRICH**
CTF Prairie Director

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation is calling on the Saskatchewan government to cut spending, pay down debt, eliminate the small business tax and start a heritage fund to save non-renewable resource revenue. These are the key recommendations in the CTF’s pre-budget submission for Saskatchewan.

“Premier Scott Moe has delivered for taxpayers in Saskatchewan by cutting taxes,” said Gage Haubrich, CTF Prairie Director. “But now he needs to take the next step and cut spending to pay down the province’s massive debt.

“All that tax relief is at risk if the government keeps ballooning the debt and wasting so

much money on debt interest payments.”

Since becoming premier, Scott Moe has more than doubled Saskatchewan’s provincial debt. In 2017, the debt stood at about \$10.1 billion. By the end of this year, it will hit about \$23.9 billion.

The government will waste \$878.4 million on debt interest payments this year. Insightrix polling shows 86 per cent of Saskatchewanians are concerned about how much money the provincial government is wasting on debt interest.

To pay down debt the CTF is calling on the Saskatchewan government to reduce spending by reducing the cost of paying government salaries. The average government employees earn a 4.8 per cent wage premium

over their private sector counterparts.

The CTF is also calling on the Saskatchewan government to stop wasting money on corporate welfare and conduct a comprehensive spending review to find other savings.

“Saskatchewanians can’t afford a government that continually spends beyond its means,” Haubrich said. “The Saskatchewan government needs to find savings and rein in spending in Budget 2026 to start paying down debt.”

The CTF also is calling on the government to eliminate the small business tax, saving small businesses about \$56 million per year and starting a Saskatchewan heritage fund to save one-time resource revenues for the future.

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Shellbrook Chronicle



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SCAN ME

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, Dec. 16.

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 9 a.m.

Lamontagne: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approves the agenda for the Regular Meeting of Council held on Dec. 16 with additions. Carried

Mark Curry presented his lead hand report from 9:05 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

Lamontagne: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 direct Alan Tanchak to look into RIRG Grant for grinding Grid #781 for ½ mile North of NE 19-42-07 W3, 2 miles East of section 36-42-07 W3 & section 25-42-07 W3 and 1 mile North of section 24-42-07 W3. Carried

Dolezal: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approves the Nov. 18 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. Carried

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

Chudskov: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approves the List of Accounts for Approval for December 2025, including cheques

#7636 to #7704 with the total payable amount being \$133,921.87 Carried

Swystun: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approves the Additional Accounts for payment as presented by Administration in the amount of \$99.76. Carried

Lamontagne: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approves payment of invoice #43 received from CasBar Farms for fence removal from the Ducks Unlimited field and ditches at SE 31-44-07 W3, fence construction and grass harrowing in the amount of \$2,404.50. Carried

Chudskov: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approves payment of invoice received from CJS Acres Ltd. for custom grass seeding in the amount of \$630. Carried

Priestley: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approves the presented Council indemnity totaling \$1,534.44. Carried

Casavant: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 direct Administration to enroll Mark Curry in the Industrial Vegetation Applicator course at a cost of \$335. Carried

Casavant: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 direct Administration to place two tenders for gravel crushing: 10,000 yards for Willick pit and 10,000 yards for south pit. Carried

Chudskov: That Bylaw 09-2025 being A Bylaw to Contract with Crown Hill Gravel & Excavating Corporation, be read a first time. Carried (*Editor's note: council unanimously gave the bylaw three readings and enacted it.*)

Lavoie: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 have a recorded vote that the recovery of protective services have a flat rate in accordance with SGI. Carried (six for, one against)

Chudskov: That Bylaw 07-2025 being A Bylaw to Recover Protective Services Costs, be read a first time. Carried (*Editor's note: council unanimously gave the bylaw three readings and enacted it.*)

Lavoie: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 confirms the municipality meets the eligibility requirements to receive the Municipal Revenue Sharing Grant. Carried

Dolezal: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 abate roll #68 for the 5 acres known as the "RM South Pit" at SW 11-42-07 W3 in the amount of \$12.25. Carried

