

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald

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Thursday, April 23, 2026

www.shellbrookchronicle.com | www.spiritwoodherald.com

Spiritwood Lions host Grand Ole Opry



First-time performer Matthew Whitefish performed “Fire Away” and “Swinging” to a full house on Saturday’s Grand Ole Opry.

By **BEVRA FEE**
Spiritwood Herald Reporter

When the leader of the popular annual Grand Ole Opry in Spiritwood announced to the Spiritwood Lions Club that she would be moving away from the area after the 2025 event, the club was faced with an offer presented by Lion Tanis Franson.

Thorough discussion over several meetings resulted in a plan and a project that would be the focus of the fundraiser. Having spent the previous year contemplating how to fund improvements to the Lions Campground — which requires a power upgrade, aesthetic enhancement in the way of flora and fauna design and general maintenance to the picnic tables and playground — it was decided that hosting the

Grand Ole Opry presented an opportunity too good to pass up. Let the planning begin!

Sticking to the tried-and-true format of a two-night event with local talent singing to the professional and adaptable music provided by the band ‘Misdeal’, with a cabaret on the Saturday portion of the weekend event, the Lions staged an event that drew capacity audiences for both evenings. With 11 acts on Friday, April 17, and 12 acts on Saturday, April 18, the crowds were treated to some veteran singers and appreciative of the eight brave new individuals who joined the weekend lineup.

Emcees Ryan Strate and Jeff Hujber, both also in the singing lineup, kept the show flowing with introductions of the

entertainers and the odd sprinkling of jocular fun.

“Folks, we’re going to take you now to a grungy, dirty, smokey bar,” Strate promised as he cued up newcomer Dave Corneliuson’s two songs, “Can’t You See” and “Mustang Sally.” Corneliuson was one of two local Lions members to amaze the audience with their numbers, along with a Lion from Cabri, SK for a total of three (that we know of) Lions on the weekend.

The Spiritwood Lions Club’s current president, Cheyenne Orange, did double duty running the kitchen for the event, while also delivering a bang-on version of Dolly Parton’s “Coat of Many Colours.” Lion Cheyenne has been singing the classic song since before she was school-age, attending local care homes to entertain

along with her sisters and her grandma. Her second song, left off the program in error by the Lion in charge of marketing (mother of Lion Cheyenne, who received a grim shout-out for the error), was the fun and old-timey number “Keep on the Sunny Side.”

Another newcomer, Alex Moreda, who is fresh in town from the Philippines nailed his rendition of “Telluride” and brought it home with “Cab in a Solo.” Moreda’s support network, a good chunk of Spiritwood’s beloved Filipino community, cheered him on and further delighted the supportive audience. The Lions will certainly be assisting Moreda with his quest to become a member of the Lions Club!

Continued on page 8



SPIRITWOOD
PHARMACY GROCERY

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

Medieval Feast serves up pool funds

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

The Parkland Pool Project Committee and Shellbrook Kinettes partnered up to pull the community back in time on Saturday, April 18, as they played host to a Medieval Feast to raise funds for a new pool.

Catered by Ron and Roxy Sawatzky out of Spiritwood, the multi-course feast saw about 130 people answer the summons to dine, take part in activities like tug-of-war and tricycle

jousting, and compete for live and silent auction items — many of them dressed in their finest medieval attire.

“Events like these take a force of volunteers to make them run smoothly, and we are so fortunate to have so many people willing and wanting to help out,” said Shellbrook Kinettes Tasha Cyr.

“We needed around 40 volunteers during the event. Between the pool committee, the Kinettes, the Kinsmen running the bar, and our wonderful community members lending a

welcome hand, we had lots of help.”

While the hope is always for a successful fundraiser, Cyr says the night was a lot of fun and helped make a huge splash for the fundraising efforts for the pool, thanks to the support of major sponsors and generous auction bidders.

With six items up for grabs, the live auction brought in \$6,550. Meanwhile, the 37 items in the silent auction delivered \$4,822.25 to the project’s coffers.

With everything tallied up, the Medieval Feast raised more than \$30,000 for the pool project. Going in to Saturday’s fundraiser, approximately \$700,000 had been raised to date. When the project was launched, cost estimates for the pool alone ranged from \$1.5 million to \$1.75 million.

Because the committee’s been so busy with planning the medieval feast, Parkland Pool Project Committee chair Mark Klaassen says it hasn’t had much time to sit down and discuss the pool project.



Guests line up for the feast provided by Spiritwood’s Ron and Roxy Sawatzky.



Many attendees donned their finest medieval attire for the occasion.

ect.

Currently, though, he says the design for the pool has been finalized, with the exception of the building, and conceptual and architectural drawings are complete.

The *Chronicle* will provide a more in-depth update on the pool project in the coming weeks.

In the meantime, for more on the project, visit www.parkland-poolproject.ca.

Shellbrook seniors enjoy local talent



The Shellbrook Seniors Club recently began monthly Hometown Performances sessions featuring local and area artists. In February, Gerald Lanes of Shellbrook and Paulette Compagna of Prince Albert performed for the local audience. Pictured: In March, Deidre Tang (left) and Laurna Parent (middle) of Shellbrook and Marj Bodnarchuk from north of Prince Albert entertained on guitar and piano with a major sing-a-long segment.

By **LORRAINE THIBEAULT**, Shellbrook Seniors Association



Guests had fun partaking in tricycle jousting and other activities.

CANWOOD ELKS FISH FRY

SUNDAY **APRIL 26** 4:30-6:30 PM

\$12: Ages 12 & Under
\$25: 13 & Up
5 & Under FREE

ELKS CANWOOD ELKS COMMUNITY CENTRE

RM OF LEASK NO. 464 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The RM of Leask No. 464 is seeking applications for a **Seasonal Municipal Operator** with Class 1A; other skills will be considered, position to commence upon agreement of the parties.

The successful candidate must hold a valid driver’s license, Class 1A an asset, mechanical skills, municipal general maintenance skills; the successful applicant will be provided with in-house training relevant to powered mobile equipment. Experience is an asset. The RM of Leask is a unionized environment; we offer a full benefit package and pension plan.

The position will be open until a successful candidate has been hired.

Deadline to apply is May 8/2025 by 12:00 p.m.

Please submit certifications and resume with 3 references to the RM of Leask, Box 190, Leask, Sask., S0J 1M0 or email rmleask.464@sasktel.net.

R.M. OF CANWOOD NO. 494 NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF ASSESSMENT ROLL

Notice is hereby given that the assessment roll for the Rural Municipality of Canwood No. 494 for the year 2026 has been prepared and is open to inspection at the Office of the Assessor from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on the following days: Monday to Friday, April 23, 2026, to May 24, 2026.

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

Any person wishing to discuss the Notice of Assessment or potential appeal may contact the Assessor at 306-468-2014 (R.M.) or 1-800-667-5203 (SAMA).

Any person who wishes to appeal an assessment is required to file a Notice of Appeal by May 24, 2026, with the Secretary of the Board of Revision, NorSask Board Services, PO Box 459, Aberdeen, SK, S0K 0A0.

An appeal fee of \$300 per property and payable to the RM of Canwood No. 494 must accompany the appeal. The appeal fee will be returned if the appeal is successful.

Dated at Canwood, Sask., this 23rd day of April, 2026.

Lorna Benson, Assessor

R.M. OF SHELLBROOK NO. 493 SALE BY TENDER

The Rural Municipality of Shellbrook offers for tender Blk/Par B – Plan 101545084 Ext 21 Source Quarter Section NW-04-52-01-W3, ISC Parcel # 150195584. Property measures 29.88-meters frontage by 83.21 meters in length 1.79 acres.

All tenders must be submitted to the Rural Municipality Office, 71 Main Street Shellbrook, SK or by mail PO Box 250 Shellbrook, SK, S0J 2E0 by **4:00 p.m. April 30, 2026** in a sealed envelope marked “Property Tender RM Shellbrook”. Tenders will be opened May 6, 2026 at 9:00 am during the Council Meeting.

