

## SHS stages deliciously dark comedy



Cia Demencuik-Angus (left) and Sophie Fineday (right) swoon over Brock Fry.

By **BEVRA FEE**  
*Spiritwood Herald Reporter*

Spiritwood High School's drama group presented their one-act play to a local audience at the Civic Centre on Friday, May 15.

*We Found a Finger* is a dark comedy about two boy-crazy teenage girls who endeavour to grow their own boyfriend from the severed finger of their school's most popular football player.

Portrayed by Cia Demencuik-Angus and Sophie Fineday, the two

quirky characters are forced to revise their plan and grow subsequent clones once "Jackson Two" does not immediately show interest in them.

The play was a lively and fun story that flowed smoothly, thanks to the crew who effectively managed the lighting and stage in order to move the actors from scene to scene. The casting was appropriate and entertaining, with Treyton Ledinski bringing his natural energy to the part of Lucas, the friend and teammate of Jackson One.

Lucas was also boyfriend to Ol-

ivia, who was played by Liv Slater. Slater was clearly comfortable on stage in her supporting role, shutting down every pet nickname tried out by Lucas.

The cast appeared to gel together and their play was delivered with skill and a comfortable vibe, turning their performance of this Kamron Klitgaard work into an easy and enjoyable audience experience.

The drama group is fresh off the regional drama festival that was held in Edam on April 16, 17, and 18. During the Saskatchewan Dra-

ma Association-sanctioned festival, several of the Spiritwood troupe were recognized for their excellence in the staging of *We Found a Finger*.

Brock Fry, portraying the lead male characters — Jackson One and Jackson Two — was named runner up for the Mary Ellen Burgess Acting Award. Also recognized at the Drama Festival was Niveditha Kurup, stage manager for the presentation, with the Best Stage Manager Award. Andrew Baesa was awarded Best Lighting and Sound.

*Continued on page 8*



**SPIRITWOOD**  
**PHARMACY GROCERY**

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

# Philp, Vandall taken in WHL Draft

By **JORDAN TWISS**  
Shellbrook Chronicle  
Reporter

Like many aspiring hockey players, Caleb Philp got his start in his hometown rink in Shellbrook at the tender age of four. From early on, he fell in love with the competitiveness and fast pace of the sport.

After playing his first handful of seasons in Shellbrook, Caleb channeled his competitive drive to make the jump to U13 AA hockey and suited up for the Warman Wildcats for the 2022-2023 hockey season.

"I realized I could go further when I started

playing in Warman," Caleb said. "My second year in U13 in Warman is when it really clicked for me, and I started having outbursts in points and production."

That year — 2023-2024 — Caleb finished second in team scoring with 24 goals and 39 assists, and added another 8 goals and 7 assists over seven play-off games as the team cruised to a league championship and a Provincial banner.

With the move up to U15 AA in the following season, Caleb followed a similar trajectory and really came into his own in his second year at the age level, when he joined the Prince

Albert U15 AA Venice House Pirates.

The Pirates had a strong hockey season from start to finish, going 21-4-2-0 to tie for second overall in the North Division standings. Caleb was instrumental in the Pirates' success, leading the team in scoring with 28 goals and 45 assists over 27 regular season games (2.7 points per game).

Caleb's 73 points were enough for him to place fourth in the SAAHL scoring race.

When the playoffs arrived, Caleb didn't slow down, scoring 11 goals and 11 assists over 8 games (2.75 points per game). This 22-point performance was good enough for him to place second in the playoff scoring race, just one point behind teammate Jordan Labelle, and lift the team to a league championship and a Provincial banner.

"It was the overall team that helped me with my point production," Caleb said. "I was playing with great players all around."

After this season's successes, Caleb has signed with the Prince Albert U18 AAA Mintos for the 2026-2027 hockey season. He's also ranked among the top 36 players in Saskatchewan and is still trying out for Sask First. If he makes the cut in September, he'll represent Saskatchewan at next year's Canada Winter Games.

With this season marking his first year of eligibility for the WHL Draft, Caleb also caught the eye of scouts.

"I had conversations



Shellbrook's Caleb Philp was picked 25th overall in WHL Draft by the Swift Current Broncos.

with a couple teams [before the draft] and learned that Swift Current was pretty interested in me," Caleb said.

When draft day came, it was indeed the Swift Current Broncos who drafted Caleb, scooping him up in the second round with the 25th overall pick.

"I was so ecstatic," Caleb said. "Me and my family were so excited, I can't even describe."

"We are just so thrilled for him. With the draft changing this year to include the

American kids, we really weren't sure what to expect," his mom, Nicole Philp, added. "Watching him go so early in the draft felt rewarding of the commitment he's given to this sport over the last few years."

With a couple months until the next season begins, Caleb says he's taking his off-season dry land and weight training very seriously, and hoping to improve his strength and speed on the ice.

And following conversations with the manager and coach of the Swift Current Broncos, he's hopeful he'll have the chance to play his first WHL games next season.

But Caleb wasn't the only U15 AA Ven-

ice House Pirate to be scooped up in the draft.

Hailing from the Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation, Lachlan Vandall was the Pirates' captain for the 2025-2026 hockey season. In addition to providing leadership, he also contributed offensively with 21 goals and 35 assists to finish third in overall team scoring. He added another 5 goals and 11 assists in the playoffs, finishing fourth in overall scoring.

This performance caught the eyes of the Prince George Cougars, who scooped him up in the fifth round, 115th overall.

Caleb and Lachlan will continue to play together with the Prince Albert U18 AAA Mintos next season.



Ahtahkakoop's Lachlan Vandall was drafted by the WHL's Prince George Cougars.

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**UPCOMING SALES**

**SAT., MAY 23 – 10:00 am** – Richard and Bonnie Williams:  
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**SAT., JUNE 6 – 10:00 am** – Barry and Leanne Fusick:  
Farm Equipment, Shop Tools & Classic Cars – Shellbrook, SK

**SAT., JUNE 13 – 10:00 am** – Glen and Shannon Caffet:  
Farm Equipment & Market Garden Equipment – Spiritwood, SK

**SAT., JUNE 27 – 10:00 am** – Roy and Laurie Mayo:  
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**RM OF SHELLBROOK NO. 493 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

The RM of Shellbrook No. 493 is accepting applications for a **Part-Time Administrative Assistant**. This position supports the Acting Administrator, Assistant Administrator, and Council. Hours and start date are negotiable. Wage dependent on experience. Benefits include health, dental, vision, and employer matched pension.

**Duties:** Customer service, correspondence, filing, data entry, AP/AR, bank reconciliations, deposits, payroll, remittances, permits, assessment roll, registries, Council packages, minute taking, website updates, and other duties.

**Qualifications:** Strong communication and organizational skills; proficiency with Microsoft 365; attention to detail; ability to meet deadlines; municipal experience an asset; must be bondable and able to pass a criminal record check.

Submit cover letter, resume, two references, anticipated start date, and wage expectations to Box 250, Shellbrook, SK S0J 2E0 or [admin.493@sasktel.net](mailto:admin.493@sasktel.net) by **3:00 p.m., June 5, 2026**. Only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

**SHELLBROOK HOUSING AUTHORITY VOLUNTEER BOARD MEMBERS WANTED**

The Shellbrook Housing Authority is seeking community-minded volunteers to serve on its Board of Directors to deliver Shellbrook's Social Housing Program, providing safe, secure, and affordable housing for seniors and families.

Housing Authorities are public agencies governed by the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation.

Board members help support good governance, sound decision-making, and quality housing services.

Interested individuals are invited to contact the Board Chair – 306-747-3755, 306-747-7451 [Waylor.saam@sasktel.net](mailto:Waylor.saam@sasktel.net)

# Knights of Columbus distribute grant funds

By **JORDAN TWISS**  
*Shellbrook Chronicle*  
Reporter

As burgeoning grocery bills put increased strain on family budgets, the Shellbrook Knights of Columbus is doing its part to help feed the community and surrounding area.

The community group recently applied for funding through the Saskatchewan Knights of Columbus' Charitable Foundation and its Lawrence Meier Food for

Families grant program, and was awarded \$6,500.

With the funds, the organization donated \$3,000 to the Shellbrook and Area Ministerial Food Bank to help it address food insecurity in the area. It also donated \$1,000 each to Shellbrook Elementary School, Canwood Community School, and Wild Rose School, and \$500 to Leask Community School to support their respective breakfast, snack, and lunch programs.



Shellbrook Food Bank representatives accept a \$3,000 cheque from Knights of Columbus members. Left to right: Deacon Ron Johnson, Pastor Joshua VanZandbeek, Pastor Lorne Valuck, Linda Lundy, Lorette Palm, Beryl Peake, Al Dion, Emmanuel Aristide, and Mitch Beaulac.