Lavoie: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approve payment of invoices #7257, 7258, 7259 & 7260 to Gerald Fehr Construction for brush work done, in Divisions 2, 1, 5 & 4, in the amount of \$13,076.92. Carried

Chudskov: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approves payment of invoice #945939 to 102051721 Sask. Ltd. in the amount of \$6,865.06. Carried

Swystun: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 provide approval subject to the following conditions for the subdivision of SE 25-42-07 W3 outlined below, that the subdivision is compliant with Part V(1.5.6) of the Zoning Bylaw, that Council is not aware of any land uses in the vicinity that are incompatible with the intended use of the proposed site being residential use, that Council is not aware of any facilities that could be affected by the proposed development, and

that Administration submit a letter to Community Planning providing conditional approval of the subdivision.

1) under no circumstances is the municipality responsible for dust control;

2) since the parcel is less than 10 acres, sewage disposal requires that a mound or buried absorption system must be built or sewage must be hauled to an approved disposal site; and

3) a municipal reserve of 0.203 hectares must be offered in the form of monetary consideration to the municipality in the amount of \$483.50. Carried

Dolezal: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approve the 2026 Customer Service Agreement with Loraas Disposal and that the Administrator be authorized to sign the agreement on behalf of the municipality. Carried

Swystun: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approves the Community Well Project as presented by Administration. Carried

Dolezal: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 authorizes payment to Blaine Lake Fire Board for pumper truck repairs to 1993 Volvo truck in the amount of \$2,382.80. Carried

Lamontagne: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approves 2025 Blue Cross health coverage for Alan Tanchak in the amount of \$1,823.80. Carried

Lavoie: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 authorizes payment to the RM of Redberry for road maintenance in the amount of \$1,038.69. Carried

Chudskov: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 abate interest on WCB on roll #39 in the amount of \$640.64 and on WCB on roll #313 in the amount of \$2,454.44. Carried

Lamontagne: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 direct Administration to top off the ISC account for tax enforcement in the amount of \$700. Carried

Administrator and Assistant Administrator were asked to leave the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

Lamontagne: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 move in camera to discuss long range planning compliant with s. 120(2)(b) of The Municipalities Act, the time being 11:50 a.m. Carried

Administrator and Assistant Administrator were asked to return to Council Chambers at 12:18 a.m.

Dolezal: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 move out of camera, the time being 12:18 p.m. Carried

Lamontagne: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 authorizes Jodi Gerich to take LGA Administration Courses and that the municipality will pay for each module, and that Administration be directed to draw up a 3-year contract. Carried

Chudskov: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 authorizes payment of the next semester of [employee training] of approximately \$1,100. Carried

Lamontagne: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 hire Alan Tanchak for 1 day a week for 2026. Carried

Lamontagne: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 adjourn, the time being 12:24 p.m.

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)

BIG RIVER: Ice Fishing Derby on Cowan Lake in Big River, SK – Saturday, March 21. \$18,000 in prizes! Entry fee: \$50/Hole; 2nd Hole \$20. Tickets available by phone 306-469-7990 or @ Timberlost Outfitters in Big River and @ The Fishin' Hole in Saskatoon.

CANWOOD: Canwood Regional Park Supper & Auction, Canwood Elks Community Hall - Saturday, March 7, 2026. Refreshments 5pm, Supper 6pm ~ Auction to follow (menu for supper is: roast beef, chicken breast, mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetables, salads, dessert & all the fixin's). Adults \$25 / 6-12 yrs \$15 / 5 & Under Free. 50/50 Draw & Raffle Tables. Proceeds to Canwood Regional Park and Community Projects.

SHELLBROOK: St. Patty's Stew Night – March 17, 2026 @ Shellbrook Legion #111 (101 2nd Ave E), 5:30pm. Join us for Irish stew and green beer! All beer and spirits \$5. Meal by donation – cash or etransfer shellbrook111@hotmail.com

SHELLBROOK: You are invited to Skate Shellbrook's *Champions in the Making: An Olympic Year-end Ice Show!* Sunday, March 15 - 1 pm at the Richardson Pioneer Rec Centre. Admission by donation. Raffle prizes available.