The R.M. of Shellbrook reserves the right to reject any or all tenders. Highest bid not necessarily accepted. Successful bidder will be required to provide payment of tendered bid within 15 days of the tender being awarded. Property is sold as is, where is.

For further information please contact the R.M. office at 306-747-2158.

Leask gathers to celebrate kindness

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

In a world rife with things that keep people apart, Leask's Connie Jessop and Joanne McHanson believe it's important to focus on the things that bring people in their community together.

Driven by this belief, they consulted with the Leask Happy Homesteaders, started working on the Leask Kindness Project, and approached the Leask Legion about using the hall.

This effort came to fruition on Saturday, April 18, when about 90 people, aged 2 to over 90, gathered in the Legion Hall (which was provided free of charge) for a potluck supper, an evening of games and musical entertainment provided by the Turtle

River Outlaws, and, most importantly, togetherness.

"In a small community... we're such a varied group of cultures and languages. What is our common denominator?" said McHanson of the question that inspired the idea for the event.

"We're all human. We can all experience kindness; even as a child, we know what kindness is. It's a common denominator across all cultures."

With kindness at the core of the gathering, the evening became a celebration of community, the uniqueness of living in rural Saskatchewan, and the resilience and generosity of Saskatchewan's many people.

And though the night wasn't officially a fundraiser, guests and organizers paid the



Guests enjoyed dancing to music by the Turtle River Outlaws.

kindness forward by bringing food and cash donations for the Shellbrook and Area Ministerial Food Bank.

"It was just an up-

beat, good vibe community event. I feel it went better than I ever imagined," Jessop said. "There were so many good comments. Because it was something new, it was so nice to hear that."

"It was like listening to a bee hive," McHanson added. "Everybody was busy chatting and visiting. It's been a long winter, and everybody was really happy to see each other."

While Jessop and

McHanson don't know if this will become an annual event, plans are in the works to do something in the fall. In the meantime, they hope the Kindness Project will continue spreading kindness in the community.

"We appreciate and celebrate the kindness that does happen on a daily basis: kindness that's unplanned, no reward wanted, no big announcement, just things that we're faced

with every day," Jessop said.

"We hope people will just keep reaching out to each other in a kindly fashion," McHanson added. "Continue opening that door, carrying somebody's groceries out, or giving somebody a high-five. Just be present."



A crowd of nearly 90 people gathered in the Leask Legion Hall for the celebration of kindness.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE IS FRIDAY 4 P.M.

PUBLIC NOTICE

RM of Shellbrook No. 493 Public Notice Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw Amendments

Public Notice is hereby given that the Council of the Rural Municipality of Shellbrook No. 493 (RM) intends to consider two bylaws under The Planning and Development Act, 2007, to amend Bylaw No. 2018-09, known as the Official Community Plan (OCP), and to amend Bylaw No. 08-1981, known as The Zoning Bylaw (ZB).

INTENT: The proposed OCP amendment would redesignate on the RM's OCP Future Land Use Map, portions of NW ¼ 16-49-03-W3M from Country Residential Development Area to Agriculture Development Area and Industrial Development Area.

The proposed ZB amendment would: replace regulations, and exceptions thereto, with respect to the number of principal buildings or uses permitted on a site; introduce regulations applicable to horizontal and vertical integration (multiple complementary principal uses on a single site); add restaurants and similar uses, gas bars and service stations, to the M – Industrial District as permitted uses; add retail liquor sales and bulk fuel storage and sales to the M – Industrial District as discretionary uses and add/clarify regulation and evaluation criteria thereto; introduce a number of definitions of terms relating to the above or otherwise absent in the ZB; correct a District name on the ZB Map; and rezone portions of land within NW ¼ 16-49-03-W3M to the AR – Agricultural Residential and M – Industrial Districts.

AFFECTED LAND: The entirety of the RM would potentially be affected by proposed amendments to: modify regulations with respect to allowable number of principal buildings and uses on a site; introduce the concept and regulation of horizontal/vertical integration; and, introduce new definitions. Redesignation and rezoning of lands would affect portions of NW ¼ 16-49-03-W3M (the quarter section of land immediately north of the Town of Shellbrook bisected by Hwy 55). Legal description of the affected lands as follows: NW ¼ 16-49-03-W3M Exts. 138, 139, 141, and 142; Blk/Parcel F, Plan 85PA09448 Ext. 0; and, Blk/Parcel J, Plan 102060593 Ext. 0.

REASON: The RM is seeking to better legitimize a number of existing developments in accordance with its OCP and ZB, and assign desired land use policy designations and zoning to lands within NW ¼ 16-49-03-W3M to better reflect current and anticipated land uses; the proposed amendments are required to facilitate these goals. In addition, but related thereto, redesignation and rezoning of said lands is required to facilitate a subdivision proposal to sever parcel ties between 4 existing parcels (3 parcels being redesignated and rezoned for agricultural use; 1 parcel being redesignated and rezoned for future business development). Desired regulation and criteria for evaluation would be added to the M District, and new definitions are required for clear interpretation of the OCP and ZB as it relates to uses.

PUBLIC INSPECTION: Any person may inspect the bylaw at the RM office during regular office hours, excluding statutory holidays. Draft copies of the proposed bylaws are available from the RM office; hard copy at cost, digital copy free upon request or at the web address below. Copies of the proposed amendments, including maps showing proposed land use designation and zoning changes, will be posted on the RM's website at the following web address: <https://www.rmofshellbrook.com/notice>. The RM office is located at RM Office at 71 Main Street, Shellbrook, SK, S0J 2E0 (PO Box 250).

PUBLIC HEARING: Council will hold a public hearing on May 6, 2026, at 10:00 am, in the RM Office to hear any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed bylaws. Please contact the office prior to the hearing for protocols related to making in-person representation. Council will also consider written comments received by the undersigned by May 5, 2026. For additional information, please contact (306) 747-2178 or admin.493@sasktel.net.

Issued at the Town of Shellbrook this 9th day of April, 2026.

Duane Storey – Administrator – RM of Shellbrook No. 493

VILLAGE OF LEASK

LOTS FOR SALE BY PUBLIC TENDER

Under the provisions of *The Tax Enforcement Act*, The Village of Leask is accepting sealed tenders for the purchase of the following tax title properties:

Legal Description	Civic Address	ISC Parcel NO	Zoning
Lot 5 Blk/Par A Plan 63PA00509	209 1st Ave, Leask, SK	132997012	Residential
Lot 9 Blk/Par A Plan 63PA00509	211 2nd St South, Leask, SK	132996561	Residential
Lot 4 Blk/Par 25 Plan 65A1428	219 1st Ave, Leask, SK	132998192	Residential
Blk/Par A Plan 101599016 Ext 14	814 Green Family Dr, Leask, SK	145608936	Residential

All tenders must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked "Property Tender & ISC Parcel NO"

Each tender must include: The bid amount, a deposit of 10% of the bid amount in the form of a certified cheque or bank draft payable to the Village of Leask and the bidder's full name, mailing address, and contact information.

Tenders must be received no later than **May 20, 2026** at the Village Office, located at 15 Main Street, Leask.

Conditions of Sale: The property is sold as-is, without warranty. The highest or any tender may not necessarily be accepted. The successful bidder will be required to pay the balance within 30 days of notification. If the balance is not paid, the deposit will be forfeited. All legal costs, title transfers fees and applicable taxes are the responsibility of the purchaser and are in addition to the bid price.

Dated this 17th day of April 2026

Yvette Hamel,
Administrator, Village of Leask

Fake outrage won't undo Carney majority

On the surface, democracy should be pretty straightforward.

Election night comes, people do their civic duty by casting their ballots, and once those ballots are tallied they get a government that reflects their collective wishes.

Last spring, Canadians voted to give Prime Minister Mark Carney's Liberal government a minority mandate of 169 seats or 43.8 per cent of the vote (just three seats shy of a majority).

Meanwhile, thanks to the collapse of the Bloc Québécois and the NDP, Pierre Poilievre's Conservative Party was positioned as a strong opposition with 144 seats or 41.3 per cent of the vote.

It was one of the closest elections in recent history, and it produced one of the most accurate seat outcomes in the history of Canada's flawed winner-takes-all first-past-the-post electoral system.