Staff from Shellbrook Elementary School accept a \$1,000 donation from Knights of Columbus members. Left to right: Al Dion, Ryan Gareau, Deanna Ledding, Bruce Clements, and Mitch Beaulac.



(Above) Staff from Canwood Community School accept a \$1,000 cheque from Knights of Columbus members. Left to right: Dominic Villegas, Maurice Tanchuk, Al Dion, principal Sylvia Delisle, and Lou-anne Stefankiw.



Staff from Wild Rose School accept a \$1,000 donation from Knights of Columbus members. Left to right: Mitch Beaulac, principal Tracy Bloomquist, and Al Dion.



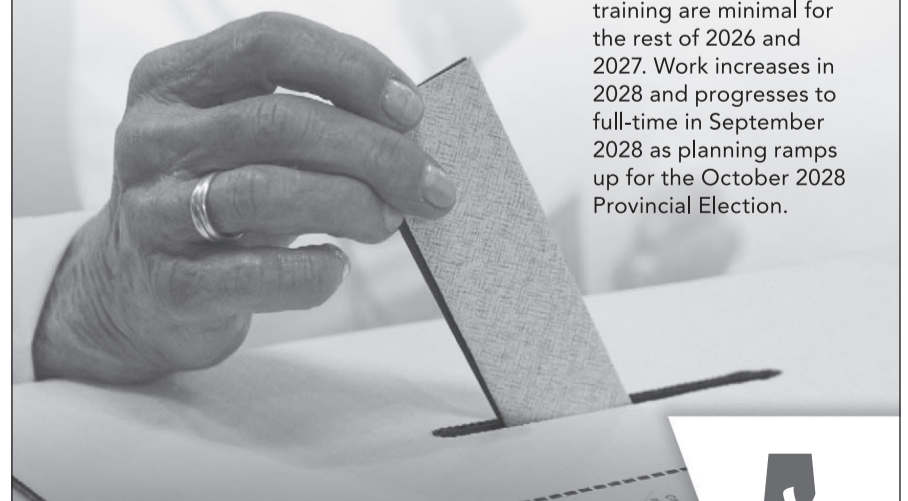
Staff and students from Leask Community School accept a \$500 donation from Knights of Columbus members. Left to right: Kallen Arcand, Al Dion, Jenn Kreesse, principal Lindsey Burym, Daniel Brad, Jersey Potetz, Dreyson Halkett, and Maurice Garant.

## Join our team

We're looking for a **Returning Officer** in the **Rosthern-Shellbrook** constituency.

If you enjoy leading a small team, can stay calm and organized under pressure, and are comfortable with technology, this might be the part-time, paid opportunity you're looking for.

Hours for projects and training are minimal for the rest of 2026 and 2027. Work increases in 2028 and progresses to full-time in September 2028 as planning ramps up for the October 2028 Provincial Election.



For more about this job and to apply, scan here with your smartphone camera.

[www.elections.sk.ca/workers](http://www.elections.sk.ca/workers)



## Ag report highlights the blatantly obvious

If governments can be counted on for one thing, it's to make simple tasks as difficult as possible.

In our daily lives, most of us simply go about our business and get things done without agonizing over them.

But for governments, which are accountable to their taxpayers, even a task as mundane as changing a light bulb seems to require study upon study, followed by multiple rounds of committee meetings, before moving forward.

Granted, some decisions require this level of due diligence. In these cases, governments should be applauded for taking the time to ensure things are done correctly.

At other times, though, governments can leave you shaking your head and wondering how they took so much time to do something so boneheaded.

Case in point: the federal government's decision to kneecap Canada's agriculture research capacity.

At the end of January, to save money and trim burgeoning government ranks, Prime Minister Mark Carney's federal government announced cuts to staffing at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC). Almost immediately, 665 department positions were eliminated, and more than 1,000 employees received termination notices.

Additionally, AAFC announced the closure of research facilities in Guelph, Ont., Québec City, and Lacombe, Alta., as well as satellite research farms in Indian Head, Sask., Scott, Sask., Portage la Prairie, Man., and Nappan, N.S., and the country's only Organic and Regenerative Research Program headquartered at Swift Current.

The proposed cuts were met with well-deserved disapproval from all corners.

In the normal global context – an alternate reality in which the United States is a reliable partner and ally



**JORDAN TWISS**  
~  
News Editor

for Canada and the world – the decision to shut down agriculture research could have been called stupid and short-sighted at best.

However, in a real-world context in which Mr. Carney is trying to position Canada as a self-sufficient leader among the world's middle powers, the decision was mind-bogglingly nonsensical.

Thus, it was no surprise that the decision was referred to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food for further study.

After listening to more than two dozen in-person witness testimonies and reviewing 15 written briefs, none of which supported the cuts and closures, the committee published its report on the issue on May 6, calling for the government to reverse course.

The report also includes 20 recommendations to bolster Canada's agriculture research capacity, and its agriculture sector more generally.

These include calls on the federal government to: recognize the agriculture and agri-food industry as a strategic sector on par with energy in terms of national security and food security as a national security issue; table site-specific cost-benefit analysis, to justify the proposed closures and assess the irreversibility profile of the closures; and develop and implement a strategy to strengthen collaboration across the agriculture and agri-food innovation ecosystem.

It was clear from day one that Mr. Carney's government hadn't done its homework when it decided on the cuts and closures.

The House of Commons Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food's report only makes this even more evident.

When making cuts to the public service – even one that has become far too bloated – a government should adopt the mindset of a surgeon. That is, every cut should be



considered, deliberate, and precise to ensure the best possible outcome.

Instead, it's as if those responsible for choosing to make cuts to agriculture research were swinging sledgehammers while blindfolded and hoping for the best (or perhaps just hoping that no one would care, because agriculture is so often overlooked).

Once again, it was mind-bogglingly nonsensical, and it's astonishing that Mr. Carney's government needed a committee to conduct a months-long study to tell it so.

If Mr. Carney's government had taken even a moment to do its homework, it would have known that the Indian Head research farm's seed increase unit was responsible for stewarding more than 300 seed varieties to ensure their purity and quality, and provided seed for 20 million acres of crops grown across western Canada.

It also would have known that the Organic and Regenerative Program in Swift Current was the only program of its kind in Canada, conducting research to lessen producers' dependence on fertilizer and other chemical inputs.

And it also would have known that the Scott research farm was home to projects aimed at helping producers deal with herbicide residues left on

their crops. The soil at the farm was especially important for Saskatchewan producers, because it breaks down herbicides more slowly and doesn't exist anywhere outside of the province.

Now that it is aware of these things, Mr. Carney's government has 120 days to formally respond to the Agriculture and Agri-Food committee's report and undo the harm it's done.

Realistically, it shouldn't need anywhere near that long.

During a speech at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, in January Mr. Carney said, "A country that cannot feed itself, fuel itself or defend itself has few options."

He was right. In even the most stable and predictable global climate, food security should be a top priority for Canada (and for any country, really).

The prairie provinces are often called the breadbasket of Canada – and even of the world – and they have earned this title because of the advancements made possible by public and private research.

But feeding the world doesn't mean much if we can't feed ourselves.

The best way to ensure Canadians are able to feed themselves, is to invest heavily, but prudently, in the research that has allowed Canada to become the world's breadbasket.

### 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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# Shell Lake ball season gets in to full swing

By **JORDAN TWISS**

Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

After leading the U13 Parkland Wildcats to Westerns gold last ball season, Shell Lake's Dillan Simonar and Allison Batty-Simonar are hoping to hit it out of the park again this year.

Assuming Mother Nature ever decides to co-operate, that is.

"By this time, we've already played quite a few games and hosted a tournament, normally," Dillan noted. "The weather has made it tough to get out. You just have gym practices, but you can only do so much in the gym."

Once ball season gets under way in earnest, there will be more than 100 young players hitting the ball diamond in Shell Lake, including players registered in the local league and those players registered in Dillan and Allison's Parkland Provincial Softball program.

With players coming from Shell Lake and surrounding area, the program will be fielding eight teams this season. For the Parkland Predators (girls), teams include U11, U13, U15, and U19. Meanwhile, the Parkland Wildcats (boys) will be competing at U11, U13 (two teams), and U15.

Despite the late start, and issues booking turf time at the Alfred Jenkins Field House in Prince Albert, Dillan and Allison feel their teams are shaping up pretty well — as evidenced by the U19 Predators' performance at an Ice Breaker tournament hosted by the Edmonton Ladies Softball Association in Leduc, Alta., from May 8 to 10.

The team went 2-2 in the tournament's round robin, before losing out in the first round of play-offs. But Dillan notes that the Predators were playing their first games of the season at the tournament, while some other teams already had 30 games under their belts going into the weekend.

