

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald

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W.P. Sandin celebrates Class of 2026



W.P. Sandin's class of 2026. Back row, left to right: Jesse Kreese, Dustin Lamontagne, Carter Herndier, Wyatt Henderson, Aiden Tait, Xander Dupuis, Davin Schmitz, Lane Keyowski, and Tanner Hoffarth. Middle: Hayley Van Hereweghe, Alex Kartes, Matt Muller, Peyton Ahenakew, Ayston Aiken, Austin Musgrave, Haden McLeod, and Airionna McQuillan. Front: Reese Galloway, Kallie Ferster, Adison Kyliuk, Madi Finlay, Brooklyn Klaassen, Gaia Smart, Kyleigh Schmalz, Emersyn Nahorniak, and Sara Verbonac.

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The 26 graduates in W.P. Sandin High School's Class of 2025 were toasted by the community with all the traditional pomp and circumstance during their graduation ceremony and parade on Friday, June 12.

The afternoon of celebration began in the school's gymnasium, which was decorated and intimately lit, and filled with proud and supportive parents, family members, friends and school staff.

Serving as the MCs for the graduation ceremony, staff members Devon and Dianne Thorpe introduced the graduates ahead of the traditional candle passing ceremony, during which the graduates walk onto the stage and pass a candle — symbolizing the flame of knowledge — to a friend or relative.

Once all the graduates were seated on the stage, the mic was passed to principal Tyler Kuzma, who began by reflecting on the class' decision to forego a theme this year. He then focused on describing the graduates through their

own words, before offering some important advice for the road ahead.

"No theme doesn't mean a lack of identity. It means there's not any one label to capture all of you. You are a class with different stories, different goals, and different definitions of success," he said.

"The world you're entering needs your energy, your creativity, and your willingness to take responsibility for your own path. It needs people who are willing to try, to fail, to learn, to adapt, and to keep moving forward."

Up next, former W.P. Sandin teacher James Meyers returned to the school to serve as the graduating class' guest speaker. Like principal Kuzma before him, he called upon the graduates' own words, using them as a mirror to reflect how much they've grown over the years.

Meyers also shared memories from both inside and outside the classroom with the graduates, and urged them to express gratitude to the family, friends, and teachers who helped them reach this moment.

"Be sure to move with grace, interact with respect and love," he said. "This

community has given you so much, so be helpful, committed, coach, lead, and give back wherever you end up. You've got what you need from all of us. Now it's up to you to use it."

From there, the mic was turned over to Class of 2026 valedictorian Adison Kyliuk, who began by reflecting upon how quickly graduation arrived, bringing an end to a chapter that once felt like it would last forever.

Closing out her speech, Kyliuk encouraged her classmates to not be afraid to walk along an imperfect road.

"Often, it's the winding road that teaches us the most, gives us the greatest adventures, and leaves us with the memories we treasure most," she said.

"As we step into this next chapter, remember that there's nothing to regret, only lessons to learn and experiences that help us grow. I hope that one day each of us can look back and say we were brave enough to chase the life we wanted."

Following Kyliuk's address, Hayley Van Hereweghe and Airionna McQuillan paid tribute to W.P. Sandin's staff, with teacher Pam Boettcher offering

the reply. Then, Emersyn Nahorniak and Aiden Tait toasted the parents, with Chantel Nahorniak and Shauna Tait giving the reply.

Closing out the speeches, Matt Muller and Xander Dupuis toasted and roasted the girls, and Reese Galloway, Kallie Ferster, and Kyleigh Schmalz did the same for the boys.

The ceremony concluded with the presentation of diplomas and plenty of time for visiting, before the graduates gathered once more for the graduation parade to bring the celebration to the whole community.

W.P. Sandin's class of 2026 is: Peyton Ahenakew, Ayston Aiken, Xander Dupuis, Kallie Ferster, Madi Finlay, Reese Galloway, Wyatt Henderson, Carter Herndier, Tanner Hoffarth, Alex Kartes, Lane Keyowski, Brooklyn Klaassen, Jesse Kreese, Adison Kyliuk, Dustin Lamontagne, Haden McLeod, Airionna McQuillan, Matt Muller, Austin Musgrave, Emersyn Nahorniak, Kyleigh Schmalz, Davin Schmitz, Gaia Smart, Aiden Tait, Hayley Van Hereweghe, and Sara Verbonac.

More photos on page 5



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

Medstead's Bedard wins discus gold at provincials

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

Student athletes from across Saskatchewan descended upon Saskatoon's Gordie Howe Complex on June 5 and 6 to compete in the Saskatchewan High Schools Athletics Association's Provincial track and field meet, with local schools being strongly represented among them.

Facing the best the province has to offer, the hometown talents proved they were equal to the challenge, and secured some serious hardware as well as a plethora of top 10 finishes, including a Provincial gold medal for Medstead Central School's Pablo Bedard in Senior Boys discus and a bronze medal in shotput.

Bedard previously won a silver medal in discus



Big River's Josh Christiansen (left) and Medstead's Pablo Bedard (middle) stand atop the podium after winning in Senior Boys discus.

in 2025. In improving upon his performance this year, he also threw a personal best of 47.78 metres.

Right next to Bedard on the podium for Senior Boys discus was

Big River High School's Josh Christiansen, who claimed a silver medal with a throw of 45.76 metres.

Rounding out the podium finishes, Shellbrook's Hunter Smith

ended the competition with two medals, including a silver medal in Junior Boys discus, and a bronze medal in shotput.

And thanks in part to Smith's medals, Shellbrook's W.P Sandin

High School was able to bring home the 2A School Team Championship with a combined total athlete score of 151 points (these points are tallied based on where athletes finish in their respective events).

Moving on to top 10 finishes, the Intermediate competition saw Medstead's Jesse Dzialo-Findlay finish 6th in Girls javelin, while Big River's Brody Fraser placed 6th in Boys javelin. Elsewhere, Shellbrook's Will Kasner earned 9th place finishes in the Boys 100-metre and 200-metre races, and Shellbrook's Camden Olsen finished 10th in Boys 3,000-metre race.

At the Junior level, Shellbrook's Reagan Collins had a busy two days with a 7th place finish in the Boys 200-metre race and 9th place finishes in the 100-metre race and triple jump.

Jersey Kereluk, also from Shellbrook, was just as busy, placing 7th in Girls long jump, 9th in the 400-metre race, and 10th in the 200-metre race.

Rounding out the results, Shellbrook's Thora Lenz placed 9th in Girls shotput, Canwood's Kovie Nordquist finished 9th in Boys high jump, and Becky Millar, also from Canwood, placed 10th in Girls high jump.

Finally, at the Senior level, Spiritwood's Emeri Simonar ran the distance with a 5th place finish in the Girls 3,000-metre race, a 6th place finish in the 1,500-metre race, and a 7th place finish in the 800-metre race.

Additionally, Spiritwood's Sarah McNabb finished 10th in the Girls 400-metre race, and Debden's Jessica Lockhart placed 9th in Girls javelin.



Shellbrook's Hunter Smith (left) won silver in Junior Boys discus at the Provincial Track and Field meet in Saskatoon.

SLFN signs service agreement with Sask. Marshals Service

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Leadership of the Sturgeon Lake First Nation (SLFN) has passed a Band Council resolution to begin formal discussions with Saskatchewan Marshals Service about providing on-reserve services alongside and in support of the RCMP.

The resolution, passed on June 8, will serve as the basis for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Saskatchewan Marshals Service, allowing the provincial police force to act proactively on SLFN lands.

Chief Christine Longjohn says the agreement is intended to strengthen public safety, improve communication, build co-ordination between the community and its law enforcement partners, and ease some of the burden on the overstretched RCMP.

"Our members deserve a safer community, and

that means addressing the real issues we are seeing on the ground — drugs, trespassing, theft and violence," Chief Longjohn said in a statement.

"This resolution allows us to begin formal discussions with the Saskatchewan Marshals Service to strengthen services on reserve, improve co-ordination with the RCMP, and ensure enforcement is carried out in a way that respects Sturgeon Lake First Nation."

Currently, the resolution only commits SLFN to good-faith, bilateral communications with the Saskatchewan Marshals Service. This may include information sharing, operational reporting following enforcement, or investigative activities on Sturgeon Lake First Nation lands, and other co-operative measures.

Chief Longjohn and the SLFN Band Council have directed that negotiations toward an MOU begin immediately.

Should the SLFN and Saskatchewan Marshals Service formalize and finalize an MOU, the RCMP will remain the community's police force of jurisdiction.