In normal circumstances, Mr. Carney's government would have either spent the next four years making deals with other parties to stay in power, or been toppled by a vote of non-confidence, triggering a new election.

But normalcy, it seems, has taken a permanent sabbatical.

After losing an election in which he had once been a more than 20-point favourite – due partly to his failure to shift his campaign to address U.S. President Donald Trump, and partly to the fact that some of his rhetoric and policies seemed to be pulled straight from Mr. Trump's playbook – Mr. Poilievre had to earn his way back into Parliament through a by-election in one of the country's most staunchly Conservative ridings.

If there was any thought that Mr. Poilievre might change his tone or tactics following the rebuke he received from Canadians, his return to Parliament in the fall quickly dispelled those notions.

Instead, Mr. Poilievre kept stubbornly plowing ahead with the same strate-



JORDAN TWISS
~
News Editor

gy that lost him the election and his own seat.

In November, when Mr. Carney's government tabled its first budget, the cracks in Mr. Poilievre's own party became apparent with Acadie-Annapolis MP Chris d'Entremont's decision to cross the aisle to the Liberals.

In departing, Mr. D'Entremont criticized Mr. Poilievre's leadership style and said he often felt that the Conservative Party "was

part of a frat house rather than a serious political party."

Given how many MPs have crossed the aisle throughout Canada's history, the defection of one MP is easy enough to write-off as an insignificant blip.

But a month later, Markham-Unionville MP Michael Ma chose to join Mr. Carney's government as well, and in February Edmonton-Riverbend MP Matt Jeneroux rescinded his decision to resign from politics and crossed the aisle to the Liberals.

In March, Mr. Carney's government added a fourth MP (this time at the NDP's expense) in Nunavut's Lori Idlout.

And in April, on the eve of three by-elections in which a Liberal majority was a real possibility, Sarnia-Lambton MP Marilyn Gladu became the fourth MP to quit Mr. Poilievre's party for the Liberals.

Mr. Poilievre has taken the losses with the grace and maturity one might expect from him, insulting the integrity of the floor crossers and accusing Mr. Carney of making "dirty backroom deals," while rejecting any suggestion that he perhaps needs to look within and change his approach.

And even after Mr. Carney's victories in the three April 13 by-elections in University-Rosedale, Scarborough Southwest, and Terrebonne gave him a majority, Mr. Poilievre has continued to claim that voters were "betrayed" (again, anything to avoid accountability or reflection).

While defections have happened throughout Canada's long history, five



aisle crossings in six months is certainly unprecedented, and there's no denying that Mr. Carney owes his majority to the floor crossers he poached from other parties.

But at the same time, if Canada's political system ever became so rigid that MPs were forced to put their parties before their consciences, Canadians would undeniably be worse off for it.

Indeed, former Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper was right in 2006 when he said, "I believe members of Parliament should have that freedom [to cross the floor] and be accountable to their constituents for their decisions at the next election. However, in my observation, the only parties that really have this as an obsession are the parties that no one ever crosses to."

For proof of this, we only need to look at the words of former Conservative Leader Andrew Scheer, who had this to say in 2018 when Leona Alleslev left the Liberals for his Conservatives: "A politician who crosses the aisle has shown tremendous courage in putting their principles first."

Even Mr. Poilievre himself has voted against past bills that would have required MPs to automatically face a by-election if they changed parties.

Mr. Poilievre's performative outrage over MPs quitting his party isn't going to win him any sympathy votes from Canadians. It simply comes across as

hypocritical and insincere, at a time when he can afford to be neither.

If Mr. Poilievre were genuinely concerned about how Canada's electoral system is functioning, he would have graciously accepted his defeat after the 2025 election, rather than sneaking back into Parliament through a by-election in a riding he doesn't live in.

If not this, he might advocate for electoral reform and the end of the antiquated first-past-the-post system, which routinely negates the votes of more than half of Canadians and only deepens political divisions. Instead, he'd call for a shift to proportional representation, which is used by 80 per cent of Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development countries, would deliver results that actually reflect the democratic will of Canadians, and force political parties to work together on behalf of all Canadians.

He might also direct some of his outrage at Danielle Smith's UCP, which has rejected an independent commission's proposed changes to electoral boundaries, in favour of redrawing them itself (with a seeming view to giving its rural strongholds more sway in elections).

But of course, Mr. Poilievre won't do any of this because the only thing he's truly mad about is losing.

Shellbrook Chronicle

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

Spiritwood Herald

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

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Member of



Scrimshaw supports hometown of Big River

By **MAISIE KRIENKE**
Submitted

Once again Glen Scrimshaw has shown support of his hometown of Big River.

Born and raised in Big River, Glen still feels it is his home and comes back frequently to spend time with old friends and reminisce memories.

Some words from Glen, "I've always liked paintings that I've done that are inspired by memories of my youth. One day I was chatting with Maisie Krienke, an active member of the Big River & District Recreation Improvement Association, and the idea was formed for me to do a work featuring a scene from my home town that they could use as a fundraiser".

An agreement was struck with the Big River & District Recreation Improvement Association to have Glen



Helen Sawatsky was the lucky winner of an art piece created by Glen Scrimshaw for a Big River & District Recreation Improvement Association raffle fundraiser.

create a picture depicting the memories that make Big River a special home town to so many. Glen agreed to do this painting showing some of these memories and the RIA would run a raffle as a fundraiser.

Glen knew that everyone who has ever lived, or even visited, Big River would have memories tied to the dock, so he chose that as his base for this work. He asked the members of the RIA to give him suggestions of what some of these memories would be. After giving him a list of ideas, we wondered how it would be possible to put these all in a painting. Glen had a solution!

The painting would be one off the end of Main Street featuring the dock and the tugboat 'Mary Kay', with a colourful autumn forest and beautiful array of Northern lights in the background. All the other memories suggested, such as The Burner, hockey sticks, tents, skis, snowmobile and fish hooks would be hidden in the artworks. So, not only would this be a beautiful original piece of artwork it would be a puzzle to find all the hidden memories.

The project was registered and tickets went on sale in January. All board members were asked to take part in making this project a successful one and that they did. Tickets were on sale until March 21st and that day the lucky winner was declared and Helen Sawatsky went home with this beautiful Scrimshaw original of her home town. Congratulations Helen!

For every fundraising event which the RIA hosts, Glen is with us. He generously donates some of his work to every event we host. We are very proud to have his work on our prize tables each time, taking the opportunity to brag about our local 'world known' home-grown artist.

This project raised \$10,595.00. The board was thrilled with the success of the project and are very proud to have the opportunity to spread the word of home-grown artist, Glen Scrimshaw.

KoC present Christmas poster prizes



The Spiritwood Knights of Columbus recently visited Rivier Elementary School to present prizes to winners of the Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest, which encourages councils to prompt their neighbours to shift from a preoccupation with materialism to the light of Christ and the spirit of giving. Back row, left to right: Nyah Hart, Norie Beauchesne, Brianna Castillo, and Charli Caffet. Front row: Islah Simonar, Renlee Penner, and Copeland Kingdon.

By **BEVRA FEE**, Spiritwood Herald Reporter



The Time is Now! Get immunized.

National Immunization Awareness Week April 26 to May 2, 2026

Vaccines are safe and effective and work best when children receive them on time, before they are exposed to vaccine preventable diseases.

Talk with a public health nurse or your health-care provider about the immunizations you and your family need to stay healthy.



saskatchewan.ca/immunize



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*Conditions apply.

Canwood Bowling League hosts wind-up

By **LORRAINE BENSON**
Submitted

On the evening of Friday, April 10, the Canwood Bowling League hosted the end of the year celebration with a pot luck supper. After supper the hardware was handed out.

Men's High Average was Tom Wilson at 200. Ladies High Average was Lorraine Benson at 178.

Men's High Triple

was Ken Moar at 690. Ladies High Triple was Marilyn Lofstrom at 632.

Men's High Single was Tom Wilson at 333. Ladies High Single was Glenda Wilson at 259.

The turkey roll off winners were Jesse Dion, Theresa Burgmaier, and Ron Samson.

