

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald

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École Debden Public School fêtes Class of 2026



École Debden Public School's Class of 2026. Back row, left to right: Hunter Anderson, Noah Gareau, Kaleb Gareau, Roan Amundson, Jacob Jean, and Kade Bailey. Front: Jersey Lamotte, Hannah Collins, Isabel Fiddler, Avery Cyr, Hayden Peterson, and Peyton Turner.

By **CORINE AMUNDSON**
Secretary

June 12 was a night of celebration, reflection, and laughter as Debden's small school community gathered to honor the 12 graduates of École Debden Public School's Class of 2026.

The evening began with emcees Jaxon Demers and Ben Lehouillier, who entertained guests with their humorous take on *Dumb and Dumber*, complete with the iconic pastel suits. Their lighthearted performance set a fun and welcoming tone for the ceremony.

Mr. Chris Kelly introduced the graduates and their parents, while recognizing the future plans of the graduating class. Greetings on behalf of the school division were delivered by Superintendent Garette Tebay, followed by an inspiring principal's message from Mr. Armand Tetreault.

A highlight of the evening was the valedictory address delivered by Avery Cyr. Avery reflected on the memories, friendships, and experiences shared throughout the years, and took

time to acknowledge each of her 11 classmates individually. Her heartfelt speech captured the spirit of the graduating class.

Mr. Kelly and Mr. Tetreault then presented graduation scrolls and recognized students for their academic accomplishments and personal achievements. Several graduates were honored with awards celebrating their dedication, hard work, leadership, and excellence:

- Roan Amundson received the Attendance, Biology, Français, and Practical and Applied Arts Home Economics Awards and graduated with Honours.

- Kade Bailey received the Practical and Applied Industrial Arts, and the Greatest Improvement Awards.

- Hannah Collins graduated with Honours.

- Avery Cyr received the Chemistry, History, Mathematics, Most Proficient, and Outstanding School Involvement Awards, graduating with High Honours.

- Jacob Jean received the Sports-

manship and Practical and Applied Industrial Arts Awards, and graduated with Honours.

- Isabel Fiddler was awarded the Congeniality award, as voted on by her peers.

- Jersey Lamotte graduated with Honours.

- Hayden Peterson received the English Award and graduated with Honours.

- Peyton Turner graduated with Honours.

- The prestigious Governor General's Academic Medal for the 2024-2025 school year was awarded to Rayna Vaadeland, presented by Board Trustee Mr. Bill Gerow.

Following a brief intermission, graduates returned dressed in elegant formal attire for the Grand March. Accompanied by their escorts, the graduates paraded around the gymnasium to the admiration of family, friends, and community members.

During this special portion of the evening, graduates expressed their appreciation to teachers and school

staff for their guidance and support. They also paid tribute to their parents, presenting roses and sharing heartfelt hugs with family members and special friends who had helped them along their journey.

In keeping with tradition, the light-hearted "Most Likely To" and future predictions were delivered by Hayden Peterson and Kade Bailey. Their humorous observations and playful forecasts provided plenty of laughter and entertainment for everyone in attendance.

The ceremony concluded with a touching slideshow created by Isabel Fiddler, showcasing photographs and memories from the graduates' school years. The evening's theme, "It Goes Faster Than You Think, So Don't Blink," served as a meaningful reminder of how quickly the years have passed and how important it is to cherish every moment.

Congratulations to the Class of 2026. We wish all 12 graduates success and happiness as they begin the next chapter of their lives.



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Wotherspoon crosses Saskatchewan for a cause

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

It's a cool, sunny evening when Megan Wotherspoon arrives at her aunt MaryAnne Kennedy's house in Shellbrook, after run-

ning the 54.5 kilometres from Sturgeon Lake Regional Park.

Surrounded by family, friends, and supporters, the 38-year-old teacher from Saskatoon enjoys a home-cooked meal and takes a moment to recover, so

she'll be physically and mentally prepared to run a similar distance the next day.

And the day after that.

And the day after that.

Her sojourn in Shellbrook at the Shellbrook Camp Ground actually marks the 20th day of her 1,500-kilometre journey, which began where Saskatchewan's northern roads end, in Stony Rapids. It's also far from the last day, and the finish line at Saskatchewan's southern border with Montana.

While the average person would pale at the thought of undertaking such an adventure on foot, Wotherspoon has been running for much of her adult life, building up to ever-greater distances since 2019.

"I started in university, just for mental wellness to take a break from the stresses of being a student," she says. "I worked up to a three-kilometre loop around Wascana. I did that almost every day and really enjoyed it. Then, I started exploring bigger distances."

As a self-professed lover of adventure, Wotherspoon says she leapt at the idea of running across Saskatchewan when her friend suggested it.