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Golden Host Players exit centre stage

By **MARJ BRADLEY**
Golden Host Players

In December 2011 a group of elder actors, who had been active in the Shellbrook Host Players, reorganized as the Golden Host Players (GHP). Pat Grayston held the position of chairperson, Merle Roberts, treasurer, and Marjorie Bradley, secretary. Those assignments did not change until October of 2025, when Pat Grayston indicated that she would no longer be active in the group.

In February 2026, five members of GHP met to discuss the group's future. The outcome of that and a subsequent meeting, was the recognition that the GHP had had a good run, and that it was time to let the curtain fall, and to disperse the funds the group still held, into the community.

On reflection, it was decided that the Shellbrook Theatre is a key resource for the arts in the community, being used by the schools, by the Legion and community churches for Remembrance Day, by Studio 747's dancers, by the Host Players and Golden Host Players, by the Prince Albert Strings Orchestra, by Kerri English's music students, for Arts Council shows, and for movie nights.

Presently, key concerns of the Shellbrook Theatre Committee are renovations to the stage, and roof repairs. The Golden Host Players hope that their \$4,955.59 cheque, will help with those endeavours.

In March 2009, the parent group, Host Players, mounted the play *All Aboard for Broadway*, and in the printed program (thanks to the Shellbrook Credit Union), there was a page of Very Special Recognition reading "to the Shellbrook Theatre Committee for the hours of volunteer labour in the renovation of the stage, to



Golden Host members donate a \$4,955.59 to the Shellbrook Theatre Committee. Pictured, left to right: Lorraine Thibeault, Merle Roberts, Marjorie Bradley, and Myron Wall. Missing: Marlene Fellows, John Hein.

Bruce Moe, without whose expertise, tools and shop, the renovations would not have progressed, to the Theatre Committee members for painting, to volunteers who assisted the Theatre Committee, to the Shellbrook Theatre Committee for all the project work they will need to do in order to pay for the stage renovations and flooring, to Wilbur Grayston for constructing the new light hangers, to the Shellbrook Co-op for providing the material for construction of the light hangers, and to E&B Lumber for donating 4x4s for use in securing light hangers."

On that occasion, the Host Players donated the proceeds of their production to the stage renovation costs.

It takes a community.

Endings are always a time of reflection, and the last meetings of GHP were no ex-

ception, as those present recalled the role of Pat Grayston in establishing the group, providing leadership, sharing her skills and knowledge, and choosing and preparing plays for performance.

In March 2012, two one-act plays were directed by John Hein and Pat Grayston. Greg Land created caricatures for the play posters. The ticket price was set at \$15.00, \$5.00 of which was directed to the Shellbrook and Area Ministerial Association Food Bank. Theatre patrons were encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item for the Food Bank. Local businesses were approached, and provided door prizes for two performances.

At that first production, the Ordale Sing-

ers opened the evening. Cameo-Hilldrop Ladies Guild served cheesecake with refreshments during the intermission when patrons also had a chance to taste marmite on a cracker, with a reference to opinions expressed in the play, about that condiment.

It takes a community.

In April of 2013, Golden Host performed two one-act plays. In January 2014, a humorous telephone skit, played. In November 2014, three short skits were performed. In October 2017, "Play it as it Lies" was a collaboration of GHP with the Hidden Hills Golf Course.

Sometimes GHP worked alongside the Host Players and sometimes those roles were reversed.

In 2018, GHP provided \$4,000 to purchase LED lighting for the Theatre from Diskotek Entertainment.

After a pause created by the COVID-19 pandemic, Pat Grayston called the group together once again, this time with a focus on creating shorter productions that would be suitable for sharing with elders living in long-term care at Parkland Integrated Health Centre.

Two Fun-Raisers (not a typo) were held there in the spring of 2024 and 2025. As all actors had aged, Pat suggested carrying our printed lines when necessary, and adapted rehearsals to be less physically strenuous. We appreciated those adaptations!

Again, it takes a community. And without Pat Grayston's leadership, and the generous support of the community and surrounding area, these last 14 years wouldn't have been possible.

Sask. takes action on 2025 wildfire review

By **MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY SAFETY**
Submitted

The Government of Saskatchewan has announced immediate actions to strengthen the province's wildfire strategy in response to MNP's independent review of the 2025 wildfire season.

In October 2025, the Government of Saskatchewan commissioned MNP to conduct an independent review of the 2025 wildfire season. MNP was responsible for evaluating the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency's (SPSA) wildfire and emergency prevention, preparedness, response, evacuation, and recovery strategy.

Participants in the review included members of affected communities, emergency responders, Indigenous organizations, representatives from the SPSA, provincial ministries, municipal and regional partners.

"The 2025 wildfire season was the worst in Saskatchewan's history, with more than 500 fires burning nearly three million hectares, and over 10,000 people evacuated from more than 50 communities. Through it all, we saw Saskatchewan people come together to support their communities," Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency Michael Weger said. "This independent review was developed based on the experiences shared by individuals directly affected by the 2025 wildfire

season and provides our government with clear recommendations to ensure that the lessons learned from last year's wildfire season are actioned to protect Saskatchewan people now and into the future."

The Government of Saskatchewan's response to the recommendations includes 11 actions the SPSA has been directed to implement immediately. The Future Preparedness and Implementation Unit has been established within the SPSA to advance and monitor the implementation of the 11 actions directed by the Government of Saskatchewan.

As a result of the feedback from community leaders across Northern Saskatchewan, the province is establishing the FireSmart Grant Program. The community of Wadin Bay will be the first to receive a \$40,000 grant, retroactively, for costs associated with its FireSmart mitigation practices.

"We heard from local communities that no one knows their community better than them," Weger said. "Therefore, we are also partnering with local communities to train and deploy a new tier of firefighters looking to help protect their communities in emergency situations. These community wildfire reservists will help to advance planning and protection for their local communities."

MNP's independent review of the 2025 wildfire season and the 11 actions being implemented to protect Saskatchewan communities are attached.



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True impact of Trump tariffs comes to light

If the past year and a half of U.S. President Donald Trump's second term have taught us anything, it's that the truth is, in fact, not so difficult to find.

All one really needs to do is listen to the words that come out of the president's mouth (a not inconsiderable feat in itself), then calculate what their polar opposite would be.

For example, when Mr. Trump prattled on about ending the "dangerous, immoral, and illegal" practice of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and restoring "merit-based opportunity," what he really meant was that he was changing the definition of merit.

Make no mistake, Mr. Trump's administration has done its best to eliminate the D in DEI, with Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth regularly intervening in the U.S. military to strip qualified black and female officers from promotion lists.

But in Mr. Trump's America, merit is about blind, unquestioning loyalty, not expertise and experience; that's how Robert F. Kennedy Jr. became Secretary of Health and Human Services, and Markwayne Mullin became Secretary of Homeland Security (replacing the equally unqualified Kristi Noem).

Mr. Trump has also talked many times about being the president of peace. But here again, he's shifted the goal posts.

Now, bombing eight countries over the course of a year doesn't qualify as engaging in acts of war, and a three-and-a-half-month military campaign in Iran is merely an excursion or a skirmish.

And yet, all this pales in comparison to Mr. Trump's promises when it comes to the economy and trade.

According to Mr. Trump, America is the hottest country on the planet and the American people have never had it so good when it comes to affordability.

This, he claims is the direct result of his trade policy – which is less of a comprehensive policy or strategy



JORDAN TWISS

News Editor

than it is a simple matter of slapping tariffs on anyone and everyone who happens to offend him on a given day.

Through tariffs, Mr. Trump claims, the rest of the world will happily pay to make America and Americans prosperous.

Canada hasn't been spared from this, as Mr. Trump has come up with a revolving door of pretexts to punish America's one-time closest ally, ranging from

mostly bogus concerns about border security to entirely bogus claims that the U.S. is subsidizing Canada to the tune of \$200 billion.

Mr. Trump has leveraged these pretexts to threaten Canada's economy and sovereignty, declaring that Canada would be far better off if it simply became the 51st state.

He's also used them to threaten to rip up the Canada-United States-Mexico trade agreement (CUSMA).

"We don't need anything that Canada has, we don't need anything that Mexico has, but they need everything that we have, and they have to treat us better," Mr. Trump said last Wednesday.

"With Mexico and Canada, we have trade deficits. We should have surpluses with them. We don't need their cars. We don't need their lumber. We don't need their energy. We don't need anything."

The only true part of this statement is that the U.S. does, in fact, have a trade deficit with Canada. For 2025, the first year of Mr. Trump's tariff tirade, this deficit was \$46.4 billion.

Now, as we near the halfway mark of 2026, we're beginning to see the truth about Mr. Trump's hallmark trade policy.