The afternoon league winners were: Faith Mazurek, Marilyn Palko, and Shirley Mumm. The evening

league winners were: Julius Swecera, Lorraine Benson, Glenda Wilson, Terry Hamborg, Ken Moar, and Mike Cotts.

The Wednesday afternoon bowling was organized by Jesse and Al Dion.

We had an enjoyable evening and we look forward to seeing you all back in the fall.



Afternoon league winners Faith Mazurek and Marilyn Palko. Missing: Shirley Mumm.



Men's high average and men's single winner, Tom Wilson.



Evening league winners, from left to right: Julius Swecera, Lorraine Benson, Glenda Wilson, and Terry Hamborg. Missing: Ken Moar and Mike Cotts.



Ladies' high average winner, Lorraine Benson.



Ladies' high single winner Glenda Wilson.

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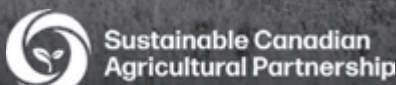
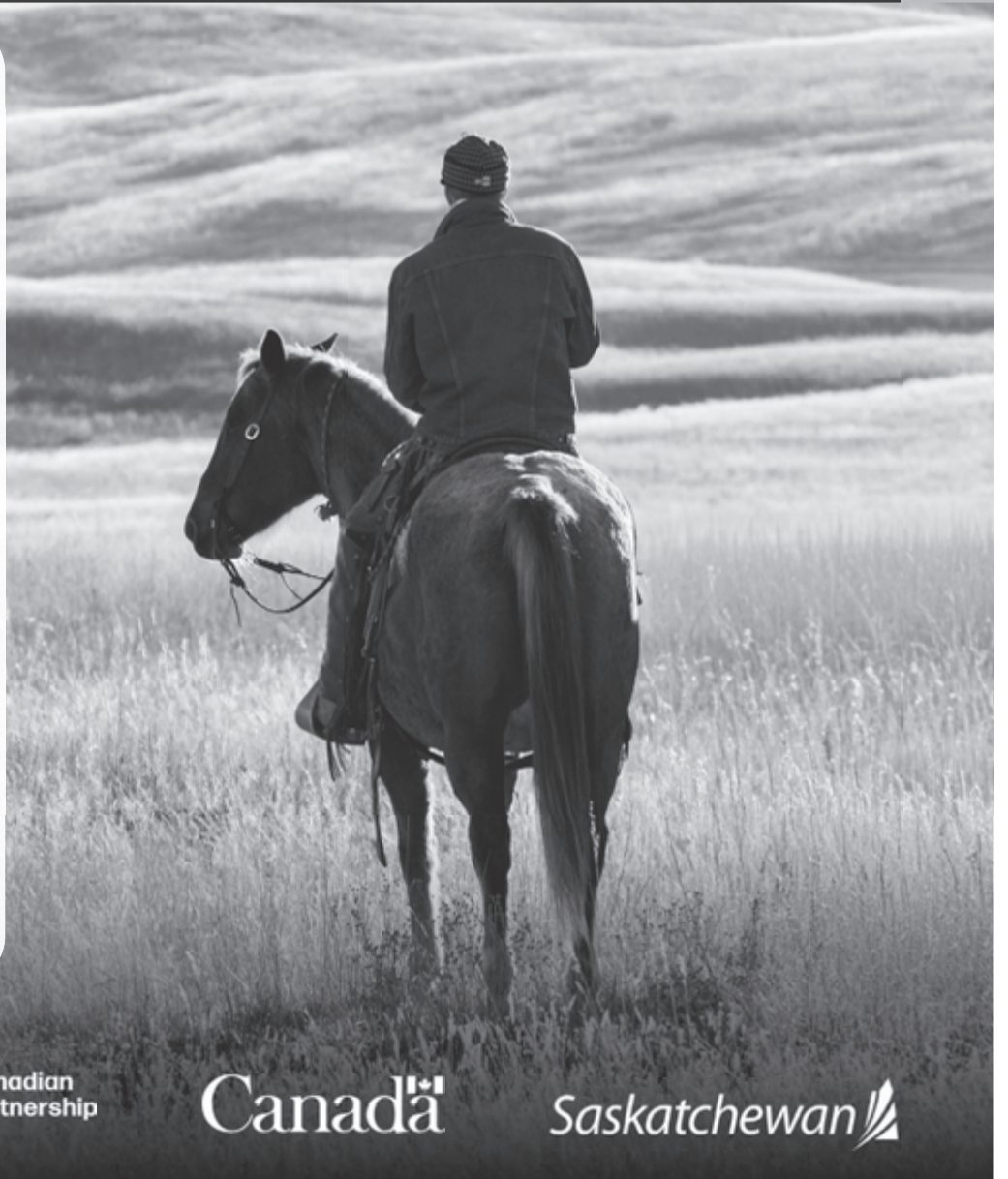
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Call 1-800-667-4442 or scan the QR code to learn more.



Gene-editing must be undertaken with care

Gene-editing has been something of a bugaboo in agriculture for years now.

The technology, which allows scientists to add, remove, or alter DNA at specific locations in an organism's genome, has had politicians — particularly in Europe — and some consumer groups throwing up red flags about what impact the modified organism might have.

Caution in this case — as in most cases with major scientific advancement — is not a bad course of action to be taking.

While science by its

very nature offers advancements in many areas, sometimes taking massive steps which dramatically change things, the ripple effect is not always fully understood in the moment.

History is actually littered with apparent advancements which over time were shown to be ultimately very bad.

Perhaps the most notable case of this is thalidomide, a medication first marketed in 1956 as a sedative and for morning sickness. Instead, it was found to have caused severe birth defects in thousands



CALVIN DANIELS

of babies before being withdrawn in 1961.

Then there is DDT (dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane) an insecticide, historically used to combat malaria and agricultural pests. While highly effective, its persistence, bio-accumulation in food

chains, and toxicity led to widespread bans in the 1970s and 1980s.

And Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs), a group of 209 man-made chemicals formerly used widely in electrical equipment (transformers, capacitors) and industrial materials, which due to extreme persistence, bio-accumulation, and environmental health risks, were banned in 1979.

So, we always need to be cautious.

At the same time, though, we do need to let science explore and create as a pathway to our future, as we work

to address challenges posed by a growing global population, cropland loss, and climate change.

There is little doubt gene-editing can play a role in creating crop varieties better suited to the anticipated growing conditions in the years ahead.

In terms of the development of gene-editing, a major step may be taken in the coming weeks as the European Parliament votes in a plenary session on the use of gene-edited crops in the European Union.

If approved, it will be a significant green

light for the technology, although perhaps we should hope the decision is a more of a yellow light than a green light — meaning the tech door is opened but with safeguards in place too.

Certainly, the prospect of what gene-editing might offer — imagine the possibility of saline or heat tolerant crops bringing lost acres back into food production — is compelling, and it will be interesting to watch what does develop once broader acceptance is achieved. Just proceed with an eye to the ripple effects.

Foal Roping Series comes to Shell Lake

By **CHELSEY BUCK**
Submitted

Shell Lake's Bar P Bar Quarter Horses and Arena hosted a team roping event on Saturday, April 11. The event consisted of 29 ropers, who came from near and far to compete.

The series started in November and finished in April, with a jackpot held each month. Each jackpot would pay four placings. Depending on the number of ropers in attendance, first place would win \$1,000. Throughout the series, \$28,250 was paid out to the ropers.

This is the second year of the roping series. It all started when Wes Kingdon of Lazy T Quarter Circle Performance Horses wanted to start a foal roping series. He started his horse breeding program, and the idea came to life with the help of the Page

Family at Bar P Bar Quarter Horses and Arena. At the series finals, whichever roper has the most steers caught and the fastest total times throughout the series would win a foal from Kingdon's breeding program.

Team roping is a timed event where there are two riders, one known as the header and the other as the heeler. There is a steer in the chute, and is let out into the arena when the riders are ready. The header must rope the steer around the head, and the heeler ropes the back feet.

When the steer is caught, the time is called. Fastest time wins. In the series, the ropers accumulate a point and time with every steer caught. The points are used to finalize their placings at the finals where prizes are awarded. There were prizes up to 12th place.