"It was a good tournament. It was good to get out and get the girls together," Dillan said. "We have a lot of returning players, but also some new girls we haven't coached before."

This coming weekend, nearly all the Predators and Wildcats teams will get some long overdue games in, as the U19 Predators head off to Saskatoon for the Presidents Tournament, all the Wildcats teams travel to Prince Albert for the Rawlings Grand Slam Tournament, and the U13 Predators take a road trip to Humboldt.

Back in Shell Lake, after the 2025 ball season saw the community come together to renovate the

ball diamond with turf and new fencing, the focus this season will be on completing the dugouts and some last little clean-up projects. This will ensure the diamond's in tip top shape when U13 Boys Provincials roll into town in July.

Looking to the late season, both Dillan and Allison are hopeful that their teams can bring home more championship banners. However, Allison's particularly excited for the U15 Wildcats, who have the chance to qualify for Nationals this year.

"You have to finish in the top two at Provincials to qualify. That will be our goal for that team," she said.



The U19 Parkland Predators kicked off their season with a tournament in Leduc, Alta., from May 8 to 10. Photo credit: Segoviaphoto.com

## Youth arrested after threats at SLFN school

By **JORDAN TWISS**

Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

A teenage male has been arrested, following a report of threats made to the school on the Sturgeon Lake First Nation.

The Prince Albert RCMP Detachment received the report on Monday, May 11, and dispatched officers immediately. While the school enacted its hold and secure protocols, officers searched the school carefully and noted no indication of an imminent threat.

Officers maintained an increased presence in the community. The school remained in hold and secure for the remainder of May 11, and cancelled classes the following day.

Through continued investigation, police determined the initial report originated from outside of Canada. The individual had observed threatening content, directed toward the school, on a social media platform.

As a result of investigation, officers arrested a male teenager, determined to be a student at the school, at a residence in the community on May 12. During the arrest, officers seized a BB gun, knife, and axe at the

residence.

The male teenager, who cannot be identified due to the Youth Criminal Justice Act, has been charged with three counts of possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose, and one count of uttering threats.

He has appeared in Prince Albert Provincial Court and was remanded into custody until his next scheduled appearance, which was slated for Wednesday, May 20.

### RCMP updates most wanted list

The Saskatchewan RCMP has updated its list of the province's most wanted offenders, in hopes the public can assist it in tracking them down.

Police note that this list is not a complete list of all persons wanted by the Saskatchewan RCMP. Offenders appearing on this list

are determined by a data-driven scoring system using the Crime Severity Index, a Statistics Canada measurement that looks at both the number and the relative severity of crimes. Factors such as age, gender, race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, religion, sexuality or disability are not considered in the scoring process.

The RCMP's updated list for May includes two wanted individuals with known connections to the area.

Up first is 32-year-old Jonathan Bear (aliases: Jonathon Bear, Jonathan Whitefish, John Bear), who is wanted for Assault (x2), break and enter, possession of prohibited weapon, pointing firearm, careless use of firearm, disguise with intent (x2), possession of weapon, and forcible confinement.

Bear is described as 6'2" and 174 lbs., with black hair and brown eyes. Police believe he could be in Big River First Nation, Debden, Pelican Lake, Sandy Bay, or Yorkton.

Next is 24-year-old Stephan Littlepine (aliases: Brayden Sutherland, Stephen Littlepine), who is wanted for sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, sexual

exploitation, and sexual assault.

Though police have no photo of him, Littlepine is described as 5'7" and 134 lbs. with brown hair and brown eyes. Police believe he could be in Witcheekan Lake First Nation, Beardy's First Nation, One Arrow, or Wakaw.



Jonathan Bear.



## PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice is hereby given that the Council of the Rural Municipality of Spiritwood No. 496 intends to adopt a bylaw under *The Planning and Development Act, 2007* to amend the Zoning District Map in Bylaw No. 4-2015 known as the Zoning Bylaw.

**INTENT**  
The proposed bylaw will rezone the affected land from LD - Lakeshore Development District to AR - Agricultural Resource District to comply with the RM Zoning Bylaw.

**AFFECTED LAND**  
The affected land is legally described as Parcel No. 163954727 and Parcel No. 1647892278 and located on part of the SW ¼ Section 06-49-08-W3M as shown on the map identified as Schedule "A".

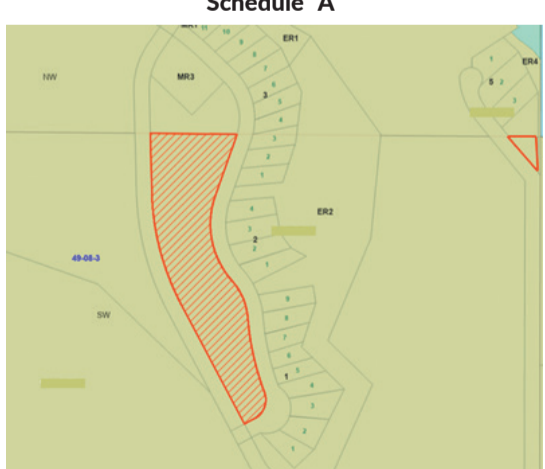
**REASON**  
The amendment is being proposed to accommodate the removal of parcel ties and use of the land.

**PUBLIC INSPECTION**  
Any person may inspect the bylaw at the municipal office located at 218 Main Street in Spiritwood, Sk. between 9:00 am & 4:30 pm on Monday - Friday, excluding statutory holidays. Copies are available at cost.

**PUBLIC HEARING**  
Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 11:00 am in Council Chambers to hear any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed bylaw. Council will also consider written comments submitted to the RM of Spiritwood No. 496 municipal office at Box 340, 218 Main Street, Spiritwood, SK, S0J 2M0 or emailed to [admin@rmofspiritwood.ca](mailto:admin@rmofspiritwood.ca) by 4:00 pm Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Issued this 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2026

Colette Bussiere,  
Development Officer



# SRPSD passes 2026/2027 budget

By **JORDAN TWISS**  
*Shellbrook Chronicle*  
Reporter

Following months of deliberations, the Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division (SRPSD) board has passed the division's 2026-2027 budget, charting its course over the next year.

As SRPSD CFO Jerr-old Pidborochynski explains, the budget development process begins in October, with the board setting out principles and guidelines for its preparation. Then, in January, the division makes its student enrolment projections, which are critical to Ministry of Education funding, and finalizes its staffing projections and other

associated costs.

"Following the provincial budget announcement in March, funding allocations are confirmed, allowing administration to complete final budget adjustments to achieve a balanced budget," Pidborochynski said. "The Board approves the budget in May, and it is subsequently submitted to the Ministry by June 30 for final review and approval."

Called a positive step forward for SRPSD, the budget pegs revenues and expenses at \$132.2 million.

With the school division employing 1,127 full-time equivalent staff members, salaries and benefits account for \$98.9 million or 74.8

per cent of total expenses.

The remainder is earmarked to align with the SRPSD's 2024-2030 Strategic Plan, which is built upon five key pillars: learning and innovation, mental health and well-being, governance and leadership, citizenship and relationships, and inclusion and cultural responsiveness.

The school division didn't have to dip into its reserves to balance this year's budget, but did pull \$400,000 from its technology reserve — something Pidborochynski says the school division does every four or five years.

Pidborochynski also says the school division avoided cuts, despite a decrease in enrolment.

"Continued funding that aligns with the needs of our students remains essential as we work together to provide a strong, inclusive education for the next generation," the school division said in a release about the budget.

Going beyond the scope of this year's budget, the SRPSD board also approved a new three-year Preventative Maintenance and Renewal (PMR) plan and budget.

The division's prima-

ry focus over the three-year period is roofing and mechanical infrastructure. Projects approved for 2027-2028 include replacing the sprinkler system at Big River High School, and a boiler replacement at Wild Rose Public School. Big River High School is also slated for a boiler replacement in 2028-2029.

The other big ticket item on the horizon for the SRPSD is an amalgamated K-12 school in Shellbrook to re-

place W.P. Sandin High School and Shellbrook Elementary School.

The project officially received the green light in this year's provincial budget, more than 10 years after the school division flagged it as a top priority.

Pidborochynski says the new school is in the early design phase and still a couple years off.

As of last Friday, the division was waiting to hear from SaskBuilds to begin discussions about the project.

## Shellbrook Legion salutes 100 years

By **NANCY CARSWELL**  
*Shellbrook Legion*

Everyone is invited to step back in time for an evening of music, dancing, memories, and community spirit as the Shellbrook Royal Canadian Legion Branch 111 marks the Legion's 100th anniversary with a Victory in Europe (VE) Day themed dance. The celebration will take place at the Legion Hall on Saturday, May 23.