When he took over as prime minister, Mark Carney warned that Mr. Trump's tariffs would be hard on Canadians and rupture the global economy, but said that Canada needed to stand strong by lessening its dependence on the U.S. as its primary trading partner.



To be certain, the hardship has been felt, with two consecutive quarters of slight negative economic growth prompting much debate about a Canada being in a recession.

At the same time, Canada's trade diversification efforts are bearing fruit.

Exports to the U.S. fell by 16 per cent in 2025 year-over-year, while exports to other countries rose by 17 per cent. Due to this shift, the U.S. accounted for 72 per cent of all Canadian exports, down slightly from 76 per cent in 2024.

At the beginning of this year, Mr. Carney succeeded in defusing Canada's unstable trade relationship with China, re-opening it as a major market for Canadian agricultural goods.

And by positioning Canada as a reliable global middle power, the country has now drawn interest from two German companies for Canadian LNG and from India for crude oil.

Through all this, Canada boasted its biggest trade surplus since Mr. Trump's tariffs in April, with a record high of \$75.2 billion.

While it's easy to dismiss the number in the context of the ongoing not-a-war in Iran, which has driven up the price of oil, there's much more to the trade surplus than just boosted oil and gas revenues.

Though energy exports grew by 9.7 per cent, exports of farm, fishing and

agriculture products also increased by 8.9 per cent, reaching their highest levels since January 2025. Increases in wheat exports to China were the biggest driver there.

Exports of passenger cars and light trucks also drove April's exports figures up, as Canada saw a boost in auto production.

Meanwhile, Americans are shouldering many of the same pains as the rest of the world.

Thanks to the not-a-war in Iran the average price for gas has jumped to \$4.15 a gallon from \$2.98 per gallon in February. At the same time, inflation is at its highest rate in the past three years, reaching 4.2 per cent in May.

Mr. Trump's tariffs have also failed to revive America's manufacturing sector, which saw only a modest increase in production while shedding 80,000 jobs in 2025.

To be certain, Canada still faces significant economic headwinds that won't be dissipating any time soon. But these recent developments suggest that staying the course, rather than capitulating to Mr. Trump's erratic whims is the way through the storm.

A day may come when the U.S. can be Canada's closest trade partner and ally again, but Canadians can't afford to wait for it.

Shellbrook Chronicle

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W.P. Sandin celebrates Class of 2026



Aiden Tait enters the gym to pass off his candle.



Brooklyn Klaassen prepares to pass off her candle.



Kyleigh Schmalz waves to the crowd from horseback.



Carter Herndier (left) and Peyton Ahenakew smile at the crowd.



Reese Galloway enters for the candle passing ceremony.



Matt Muller enters to pass off his candle.



Davin Schmitz enters for the candle passing ceremony.



Hayley Van Hereweghe readies to pass off her candle.



Haden McLeod smiles and waves during the parade.

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Canwood Legion celebrates Legion centenary

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

With 2026 marking the 100th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Legion, the Canwood Legion Branch took a moment to celebrate on Saturday, June 6, which also marked the 82nd anniversary of D-Day.

The Canwood Legion hosted an open house at the Canwood Legion Hall, with Legion president Bob Thompson kicking off the festivities with an act of remembrance.

The day also included visits and commemorative words and well wishes from local, provincial, and federal dignitaries, including Village of Canwood Councillor Ryan Demers, Saskatchewan Rivers MLA Eric Schmalz, and Prince Albert MP Randy Hoback.

As the afternoon continued, guests were treated to an anniversary cake and coffee, and invited to browse the war memorabilia and exhibits on display.

The Canwood Legion branch received its charter in 1930 with 19 founding members. Today, it stands at 38 members, including two lifetime members.

“The Canwood Legion holds a strong presence in our community,” said Canwood Legion member Penny Brad. “Our mandate is and always has been to support and remember all veterans and the sacrifices they made.”

Throughout the year, the Canwood Legion leads five Remembrance Day services in both Canwood and Debden, and hosts a very successful poppy campaign. It also supports Legion activities such as Legion Track and Field and Legion poem and poster contests, as well as student bursaries, and hosts regular Bingos and birthday celebrations at Canwood’s Whispering Pine Place.

Meanwhile, as it celebrates its centenary nationwide, the Royal Canadian Legion boasts 275,000 members.



Canwood Legion president Bob Thompson opened the afternoon with words of remembrance.



Councillor Ryan Demers speaks on behalf of the Village of Canwood.



The Canwood Legion served a 100th anniversary cake at its Royal Canadian Legion centenary celebration on June 6.



Saskatchewan Rivers MLA Eric Schmalz offered well wishes and congratulations.



Prince Albert MP Randy Hoback shares a few words to mark the Legion’s centenary.

Sask. inks deal with Czech Republic

By **MINISTRY OF TRADE & EXPORT DEVELOPMENT**
Submitted

Premier Scott Moe has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Czech Republic’s First Deputy Minister Karel Havlíček and Minister of Industry and Trade. The MOU will strengthen the two governments’ relationship through cooperation in trade, energy and innovation.

“The Czech Republic shares many priorities with Saskatchewan, and is seeking sustainable, energy security for their country,” Moe said. “I am excited to see what shared opportunities lie ahead in the areas of sustainable energy, innovation for the nuclear sector and diversifying trade. I look forward to growing this partnership for the benefit of both our economies.”

The MOU specifies a special priority on facilitating clean energy solutions such as nuclear energy, small modular reactors, micro modular reactors, renewables and carbon capture, utilization and storage technologies. This could include sharing knowledge, promoting joint projects or exploring cooperation in talent development and educational pro-

grams.

“The memorandum with Saskatchewan comes at right time – Premier Moe’s visit confirms strong interest on both sides,” First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Industry and Trade Karel Havlíček said. “We can strengthen cooperation in energy and resource security, innovation and trade and open the door to new opportunities for companies on both sides of the Atlantic.”

Sustainably produced, clean energy begins in Saskatchewan. With the largest high-quality deposits of uranium in the world, the province is poised to fuel nuclear power and provide global energy security for decades.

The MOU signing was part of the province’s ongoing trade and investment mission to the European Union. The delegation will return June 19, 2026. The mission, including today’s MOU signing, was supported by Saskatchewan’s Germany office.

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The RM of Leask offers a competitive salary with a comprehensive benefits package including extended health and dental benefits, short-term disability and long-term disability. Salary will be determined based on qualifications and experience.

Candidates seeking a rewarding career opportunity are invited to submit their detailed resume including related qualifications, past and present work experience to: rmleask.464@sasktel.net or by mail to R.M. of Leask No. 464, PO Box 190, Leask, SK, S0J 1M0, by **July 3, 2026**.

The Rural Municipality of Leask No. 464 is a progressive municipality with mixed farming, land development and tourism opportunities located in north central Saskatchewan. The municipal office is located in the Village of Leask which has excellent medical, educational and recreational facilities in the village and immediate district. For more information on the R.M. of Leask visit us at www.rmleask.ca or call 306-466-2000.

We thank all who apply, however, only those being considered for the position will be contacted.

Ag needs cautious approach to chemical inputs

From the farm producer's perspective, glyphosate has been one of the primary weed control products. As such, it is widely viewed as the most popular herbicide in the world.

The popularity is a rather obvious testament to glyphosate's continued usefulness in doing what is supposed to do: help control weeds, which if left unchecked would impact crop production as weeds do compete for field nutrients and water.

Now, you can argue that a level of weed concern for producers is self-caused through var-

ious cropping patterns, which have led to continued weed issues. But at the end of the day why the weeds are there is a secondary issue, coming after immediate control measures to allow successful production year-to-year.

That said, there have been those who look at glyphosate as a danger.

In fact, the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classified it as a Group 2A carcinogen ("probably carcinogenic to humans").

And glyphosate has been at the centre of var-



CALVIN DANIELS

ious lawsuits related to cancer risks, leading to massive settlements by its manufacturer.

But Health Canada generally considers glyphosate safe for humans and non-carcinogenic when used in accordance with label directions (following label direc-

tions is always critical in using such products).

In the case of glyphosate, being ultra cautious in its application just seems a wise precaution given the cloud of concern which continues to loom over the chemical.

In terms of the chemical, even Health Canada seems to be ramping up its monitoring on glyphosate, as recent reports suggest its Pesticides Regulatory Directorate is monitoring the herbicide now as part of its "continuous oversight policy." It is basically a label suggesting a continuous oversight in tracking and evaluating

new information associated with the pesticide.

Now as a food consumer, I would rather hope Health Canada is doing that on all crop protection products because science is not a static thing. Knowledge grows and that can change conclusions in terms of safety.