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Finally, some smiles from Sabres fans

With the world's best hockey players returning home from the Milan Olympics this week, the bizarre National Hockey League regular season can continue. Why bizarre? Let us count the ways, via two sections — pleasant surprises and disappointments.

Pleasant surprises:

1. Buffalo Sabres — Fans in New York state haven't seen the Sabres win a playoff series since 2007. Led this year by Tage Thompson and Rasmus Dahlin, the Sabres are making loud playoff noises. There's still no guarantee they'll make the post season, but when the Olympic break began, coach Lindy Ruff's team was securely in a wildcard position.

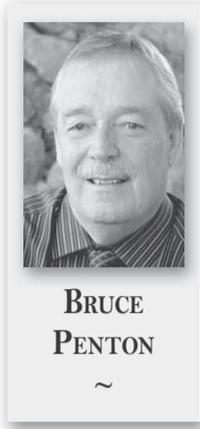
2. Morgan Geekie — Blessed with one of the hardest, most accurate shots in the NHL, the native of Strathclair, Man., never scored more than 35 goals in a Western Hockey League season with Tri-City Americans. Now, after a 33-goal campaign with Boston last year, Geekie

will almost certainly surpass the 40-goal mark with the Bruins this year. He might even hit 50.

3. Eastern Conference playoff teams: Unless they avoid colossal collapses, four teams that missed the playoffs last season are en route to making post-season appearances this year. Pittsburgh, led by the ageless wonder Sidney Crosby; Detroit, with Dylan Larkin leading the way; Boston, thanks to David Pastrnak, Geekie and new coach Marco Sturm; and the aforementioned Sabres all appear destined for late-April/early May hockey.

Disappointments

1. No disappointment list would be legitimate without mentioning the Toronto Maple Leafs and their 59-year Stanley Cup drought. Things looked promising last year when Toronto finished first in the Atlantic Division with 108 points. Mitch Marner's departure (via free agency to Vegas) has had a bigger impact than expected, and the Leafs went



BRUCE
PENTON

into the Olympic break six points out of a wildcard position in the East. Leadership (we're looking at you, Auston Matthews) seems to be lagging.

2. Florida Panthers, reigning Stanley Cup champs, appear to be headed for an early end to their season. Beset by injuries to their two best players, Sasha Barkov (entire season) and Matthew Tkachuk (the season's first half), the Panthers have languished in the lower half of the Eastern Conference standings all season. Coach Paul Maurice will need a miracle March to get back into the playoff picture.

3. Calgary Flames offence: While the team

has seven players with double-figure goal totals, their most productive sniper is Matt Coronato, with 14. That goal ranks him a dismal 120th in the league and is tied with Jake Neighbours of St. Louis Blues for the lowest team-leading goal total in the league. Which leads to speculation that offence will be top of mind when the Flames go to the NHL draft this summer with one of the higher picks. Could Gavin McKenna (unless he's in a Pennsylvania pen) return to Alberta and spark the Flames to greater heights?

The regular season ends April 16 and while some players (Olympians) may be on the verge of exhaustion, many others who enjoyed warm-weather vacations for a couple of weeks will be fresh for the playoff grind.

• Headline at the on-ion.com: "Rest Of Lakers Trying To Act Casual While LeBron James Spanks Bronny."

• Cathal Kelly of the Globe and Mail, on Sidney Crosby's humble Canadianism: "If Can-

ada called Crosby up to do a tour on an Arctic trawler, he'd ask what time he should show up and what to pack."

• Kelly again, on travel woes getting to the Olympics: "There are two places in the world you can experience truly exquisite, saintlike levels of frustration — the hospital and the airport — and we only volunteer to go to one of them."

• Dr. Bucky Isotope, on Bluesky, on the morning after the Super Bowl: "Only 364 more days until the Dallas Cowboys aren't in the Super Bowl again."

• Michael Rosenberg of SI.com, on the U.S. women's hockey team thrashing Canada 5-0 in their round-robin game: "Do you know how unsettling it is when Canadians look feeble at hockey? It's like watching a surgeon spill beer in a patient."