This year's winners were Shellbrook's Jus-

tin Muirhead (header), and Delisle's AJ Jackson (heeler).

The event wouldn't be possible without the support of sponsors, who helped contribute to the prizes.

The event is planned for next year and we hope to see many new faces, even if it is just stopping in for a coffee!



This year's winning ropers were Shellbrook's Justin Muirhead (header) and Delisle's AJ Jackson (heeler). Pictured from left to right: Chelsey Buck, AJ Jackson, Wes Kingdon, and Justin Muirhead.

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R.M. OF SHELLBROOK NO. 493 ASSESSMENT ROLL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Assessment Roll of the Rural Municipality of Shellbrook No. 493 for the Year of 2026 has been prepared and is now open for inspection in the office of the Assessor from 8:30 a.m. to Friday 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday from April 30th, 2026 to June 5th, 2026.

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

Any person who wishes to appeal his/her assessment is required to file his/her notice of appeal, accompanied by \$200.00 appeal fee per roll number with The Assessor, R.M. of Shellbrook, Box 250, Shellbrook, Sask, S0J 2E0, by the 5th of June, 2026.

Dated at Shellbrook, Saskatchewan, this 16th day of April, 2026.

Duane Storey
Assessor

TAX ENFORCEMENT LIST VILLAGE OF SHELL LAKE 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 15th day of June, 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	COSTS ADVERTISING	TOTAL ARREARS AND COSTS
4	1	A01928, Ext 0	137974506	\$ 547.57	\$ 36.62	\$ 584.19
19	4	A01928, Ext 0	145393454	\$ 408.25	\$ 36.62	\$ 444.87
20	4	A01928, Ext 0	157505418	\$ 65.12	\$ 36.62	\$ 101.74
21	4	A01928, Ext 0	157505429	\$ 141.46	\$ 36.62	\$ 178.08
4	8	BMS784, Ext 3	157261316	\$ 40.25	\$ 36.62	\$ 76.87
8	11	102254374, Ext 0	156744760	\$ 1,713.35	\$ 36.62	\$ 1,749.97
13	15	85B16316, Ext 0	129763806	\$ 366.84	\$ 36.62	\$ 403.46
3	19	102259593, Ext 0	150161419	\$ 4,410.27	\$ 36.62	\$ 4,446.89
1	11	102386112, Ext 0	157923029	\$ 817.21	\$ 36.62	\$ 853.83
2	11	102386112, Ext 0	157017854	\$ 1,860.42	\$ 36.62	\$ 1,897.04

Dated this 23rd day of April, 2026
Tammy MacSymetz, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

Spiritwood Lions host Grand Ole Opry

Continued from 1 McNabb, Lance Abbott, Cindy Peters, Tom Mc-year included Shelley Mahon from the Cabri Van De Velde, Morgan Lions Club and Mat-



Spiritwood Lions president Cheyenne Orange, sang two country classics, “Coat of Many Colours” and “Keep on the Sunny Side.”



Alex Moreda, less than a year into being in Canada, wowed the audience with “Telluride” and “Cab In A Solo.”

thew Whitefish. All were right at home with their strong deliveries and well-chosen songs, performed with power and vocal skill.

Mixed in were Opry veterans Marentin Fehr, Bryan Heigh, Patrick Laughlin, Tara Welch, Claire Schira and her cohorts Janice Trudel and Marg Yungwirth, Ruby Larson, Rodney Schira, and Patty Heisler.

The most exposed musician on the evening would be Dallas Schira, and his outside-the-box delivery of Michael Jackson’s “Beat It” likely turned more than a few country music fans into Michael Jackson believers!

Bree Chalifour, no stranger to the Grand Ole Opry stage and a one-time contestant in Canadian Idol, might have actually trumped last year’s “Mule Skinner Blues” with her yodelling number this year in the form of “I Want To Be A Cowboy’s Sweetheart.” As country as you can possibly get, the classic Patsy Montana number was followed by big attitude in Chalifour’s absolute knockout “You Ain’t Gotta Die (To Be Dead To Me).”

With 50/50 raffles each night raising a total for the weekend of \$1,800 for two lucky winners – Nikolay Tsinunin on Friday and Roxanne Lang on Saturday – the audience didn’t lack for something to do. In fact, the cabaret following the second night’s performances saw Misdeal play until midnight for the country dance enthusiasts who stayed until the very end.



Morgan McNabb, 19, said performing at the Opry was the highlight of his career.



Ryan Strate did double duty as emcee and singer on both nights.



Spiritwood Lion Dave Corneliuson sang two bluesy numbers in the key of Gravel.



Dallas Schira delivered a country-rock version of Michael Jackson’s “Beat It” (he did not do the moonwalk).

NOW HIRING

VILLAGE OF CANWOOD OPERATIONS ASSISTANT (Permanent Part-Time)

Join our team and help support the essential operations of our community.

What You’ll Do

- Public Works & Utilities support
- General maintenance
- Snow removal
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- Garbage pick up
- Equipment operation
- Other duties as assigned

What We Offer

- Competitive pension plan
- Comprehensive benefits package

What You Bring

- Grade 12 or GED
- Valid Class 5 driver’s licence (abstract required)
- Willingness to complete a criminal record check
- Ability to work independently
- Heavy equipment experience an asset
- Mechanical aptitude an asset
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✉️ Canwood.town@sasktel.net

Posting open until filled. Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

HELP WANTED

SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM ASSISTANTS

The **Village of Canwood**, in partnership with Canwood Public School, is hiring **two Assistants** for the Summer Youth Program (July & August).

Duties: Assist the Coordinator with planning, advertising, and delivering program activities; organize daily snacks, crafts, and weekly themes; work with parents, caregivers, and community partners.

Requirements:

- Ages 15–30, Canadian citizen, legally eligible to work
- Experience with youth/children preferred
- Interest in education or childcare
- First Aid/CPR or Play Leadership an asset
- Indigenous, Métis, and minority applicants encouraged

Questions? Contact Heather Sten at 306-468-2016.

Submit cover letter and resume to the Village of Canwood office, email canwood.town@sasktel.net, or mail to: **Village of Canwood** Re: SYP Assistant PO Box 172, Canwood, SK S0J 0K0

Application deadline: May 15, 2026

W.P. Sandin hosts Region 7 Drama Festival

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

Aspiring high school thespians took over the stage at the Shellbrook Theatre on April 17 and 18, when W.P. Sandin High School played host to the Saskatchewan Drama Association's Region 7 Drama Festival.

The two-day theatre festival kicked off the night after W.P. Sandin's actors entertained the community with Don Zolidis' comedy *How to Get Away with a Murder Mystery*, which follows the trials and tribulations of five mysterious colour-coded guests as they try to both solve murders and get away with them.

"We chose the script in June last year," said drama coordinator Jordyn Pillar. "When talking to the students, they seemed really excited about the prospect of doing a murder mystery, so we followed their lead."

W.P. Sandin's production of *How to Get Away with a Murder Mystery* featured 13 students in varying roles, and casting and initial prepara-

tion began in December, with weekly rehearsals starting in January.

As Pillar explains, it's no easy feat getting a production stage-ready.

"Putting together a production is always a ton of work," she said. "Students have spent months memorizing lines and blocking, often helping each other rehearse and run lines in their own time. We also have students that have spent lunch hours painting sets, building props, and finding costumes."

In addition to W.P. Sandin's production of *How to Get Away with a Murder Mystery*, the weekend's Region 7 Drama Festival featured three other plays, including Warman High School's *Box*, Prince Albert Collegiate Institute's *Better than the Movie*, and L.P. Miller Comprehensive High School's (Nipawin) *Fighting Demons*.

Pillar says she and fellow drama coordinator Pam Boettcher offered to host the Region 7 Drama Festival during a meeting of participating directors at last year's festival, seeing it as an



Jacey Keyowski walks the cast through Becca McNiece's murder. Back row, left to right: Marie-Annette Aghedo, Brooklyn Klaassen, Gaia Smart, Kayla Klaassen, and Abby Piprell.

exciting opportunity for a smaller school like W.P. Sandin, as well as a chance to showcase everything the school and the community of Shellbrook have to offer.