We have seen that in the past, for example, with thalidomide, which was developed in West Germany in the late 1950s. The drug was heavily marketed as a "wonder drug" for treating anxiety, insomnia, and morning sickness in pregnant women. It was

later discovered to cause severe birth defects and miscarriages.

And perhaps more directly relatable to glyphosate, there is the history of DDT (dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane). It was once widely used as a powerful agricultural insecticide, but was later found to be environmentally persistent, causing toxicity and bio-accumulation in the food chain.

So, there is reason to remain vigilant with glyphosate, and also a seeming need to diversify away from the significant reliance agriculture has on the product.

Crop Report: June 2 to 8

By **MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**
Submitted

Seeding progress continued to advance this week with some regions nearing completion. Seeding is 93 per cent complete, which is up from 80 per cent last week but still trailing behind the five- and ten-year average of 97 per cent.

The west-central region is 98 per cent complete followed closely by the southwest region at 97 per cent. The southeast region is 96 per cent complete, the northwest 95 per cent and northeast 92 per cent. The east-central region made progress this week but is still behind the other regions at 84 per cent complete.

Provincially, seeding is nearly complete for field

peas, lentils, durum and spring wheat. Other cereals and oilseed crops made further progress this week.

Rainfall varied significantly with some regions not receiving any while the Calder area received 164 millimetres (mm), the RM of Fertile Belt 118 mm and the Langenburg region 116 mm.

Topsoil moisture conditions were relatively stable with an increase in surplus moisture in some regions due to the rainfall.

Varying stages of crop development are reported given the varied environmental conditions.

Crop damage this week was caused by multiple factors including wind, flooding and hail. Minor damage from insects like flea beetles and cutworms was reported. Gopher damage was reported

in all regions except the northeast.

As seeding starts to wrap up in many regions producers are focused on in-crop herbicide applications and scouting for insects and disease.

Producers are reminded to keep safety top of mind while working. For any crop or livestock questions, producers can call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre, toll free at 1-866-457-2377.

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

Shell Lake seniors celebrate birthdays, anniversaries

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

Nineteen members of the Shell Lake 50+ Seniors Club met to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries for members who had or will have birthdays or anniversaries for the months of May and June.

Before all the birthday festivities, the club members were introduced to Bernadette Mysko, a board member of the Shell Lake Museum located in the old Shell Lake Railroad Station. She was looking for senior volunteers to serve as hosts to sit at the museum during the summer vacation season.

After the museum infomercial, the members were entertained by Marilyn McGown and her guitar. She sang songs that are all familiar to seniors who listened to the radio or sang together in school music classes, including: "I've Been Working on the Rail-

road," "Enjoy Yourself It's Later than you think," "Delta Dawn," "A Daisy a Day," "Que Sera Que Sera (Whatever Will Be Will Be)," and her all-time favourite anniversary song, "The Bossa Nova."

After Marilyn completed her set, she led attendees singing the

birthday and anniversary songs.

Once again, even though she celebrated a birthday herself, Anita Weiers baked the cakes. The first was a light and tasty maple walnut chiffon cake. And the second was a spicy gingerbread cake. Lip smacking yum!



Birthday and anniversary celebrants, from left to right: Grant and Jean Lehman, Anita Weiers, David Jensen, and Larry Vaagen.

TAX ENFORCEMENT LIST



TOWN OF SHELLBROOK
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 August 18, 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	Title No.	Total Arrears*	Costs	Total Arrears and Costs
LOT 2-BLK/PAR 1-PLAN Q508 EXT 0	145639626	\$2,253.57	\$466.00	\$2,719.57
LOT 7-BLK/PAR 4-PLAN Q508 EXT 0	139058860	\$2,318.42	\$466.00	\$2,784.42
LOT 3-BLK/PAR 5-PLAN CN6034 EXT 0	152740762	\$2,236.08	\$466.00	\$2,702.08
LOT 9-BLK/PAR 44-PLAN 101306382 EXT 0	135867460	\$3,869.03	\$466.00	\$4,335.03
LOT 10-BLK/PAR 44-PLAN 101306382 EXT 0	135867493	\$3,869.03	\$466.00	\$4,335.03
LOT 10-BLK/PAR 33-PLAN 80PA06794 EXT 0	130918226	\$2,238.59	\$466.00	\$2,704.59
LOT 11-BLK/PAR 52-PLAN 102108642 EXT 0	155769799	\$8,879.74	\$466.00	\$9,345.74
LOT 14-BLK/PAR 2-PLAN 77PA23241 EXT 0	148857575	\$2,541.21	\$466.00	\$3,007.21
LOT 20-BLK/PAR 1-PLAN M3438 EXT 0	152034779	\$2,346.43	\$466.00	\$2,812.43
LOT 3-BLK/PAR 7-PLAN T2539 EXT 0	134981983	\$6,175.92	\$466.00	\$6,641.92
LOT 4-BLK/PAR 7-PLAN T2539 EXT 0	134981961	\$6,175.92	\$466.00	\$6,641.92
LOT 5-BLK/PAR 10-PLAN T2539 EXT 0	127795726	\$3,070.11	\$466.00	\$3,536.11
LOT 9-BLK/PAR 10-PLAN T2539 EXT 0	143618777	\$2,174.86	\$466.00	\$2,640.86
LOT 3-BLK/PAR 12-PLAN T2539 EXT 0	116720153	\$3,236.20	\$466.00	\$3,702.20
LOT 9-BLK/PAR 14-PLAN U390 EXT 0	139626681	\$2,876.97	\$466.00	\$3,342.97
LOT 25-BLK/PAR 14-PLAN 101718233 EXT 4	139626692	\$2,876.97	\$466.00	\$3,342.97
BLK/PAR 51-PLAN 101718097 EXT 10	152646701	\$86,811.74	\$466.00	\$87,277.74
BLK/PAR 52-PLAN 101718086 EXT 10	152646712	\$86,811.74	\$466.00	\$87,277.74
BLK/PAR 53-PLAN 101718075 EXT 11	152646723	\$86,811.74	\$466.00	\$87,277.74
LOT 12-BLK/PAR 26-PLAN CR285 EXT 0	151893254	\$4,631.85	\$466.00	\$5,097.85
LOT 1-BLK/PAR 28-PLAN 60PA01329 EXT 8	159256996	\$2,299.19	\$466.00	\$2,765.19
LOT 1-BLK/PAR 4-PLAN M2393 EXT 0	141117106	\$2,949.90	\$31.00	\$2,980.90
LOT 2-BLK/PAR 4-PLAN M2393 EXT 0	141117207	\$2,949.90	\$31.00	\$2,980.90

* Penalty is calculated to the date of the Notice and will continue to accrue as applicable.

Dated this 10th day of June, 2026

Sigourney O'Halligan, Chief Administrative Officer

Royal Purple shines light on brain injuries

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

The Shellbrook Royal Purple continues to put brain injuries in the spotlight, and make children more aware of the importance of protecting their brains, by hosting the Canadian Royal Purple Brain Injury Prevention Poster Contest.

The contest is open to students in Grades 1 through 12, with the competition split into five age groups of two grades each and one age group of four grades (9 to 12). Prizes are awarded for the top three entries in each age group, starting at \$40 for first place, \$30 for second prize, and \$25 for third place in the local contest. The top three entries move from the local contest to the provincial competition, and have a chance to reach nationals.

This year, in the local contest, the Shellbrook Royal Purple presented prizes to students across all levels, and club member Elaine Perkins says she was pleased to see greater participation from Debden students.

In May, she and Royal Purple member Pat Radchuk



Debden student Lena Chambers accepts her awards from Royal Purple members Pat Radchuk (left) and Elaine Perkins.

visited the local schools to present awards to participants.

At the Grade 1 and 2 level, the efforts of Debden students were well rewarded as Lena Chambers claimed first prize, and went on to place second at the provincial level. Meanwhile, Alia Ramos and Zaryah Gobert placed second and third place, respectively.

Among Grade 3 and 4 students, it was a Shellbrook Elementary School sweep, with Georgia Rudolph placing first, Paige Oldford coming in second, and Emery Olson placing third.

Debden students were also well represented at the Grade 5 and 6 level, as Isabella Wiebe claimed top prize, Shellbrook Elementary's Maddie Buckingham placed second, and Debden's Landon Mathias fin-



W.P. Sandin's Addisyn Knaus accepts her poster contest awards from Shellbrook Royal Purple members Elaine Perkins (left) and Pat Radchuk.

ished third.