The evening will feature dance music from the wartime years to today, along with trivia games highlighting Canadian and Shellbrook's own veterans. Co-treasurer Nancy Carswell says the event was inspired by the joy that followed Victory in Europe Day in 1945.

"We felt a dance would be the perfect way to recognize the Legion's centenary," she explains. "Our focus is on VE Day, when people across allied nations filled the streets with music and dancing after years of war."

Carswell and her daughter Alana, an archivist, worked together to create the evening's trivia questions, many of them connected to Shellbrook's own military history. "To make the trivia game more fun, we're sharing a few clues ahead of time," Carswell says.

In May 1945, Canadians celebrated the surrender of Germany and the end of the war in Europe. Less than a year earlier, Canadian troops had landed on Juno Beach during D-Day, helping turn the tide of the war. In the months that followed, Canadian

soldiers helped liberate the Netherlands, where Canadian veterans are still honoured today.

Closer to home, the Shellbrook War Memorial Cenotaph has stood since 1923, honouring local men who never returned home from the First and Second World Wars. Saskatchewan communities also made enormous sacrifices during wartime, with thousands serving overseas, including nurses with the Canadian Army Medical Corps while families at home supported the war effort through farming, fundraising, rationing, and volunteer work.

Every morning at 11 o'clock, a page of Canada's Books of Remembrance is turned in the Peace Tower in Ottawa, giving Canadians a daily opportunity to reflect on the achievements, service, and sacrifices of those who served their country.

Everyone is welcome to attend the May 23 evening, whether they have a military connection or simply want to enjoy an evening of music, local history, and community fellowship. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 and include a late-night lunch. A cash bar will also be available.

Organizers hope the evening will bring people together to remember, honour, and share stories.

As part of its 100th anniversary celebrations this year, the Royal Canadian Legion is also offering free memberships to new members. More information is available at legion.ca or by calling Maurice Tanchuk at 306-714-7043.

### 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)

**SHELLBROOK:** Musical Salute - Marking 100 years of the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 111 (101 2nd Ave E, Shellbrook). Saturday, May 23, 7pm. Music from WWI & WWII, 40s/50s. Honouring our veterans trivia games. \$15 per person, Cash Bar, Late Night Lunch. Funding for this project has been applied for through Veterans Affairs Canada.

**PARKSIDE:** Honeywood (Dr. A.J. Porter) Heritage Nursery Inc. *Provincial Heritage Site*, Parkside, SK - Now Open Daily 9 am to 5 pm. Annuals, new & old lily varieties, fruit & ornamental trees, assortment of perennial plants. Gift/garden Shop - Honeywood Jellies, Seed Potatoes & much more! Ph: 306-747-3307 or email honeywoodn8@gmail.com

**LEASK:** Leask Community Garage Sale Days - Friday, May 29th & Saturday, May 30th. Various locations - look for balloons around town! Playground Committee BBQ on Main Street on Friday. Book Sale at the Library Friday & Saturday, 9am to 5pm.

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## Global hunger staggering, inexcusable

If there is one thing we know if we follow agriculture in Canada, it's that farmers here can produce food.

Food grain production has always been a major aspect of this country.

It was the driving force behind the colonization of the Prairies, and while there were massively huge mistakes made in terms of how that transpired with First Nations people, it was crucial in the future development of Canada.

This country became widely known as the "breadbasket for

the world," based on its ability to produce and market high grade wheat for flour.

Today, Canada still produces far more than it consumes and markets the extra to the world.

Obviously, Canada is not the only food producing export country. When you look at the potential worldwide, you'd think that farmers could produce enough to feed the world — even as the population continues to grow.

But sadly, that is not the case.

What farmers produce doesn't always get



CALVIN DANIELS

to all the hungry people. Given the technologies available to us today, we should be doing better in terms of feeding the world.

It is a situation which made one paragraph in a recent Brandon Sun article a stark reminder of the situation.

The story was about Dale Friesen, who visited Kenya with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. It was an interesting story, but the paragraph that hit home so hard was actually the last in the article, a sort of tag on if you will.

It stated, "according to the charity, 757 million people around the globe are experiencing hunger, and one in 11 continue to be impacted by hunger. Friesen said across the world, war is the biggest driver of that problem."

That's a double whammy of disturbing

in my books.

On the one hand, the scale of hunger is terrifying. It's some 200 million more than the population of Canada, the United States and Mexico combined.

One simply looks at the number, shakes their head, and asks, "How is that possible?"

Then Friesen offers up the answer in a single word: wars.

And its again a shake of the head and a question how are wars still a thing? Did we learn nothing with Nazi death camps in WWII? Do we not see the sheer horror of a bombed school

in Iran? Do we not understand Russia has no reason to be shooting people in Ukraine?

Amid the carnage of war people go hungry.

And imagine how many could be fed, housed, cared for if the money spent on military assault rifles, bombs, ships, fighter planes went to humanitarian aid instead. We could actually go to sleep one night, knowing no one went hungry that day.

It is something that should be happening every day, and yet somehow it eludes the grasp of humanity.

## Ag Committee calls for reversal of cuts

By JORDAN TWISS

Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

After a months-long investigation, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food is calling on the federal government to reverse planned funding cuts to agriculture research, and re-open seven research facilities and satellite research farms.

The committee's findings were published May 6 in a report titled *Science in Canadian Agriculture and the Closure of Research Centres*. The report was compiled based on more than two dozen in-person witness testimonies and 15 written briefs, none of which supported the cuts and closures, and it includes 20 recommendations for the federal government.

The report also calls on the federal government to: recognize the agriculture and agri-food industry as a strategic sector on par with energy in terms of national security and food security as a national security issue; table site-specific cost-benefit analysis, to justify the proposed closures and assess the irreversibility profile of the closures; and develop and implement a strategy to strengthen collaboration across the agriculture and agri-food innovation ecosystem.

Absent a change of course, the report recommends that the federal government table an action plan setting out how research conducted by the research centres and experimental farms affected by proposed closures or cuts will be continued and how much funding will go toward its research projects.

"It's great to see there was unanimous support for reversing the cuts to agriculture research centres and experimental farm sites," said Cathy Holtslander, the National Farmers' Union's (NFU) director of research and policy.

"The committee found that the de-

cision to cut all this research capacity was wrong. And they're asking the government to reverse that decision."

At the end of January, to save money and trim burgeoning government ranks, Prime Minister Mark Carney's federal government announced cuts to staffing at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC). Almost immediately, 665 department positions were eliminated, and more than 1,000 employees received termination notices.

Additionally, AAFC announced the closure of research facilities in Guelph, Ont., Québec City, and Lacombe, Alta., as well as satellite research farms in Indian Head, Sask., Scott, Sask., Portage la Prairie, Man., and Nappan, N.S., and the country's only Organic and Regenerative Research Program headquartered at Swift Current.

However, Holtslander said it was clear that the government hadn't done its research.

In addition to the jobs lost, Holtslander said the cuts and closures threatened Canada's public plant breeding program, which has been developed over the past century with the understanding that Canada's climate poses unique challenges that aren't experienced in other countries.

Holtslander said the federal government had already been underfunding the program in recent years. Noting that it already takes 10 to 15 years to bring new varieties to fruition, Holtslander added that the federal government's cuts could make that timeline even longer and produce an inferior end product.

"When you have all these sites to do your testing, you're going to get very rich data and you'll be able to quickly decide if a variety looks promising," she said. "All of that really feeds into developing varieties that will be good for farmers and our agricultural economy."

Focusing on the cuts' affects in Saskatchewan, Holtslander said the biggest loss from the closure of the Indian Head research farm is the seed increase unit, which provides seed to growers to grow seed crops, who then provide certified seed for producers.

The Indian Head farm was responsible for stewarding about 300 varieties in controlled conditions to maintain purity and quality and avoid contamination with seed-borne diseases and weeds. All told, it provided seed for 20 million acres of crops grown across western Canada.

Though there have been talks of relocating the seed increase program, a clear plan has yet to emerge. Holtslander said it's also not that simple, as there's no location with adequate facilities, and some seeds can't be transplanted.

As for the Scott Research Farm, it was home to projects aimed at helping producers deal with herbicide residues left on their crops. The soil at the farm was especially important for Saskatchewan producers, as it breaks down herbicides more slowly and doesn't exist anywhere outside of the province.

Though the federal government has 120 days to respond to the committee's report, Holtslander says urgent action is needed now.

"We need them to stop the process of shutting down the research facilities and organic program urgently," Holtslander said, noting that the technical staff that work at the facilities are slated to be terminated on May 22.

"Much of the value of the research is that it's continuous; it builds year after year. We need to protect what we have in place and prevent it from being destroyed so that the decision to reverse the cuts will be meaningful."