• Janice Hough of leftcoastsportsbabe.com: "If we didn't have the Olympics how many of us would ever hear, and nod along, with the phrase 'a slight glitch coming out of his

twizzle?"

• Another one from Janice Hough: "Curling has an ever increasing fan base. Makes sense. Not that it's an easy sport but have to think armchair athletes have to think they have a better chance of placing that shot rock than of landing a quadruple lutz."

• RJ Currie of sports-deke.com: "So far his week I opened an umbrella indoors, broke a mirror and followed a black cat under a ladder. Still think I had more luck than the Patriots did against the Seahawks on Super Bowl Sunday."

• Another one from Kelly, on Auston Matthews showing a relaxed happiness with the U.S. team in Milan: "He hasn't looked like he's had this much fun since the 10 minutes between being drafted first overall and being handed a map."

• Headline at theon-ion.com: "Keys, Spare Change Fly Out Of Luge Athlete's Pocket On First Turn:"

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Senior Elks and Flames tied in playoff semi-finals

By JORDAN TWISS

Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Fresh off sweeping the Cudworth Tricky Maroons out of the playoffs, the Shellbrook Elks Senior Hockey Club continued its campaign for the Twin Rivers Hockey League championship against its semi-finals opponent, the Allan Flames.

The teams met for two games in their best-of-five series over the weekend — the first one in Allan on Friday, Feb. 20, and the second in Shellbrook on Sunday, Feb. 22 — and traded off wins in a pair of hard-fought battles.

In Allan on Friday night, it took some time for the Elks and the Flames to get going. But it was the Flames who drew first blood nearly 15 minutes into the first period on a goal from Brock Harrison, assisted by Evan Pasternak.

The Elks fired back less than a minute later, tying the game at 1-1 on a goal from Jody Blais, assisted by Dallas Galloway and Ethan Skauge.

Unlike in the first period, the Elks got to work right away in the second, going up 2-1 within the first minute

of action courtesy of a goal from Cole Duperreault, assisted by Rylan Moe and Cole Tanchuk.

But the Elks' offence was stymied for the remainder of the period, allowing the Flames to spark a comeback on a goal from Dalyn Hoiness, assisted by Mason Engele. And the Flames struck again late in the second period, as Stefan Freter put them up 3-2 on assists from Brodie Senger and Casey Knight.

In what continued to be a close, gritty match-up, the Elks finally tied the game up at 3-3 in the final five minutes of the third period, thanks to Cole Duperreault's second goal of the night, assisted by Kamden Logan and Nick Martin.

The tie held until the end of the period, sending the Elks to overtime with the advantage of a power play. In the end, however, the Elks squandered this opportunity, allowing Cam Brossart to strike, shorthanded, and give the Flames the 4-3 overtime win. Evan Pasternak and Dalyn Hoiness assisted on the goal.

Following Friday night's disappointing loss, the Elks returned to home ice at the Richardson Pioneer

Recreation Centre with renewed fire on Sunday night. Though the score-sheet for the game hadn't been published as of Monday morning, the Elks' offence showed up in a big way, leading the team to a 6-3 win to tie the series at 1-1.

The action remains in Shellbrook for game three, which is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 28 at 7:30 p.m. Game four will be played in Allan the following evening.

Provincials Update

The U13 B Shellbrook Elks — the final Shellbrook team in Provincials contention — closed out the opening round of their Provincials run against the La Ronge Ice Wolves on

Saturday, Feb. 21.

Both teams were given a bye in round one of Provincials and advanced immediately to round two to face off against each other. The Elks put on a dominant show from the opening puck drop of game one in La Ronge on Feb. 13, going on to win by a score of 20-2.

Game two, played in Shellbrook, brought more of the same from the Elks, as the team stamped its way to a 17-2 win over the Ice Wolves to advance to round three.

The Elks will now face the Humboldt Broncos in round three. Dates and times for the series have yet to be confirmed.

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Gov't provides \$1.46 million for gender-based violence

By MINISTRY OF JUSTICE
Submitted

The Government of Saskatchewan has announced approximately \$1.46 million in additional funding through the National Action Plan to End Gender-based Violence. This new funding will support 10 organizations and programs across the province.