At the Grade 7-8 and Grade 9-12 levels, there was only one entrant in each category. For Grade 7 and 8, that entrant was Addisyn Knaus, who went on to place third at the provincial level.

For Grade 9-12, Julia Shindle was the lone entrant and her submission also claimed top prize at the provincial level.

The provincial winners who advanced to the national levels will have their entries judged in July at the Royal Purple's national AGM.

Brain Injury is the national cause for the Canadian Royal Purple. However, Royal

Purple chapters in Saskatchewan, including the Shellbrook chapter, have been working with the Saskatchewan Brain Injury Association (SBIA) to bring awareness to "how important it is to protect your melon" for years.

More recently, though, the Royal Purple has sought to raise awareness about the links between brain injuries and domestic violence. To support this cause, it holds Purple Thursday on the third Thursday of October, an event that sees members gift care bags to local shelters. Last year, an estimated 5,000 care bag were delivered to shelters across Canada through this initiative.

With May 17 to 23 marking Canadian Royal Purple Week, the Shellbrook Royal Purple also got out in the community to thank it for its support by serving up cake on Main Street.

Additionally, the club's May meeting saw it install new leadership, with Liz Lissimore becoming president in place of Elaine Perkins, and Pauline Mason, Lee Taylor, and Wendy Otterson taking on vice president roles.



W.P. Sandin's Julia Shindle accepts her poster contest awards from Shellbrook Royal Purple members Elaine Perkins (left) and Pat Radchuk.



Shellbrook Elementary student Georgia Rudolph accepts her awards from Royal Purple members Elaine Perkins (left) and Pat Radchuk.



Debden student Isabella Wiebe accepts her awards from Royal Purple members Pat Radchuk (left) and Elaine Perkins.

Yard sale yields hidden treasures



On Friday, May 29th, as part of the Shellbrook Community Yard Sale, visitors to the Shellbrook Senior's Centre took advantage of the unique items for sale. Pictured: Mariah Booker, Bailey Johnstone, Kendal Quinney, Jolene Blocka, and Paige Jarvis (two granddaughters of Shellbrook's Rita Loiselle) wear vintage hats they purchased before attending a bridal shower in Waskesiu. You never know what you'll find at a yard sale!

By **LORRAINE THIBEAULT**, Shellbrook Seniors Association



Royal Purple members Pat Radchuk (left), Donna Skauge (middle), and Elaine Perkins serve up cake on Main Street for Canadian Royal Purple week. Missing: Pauline Mason and Lorna Neufeld.

Ballapalooza hits it out of the park

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Mosquito-warding winds and bright, sunny conditions were enthusiastically welcomed at the Shellbrook Sportsgrounds on Saturday, June 13, as the Shellbrook Kinettes and Shellbrook Minor Ball brought about 950 people to the community for Ballapalooza 2026.

Ballapalooza's festivities actually kicked off on Friday, June 12, with the return of the Battle of the Businesses Slo-Pitch event. And come Saturday morning, baseball and softball remained front and centre, with teams travelling from near and far to compete and have fun throughout the day.

Away from the ball diamonds, Kidzville gave kids (and some adults) plenty to do, with a plethora of bouncy castles, laser tag hosted by Prince Albert's Paintball Paradise, mini-putt, a petting zoo, face painting, balloon twisting, and more.

Also on hand was the Saskatoon Juggling Club, which performed two shows in the afternoon and spent the

rest of the day teaching kids how to juggle, walk on stilts, and perform other tricks of the trade.

With so much to do, guests were bound to work up an appetite. Luckily, Minor Ball was serving food from the Centennial Building canteen and the Kinettes opened up a beer gardens. In the evening, Canwood's Neighbourhood Caterers served up a feast of roast beef on a bun, macaroni salad, and caesar salad.

"This is such a huge community event. And we are all about community," Kinette Tasha Cyr said, noting that it's always nice to see families show up in the morning and stay for the whole day.

"We try our best to keep it as affordable as we can, so everybody can come enjoy the day."

Adding that the admission doesn't cover the cost to put everything on and everything is getting more expensive each year, Cyr says Ballapalooza wouldn't be possible without the efforts of the Kinettes and Minor Ball, the volunteers who step up to work a shift, and sponsors.



A U7 ball player eyes the ball for a big swing.



Northern Blue Jays players celebrate a big home run in U15AA baseball action.



Candace Wolfe's petting zoo offered opportunities to meet all sorts of animals.



Face painters returned, giving kids colourful ways to express themselves.



The Saskatoon Juggling Club put on two exciting shows in the afternoon.



Kids take aim at each other in laser tag hosted by Paintball Paradise.



A Shellbrook Heat player swings high in U13 softball action.

Minutes of an RM of Canwood meeting

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

A regular meeting of the Council of the Rural Municipality of Canwood No. 494 was held in the Municipal Council Chambers, at 641 Main Street, Canwood, Sask., on April 21, 2026, commencing at 9:05 a.m.

Present were Reeve Levi Schutte, Chief Administrative Officer Lorna Benson, and the following Councillors for their respective divisions: #1 Kenneth Stene, #2 Gerald Muller, #3, Rick Jensen, #5 Kevin Olson, and #6 Cody Lockhart.

Delegations:

9:30 a.m. Dwight Diehl, Public Works Supervisor, Municipal Operations Update

Stene: That the minutes of the March 18, 2026, Regular Council Meeting be approved as presented. Carried

Lockhart: That the Statement of Financial Activities for the month of March 2026 for the R.M. General Account be approved as presented. Carried

Public Works Supervisor Dwight Diehl attended the meeting at 9:20 a.m.

Boisvert: That we approve the payments as listed on the attached account listing for a total of \$190,615.90, Council Direct Deposits for March and Payroll Direct Deposits for 2026 Pay Period 6 & 7. Carried

Schutte: That the regular meeting of

Council be suspended at 9:45 a.m. for an in-camera session to discuss legal matters. Carried

Schutte: That the regular meeting of Council reconvene at 10:05 a.m. Carried

Muller: That we authorize Peszko Legal to proceed with the Statement of Claim. Carried

Muller: That we award the gravel loading and hauling tender to K. McIntosh & Sons Construction & Supply Ltd., Outlook, Sask. Carried

Olson: That we make application for participation under the Gopher Control Program (GCP) for the year 2026-2027 as administered by the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM). Carried

Schutte: That we make application for participation under the Beaver Control Program (BCP) for the year 2026 – 2027 as administered by the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) and authorize the following individuals to remove problem beavers in the Rural Municipality (list omitted due to length). Carried

Lockhart: That we set the following guidelines for the Beaver Control Program (BCP) for the year 2026-2027:

1. The Public Works Supervisor or each councillor shall direct where problem beavers shall be removed in his division;
2. Beaver tails must be delivered to the councillor on or before June 30, 2026;

3. Legal descriptions of where the beavers were removed must be provided by the authorized individuals when delivering the beaver tails;

4. A bounty will be paid in the amount of \$30.00 for each problem beaver removed from March 1, 2026, to June 30, 2026, and thereafter the bounty will be reduced to \$15.00 per beaver;

5. Councillors cannot be designated as beaver hunters; and

6. Counting of beaver tails shall be done by another councillor if the hunter is a family member. Carried

Stene: That in the matter of the lands held in trust by the Sturgeon Lake TLE Land Holding Corporation intended to transfer to reserve status, Council identifies tax loss compensation, road maintenance and fire protection as the most relevant concerns. Access for the SW and SE 32-51-05 W3 should be of utmost concern to the First Nation during this process. Carried

Muller: That in the matter of the Ahtahkakoop TLE File 838.048 11.03 Council offers the following comments:

The original road allowance on the east side of the SE-06-50-06 W3 is developed. The Rural Municipality of Canwood wishes to retain the road allowance.

The original road allowance on the south side of the SE-06-50-06 W3 is developed. The Rural Municipality of Canwood wishes to retain the road allowance.

The original road allowance through the SE-06-50-06 W3 is developed. The Rural Municipality of Canwood wishes to retain the road allowance.

The original road allowance on the south side of the SW-06-50-06 W3 is developed. The Rural Municipality of Canwood wishes to retain the road allowance.

The original road allowance on the west side of the SW-06-50-06 W3 is developed. The Rural Municipality of Canwood wishes to retain the road allowance. Carried

Boisvert: That in the matter of the Ahtahkakoop TLE File 838.049 11.03 Council offers the following comments:

The original road allowance on the east side of the NE-32-51-07 W3 is developed. The Rural Municipality of Canwood wishes to retain the road allowance.