Hosting big events like these, Pillar adds, inspires students to take pride in where they come from and the community to come together to support local youth.

As someone who participated in drama in high school, Pillar says the performing arts allow students to connect with each other, share laughs, and find a sense of community.

"At its core, drama really provides a space for students to connect and experience community. Throughout the whole process, we have seen our students develop work ethic, explore their passion, grow their creativity, and find a space of community/belonging," she said.

"The festival also offers the opportunity for students to meet others from different schools and areas of the province and build further connections, which I think is a beautiful thing."

Casts and crews that perform at the Regional Drama Festivals held across the province have the opportunity to advance to Provincials.

Though the W.P. Sandin contingent had hopes of placing in the

top two and advancing, and though the cast and crew earned judges' ratings from "excellent" to "notably outstanding," Boettcher says Warman and Nipawin earned that honour with productions that focused on heavier social themes, featured more elaborate sets, and included larger casts.

"That said, our group received outstanding feedback, with adjudicators praising their perfect characterization, excellent execution, and strong volume and voice projection," Boettcher said.

"This was a memorable and rewarding experience that showcased both the talent and character of our students."

In addition to staging a flawless production, W.P. Sandin's cast and crew brought home a number of awards.

On the technical side, Brooklyn Klaassen earned a Certificate of Technical Merit for her design work on the set, and Zander Archibald received a Certificate of Technical Merit for his stage right leadership and prop management.

Meanwhile, Nash Helm earned a Technical Award of Merit for his leadership on W.P. Sandin's production, and the support and for the guidance he provided to the other crews throughout the festival.

As for performing, Valerie Bondame received both a Certificate of Acting Merit and the Cheer Award, Abby Piprell received a Certificate of Acting Merit, and the whole W.P. Sandin cast was recognized with the Spirit of the Festival Award for Sportsmanship.



A murder at a circus leads to a heated argument about the body in a scene from *How to Get Away with a Murder Mystery*.



Brooklyn Klaassen (Madam Off-White) allows herself to be wooed by rockstar Abby Piprell (Mr. Burgundy).

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM COORDINATOR

The Village of Canwood, in partnership with Canwood Public School, is hiring a **Summer Youth Program Coordinator** for July & August.

Responsibilities: Set up and deliver the program; supervise staff; plan daily snacks, crafts, and weekly themes; manage budgeting and basic accounting; work effectively with parents, caregivers, and community partners.

Requirements:

- Ages 16-30, Canadian citizen, legally eligible to work
- Experience with youth or children
- Strong communication skills
- Valid driver's licence
- Interest in education or childcare
- Willing to complete a criminal record check
- First Aid/CPR or Play Leadership training an asset
- Indigenous, Métis, or minority applicants encouraged

Questions? Contact Heather Sten at 306-468-2016.

Submit a cover letter and resume to the Village of Canwood office (571 Main Street), email canwood.town@sasktel.net, or mail to: **Village of Canwood** Re: SYP Coordinator Position, Box 172, Canwood, SK S0J 0K0

Application deadline: May 15, 2026

Highway 55 Waste Management Corporation

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Permanent Garbage Truck Driver

The successful applicant must:

- be mechanically inclined
- possess a valid Class 1 or Class 3A driver's licence and a clean driving record

Submit your resume, including relevant experience and at least two references to:

Highway 55 Waste Management Corporation

Email: operations@hwy55waste.ca

Highway 55 offers a pension and benefits package with competitive wages based on experience and qualifications of the successful applicant. All resumes are to be in the hands of the Operations Manager on or before **4:00 pm, Thursday, May 7th, 2026**. Only those contacted will be granted an interview.

Shell Lake seniors celebrate birthdays

By **DAVID JENSEN**
Shell Lake 50+ Club

Once again, the Shell Lake Fifty-Plus club gathered on the fourth Monday of March to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries for the months of March and April. Sixteen members of the club came out to celebrate.

Unfortunately, only two of the birthday guests were able to attend.

Before the birthday song was sung and the birthday cake was served, a local songstress and member of our club, Jay-Marie, treated us to a dozen songs from her repertoire of wide-ranging catalogue of songs. She really truly loves to entertain — both playing and singing — and her music is always accompanied with a broad smile.

Seated at the table

of honour were Linda Potts and Gladys Simonar. Gladys has the distinction of being the most senior member of the club at 94 years old. She has lived in the Shell Lake area for her whole life. Her early years were spent on a farm just north of Iroquois Lake. The succeeding years have been spent in the Village of Shell Lake.

Once again, the club's cake baking lady, Anita

Weiers, provided two wonderful cakes for the occasion. One was a very moist and very tasty carrot cake. The other was a common white cake, but the special ingredients, which absolutely enhanced the flavour, were in the topping, which included pineapple and orange zest. Wow!

Those who were unable attend missed something really special.



Jay-Marie entertained fellow club members with a big smile on her face.



Gladys Simonar (left) and Linda Potts were the guests of honour at the March and April gathering.

Parkland STS hosts meeting and bowling

By **LORRAINE BENSON**
Submitted

On, Tuesday, April 14, the Parkland Chapter of the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan gathered in Canwood for its regular meeting and some fun bowling. Thirty people were in attendance.

The event began at noon with an excellent lunch served by the local Royal Purple Ladies. The meal was followed by a formal meeting. The special guests were Jane Isinger and Gail Huber from the STS Provincial Executive. Jane Isinger talked to attendees about Blue Cross coverage for retired teachers. Gail Huber is the liaison for the Parkland Chapter and had information about how to access the websites.

Bowling and games followed the meeting. A highlight was a 98-year-old chapter member Marion Rude who was in attendance and also bowled. The Parkland Chapter members are looking forward to meeting again in June at Shell Lake.



At 98 years old, Marion Rude still attended and bowled.

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 - 5:30pm; 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)

CANWOOD: Canwood Elks Fish Fry – Sunday, April 26, 4:30 to 6:30 pm, Canwood Elks Community Centre. \$12: Ages 12 & Under; \$25: 13 & Up; 5 & Under Free.

TRIPLE YOUR ADVERTISING

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Special guests Jane Isinger (left) and Gail Huber shared important information with attendees.

Here's a Wild pick for the Stanley Cup

Just when it appears as if the long and winding Stanley Cup playoff road will inevitably end with a Colorado Avalanche victory, the hapless Vancouver Canucks skate into Denver two weeks before the end of the regular season and lay an 8-6 thumping on the team that has been the class of the National Hockey League all season.

So now what? Are the Avalanche vulnerable? Is the team's goaltending so subpar that it couldn't possibly withstand a gruelling two-month playoff run? Will one of the surprising upstarts of the 2025-26 campaign — Buffalo Sabres, Montreal Canadiens, Ottawa Senators, Utah Mammoth or the Anaheim Ducks — surprise the hockey world by hoisting the Cup in June? Maybe the Oilers will get Leon Draisaitl back from the injured list and regain the playoff mojo that propelled them to back-to-back appearances in the Stanley Cup final.

Maybe. Maybe not. Likely not, in fact. The

Oilers' regular season showed more losses than victories, so a playoff run seems unlikely, especially with journeyman Connor Ingram being their best hope in goal.

So who are the favourites to stay alive through the marathon playoff run into mid-June? Tampa Bay has been hot down the stretch and has the answer to the No. 1 question regarding playoff power: Do you have a solid goalie? In Andrei Vasilevskiy, the Lightning do, indeed, have what it takes between the pipes. But so does Dallas, with Jake Oettinger, and the rejuvenated Boston Bruins, with Jeremy Swayman. The Oilers would be in seventh heaven if they had Minnesota's netminding duo of Filip Gustavsson and Jesper Wallstedt, which makes the Wild another top contender for the Cup. Carolina Hurricanes are always a threat to win the Cup, and they not only have the power up front, with Sebastian Aho and Co., but



BRUCE
PENTON

the Canes have a dependable goalie duo in rookie Brandon Bussi and veteran Frederik Andersen.