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Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald



# SHS stages deliciously dark comedy

## Continued from 1

Supporting the drama troupe from SHS were staff and parents, key among whom were Wendy Brewer, Robert Demencuik, Shannon MacFarlane, and Tara Petersen. Petersen, who also teaches Foods 30, inspired her class to bake treats for the performance after-party.

Once the play was finished, the audience mingled with the cast and crew while enjoying “finger” cupcakes and “earthworm” parfaits.

The cast of *We Found a Finger* includes Cia Demencuik-Angus (Sophia), Sophie Fineday (Aubrey), Brock Fry (Jackson), Josie

Bennett (Emma), Live Slater (Olivia), Treyton Ledinski (Lucas), and Kalem Battersby (Danny).

Niveditha Kurup served as stage manager and set designer, Kelsey Doucette was assistant stage manager, Andrew Baesa handled lighting, sound, and set design, Glyn Demencuik-Angus handled set building and ran the crew, Keira Tootoois assisted with set design, and Saphira Naytowhow and Zaylie Pahtayken did hair and make-up.

The production was directed by Wendy Brewer, Robert Demencuik, Shannon MacFarlane, and Tara Petersen.



Brock Fry talks with Josie Bennett (right) while Liv Slater and Treyton Ledinski look on.



Sophie Fineday (left) and Cia Demencuik-Angus (right) grow their own boyfriend (Brock Fry) by planting his severed finger in a garden.



The two girls gush over Jackson until his girlfriend arrives, played by Josie Bennett (left).



Audience members enjoyed mingling with cast and crew while sampling finger cupcakes.

## Minutes of Spiritwood Town Council meetings

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

### March 10

The regular meeting of the Council of the Town of Spiritwood was held in the Council Chambers at the Spiritwood Town Office, 212 Main Street, on March 10, 2026, at 7 p.m.

Present at the meeting were Mayor Gary von Holwede, Councillors Ragnar Latus, John Go, Shane Colley, Mark Corfield, and Jim Bedi, and CAO Rhonda Saam.

A quorum being present, Mayor Von Holwede called the meeting to order at 6:57 p.m.

Colley: That the agenda be adopted as presented. Carried

Go: That the minutes of the regular meeting on Feb. 24 be approved as presented. Carried

Town Foreman Neil Gaboury entered the council meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Neil provided updates regarding public works winter season, the water treatment plant and discussed replacing the seasonal public works position.

Neil left the council meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Bedi: That the correspondence be filed as presented. Carried

Bedi: That the Accounts for Ratification, Cheque No. 34316 to 34337

and payment #2080 to 2082 in the amount of \$119,076.81 be approved as presented. Carried

Colley: That the Accounts for Approval, Cheque No. 34338 to 34346 and Payment #2083 in the amount of \$13,631.33 be approved as presented. Carried

Colley: That the Bank Reconciliation for the month of February 2026 be approved as presented. Carried

Bedi: That the Financial Statement for the month of February 2026 be approved as presented. Carried

Bedi: That the reports be filed as presented. Carried

Corfield: That we approve Building & Development Permit #01-2026 to renovate the residence located on Lot 10 Block 16 Plan BK4385, with the condition of approval of compliance to the Town of Spiritwood Zoning Bylaws, and the building permit pending authorization from the Building Inspector. Carried

Corfield: That after reviewing the Spiritwood R.C.M.P. 2026 Annual Performance Plan, we continue supporting the following priorities for the Town of Spiritwood;

1. Drugs — increased visibility, public education/school presentations, targeting warrants, increase in intel gathering.

2. Community Engagement —

school visits, community sports, community bbq, attend community events.

And, that if new priorities arise during the year, we can reassess and change focus and direction at that time. Carried

Bedi: That we approve the request from the RM of Spiritwood to use the Cemetery funds for purchasing the land for cemetery expansion as well as subdivision and consolidation costs. Carried

Go: That we do not participate in an annual desktop valuation service as proposed by SunCorp Valuations. Carried

Latus: That this meeting be adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

### March 24

The regular meeting of the Council of the Town of Spiritwood was held in the Council Chambers at the Spiritwood Town Office, 212 Main Street, on March 24, 2026, at 7 p.m.

Present at the meeting were Mayor Gary von Holwede, Councillors Ragnar Latus, John Go, Shane Colley, Mark Corfield, Adam Gatzke, and Jim Bedi, and CAO Rhonda Saam.

A quorum being present, Mayor Von Holwede called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Go: That the agenda be adopted as presented. Carried

Colley: That the minutes of the

regular meeting on March 10, 2026 be approved as presented. Carried

Sgt Carlin Thiessen entered the council meeting at 7 p.m. to discuss the annual performance plan and expectations and concerns regarding the community.

Sgt Carlin Thiessen left the council meeting at 7:36 p.m.

Go: That the correspondence be filed as presented. Carried

Bedi: That the Accounts for Ratification, Cheque No. 34347 to 34355 in the amount of \$12,147.80 be approved as presented. Carried

Colley: That the Accounts for Approval, Cheque No. 34356 to 34366 and payment #2084 to 2086 in the amount of \$30,567.09 be approved as presented. Carried

Colley: That the reports be filed as presented. Carried

Bedi: That we send the CAO, Rhonda Saam, to the 2026 UMAAS Convention in Saskatoon on June 2 to 5. Carried

Corfield: That the town office will be closed to the public on June 5. Carried

Corfield: That we acknowledge and accept Glennalda Saam's letter of resignation from the Spiritwood Recreation Facility Supervisor position effective Sept. 1, 2026. Carried

Gatzke: That this meeting be adjourned at 8:14 p.m. Carried

# Growing heirlooms in your garden: Part 2

By **PATRICIA HANBIDGE**  
*Orchid Horticulture*

Growing heirlooms is something that should always be considered. We need to consciously make the effort to preserve our genetic diversity for future generations. It is also something that honours plants that we have grown over the centuries.

One thing that I always notice as a very visible difference between hybrids and heirlooms is that when you plant a field of hybrid plants, they will be almost completely identical like a brigade of soldiers. When you plant a field of heirlooms you will see subtle variations in colours and forms that somehow feels more freeing.

In my garden, I usually grow a combination of hybrid and heirloom plants. Often some of the heirloom

plants will be better producers than the hybrid plants. I like to use the tomato as an example. Tomatoes are hot crops and like to see warm, sunny days for best production.

However, some of the heirloom tomatoes that I always grow thrive when the weather is cooler. I figure that as I do not have the power to dictate the weather, if I grow tomatoes that thrive in hot weather and some that thrive in cooler weather – I am always guaranteed a tomato crop!

Growing heirlooms tells stories that we would otherwise never experience. Over the years, I have grown many heirlooms, and many have stood out as leaders in my garden. However, there is one ultimate tomato that wins for fast germination, amazing growth and a flavour that is seriously to die for.

This unnamed variety of tomato we call “Nella”. We received some tomatoes from a lovely woman by that name. Nella had traded and saved seeds even after her immigration to Canada with her brother who still lives in the old country. Their family and friends have traded and saved seeds for many generations on both sides of the border between Croatia and Italy.

My experience with Nella (the tomato) is unparalleled as even after saving the seeds in a not ideal environment for more than a year or two, they all germinated and left all the other heirloom tomatoes we are growing behind. The fruit is a pinky red colour and these tomatoes should be picked when they are not fully ripe for the best flavour. In spite of having many favourite heirlooms, I really do think that Nella ranks at the top.

As far as peppers go – I have a few favourites. As we can use peppers in many ways, in my opinion we should grow many different peppers! I hope you enjoy a look into my favourites.

Jimmy Nardello is a Sweet Italian pepper that is without doubt the best banana type of pepper for frying or for pasta sauces. It has a slightly spicy flavour lending itself to a delectable feast whether eaten raw or cooked. Great for containers as at maturity it is about 24 inches high.

Purple Beauty is a mid-sized lobed sweet bell pepper which begins as a

lovely purple colour and deepens to almost black when completely ripe. Lovely raw or cooked.

Long Red Cayenne is one of my favourite peppers as it is great used fresh but also holds its colour when strung and dried. Cayenne peppers are one of the most popular peppers used in the Western hemisphere with the name originating in the city of Cayenne in French Guiana which is the home where this pepper originates. It is a very productive plant with a height and spread of up to 18 inches. The fruit is thinly curved beginning as a bright emerald green and maturing into a wrinkled red fruit. Caution is advised with these peppers as they are very hot at 30,000 to 50,000 SHU.