The original road allowance on the north side of the NE-32-51-07 W3 is undeveloped. The Rural Municipality of Canwood wishes to retain the road allowance. Carried

Lockhart: That in the matter of the Ahtahkakoop TLE File 838.051 11.03 Council offers the following comments:

The original road allowance on the north side of the NE-33-53-07 W3 is developed. The Rural Municipality of Canwood wishes to retain the road allowance.

The original road allowance on the northeast side of the NE-33-53-07 W3 is developed. The Rural Municipality of Canwood wishes to retain the road allowance.

The original road allowance on the east side of the NE-33-53-07 W3 is undeveloped. The Rural Municipality of Canwood wishes to retain the road allowance.

The original road allowance on the west side of the NW-34-53-07 W3 is undeveloped. The Rural Municipality of Canwood wishes to retain the road allowance.

The original road allowance through the NW-34-53-07 W3 is developed. The Rural Municipality of Canwood wishes to retain the road allowance.

The original road allowance on the east side of Highway 55 that runs through the northeast corner of the NW-34-53-07 W3 is developed. The Rural Municipality of Canwood wishes to retain the road allowance.

The original road allowance on the north side of the NW-34-53-07 W3 is undeveloped. The Rural Municipality of Canwood wishes to retain the road allowance. Carried

Jensen: That we acknowledge the Occupational Health Committee Meeting Minutes of March 30, 2026. Carried

Muller: That effective May 1, 2026, we agree to set the following firefighting rates:

Ratepayer Fire Fees: \$1,129.82 per truck (includes 2 fire fighters); Each additional fire fighter is \$100/hour; False Alarm (security systems) \$150.

Non-Ratepayer Fire Fees: \$1,500 per truck (includes 2 fire fighters); \$150/hour per additional fire fighter; Administrative Fee \$250; False Alarms \$250/fire fighter.

Fire Ban Fire Fees: \$2,600 per truck (includes 2 fire fighters); \$200/hour per additional fire fighter.

Fire Fighter Compensation: Minimum \$150 per call (from dispatch to hour 3) – for fighting fire and training \$50/hour (starts at hour 4) *each fire fighter that takes his or her own vehicle will be compensated an extra hour for use of their personal vehicle.

First Responder Compensation: Flat Rate – personal vehicle use \$50; Call Out – Minimum 3 hours \$150; Training \$50/hour; Training mileage at the same rate as Council rate. Carried

Lockhart: That in the matter of the Tax Title Property Tenders we accept the following tenders:

1. Lot 1A Blk 2 Plan 102357222 Ext 0 (Mont Nebo); No Bids
2. Lot 27 Blk 1 Plan 102310962 Ext 0 (Mont Nebo); \$2,500. Carried

Jensen: That we approve the Withdrawal Numbers 494-1688 to 494-1692 from the Saskatchewan Municipal Hail Insurance Association. Carried

Lockhart: That we authorize the Chief Administrative Officer and the First Nations Committee to enter and execute the Green Municipal Fund Community Forestry Partnership Agreement with Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation. Carried

Lockhart: That we authorize the Chief Administrative Officer and the First Nations Committee to enter and execute the Green Municipal Fund Community Wellness Center Partnership Agreement with Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation. Carried

Muller: That we instruct the Chief Administrative Officer to write and send a Letter of Support to Mistawasis Nehiyawak for their paving project from Highway 3 through Mistawasis Nehiyawak to Highway 40. Carried

Schutte: That we acknowledge that the 2018 Tangible Capital Asset Policy has been converted to the policy structure used by the municipality and given the title Policy 10.02 Tangible Capital Assets. Carried

Muller: That we approve the Council's Indemnity as presented. Carried

Olson: That we now file the correspondence. Carried

Muller: That we now adjourn at 12:55 p.m.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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

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

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

BIG RIVER: Wapiti Library - Tuesday 11:30am - 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)

BIG RIVER: Mark your calendar for the 20th Annual Northern Lights Bluegrass and Old Tyme Music Camp (Aug 10-14) and Festival (Aug 14-16) at beautiful Ness Creek. The Mainstage includes Virginia's New Floyd County Ramblers and local favourite Jake Vaadeland, with daytime workshops, nightly dances and campfire jams. Get ready for a magical, musical ring-dang-do, we've got 20 years of bluegrass and old time to be celebrating this Summer... Learn more at northernlights-bluegrass.com.

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Jays struggling during 50th anniversary

Whether the Toronto Blue Jays win the World Series or miss the playoffs altogether, the 2026 season will be remembered for the significance of the team celebrating its 50th anniversary.

Only those of a certain age who were around to watch the Jays' first-ever game back in April 1977 will recall that instead of sunshine pouring into Exhibition Stadium, where the Jays played their first few seasons, a fluke spring snowfall soured the day.

The average American ball fan whose image of a stereotypical Canadian is someone who resides in a cold country and perhaps lives in an igloo may have had those myths confirmed with video replays of that snowy day, April 7.

A Zamboni was even needed to clear snow from the field.

Normally, weather that extreme would have caused a postponement of an outdoor baseball game, but there had been so much hype about the Canadian ex-

pansion team playing its first game, it was full steam ahead.

Blue Jays won the game, 9-5 over Chicago White Sox, as Doug Ault (career batting average .236 and 17 home runs), banged out two homers.

Wouldn't it be grand if the Blue Jays celebrated their 50th year of existence with a World Series championship?

Year 49 produced an American League East title, an AL championship, and a near-miss in the World Series against the Dodgers, losing Game 7 in extra innings at home.

Last year's team was 22-24 in mid-May before manager John Schneider's players turned the corner. The Jays had a similar start this year, 31-34 after 65 games, so there's reason to believe a repeat of 2025 is possible.

There are a few 'ifs' involved, however: If Vladimir Guerrero Jr., starts swatting home runs like he did last year (he had only three round-trippers after 65 games); if George



BRUCE
PENTON

Springer rebounds from a poor start and starts hitting like the .309 guy from last year; if Addison Barger remembers how he hit 21 home runs last year (injuries have slowed him badly this year); and if the Jays' pitching staff lives up to its pre-season hype as one of the best rotations in baseball.

Catching the first-place Tampa Bay Rays will be tough, but the Jays are solidly in the wildcard race. With Kevin Gausman, Dylan Cease and Trey Yesavage leading the way on the mound and rookie flash Kazuma Okamoto living up to his pre-season billing (team-lead-

ing 13 homers and 35 RBI through 65 games), there's reason to believe Toronto fans will see some playoff games in year 50.

Meanwhile, the moment in those 50 years Jays' fans will never forget will be memorialized in a ceremony on July 18. A statue of Joe Carter's "touch 'em all" home run that won the 1993 World Series over Philadelphia Phillies will be unveiled prior to that day's game against the White Sox.

Blue Jays' officials would be wise to leave space near the Carter shrine for future statues. The next 50 years are bound produce a couple more heroes.

• Comedy guy Torben Rolfson of Vancouver: "Andy Reid said he will attend the Travis Kelce-Taylor Swift wedding, but said he would not sing 'I Am the Walrus' at the reception."

• Super 70s Sports: "I miss real intentional walks. The crowd booing, the .01 per cent chance something weird would happen,

the batter giving off 'Yeah, I knew you didn't want any of this' vibes."

• Headline at theonline.com: "Rawlings Donates 50,000 Baseball Gloves To Ukrainian War Effort"

• The great WC Fields: "Horse sense is the thing a horse has which keeps it from betting on people."

• Guardian U.S., on Bluesky: "(New York mayor) Zohran Mamdani's quest to corner the youth vote has continued with the news that he has repealed bedtime for the city's children during the NBA finals."

• Another one from Torben Rolfson: "Chris Pronger confirmed he interviewed for the top Maple Leaf job — Auston Matthews' psychiatrist."

• One more from Rolfson: "Three Houston pitchers combined to throw a no-hitter. Apparently, the Astros have figured out a way to tap into the automated balls and strikes system."

• Mike Bianchi of the

Orlando Sentinel, on the difference between San Antonio's Victor Wembanyama at age 22 and Shaquille O'Neal of Orlando Magic at age 22: "Wemby gives the Spurs hope for the future; Shaq took the Magic's hope to L.A."

• Stan Verrett on X: "If I'm Wembanyama, I'm making one call, with one question. The call is to Kareem Abdul Jabbar. The question is 'can you teach me the sky hook?' It would be impossible to block."

• Jack Finarelli on his sportscurmudgeon.com site, after Josh Jacobs of the Packers was arrested for domestic violence, including 'strangling': "That is not exactly a 'judgment call'; 'strangling' is never seen as socially acceptable."