The vulnerability of the Avalanche is compounded by the fact that they are the winners of the President's Trophy, the bad luck piece of silverware which goes to the team amassing the most points during the regular season. Not since 2012-13, when the Chicago Blackhawks accomplished the Presidents Trophy/Stanley Cup sweep, has the No. 1 team during the regular season enjoyed the ultimate playoff success.

With 16 teams start-

ing fresh, what will happen? What key injuries will derail a contender? What goalie will get hot? What rookie just called up from the U.S. college ranks turns into an Ovechkin-style sniper?

Those are some of the great unknowns, but we can be assured we'll have a new winner this year, since two-time champion Florida Panthers aren't in the playoff run.

So we'll just cut to the chase and tell you that the Minnesota Wild will win this year's Stanley Cup. They have the goaltending; they have one of the NHL's best defencemen in Quinn Hughes; and have more than enough scoring with Kirill Kaprizov and Matt Boldy leading the way.

But I've been wrong before.

• Cathal Kelly of the Globe and Mail, on Canada's weak group (Bosnia, Qatar, Switzerland) in the upcoming World Cup: "You've heard of the Group of Death. This is the Group of Coma — prob-

ably the weakest ever at a World Cup."

• Ron Green, Jr., in Global Golf Post, describing the simplicity of Augusta National Golf Course: "There is no signage. Rae's Creek is not sponsored by GoDaddy.com. There are no cars floating in the pond beside the 16th green. The white leaderboards don't advertise credit cards."

• Pro golfer Rory McIlroy, on the menu he chose for the Masters champions dinner: "People ask me why I didn't go full Irish. I wanted to enjoy it, too."

• Kyle Porter of Normal Sport, offering an unfriendly critique of Jordan Spieth's Champions Dinner wardrobe: "Spieth needs an intervention. We cannot be doing green on purple on darker purple. This is what happens when (caddy Michael) Greller's not there to step in."

• Janice Hough of leftcoastsportsbabe.com: "Oakland/Vegas/Sacramento A's pitchers combined to one-hit the Yankees today

to win 1-0. How long until the Dodgers just try to buy the As pitching staff?"

• Headline at theonline.com: "MLB rookie still can't believe the sunflower seeds are free."

• fark.com headline: "Looking for an exorcist? Try the NHL playoffs; they consistently cast out Devils."

• Steve Simmons of the Toronto Sun: "The appropriately spelled 'K'azuma Okamoto is on pace to strike out about 200 times in his first big league season."

• Comedy guy Torben Rolfson of Vancouver: "Brady Tkachuk got a slashing penalty while sitting on the bench. I can see where this is heading. He's going to get penalized for doing his podcast. Overdue."

• Rolfson again: "(Golden Knights goalie) Carter Hart had nine saves vs. the Canucks the other night. He could have worn sunglasses at night and still won that game."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

CTF: Smith, Moe need to follow Carney on gas tax relief

By GAGE HAUBRICH
CTF Prairie Director

Gas prices are surging and folks in Saskatchewan and Alberta need relief.

Thankfully, one politician has taken action to make life more affordable for drivers and families: Prime Minister Mark Carney.

Carney is cutting the 10 cents per litre federal gas tax until Labour Day. This temporary cut will save Canadian drivers about will save drivers about \$7 every time they fill up a minivan and about \$10 when they fill up a pick-up truck.

But Alberta Premier Danielle Smith and Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe, who regularly tout their affordability chops, are sitting on their hands and failing to provide relief to taxpayers.

The lack of action can't be for a lack of ideas, because all the premiers have to do is follow Carney's lead and cut their own gas taxes.

In fact, there's an easy way

to improve on Carney's plan. The prime minister's tax cut is temporary, so Moe and Smith can show that they understand that the cost of living isn't a temporary concern for residents by making their tax cuts permanent.

The Saskatchewan government currently charges a 15 cents per litre gasoline and a diesel tax that costs drivers about \$11 when they fill up a minivan and about \$15 when they fill up a pick-up truck. A two-vehicle family filling up once every two weeks is paying about \$660 per year in the provincial gas tax.

The Alberta government charges a 13 cents per litre tax on gasoline and diesel. That tax costs Alberta drivers about \$9 every time they fill a minivan and about \$13 when they fill up a pick-up truck.

Both premiers so far have refused to cut their own gas taxes and save drivers money.

Alberta's refusal to cut the gas tax now is even more bi-

zarre because the province already has a mechanism in place to do so when oil and gas prices increase to unaffordable levels.

Alberta's fuel tax relief program adjusts the provincial fuel tax based on the price of oil. Once oil prices are more than \$90 USD per barrel, the entire 13 cent per litre fuel tax is suspended. However, if oil prices are less than \$80 USD, the entire fuel tax remains in place.

Oil prices are currently hovering around \$90 USD, but due to technicalities, the Alberta government is saying taxpayers have to wait until July 1 for tax relief at the pumps.

And voices from across the political spectrum are calling for this commonsense tax cut. Of course, the Canadian Taxpayers Federation is telling the Western provinces to make life more affordable, but so are the opposition parties in both provinces.

"They're not willing to act, even though gas prices have gone up 40 cents a litre in a month," said Alberta Opposition NDP Leader Naheed Nenshi.

"Suspending the tax would show some decency and compassion for the insurmountable affordability struggle that people in this province are facing," said Saskatchewan Opposition NDP Leader Carla Beck.

Strange bedfellows indeed, but it also makes sense because gas tax cuts are just commonsense. They are commonsense because gas tax cuts help people afford the basics. People need to drive to work and pick up their kids for school.

Saving \$15 on a fill-up really matters to working people who live paycheque to paycheque. A family could buy a jug of milk a roast chicken with that saved money.

Something the politicians in Saskatchewan and Alberta should both remember: Food has to be delivered to

the grocery store in the trailers of big rig trucks that run on diesel. If Alberta dropped its fuel tax to zero, truckers would save more than \$125 every time they fill up their tanks.

A gas tax cut makes all of those things more affordable.

It's kind of weird that this needs to be explained in Saskatchewan and Alberta, and that drivers are only getting gas tax relief from Ottawa.

A gas tax cut, unlike many other government attempts at making life more affordable is bureaucracy-free. Not a single paper pusher in Regina or Edmonton needs to be paid to administer a fuel tax cut. The government simply removes the tax at the pump and drivers start saving.

It's a rare day when Ottawa does something right, but when it does, Saskatchewan and Alberta need to watch and follow suit. That means a cut to the provincial gas tax.

OBITUARIES

Iris Johnstone



Iris Geraldine Johnstone was born June 5, 1926 at Sedalia, Alberta. She was the sixth of

nine children born to John Phillip and Eleanor (Gamble) Thornton.

Iris married Clifford Johnstone of Mont Nebo, SK on April 19, 1943. They lived at Digby, Nova Scotia as Clifford was in the navy and stationed there. They moved to Polwarth, SK when the war ended, then to Clearwater, BC in 1954 where Clifford worked at the lumber mill. They returned to Saskatchewan and in 1956 sold the farm at Polwarth and moved to Hawkeye, southwest of Mont Nebo

to farm Clifford's dad's land. In April 1963, they bought the Sunlight Café in Shell Lake and operated it for 10 years. In 1974 they moved to Shellbrook where Iris worked at the hospital until she retired in 1986.

Clifford passed away January 1, 2001. Iris continued to live in Shellbrook the last 6 years in the nursing home, until her passing on December 17, 2025.

She leaves to mourn, her children: Gwen Wilson,

Shellbrook, SK and children: David (Val), Weldon, SK (Daniel, Hannah, Joel, Zachary); John, Shellbrook, SK; Jacquelyn (Chris) Hunt, Qualicum Beach, BC (Jordan, Tyson, Austen, Jadelyn).

Alex (Faye), Melfort, SK and children: Margo (Tommy) Stensrud, Courtney, BC (Erik, Evan, Amanda); Karen, Pierceland, SK; Tim (Lindsey), Melfort, SK (Callie, Burke).