But such a trek requires careful planning, and as Wotherspoon pondered a deeper reason for



Megan Wotherspoon (right) stopped to visit with family in Shellbrook on her cross-Saskatchewan run to raise funds for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Canada.

embarking on it, she thought of her mother, Louise Tokaruk, who died from leukemia at age 38 when Wotherspoon was just six.

Wotherspoon's mom was a forestry technician with a profound love for and connection to the land.

With her own 38th birthday set to fall in the middle of her journey, Wotherspoon knew she wanted to use the experience as a tribute. So, she turned it into a fundraiser for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Canada.

At the outset, Wotherspoon set a fundraising goal of \$15,600 (about \$10 per kilometre of her run), and thought it might be too ambitious.

But by the beginning of her run on May 25, she'd already surpassed that goal.

She's since bumped her fundraising goal up to \$38,000. As of Monday, she was sitting at \$33,985 raised.

"I've been blown away by the generosity of the province and the communities I've been through. It means a lot," Megan says. "Sometimes I'm running, and I get an email that somebody's donated some money. I feel humbled... it motivates me to keep going."

In addition to fundraising support, Wotherspoon has also been inundated with financial and in-kind support from businesses and individuals, allowing her to cover the costs of accommodations and supplies, and travel with a support crew and a vehicle to serve as portable aid

station.

Following months of preparation and physical training for the run, Wotherspoon admits she didn't feel ready when the first day of the journey arrived. Despite this, she forged ahead and has enjoyed every step of the journey.

"I try to find as much joy as I can in the day, even though I'm doing something hard. The days go fast. I have to make a conscious effort to be present," she says, adding that the highlight of the journey has been witnessing Saskatchewan's ever-changing landscape.

As she departed Shellbrook for the Fort Carlton area, Wotherspoon said she hoped to reach the finish line of her run by the end of June.

For more about Wotherspoon and her run, visit: <https://www.everystepisgood.ca/>



Megan Wotherspoon runs to honour her mother, Louise, who died of leukemia at 38.

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REQUEST FOR QUOTE SKATING RINK ROOF

The **Debden Recreation Board** is seeking quotes from qualified contractors for the removal and replacement of shingles on the Debden Skating Rink roof (approx. 30,550 sq ft).

Work includes shingle removal, disposal, sheathing replacement as required, installation of synthetic underlayment, and installation of IKO Dynasty shingles or equivalent.

Contractors must carry liability insurance, provide WCB clearance, and comply with Saskatchewan OH&S regulations.

Submission Deadline: July 3, 2026

Full RFQ details available on SaskTenders or by request from the Debden Recreation Board.

Email: debdenrecreationboard@gmail.com

Phone: (306) 468-7862

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Village of Parkside
Box 48

Parkside, SK S0J 2A0

Email: villageofparkside@gmail.com

For more information, please contact the Village Office at (306) 747-2235 (Tuesdays Only)

The Village of Debden invites applications for the Full-Time position of VILLAGE FOREMAN

The successful applicant will be responsible for the overall organization, day-to-day management, operations and maintenance of our Public Works and Utility Systems.

Experience in machinery operation/maintenance, road maintenance and/or municipal water is a valuable asset. For a full job description and qualifications, please contact the Village Office at (306)724-2040 or office@debden.ca. Information is also available on our website debden.ca.

Resumes which include qualifications, references and expected rate of pay can be submitted to Village of Debden:

By mail: PO Box 400 Debden, Saskatchewan S0J 0S0

By email: office@debden.ca

Or delivered to: #204 2nd Avenue East, Debden

Closing Date: July 8, or when suitable applicant is selected.

Only candidates chosen for interviews will be contacted.

Big River funds CBC Analyzer

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

One day soon, thanks to the fundraising efforts of the Big River Health Improvement Committee and the community, residents of Big River will no longer have to wait three to four days for the results of blood tests.

As Big River resident Maisie Krien-

ke explains, the Big River Health Centre offers full lab services, but its CBC Analyzer for blood tests is currently non-functional, meaning there's a delay in receiving reports.

Seeing a need in the community, the Big River Health Improvement Committee embarked on a fundraising campaign to acquire a new CBC Analyzer, which was projected to cost

about \$35,000.

"This piece of equipment is essential for fast and accurate testing, providing a complete blood count which gives results instantly, saving several days time and travel for our Big River people," Krienke said.

The Big River Recreation Improvement Association immediately stepped forward to do its part, pre-

senting a \$25,000 donation to the Health Improvement Committee. Along with donations from individuals, businesses, and community groups, \$44,275 had been raised as of last week.

The excess donations, Krienke says, will be placed in a special fund to address future healthcare needs in the community.



The Big River Recreation Improvement Association donated \$25,000 to the Big River Health Improvement Committee for the purchase of a CBC Analyzer. From left to right: Doug Panter, Colleen Honig, Shirley Schwab, Arlene Gilbert, Maisie Krienke, Shauna Pickett, Clint Panter, Amanda Crashley, and Carolyn Dancey.