• Headline at fark.com: "Stephen A. Smith takes credit for the NY Knicks reaching the NBA final. In other news, rooster takes credit for the sun rising."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Op-ed: Sask. must ace next budget

By GAGE HAUBRICH
CTF Prairie Director

It's disappointing to see people fall short of their full potential, especially when they were so close to succeeding.

That's how taxpayers feel about Finance Minister Jim Reiter's budget.

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation just released its annual report cards for all provincial finance ministers. Reiter received an overall grade of B-. That makes him the best-performing finance minister in the country. He received a B+ last year.

But topping the class doesn't mean much when everyone else is failing. Saskatchewanians don't feel any better about wasting money on debt interest just because the Quebec government wastes more.

Reiter didn't earn a single A. That's because he can't earn top marks until the government stops racking up debt and wasting more than a billion dollars a year on debt interest payments.

All it will take is a little extra effort for Reiter to put Saskatchewan in an enviable position.

Saskatchewan is blessed with huge swaths of natural resources and hard-working people. The government should not be using the taxpay-

er credit card to make ends meet. But the government is increasing the debt by \$3.4 billion to \$26.8 billion by the end of the year.

That debt comes with a debt interest bill of more than one billion dollars this year. That works out to about \$816 per Saskatchewanian.

Wasting more than a billion dollars on debt interest payments should set off alarm bells in Reiter's office.

Instead, the government increased spending nearly across the board. Reiter increased spending in 10 out of 11 of the government's main spending areas this year.

The government is wasting about twice as much on debt interest as it collects annually from the provincial fuel tax.

That means if the government didn't have to spend a billion dollars on debt interest, Saskatchewanians could be saving about \$11 per fill up at the gas station right now. With more than \$500 million to spare. Those are the real consequences of chronic overspending and irresponsible borrowing.

But all is not lost. Reiter has an opportunity to get the province's fiscal truck out of the ditch and back on the highway. Taxpayers need him to take it.

Oil prices are hovering around \$100 USD per barrel. If that holds, more than \$500 million could flow into the province's coffers this year from extra oil revenues alone.

Reiter needs to take that money, along with any other revenue windfalls, and use it to reduce government borrowing and, if possible, pay down debt.

It's what Saskatchewan used to do. After an unexpected resource revenue windfall, former premier Brad Wall paid down about 40 per cent of Saskatchewan's debt in one year. That saved \$180 million in debt interest payments annually.

Wall used those savings to make life more affordable for Saskatchewanians by cutting taxes.

The Saskatchewan Party says it believes in a "steady, gradual reduction in government spending and taxation while maintaining a firm commit-

ment to balanced budgets," according to its guiding principles.

That means that Reiter needs to resist the urge to spend those extra resource-revenue windfalls and increase spending over and above what he promised to in the budget.

On this front, Reiter will have to buck the trend. That's because the Saskatchewan government spent \$970 million more than budgeted in both 2025 and 2024. In 2023 it went over budget by \$2.2 billion. In 2022 it was \$1.4 billion.

Paying down debt. Holding the line on spending. And using the debt interest savings to provide tax relief. That's the clear criteria from taxpayers on how Reiter can earn top marks for his budget.

Now it's up to Reiter to hit the books, listen to taxpayers and make sure that Saskatchewan reaches its true potential.

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OBITUARY

Edward Schulkowsky

Edward Schulkowsky
1931 – 2026

Ed was born on September 8, 1931, in rural Leipzig, Saskatchewan, and passed away at the Idylwild Lodge in Spiritwood, Saskatchewan on May 23, 2026. He was the eldest of five children born to Elizabeth (Wirachowsky) and John Schulkowsky who moved to the Glenbush district in 1933.

Ed attended the Glenbush and Daylight schools for his primary education, and later while working in Edmonton he attained his

heavy-duty mechanic certificate. Ed then returned to the Medstead area to farm and worked at the Co-op Creamery until it closed.

In 1956 he married Amelia Seidle and they were blessed with a family of two.

In the mid-1980s he went to work for the Fonda Road Construction crew, a job that he truly loved and remained with until his retirement.

Ed is lovingly remembered by his daughter Grace (Rodney) Honch, his sister Cecelia Eberle, brother John, in-laws Ed and Joan Seidle, as well as numerous nieces, nephews and his special friend Winona Kolbe.

Ed was predeceased by his wife Amelia, his son Stanley and sisters Pauline Lehouillier and Hedy Wing.

Mass of Christian Burial took place at St. Rita's Roman Catholic

Church in Medstead and a Celebration of Life at the Medstead Community Hall, both taking place on June 8, 2026.

His ashes were laid to rest in the Medstead RM Cemetery.

The family extends heartfelt thanks to the staff, caregivers and doctors at the Idylwild Lodge for the excellent and compassionate care Ed received at the Lodge during his stay these past four years.

Memorial donations can be made in Edward's memory to Idylwild Lodge Auxiliary Inc., Spiritwood, SK.

Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit <http://www.beaulacfuneral-home.com>. Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home and Crematorium, Delores Beaulac, Funeral Director, Spiritwood, SK (306) 883-3500.

GOOD NEWS

ALL FATHERS ARE DIFFERENT

By DEB ANDERSON
Submitted

My father did the best he could. He was raised an only child by poor, immigrant farming parents.

As a young man, he fought in the war, though he was told after leaving it that he "could have a life starting now, or remember all that is past."

He got a university degree. He adored our mother every day of his life. He expected good behaviour of us kids. We feared him.

He did play board games with us on Friday night, and was a good provider and protector. Looking back, I choose to remember the good times which were thrown into the mix, and leave it at that.

My husband, on the other hand, had a father who was rough on the kids. This kept him from drawing near to our heavenly Father.

One day, I asked him if he ever knew an adult when he was a boy who was always glad to see him and wanted to hear everything that he was concerned about.

He brightened up, "Oh yes! The shoemaker! He was the kindest, most welcoming man I ever knew and he taught me about doing good work. He was always glad to see me."

I suggested that maybe he could think of talking to God like talking to the shoemaker instead of to his father. He found this suggestion extremely helpful.

What a world of difference it makes to be able to cast our cares on the Lord, knowing that He cares for us! He is ever near and awaits our call to Him.

Even Jesus needed to pray, giving His daily weariness over to large shoulders, and there receiving direction on upcoming encounters (John 8:28).

He taught His disciples saying: "When you pray, do not use vain repetitions, as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. Therefore, do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.

In this manner, therefore, pray: 'Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.'" (Matthew 6:7-13)

Because of the spiritual birth (Romans 8: 14-16), believers can commune with the Father in quiet, perceiving back perfect thoughts in response to their listed concerns to Him. This brings encouragement, comfort, and, at times, wisdom that is needed.

Be still and know that He is God. He is love. He is the perfect Father that we all need.

Shellbrook Royal Purple hosts Seniors Tea

By JORDAN TWISS
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

A long-standing Royal Purple tradition was carried on at the Shellbrook Community Hall Wednesday, June 10, when the Shellbrook Royal Purple hosted a crowd of local and area seniors for tea — complete with dessert, musical entertainment, and some welcome time for visiting.

The annual event began with the original Shellbrook Royal Purple organization, and was revived by the new incarnation of the community group in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. Shellbrook Royal Purple member Elaine Perkins says the new group chose to con-

tinue it because it meant so much to the original club's founders and allows the group to give something back to the community that supports it.

"Seniors, most of them, have had a hand in developing our town of Shellbrook [and Royal Purple]," Perkins said. "They've helped with many things, and many of them have been or are still Royal Purple members. It's just a thank you to the seniors."

Continuing other long-standing traditions tied to the Seniors Tea, guests for the day once again included elders from Shellbrook's Parkland Integrated Health Centre. Along with the other guests in attendance, they were treated to musical en-

tertainment from Prince Albert-based band Mystery Train (Glen Gessner, Linda Bjork and John Watson), as well as from students from Shellbrook Elementary School, who were led by teacher Tammy Jewitt.

Bringing greetings on behalf of the Town of Shellbrook, Mayor Amund Otterson spoke on the value of the Royal Purple in the community.

Meanwhile, Shellbrook Pentecostal Assembly pastor Jordan Clark brought blessings and said grace before the strawberry shortcake was served, drawing inspiration from puritan Augustus Toplady. He also took a moment to speak on the Royal Purple's cause of brain injury awareness.

"It's really nice to have this opportunity, and to show appreciation for the various levels of volunteers who are here today," Mayor Otterson said. "It's always nice to have these events."



Royal Purple members Liz Lissimore, Rhonda Lennard (middle right), and Elaine Perkins (right) say hello to Gladys Rudolph, a long-time Royal Purple member.



Laurel Jensen and Lorraine Thibeault share a laugh at the Shellbrook Royal Purple's Senior's Tea.