*Hanbidge is the Lead Horticulturist with Orchid Horticulture. Find us at [www.orchidhort.com](http://www.orchidhort.com); by email at [growyourfuture@gmail.com](mailto:growyourfuture@gmail.com) on facebook @orchidhort and on instagram at #orchidhort.*



Jimmy Nardello peppers. Photo credit: Hudson Valley Seed Co

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## Canwood students learn at library



Canwood Public School's Grade 7 class had a fun, educational trip to the Canwood Library. Lucille Scott shared her life experiences with them, read *Stinky Sock Jam*, and discussed her illustrations in the book. Each page has a chickadee on it, and students were guided in drawing and painting their own cute bird. Following this, everyone enjoyed a taste of bannock and “stinky sock jam,” which tasted much better than it smelled!

By **BEV WYATT**, Canwood Library Board

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## Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald



# Sask. marks end of spring sitting

By EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
Submitted

The Spring Sitting of the Second Session of the Thirtieth Legislature came to a close Thursday, May 14, with the government successfully advancing on its commitment to protect Saskatchewan in vital areas like affordability, the economy and health care.

Premier Scott Moe remains committed to keeping life affordable, while maintaining the province's economic growth in today's unpredictable geopolitical environment.

"Our government recognizes the challenges people face both in Saskatchewan and across the nation," Moe said. "In response to those challenges, we are proud of the recent provincial budget that provides strong investments in healthcare, education, community safety and affordability, all to protect Saskatchewan's families and the communities they call home."

Health care received record funding of \$8.5 billion this year. The government also introduced the Patients First Health Care Plan, designed to

ensure people receive the right care, at the right time, in the right place.

Community safety is another priority for this government. It is enhancing law enforcement with the hiring and support of police officers by increasing measures such as the Municipal Police Grant.

Education is seeing record investments to ensure students get their best start with operating funding of \$2.5 billion, additional specialized support classrooms, new capital projects, as well as the renewal and enhancement of the child care agreement with the Government of Canada.

The government continues to work to strengthen and diversify the provincial economy. The provincial budget invests in critical infrastructure and career training for tomorrow's workforce, while keeping Saskatchewan's regulatory environment competitive for private investment. This approach is already seeing success, with a total of 60 projects representing a total investment of \$62 billion underway in Saskatchewan.

This session continued to deliver

on commitments made in the Throne Speech, passing a suite of legislation introduced in the fall.

Bills passed:

- The Compassionate Intervention Act - Introduces a path to recovery for those who can no longer make the choice to enter into recovery themselves. This will be initiated by family members, law enforcement and a judge.

- The Building Schools Faster Act - Enhances the ability of the Government of Saskatchewan to work with municipalities to ensure adequate land is available for school builds, preventing unnecessary delays to construction.

- The Saskatchewan Firearms Amendment Act - Protects law abiding firearms owners from the federally imposed firearm confiscation program.

- The Saskatchewan Internal Trade Promotion Act - Reduces interprovincial trade barriers to grow the Saskatchewan economy

- The Tailgating Act - Allows for tailgating events to be held prior to Rider games, with potential to ex-

pand to other events.

- The Cyberstalking and Coercive Control Act - Protects victims of interpersonal violence by creating new penalties for cyberstalking.

- The Heritage Recognition (From Many Peoples, Strength) Act - Creates a framework to recognize Saskatchewan's many cultural days through legislation.

- The Municipalities Modernization and Red Tape Reduction Act - Reduces unnecessary paperwork and duplication for municipalities.

- The Response to Illicit Drugs Act - Creates new penalties for and allows the victims of drug crimes to sue drug dealers.

- The Income Tax Amendment Act - Doubles the volunteer first responders tax credit to \$6,000.

"This session, our government looked to both the Throne Speech and the 2024 provincial election to set our priorities," Moe said. "Going into the summer, we will be out in communities, engaging with people and businesses to understand the best ways we can continue to protect Saskatchewan."

## Sask. Party shuts down NDP bills

By SASK NDP  
Submitted

As the Spring Session comes to an end, Scott Moe and the Sask. Party are refusing to pass more than 20 bills from the Saskatchewan NDP that would make life more affordable, bring needed changes to healthcare and so much more.

Among the legislation ignored by Moe's out-of-touch government are bills to lower power rates, cut taxes on groceries and children's clothing, bring in desperately needed rent control and force the Saskatchewan Health Authority's hand to sign contracts with frontline healthcare workers who

have gone four years without a raise.

The prices of many essential food items have shot up 50 per cent since Scott Moe became Premier, gas prices have surged by 50 cents or more per litre in recent weeks, and rent has risen in Saskatchewan for 43-straight months and climbing.

"This session, our team introduced a series of laws that would instantly make life more affordable in Saskatchewan - Scott Moe and the Sask. Party ignored them all," said Carla Beck.

"This government continues to tell people making impossible decisions between putting food on the kitchen ta-

ble and keeping a roof over their heads not to worry. That's insulting, it's ignorant and it's further proof of a government long past its best-before date. It's time for change in Saskatchewan."

A full list of legislation introduced by Carla Beck's team this session is below:

- Bill 606 - The Provincial Health Authority (ER Closure right-to-know) Amendment Act.

- Bill 607 - The Fransaskois Community Consultation Act / Loi de consultation de la communauté fransaskoise.

- Bill 608 - The Rent Control Act, 2025.

- Bill 609 - The Saskatchewan Wildfire

Strategy Act.

- Bill 610 - The Provincial Health Authority (ER Virtual Physician right-to-know) Amendment Act.

- Bill 611 - The Constitutional Questions (Notwithstanding Clause Referral) Amendment Act.

- Bill 612 - The Lower Power Bills and Car Insurance Act.

- Bill 613 - The Saskatchewan Farm Security (Foreign Farmland Ownership) Amendment Act.

- Bill 614 - The Saskatchewan Medical Care Insurance (Banning Private Fees) Amendment Act.

- Bill 615 - The Provincial Health Authority (Banning Parking Fees

for Cancer Patients) Amendment Act.

- Bill 616 - The Islamic Heritage Month Act.

- Bill 617 - The Provincial Health Authority (Family Physician Registry) Amendment Act.

- Bill 618 - The Provincial Health Authority (Prohibiting Anonymous Reporting Mechanisms) Amendment Act.

- Bill 619 - The Consumer Protection and Business Practices (Banning Unfair A.I. Pricing) Amendment Act.

- Bill 620 - The Restricting Property Controls for Grocery Stores and Supermarkets Act.

- Bill 621 - The Public Works and Services (Prioritizing Local

Jobs) Amendment Act.

- Bill 622 - The Provincial Health Authority (Executive Pay Freeze) Amendment Act.

- Bill 624 - The Provincial Sales Tax Amendment Act, 2026.

- Bill 625 - The Members' Conflict of Interest Amendment Act.

- Bill 626 - The Lobbyists Transparency Amendment Act.

- Bill 628 - The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Amendment Act.

- Bill 629 - The Child and Family Services (Betty's Law) Amendment Act.

- Bill 630 - The Public Health Care Transparency and Accountability Act.

## Sask. seeks feedback on adoption changes

By MINISTRY OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
Submitted

The Government of Saskatchewan is seeking input on proposed amendments to The Adoption Act, 1998, and The Adoption Regulations, 2003, that will modernize adoption legislation to better reflect today's social, cultural and legal landscape.

"Adoption is an act of love and compassion that builds strong families and changes lives," Social Services Minister Terry Jenson said. "Our

government is proposing legislative amendments to strengthen children's safety, identity and community connections, while better reflecting today's social, cultural and legal landscapes."

The proposed changes aim to reduce barriers to accessing information, create connection to culture and identity, and improve transparency. Indigenous identity, culture, language and community will be central to the revised legislation. The four areas of proposed change are:

- Enhancing cultural continuity and community connections
- Reducing barriers to family connections
- Clarifying residency requirements
- Strengthening safeguards for children in interprovincial and independent adoptions

The proposed legislative changes will strengthen the adoption process, ensure consistency and better support families and children. Anyone wishing to provide feedback on these proposed

changes are invited to complete an online survey on [Saskatchewan.ca](https://www.saskatchewan.ca). The survey is open until June 2, 2026. Written submissions are also welcomed from anyone with experience or interest in adoption in Saskatchewan. Additional information is available on [Saskatchewan.ca](https://www.saskatchewan.ca).

Feedback from individuals and families who have experience with adoption along with service providers and Indigenous organizations is critical to ensuring amendments reflect lived

experience and operational realities. Updates on the legislative process, including a summary of what we heard through the engagement process, will be shared on [Saskatchewan.ca](https://www.saskatchewan.ca).

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## End of the road for LIV Golf?

The four-year effort to create a rival golf league to the PGA Tour appears to be on its deathbed. The Saudi Arabia-based LIV golf league, bankrolled by the country's trillion-dollar Public Investment Fund (PIF), will be kept alive until the end of the 2026 season and after that, all bets are off.