Monty, Shellbrook, SK and children: Brennan

(Ashley), Prescott, AZ (Claire, Everett); Dylan (Arielle), Regina, SK; Amy (Josh) DeVries, Courtice, ON (Jonathan, Kate, Levi); Mallory Soon, Moncton, NB (Atlas, Clementine, Berlin); Nolan (Kayla), Sydney, Aust. (Gideon, Adina).

Foster son Ozzie (Hollis) Robillard, Hay River, NWT (Mark, Merle).

Also, 11 grandchildren, 23 great grandchildren, 13 great-great grandchildren. Her

brother Keith Thornton, Didsbury, AB, sister Myrtle Wallace, Prescott, AZ, and brother-in-law Laverne Wallace.

She was predeceased by her husband Clifford Johnstone, sisters Fern and Ivy, and brothers Claude, Gerry, Joe, and Phil.

Funeral will be held Saturday, May 2 at 1:00 pm at Shellbrook Pentecostal Church with Pastor David Bodvarson officiating. Interment, Shellbrook Cemetery, Legion section.

Mary Jean Schapansky



Mary Jean Schapansky passed away peacefully, surrounded by her

family in Lloydminster Hospital on Sunday, April 5th, 2026, at the age of 80 years.

Mary Jean lived a full and meaningful life and leaves behind countless cherished memories for those who knew and loved her.

She will be lovingly remembered by: her children, Rick Schapansky (Carmen), Lori Hart, Leanne Taylor (Stephen) and Ryan Schapansky (Nieva).

Mary Jean was a proud

grandmother to: Pamela Eggen (Tyler), Cody Hart (Ashley), Brayden Hart (Kimberly), Briana Blakeney (Tyrone), Shellan French (Jordan), Kyera French (Lucas), Jade Schapansky (Nathan), Josie Schapansky (Fionn) and Erick Schapansky.

She was also blessed with: her great-grandchildren, Brielle and Makynlee Eggen, Braxton and Bexley Hart, and Maverick and Avery Hart.

She is survived by: her sister, Betty Barkway (Bob); sisters-in-law, Gloria Sheremata and Sharon Fuller; and brother-in-law, Bud Krestianson (Alice).

She also leaves behind: her step-father-in-law, Herman Martin.

Mary Jean will be fondly remembered by the parents of her grandchildren: Jeanette Sunshine, Ronnie Hart, Curtis French, and Robyn Raque. She held a special place in her heart for

her dear friends: Elaine, Dennis, Adele, Anne, Betty, Diane, Janet, and Louise, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, and friends.

Mary Jean was predeceased by: her beloved husband, Tom Schapansky; her daughter, Lana Schapansky; her parents, Fred and Ruth Fuller; her sister, June Fuller; her brother, Bill Fuller; niece, Ashley Krestianson; her parents-in-law, John Schapansky and Ruby

Martin; and her brother-in-law, Bob Schapansky.

"Those who love gardening never really leave; they just become the roots that hold the flowers together."

Donations can be made to the Cancer Lodge in Saskatoon or the donor's choice in lieu of flowers.

Funeral to be held in Shellbrook at a later date, as we come together to honour a life now resting in the presence of Jesus.

Local Legions attend Zone Rally

By **NANCY CARSWELL**
Shellbrook Legion

The Royal Canadian Legion Battleford Branch #9 welcomed representatives from Canwood, Debden, Leask, North Battleford, and Shellbrook as it hosted the biennial District 3 Zone 4 Rally on Sunday, April 12. Following a delicious lunch prepared by members of the Battleford Branch, the meeting was officially called to order.

In his comments, Deputy District Commander Glen Toomer reflected on a milestone year for the Legion, noting that 2026 marks 100 years of dedicated service to veterans and their families. He also extended an invitation on behalf of the Regina Branch to attend a special commemorative celebration on July 17, featuring a flag ceremony, cake, and a community dance.

Commemorative activities are also being planned by other branches in the zone. The Canwood Branch will host an open house on June 6 in recognition of the an-

niversary of D-Day, while the Shellbrook Branch is organizing a nostalgic dance on May 23, featuring music from the First and Second World War eras.

Toomer also highlighted the legacy and impact of the Legion Youth Track and

Field Championships. The program promotes physical fitness, teamwork, and remembrance, while helping to shape future leaders and athletes—including those who go on to compete at the Olympic level. This year, both the provincial championships (July

6 to 10) and national championships (Aug. 7 to 10) will take place in Regina.

Zone Commander Alan Carswell and branches gave reports on their activities since the 2024 Zone Rally. Branches listed offering Remembrance Day Services for

the public, schools, and care homes, facilitate the Youth Remembrance Day Contest, and participating and hosting sports events (golf, pool, crib, etc.). Some highlights include Battleford members attending the annual installment of the "Honour Our Veterans" banners on light posts on Main Street, Leask Branch donating a Broda Chair (\$4,600) to their Wheatland Lodge nursing home, and Duck Lake's Comrade Alana Anderson doing a presentation about the 100th Anniversary of the RCAF at the Regional Interpretive Centre on July 1.

The rally also included the acclamation of Zone Commander Alan Carswell (Shellbrook Branch) and Deputy Zone Commander Gordon Brown (North Battleford Branch). Toomer formally installed both into their respective offices.

In recognition of its 100th anniversary, the Royal Canadian Legion is offering free memberships to new members. Details are available at legion.ca.



Local Legion branches gathered in North Battleford for the Zone Rally on Sunday, April 12.

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The family of the late Myrna Hoffman would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for the support following our loss. Thank you for the calls, messages, cards, donations, visits, food, and many other kind gestures of sympathy. We value each and every one. We are fortunate to be surrounded by such caring and supportive family, friends, neighbours and community members. Thank you to everyone who contributed to, and attended, the funeral service. Thank you to Beau "Lac" Funeral Home for your exceptional service, professionalism and compassion. Richard, Trudi & Luke Hoffman; Corrine, Richard & Anders Schwehr

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Big River Fishing Derby a big catch

By **MAISIE KRIENKE**
Submitted

For the 26th year the annual ice fishing derby in Big River was a successful event with over 300 fishermen enjoying the beautiful sunny day. This event is not just about fishing; for many, it's about returning home to visit with old friends and classmates.

The day kicked off with a pancake breakfast and an opportunity to view the array of over 100 prizes. The generosity of so many wonderful donors created this stage full of prizes. Panther Agencies, Timberland Motel, Rally Motorsports, Earl Beebe Trucking, Ness Creek Society, Timberlost,

Krienke's Promotional Products, Lakeshore RV, Co-op, CJWW, The Fishin' Hole, CJVR, Poplar Point Resort, Scrimshaw Gallery, Len's Trucking, Osarc, Third & Main, CKBI, the Big River Hotel, and BR Auto Body were Gold Sponsors by donating \$500 in cash or prizes.

Visitors also took the time to visit May Fabish and Diana Darbyshire at the Ticket Wicket to buy a chance to win the hand-crafted Afghan donated by Rosie McCullough, the 50/50, and of course the annual 'Alibi' provided by BackRoad Spirits!

One of Big River's 'claims to fame' is being able to just drive off the end of Main Street

and reach Cowan Lake, where this event takes place. At noon the gate opened for everyone to find their lucky hole. Most fishermen quickly sent their bait down in hopes of luring the biggest fish of the day, while others took the opportunity to do some visiting and grab a burger at the ice canteen.

During the three hours of fishing time, fourteen fish were hooked and weighed in. Once weighed, all fish are released back into the lake.

Then, it was time to head back to the Community Centre to grab another bite to eat, stop by the bar, get raffle tickets, place a bid or two on the silent auction prizes, and await to see what prize you could possibly win.

Tanner Hudson, although he appeared very relaxed on his fishing chair, registered three fish, one of which was the biggest, making him the winner of \$10,000 dollars. Congratulations to Tanner and his young son, who assisted dad in bringing in the big one.

May Fabish presented \$1,755 to Jake Fehr, the lucky winner of the 50/50, Shawn Smith went home with the Afghan, and someone now has an Alibi.



Tanner Hudson won \$10,000 for the day's biggest catch.



Rae-Anne Fabish caught the second biggest fish.



Tanner relaxes and catches!



50/50 winner Jake Fehr went home with \$1,755.



Good friends gather for a chat.