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CARD OF THANKS

The family of Dale Martin would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the staff of the nursing homes in Shellbrook and Canwood for their compassionate care and kindness. We are especially grateful to Dr. Ryan, doctors and nurses in Shellbrook for their dedication and support.

A special thank you to Bea “Lac” Funeral Home for their professional guidance and care, and to Lorne and Donna Valuck for their friendship, assistance, and thoughtfulness during this difficult time.

We would also like to thank everyone who sent flowers, brought food, made memorial donations, visited, called, sent cards, and offered prayers and condolences. Your kindness and support have been a great comfort to our family.

With appreciation,
Carol, Scott, Kim and Families.

It’s impossible to find the right words to express our gratitude for the incredible efforts made to save our homes while the Lobstick fire burned.

As the fire moved closer, the weather was not in our favour: the temperature was 34°C with winds of 30 gusting to 50 and up to 70 km.

By Friday morning the fire had crossed the river in several places. By Friday afternoon the fire covered the approx-

imate five miles of forest between our yard and the river in a few hours.

Neighbours quickly came from near and far with water tanks and equipment to fight the fire that was less than a kilometer away. They battled the fire all night and into the wee hours of Saturday morning, and they were back again on Saturday, keeping the fire from getting into the bush that would have brought the fire directly to us.

Several Fire and Rescue trucks and volunteers were stationed in our yard until around midnight on Friday and again on Saturday ready to hose down our houses if needed.

The Saskatchewan firefighting service cut fire-breaks and performed aerial water drops, keeping the fire from reaching the power line that crosses the river and preventing it from getting closer to us on Saturday and into the following week even after the evacuation order was lifted.

A huge, huge thanks to all involved in saving our three homes: the quick heroic action of great neighbours, Fire and Rescue volunteers, and the provincial firefighting crews.

Thanks also to the Kinettes for providing food for the fire fighters and managing the evacuation centre, the police, and the friends who took us in during the evacuation.

Maggie Mumm & Lisa Mumm, David and Lorette Palm, Pam Wozniak

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CARD OF THANKS

The family of the late Jerry Clark would like to express our gratitude to all for your kindnesses, prayers & thoughtful condolences. Thank you for the calls, messages, cards, donations, visits, flowers & food.

Thank you to those who attended the “Celebration of Life” and being there with us during this difficult time.

Gratitude to PIHC long-term care for the love, care and concern the last three years. Also to Beau Lac Funeral Home for your compassion. God bless.

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Shellbrook Legion presents Remembrance Day awards

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Shellbrook Legion members Maurice Tanchuk and padre David Bodvarson stopped by Shellbrook Elementary School and W.P. Sandin High School, while Nancy Carswell and Lloyd O'Brodovich visited Wild Rose School, on Monday, June 8, to hand out the prizes for the 2025 Remembrance Day Poster and Literary Contest.

Held each school year, the contest offers awards to successful entrants across four age groups: primary for students from Kindergarten to Grade 3, junior for students from Grade 4 to Grade 6, intermediate for students from Grade 7 to Grade 9, and senior for students from Grade 10 to Grade 12.

The entries are also part of a broader

Canada-wide competition. Winners at the branch level move on to the larger zone, district, and provincial contests. If successful, they then have the opportunity to go all the way to the national level. While no entries made it all the way to the nationals this year, a few local entrants did see some success at the zone and district levels.

Beginning with the branch level entrants over at Shellbrook Elementary School, Harlan Gouldhawke topped the primary colour poster contest, followed by Arya Mumm, and Maddox Strube. In the primary black and white poster contest, Ava Naber won top prize with Keira Knaus placing second.

At the junior level, Shellbrook Elementary's Storie Aspen Brown won the essay contest, and Daycee Thor-

haug won the poem contest. Thorhaug's poem also went on to win at the zone level, before finishing third at the district contest, while Brown's essay placed second at the zone level.

In the visual arts, Shellbrook Elementary's Leanna Theil won for her colour poster, followed by W.P. Sandin's Everly Brown in second, and Shellbrook Elementary's Aubryn Olson in third. Wild Rose's Ava Tiencamp won for her black and white poster, with Shellbrook Elementary's Maverick Bird in second, and Wild Rose's Liam Hunt placing third.

Among intermediate entrants, W.P. Sandin's Gwyn Phan won top prize for her poem, which also went on to win at the zone level and place third at the district level. W.P. Sandin students Marie-Annette Aghedo and Annika

Horricks placed second and third, respectively, with their poems.

For colour posters, W.P. Sandin's Cam Smart placed first at both the branch and zone levels, followed Julia Shindle and Addisyn Knaus in second and third place.

The black and white poster contest was won by W.P. Sandin's Kayla Klaassen, who went on to place second at the zone level, with Julia Shindle and Tayler Cameron rounding out the top three.

Finally, at the senior level, W.P. Sandin's Emmy Ledding won for her poem, which went on to place third at the zone level, and Oaklin Williams and Paige Herndier placed second and third.

For posters, Brooklyn Anderson won in the colour poster category.



Shellbrook Legion members Nancy Carswell and Lloyd O'Brodovich present Remembrance Day contest prizes to Wild Rose students, Ava Tiencamp and Liam Hunt.



Shellbrook Legion members present Remembrance Day Awards to W.P. Sandin students. Back row, left to right: Paige Herndier, Emmy Ledding, Oaklin Williams, Kayla Klaassen, Dave Bodvarson, Maurice Tanchuk, Addisyn Knaus, Marie-Annette Aghedo, and Julia Shindle. Front row: Brooklyn Anderson, Everly Brown, Gwyn Phan, Annika Horricks, Tayler Cameron, and Cam Smart.

Shellbrook Library May highlights

By **EDDIE HOEHN**
Branch Librarian

May was a magnificent month for the library. Participants made a Mother's Day card from cardstock and construction paper at the Mother's Day Card Program on Thursday, May 7.

The kids enjoyed creating pretend food, an island with tourist attractions, and a picnic scene at Lego Club in May. Volunteer and local library board member Samuel Schafer ran Lego Club on Tuesday, May 19, and participants created flowers and other items for spring-themed Lego Club.

On Friday May 1, volunteer Marj Bradley presented Shoe

Storytime. Participants had fun listening to four books about shoes: Ellie's Shoes, Sadie and the Silver Shoes, Those Shoes, and Baby Shoes. They decorated pre-cut construction paper shoes with stickers and ribbons and coloured the shoes with markers.

At other Storytimes, participants were excited to do scavenger hunts to find pictures of cartoon moms, paper plates, and elephants at Mother's Day, Plate, and Elephant Storytimes in May. Puppets interacted with participants at

these Storytimes.

On Wednesday, June 3, volunteer and local library board member Samuel Schafer presented the first Trivia Night in June. Participants named board games based on the board alone, answered questions about animals, listed the seven deadly sins, identified titles and actors from movies about magic, and identified Gen Z slang as either positive or negative. They also finished the lyrics from popular songs from the 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s, 2000s, and 2010s.

Participants played in 2 teams with six and seven members per team. The seven-per-

son team, comprised mainly of young adults and named "People Who Like Cheese", won.



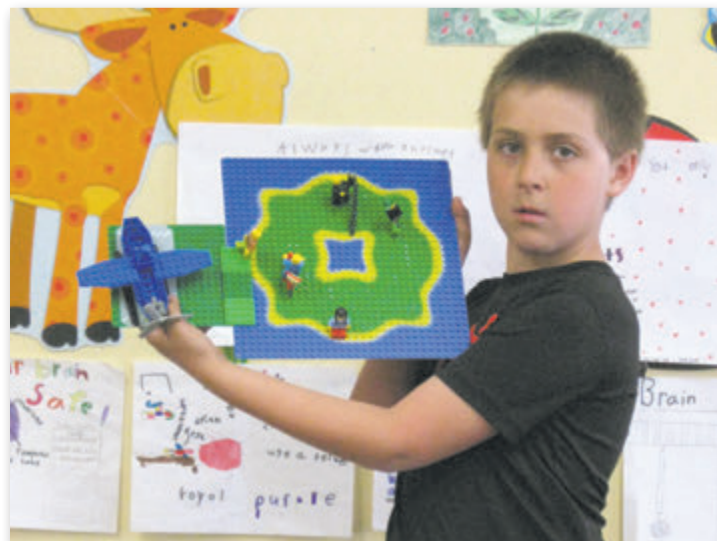
Volunteer Marj Bradley reads during Shoe Storytime.



Participants take part in June's first trivia night.



Mikey with his Mother's Day card.



Sam built an island for the tourist attraction-themed Lego club.