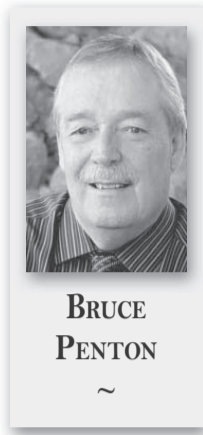
Formed in 2022, LIV golf turned the professional game on its ear, enticing some of the world's best players to leave the PGA Tour in exchange for millions of dollars.

The LIV Tour featured tournaments lasting 54 holes and its players formed four-man teams that competed for additional prize money in addition to individual play. Efforts to attract television viewers, however, failed miserably and most golf fans basically tuned out the LIV experiment.

After four years and a reported \$5 billion bleed, operators of the Saudis' PIF are apparently saying 'no more,'

citing changing economic and investment goals. One of its tournaments, scheduled for June in Louisiana, is being postponed and rescheduled for the fall. That announcement was the first real sign of a major crack in the LIV setup, but indications of crumbling have been seen for months.

Exhibit A was Brooks Koepka, leaving LIV with one year to go on his contract and asking for reinstatement on the PGA Tour. A special arrangement was made in January to allow any former major champion on the LIV circuit since 2022 to seek a return to the PGA Tour, with some financial penalties, but Koepka was the only one to jump. Others eligible in that 'major champion' category were Jon Rahm, Cam Smith and Bryson DeChambeau, but they all declined. Patrick Reed, meanwhile, is returning to the PGA Tour via a different path; he has been competing on the DP World Tour and its



BRUCE  
PENTON

bylaws say the top 10 at the end of each season earn PGA Tour cards. Reed has won twice in Europe this season and will easily snag one of those 10 cards for the 2027 season.

LIV's 54-hole tournaments and team golf concept didn't resonate with golf fans. When the likes of Rahm, Johnson and DeChambeau fled to LIV and banked huge cheques from the Saudis (as much as a reported \$400 million for Rahm), it was almost as if those stars had retired to a life of exhibition golf in a vacuum. Their positions in the Official World Golf Ranking slid as

OWGR points were not available for LIV competition (negotiations have since changed that) and their world rankings were often used as qualifiers for major events.

LIV officials say independent financing is being sought and hopefully be in place in time for the 2027 season. PGA Tour officials, meanwhile, are having discussions about setting up paths for LIV players' return to the world's No. 1 tour.

However this PGA Tour-LIV Golf kerfuffle ends up, it appears that golf fans will once again have ALL of the world's best players regularly competing against each other. It's almost certain LIV will die and become a memory, soon to be forgotten.

• Headline at the on-ion.com: "Racehorse Receives Carrot Every Time He Wins \$2 Million For Owner"

• Sean McIndoe of The Athletic, referencing Columbus coach Rick Bowness's rant after the Jackets' final

NHL game this season: "A dose of reality is a good thing, especially when it's delivered by a cranky grandpa who's had enough of you punk kids."

• Comedy guy Steve Burgess of Vancouver, on the NHL draft lottery: "The Canucks could pick no lower than No. 3. Aaaaand No. 3 it is. Why did they bother with the draw? Just have a machine full of ping pong balls that all say 'Screw you, Vancouver.'"

• Globe and Mail columnist Cathal Kelly: "The Leafs just got creative by tapping John Chayka, a guy who couldn't get a job in hockey, to run their hockey ops."

• Another one from Kelly, assuming the Leafs will pick Gavin McKenna with the No. 1 pick in the draft: "McKenna's arrival makes it easier to sell the Leafs' other No. 1 pick, Auston Matthews, on the idea that he isn't a passenger on a hot-air balloon whose pilot light has

gone out."  
• Golfer Michelle Wie, after shooting 82 in her first competitive round in three years: "I was like, wow, the hole all of a sudden looks so small. Got to a two-footer and I'm like, I'm not going to hit the hole. No way."

• Headline at the on-ion.com: "Carlos Alcaraz Withdraws From French Open Over Career-Threatening Haircut."

• Headline at fark.com: "That whooshing sound is either the loose bodies in Tarik Skubal's elbow or possibly the sound of the Tigers' odds of making the playoffs vanishing into a vacuum."

• Cathal Kelly again, on the Leafs' Auston Matthews: "Most nights, he looks like he does this job as part of his bail conditions."

• Steve Simmons of the Toronto Sun: "I told someone where Gavin McKenna was from: They thought I said UConn."

Care to comment? Email [brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca](mailto:brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca)

## Finance Minister spent \$12K on budget speech writer

By **FRANCO TERRAZZANO**  
CTF Director

One of the key responsibilities of the finance minister is the annual federal budget speech. But it turns out Finance Minister François-Philippe Champagne didn't write the speech. Neither did his staff.

Instead, the government paid an outside contractor \$12,000 to help write it, despite promising to spend less on outside contractors.

"Why are taxpayers paying so much money for communications bureaucrats if we're then forced to pay thousands getting outside help to do their homework?" said Franco Terrazzano, Federal Director of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation. "If Winston Churchill found time to write speeches while fighting the Nazis, it's a good bet Champagne can find some time to write his own speeches.

"It's particularly insulting that the finance minister promised to spend less on consultants in the budget but spent \$12,000 contracting out his budget speech."

The finance department spent \$12,168 on a "speechwriting contract" to help write the finance minister's budget speech, according to government records reviewed by the CTF.

Taxpayers already spend millions

of dollars on the finance department's communications staff.

The finance department and Champagne have a press secretary, John Fragos, a communications director, Audrey Milette, an acting director general of communications and public affairs, a communications manager and an actual "legislative speech writer." Salaries for these positions range from about \$100,000 to about \$170,000 per year.

The finance department also employs four "communications officers," five "communications advisors," four "correspondence analysts" and four "communications strategists."

All told, the finance department employs 23 in-house communications staff paid an estimated \$2 million in total.

Yet the department still paid more than \$12,000 for external speechwriting for the budget speech.

Champagne's \$12,000 outsourced speech, delivered in the House of Commons on Nov. 4, 2025, lasted about one hour, including pauses for applause and cheers from the Liberal bench. That's \$200 per minute.

Meanwhile, the federal government borrowed \$67 billion in 2025-26. That means the federal debt increased \$7.6 million during Champagne's hour-long speech.

"Why are taxpayers paying for so many communications staff if the finance minister and all of his staff can't even write their own budget speech?" Terrazzano said. "If your boss can contract out your key job, then what's the point of having you on payroll?"

"Either we get rid of the bureaucrats or we get rid of the contractors because taxpayers shouldn't be paying for both to do the same thing."

While the finance department spent \$12,000 contracting out the finance minister's budget speech, the actual budget said the government is "limiting spending on ... external consultants."

Prime Minister Mark Carney has

also said his government would be "significantly reducing reliance on external consultants."

Despite Carney's promise, his government is increasing spending on consultants, contractors and outsourcing to almost \$27 billion in 2026. The cost of the federal bureaucracy is also increasing by another five per cent this year, according to the Main Estimates.

"Taxpayers are sick and tired of hearing politicians promise to spend less while they continue to spend more," Terrazzano said. "Here's a free way for the finance department to save money on contractors: Write your own speeches."



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# 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, March 17.

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, Assistant Administrator — Alan Tanchak, and Administrative Assistant — Jodi Gerich.

Absent was Administrator Linda Klimm.

The meeting was called to order by Reeve Glenn Lamontagne at 8:58 a.m.

Chudskov: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approves the March 17 agenda. Carried

Chudskov: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approves the Feb. 17 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. Carried

Lavoie: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 accept the February 2026 Statement of Financial Activities, Income Statement, Budgetary Control, Chequing Account State-

ment and Bank Reconciliation as presented and that it be noted the GIC is up for renewal June 5, 2026. Carried

Priestley: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approves the List of Accounts for Approval for March 2026, including cheques #7800 to #7843 with the total payable amount being \$64,559.36. Carried

Mark Curry presented his lead hand report from 9:06 AM to 9:45 a.m.

Lavoie: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 hires an electrician to repair light at community well. Carried

Swystun: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 accepts the quotes from Brandt Equipment and approves Mark Curry to order filters for \$4,212 plus applicable taxes and oil for \$9,200 plus applicable taxes, and directs Administration to check into warranty on the emissions equipment. Carried

Dolezal: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 accepts the quote from Triod Supply for a price of \$140 per 1' x 4' steel blade and to authorize Mark Curry to order 2 sets. Carried

Dolezal: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 accepts the quote from Dionco Sales and Service Ltd. for a price of \$645 per

carbide blade and to authorize Mark Curry to order 10 sections for the upcoming summer season. Carried

Chudskov: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approves the presented Council indemnity totaling \$3,926.15. Carried

Sgt. Phil Ingleby gave annual RCMP report from 9:46 AM to 10:01 a.m.