"The participating agencies are guiding and fostering change as they build tools and programs to proactively address gender-based violence," Justice Minister and Attorney General Tim McLeod, K.C. said. "I am grateful to all these partner organizations for collaborating with us on this important project and for the work they do to create a safe future for women and girls in Saskatchewan."

The funding is being provided based on each organization's alignment with the five pillars of the National Action Plan: foundational knowledge; support for survivors and their families; prevention; responsive justice system; and Indigenous-led approaches; and social infrastructure and enabling environment.

"Addressing gender-based violence requires sustained action, strong partnerships, and targeted investments such as the one we are announcing today," Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Alana Ross said. "The funding will support prevention programs that help stop violence before it starts and expand services for people who experience violence. This is practical support that helps women, children and families live safe, healthy, and prosperous lives."

This funding will be provided in 2026 and 2027 to the following community-based partners and agencies to develop tools to support outreach, program-

ming and advocacy:

- Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan (PATHS) (\$280,000);
- Saskatchewan Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) (\$250,000);
- Anchor & Thread Community Services Inc. (\$100,000);
- Regina Transition House (\$100,000);
- United Way of Regina (\$50,000);
- Coalition of Regional Sexual Assault Centres Inc. (\$50,000);
- Sexual Assault Services of Saskatchewan (SASS) (\$248,000);
- Rapport Clinical Consulting Group (\$140,000);
- Buffalo Narrows Friendship Centre (\$192,000); and
- Muskoday First Nation (\$47,000).

Additional information on each agency and project can be found in the attached backgrounder.

"A variety of innovative initiatives have been implemented in Saskatchewan as a result of the National Action Plan to End Gender-based Violence," Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan (PATHS) Dr. Crystal Giesbrecht said. "This funding has increased the capacity of essential services and enabled the development of new strategies to address GBV. PATHS and our member agencies are proud to deliver several of these projects and look forward to continued partnership and progress to end GBV."

This year, the Government of Saskatchewan is dedicating approximately \$33.5 million to partners that facilitate interpersonal violence programs and services through the justice system. This includes \$14.2 million for communi-

ty-based partners, annualized funding for second-stage shelters, and additional funding for Victims Services and other important supports.

"Preventing and addressing gender-based violence requires a collective effort to build safe, inclusive communities where everyone can thrive," Federal Minister of Women and Gender Equality and Secretary of State (Small Business and Tourism) Rechie Valdez said. "Through the National Action Plan to End Gender-based Violence, the federal government is working with Saskatchewan community partners, and local or-

ganizations to provide tailored support that reflects the unique needs of the province and the service providers working on the ground. By joining forces and supporting prevention-focused, community-led initiatives, we can make a meaningful impact in the lives of people across Saskatchewan and help build a stronger, more resilient country for all."

In total, Saskatchewan has invested approximately \$7 million dollars of National Action plan funding into gender-based violence programming and supports through the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General.

Sask. shines light on human trafficking

By MINISTRY OF JUSTICE
Submitted

To commemorate National Human Trafficking Awareness Day on February 22, Saskatchewan has launched a province-wide video awareness campaign to draw attention to the issue of human trafficking in the province.

"We are committed to increasing public awareness about human trafficking and exploitation in Saskatchewan and across Canada," Justice Minister and Attorney General Tim McLeod, K.C. said. "This campaign educates and encourages us, as a province, to take a stand against this serious issue and shares available resources to support victims and bystanders."

The video campaign shows how individuals can become victims of human trafficking and provides a dedicated site, stoptrafficking.ca, people can use to find information and access resources they can use to get help. The campaign was soft launched in mid-February and will run for approximately seven weeks, concluding at the end of March.

"I want to thank our partners for the work they do every day including the front-line organizations throughout the province that support survivors and help prevent exploitation," Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Office Alana Ross said. "Human trafficking has no place in Saskatchewan. By raising awareness, sharing clear information and supporting those affected, we are building stronger, safer, and more secure communities for everyone."