Swystun: That Bylaw 01-2026 being A Bylaw to Establish Extraction Fees, be read a third time, signed, sealed and that it form a part of these minutes. Carried

Auditor Elizabeth Torrens joined the meeting at 10:38 a.m.

Lavoie: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 move in camera to discuss Personnel Matters compliant with s. 120(2) of The Municipalities Act, and on the basis that the discussions that take place during the meeting apply to s. 16(1)(b) and (d) of The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the time being 10:39 a.m. Carried

Assistant Administrator Alan Tanchak and Administrative Assistant Jodi Gerich were asked to leave the meeting at 10:39 a.m.

Priestley: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 move out of camera, the time being 10:51 a.m. Carried

Assistant Administrator Alan Tanchak and Administrative Assistant Jodi Gerich were asked to return to Council Chambers at 10:52 a.m.

Auditor Elizabeth Torrens discussed the 2025 Audit from 10:38 a.m. to 11:44 a.m.

Lavoie: That Bylaw 02-2026 being A Bylaw to Establish a Road Maintenance Agreement, be read a third time, signed, sealed and that it form a part of these minutes. Carried

Lamontagne: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 amend resolution #016/26 to provide council remuneration with respect to special meetings as follows: less than 1 hour \$50, and 1 hour or more \$200. Carried

Lavoie: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 direct Administration to write a letter to the Department of Highways regarding the state of Highway 40. Carried

Chudskov: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 directs Administration to hire WSP to measure our gravel stockpiles at our 3 pit locations. Carried

Lavoie: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 directs Administration to write to the Department of Highways that the RM of Blaine Lake #434 is opting out of spring road bans. Carried

Swystun: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 amend resolution #507/25 to change the amount of the cash in lieu for the municipal reserve to \$1,400 based on fair market value, and that Community Planning and the ratepayer be notified of the change with respect to the subdivision of SE 25-42-07 W3. Carried

Swystun: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approves and directs Administration to write a Letter of Support to the Blaine Lake Community Cupboard. Carried

Casavant: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approves and directs Administration to order the pest control supplies from Triple M Rodent Products in the amount of \$5,140.95 plus applicable taxes. Carried

Swystun: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approves and directs Administration to pay the invoice from the Town of Shellbrook for the Doctor Recruitment Program in the amount of \$3,010. Carried

Casavant: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 agrees to enter into contract with GMA Consulting for collective bargaining. Carried

Chudskov: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 adjourn, the time being 12:57 p.m.

## Crop Report: May 5 to 11

By **MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**  
Submitted

With limited precipitation and runoff water receding over the past week, seeding is ramping up in many areas. Seeding is currently 16 per cent complete, up 13 per cent from last week. This is behind the five-year average of 28 per cent and the 10-year average of 27 per cent.

Most regions made considerable progress this week, especially in the southwest region where seeding is 34 per cent complete. The southeast region is 24 per cent and the west-central region is 13 per cent complete. The east-central region reports eight per cent, the northwest six per cent complete

and the northeast is at one per cent complete.

Most seeded acres are pulse crops, such as field peas and lentils, followed by cereals and oilseed crops that are beginning to make progress.

Overall, rainfall was limited throughout the province over the past week. The highest reported rainfall fell in the Francis, Rosthern and Milden areas at eight millimetres (mm) each. The Carrot River area recorded seven mm and the Arborfield area six mm. A few other areas reported trace to limited rainfall.

Topsoil moisture remains mostly adequate. However, dry and windy conditions are reducing the surplus water, resulting in a growing number of areas reporting a shortage.

Most producers are not concerned with water

quality for their livestock at this time. Currently, 75 per cent of producers report no shortage of on-farm surface water supplies for livestock occurring or anticipated, while none indicate severe shortages.

As seeding progresses, drivers are encouraged to watch for farm machinery on highways and roads during this busy season and producers are reminded to take precautions while transporting equipment.

The Farm Stress Line is available to producers, their families and farm employees through the toll-free number, 1-800-667-4442, at any time for confidential, free services from mental health professionals trained in issues facing producers.

A complete, printable version of the Crop Report is available online.

## GOOD NEWS

### YOU CAN TAKE IT WITH YOU

By **DEB ANDERSON**  
Submitted

We are only on this earth for a short time. The things we collect in our lives will not go with us into eternity. Anything that rusts or can be eaten by moths or can be stolen by a thief is not long lasting. If our "treasure" or money is set aside for physical things, it shows that this is what we care about. A wise man wants to invest well for the future.

Jesus advised to: "Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:20,21). These treasures go with us and stay with us forever. These are what really count. If we spend time storing up treasures in heaven, this shows that our heart is one with God and His will.

So, what kinds of things go with us

eternally? What kinds of good works build the kingdom of God? We can give to those in need. We give because it is the nature of God in us to give and care for others. "I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me." (Matthew 25: 35-36).

Also, it is important that the church

you attend has its heat bills paid in the winter and the lights on when people show up on Sunday morning. Contributions for such necessities, and minister's wages, come largely from attendees.

Sharing your hope and what God has done in your life can impact someone's eternal destiny. That's huge, and a reward that can never be stolen from you. We can store up treasures now that will last forever. That's a good investment.

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Words are not enough to express our heartfelt gratitude to our neighbours, friends and family who helped during our devastating house fire. Thank you to our neighbours who alerted us to the fact that there was a fire. Thank you to the Shellbrook Volunteer Fire Department for their prompt and professional work. Thank you to all the community members who hurried to fill water tanks over and over again. Thank you to the friends and family who so quickly rallied to bring food, clothing, toys, books and games for our family. Thanks to those who stopped by to give their support, without everyone's caring gestures we would not be in a near normal living state. We are so truly grateful to live in such a caring and generous community.  
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It is so sad to walk the road alone, Instead of side by side.  
But to all there comes a moment When the ways of life divide.  
You gave us years of happiness, Then came sorrow and tears.  
But you left us beautiful memories We will treasure through the years.

Forever loved and dearly missed by Rick, Nicole and Curtis, Shawna, Brad and Janine, Kayla and Travis and families.

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Sun. Mass - 9:30 a.m.  
Fr. Mariusz Zajac  
Big River - Sacred Heart  
Sun., 11:30 a.m. - Mass  
Whitefish  
Sun., 2:30 p.m. - Mass.  
Victoire  
Sat., 7:30 p.m. - Mass.  
Fr. Mariusz Zajac  
St. Agatha's - Shellbrook  
Mass - Sunday 11 a.m.  
St. Henry's - Leask  
Mass - Sunday 9 a.m.  
Mistawasis  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays 1:30 p.m.  
Fr. Tuan Doan  
**SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST**  
407-2<sup>nd</sup> Ave E, Shellbrook  
Sat., 9:45 a.m. - Sabbath  
School  
Sat., 11:00 am - Worship  
Pastor Myshan Irving  
306-747-3398  
**EVENING LIGHT TABERNACLE**  
Ahtahkakoop FN  
Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.  
Communion 1<sup>st</sup> Wed.  
of each month  
Pastor Burton Ahenakew  
306-468-7537

## PRAISE & WORSHIP

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

**PARTNERS IN FAITH**  
Lutheran/United/  
Christchurch Anglican,  
137-2nd St. W.  
Spiritwood  
Worship 11:00 a.m.  
Rev. Sarah Urano  
**UNITED /ANGLICAN**  
Worship Services  
Glaslyn  
Time is on the sign  
Rev. Kun Kim  
Rev. Don Skinner  
**CATHOLIC 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 10:00 a.m.  
306-883-8885  
**LAKELAND COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
(Corner of 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. and 4<sup>th</sup> 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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We are a non-profit community based organization that has since 1995 provided assistance and representation for EI claimants throughout Saskatchewan.

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Call 306-382-8662 for further information or visit [www.unemployedworkerscentre.org](http://www.unemployedworkerscentre.org)

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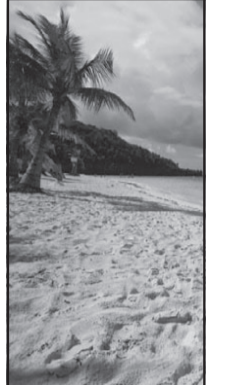
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### Spread your Blanket Here!



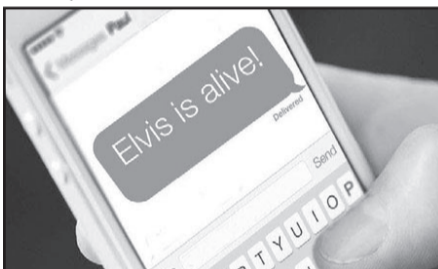
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<b>Colour is an additional \$90</b>	

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## Take advantage of our **COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

With the purchase of a 2 column x 2 inch display ad, we will advertise your community event in our Community Calendar **FREE** for two weeks prior to the event!

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