Human trafficking happens when a person is controlled or harmed for another person's profit. It is a serious federal crime and a violation of human rights. Unfortunately, this is a reality for many people in Canada, including in Saskatchewan.

"We commend the government for launching this critical campaign to educate our communities about human trafficking. Awareness is one of the most powerful tools to prevent exploitation and protect the vulnerable," Hope Restored Executive Director Kendra Mazer said. "Hope Restored Canada is proud to stand alongside this effort, supporting prevention, survivor support, and safer communities for all."

Trafficking does not always involve crossing borders. Many victims are exploited within their own communities through false job offers or informal work arrangements that take advantage of a person's need for income, housing, or sup-

port. Others may be exploited by those they trust, including family members or intimate partners.

While no two instances of human trafficking are exactly the same, there are warning signs that can help to recognize it. Look for situations where a person:

- Appears scared, quiet, or under someone's control;
- Is not allowed to speak for themselves;
- Is isolated from friends, family, or community;
- Has no control over money or identification documents;
- Works extreme hours or lives at their workplace; or
- Is pressured into sexual acts or work they did not choose.

The campaign is a collaboration between the Status of Women Office and the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General with support from 211, a service of the United Way.

"211 Saskatchewan is proud to support this important campaign," United Way CEO Robyn Edwards Bentz said. "Human trafficking affects people across our province, and no one should face it alone. Through 211, individuals can access trained responders who offer safety, support, and hope any time of day."

The campaign is funded through the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence. The agreement has provided \$20.3 million in federal dollars for programs and services to address interpersonal violence and abuse over the four years spanning 2023-24 to 2026-27.

"Human trafficking is a devastating violation of human rights that affects individuals, families, and communities across our country," Federal Minister of Women and Gender Equality and Secretary of State (Small Business and Tourism) Rechie Valdez said. "On National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, we stand with victims and survivors. Through the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence, we are supporting Saskatchewan's province-wide awareness campaign to educate communities, empower bystanders, and connect people with critical resources to strengthen the province's response to trafficking. Together, we are building safer communities, protecting those at risk of exploitation, and ensuring no one has to face this alone."

To learn more about the campaign and to access human trafficking services and resources, visit: stoptrafficking.ca.

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JUNIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR STEM AWARD

Introduced in 2025, The Junior Citizen of the Year STEM Award will recognize a Saskatchewan youth who contains all the same qualities of a Junior Citizen of the Year but **has an aptitude for science, technology, engineering, or mathematics**. This award is eligible for all students, including but not limited to, young women, and underrepresented communities.

This year, one deserving youth will receive a **\$3,000 bursary**, provided by Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan, to use towards their post-secondary education.

Building a Strong Saskatchewan through the Crown Sector

Visit www.swna.com for further information and nomination forms
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Rev. Kun Kim
Rev. Don Skinner

CATHOLIC SATURDAY
Medstead - 6:00 p.m.
SUNDAY
Leoville - 9:30 a.m.
Spiritwood - 11:15 a.m.
Shell Lake - 2:00 p.m.
Everyone Welcome
Fr. Phinh Do

COWBOY CHURCH
Spiritwood
Every 1st & 3rd Wed. 7 pm
Spiritwood Legion Hall
Pastor Rick Martin

FIELDS OF HOPE (HOFFNUNGSFELDER)
MENNONITE CHURCH
Glenbush
11:00 am Worship

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

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

Gideons International of Canada
Battlefords Camp
Phone Art Martynes
(306) 389-4633

PARTNERS IN WORSHIP
Shell Lake
Worship Services
Sunday 11:00 a.m.
Pastor Sarah Urano
306-841-7333

LAKELAND COMMUNITY CHURCH
(Corner of 1st Ave. and
4th St., Spiritwood)
Sun., 11 am - Worship
Service & Sunday School
Pastor Michael Kluthe
306-883-2380

www.shellbrookchronicle.com
www.spiritwoodherald.com

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- Willing to work in a multicultural environment
- Legally able to work in Canada

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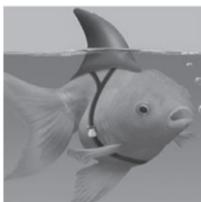
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