Scotiabank exits Shellbrook

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Shellbrook's Scotiabank branch officially closed its doors at the end of the business day on Thursday, June 18.

The closure was originally announced in October 2025, with all accounts being automatically transferred to the nearest Scotia-

bank branch in Prince Albert.

At the time, Scotiabank said no spokesperson was available to explain the reasons driving the closure and instead issued the following statement: "With client preferences changing, and more day-to-day banking being done digitally, we are continuing to evolve how we serve our cli-

ents and invest in areas that make it easier for our clients to bank with us in multiple ways."

The *Chronicle & Herald* also attempted to confirm how many employees the Shellbrook Scotiabank branch has, and whether they'd been offered jobs else-

where, but the company said it "couldn't provide this information."

The closure of the Shellbrook Scotiabank marks the third loss of a local financial institution in this area since 2023, when the Spiritwood Scotiabank branch and Canwood

Affinity Credit Union both announced closures in their respective communities.

Though Scotiabank has officially exited Shellbrook, Woodland Pharmacy will be hosting a dedicated ABM for

the bank. As of Monday, the business said that Scotiabank technicians were working on the machine, with plans to load it with cash on Tuesday and have it up and running at some point this week.

SHELLBROOK CEMETERY CLEAN-UP

The Shellbrook Cemetery Committee is inviting families to come and help clean and maintain your family's memorial plots **July 7-12** at the Shellbrook Cemetery. Committee members will be available to assist in areas needed. The Committee will supply consent forms for families wishing to give permission for the committee to do necessary work on family's behalf.

Donations may be accepted to Town of Shellbrook, in care of Shellbrook Cemetery Committee (Box 40 Shellbrook, SK S0J 2E0).

If you have any questions or want to give the cemetery committee permission to clean your families' memorial plots, please call Joanne at 306-747-7861.



NOTIFICATION OF PROPOSED TOWER REPLACEMENT

Access Communications Cooperative

Is proposing a 150ft (45.7m) self-supported structure tower replacement at:
53.220698, -106.375029, in Shellbrook, SK to be used to deliver fixed wireless high speed internet services.

For details on this proposal, please visit:
<https://myaccess.ca/publicnotifications/>
Comments or concerns can be addressed by July 25, 2026, to:
public.relations@myaccess.coop
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RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF CANWOOD NO. 494 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice is hereby given that the Council of the R.M. of Canwood No. 494 intends to adopt bylaws under *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*, to replace Bylaw No. 2003-6, known as the Basic Planning Statement and Bylaw 2003-7, known as the Zoning Bylaw.

Intent: The intent of the new Official Community Plan Bylaw 2026-05 and Zoning Bylaw 2026-06 is to implement land use regulations and minimum standards, establish zoning districts, prescribe a permitting process, prescribe a process of appeals, and provide a provision for amendments.

Affected Land: The proposed bylaws will affect all land within the incorporated area of the R.M. of Canwood No. 494.

Reason: The proposed bylaws will help facilitate, direct and manage development within the R.M. of Canwood No. 494.

Public Inspection: Any person may inspect the proposed Official Community Plan Bylaw and Zoning Bylaw at the R.M. Office between 8:30 AM and 5:00 PM Monday to Friday, excluding Statutory Holidays. Copies of the bylaws are available at cost. Additionally, the bylaws and associated maps may be viewed online at the following website:
www.rmofcanwood.ca

Public Hearing: Council will hold a public hearing on Thursday July 16th, 2026, at 7:00 PM at the Canwood Legion Hall. The Canwood Legion Hall is located at 585 South Avenue in the Village of Canwood. Any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed Official Community Plan Bylaw and Zoning Bylaw is welcome to attend or to submit comments prior to the meeting. Council will consider all comments received.

Issued at the R.M. of Canwood No. 494 this 28th day of May, 2026.

Lorna Benson
Chief Administrative Officer

Trump seizes defeat from victory in Iran

Last week, for the umpteenth time since he started dropping bombs on Iran at the end of February, U.S. President Donald Trump declared complete and utter victory over the Middle Eastern nation.

Indeed, of all the wars (or not-wars, as Mr. Trump chooses to view the nearly four-month Iranian campaign) ever won throughout the history of mankind, no conflict has ever been won so decisively, nor so many times in such a short span.

The triumph was cemented through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by Mr. Trump last week.

And what better way to commemorate the momentous achievement than with the president's own words?

"Our president will start a war with Iran because he has absolutely no ability to negotiate. He's weak and he's ineffective. So, the only way he figures that he's going to get re-elected, and as sure as you're sitting there, is to start a war with Iran."

That was what Mr. Trump said about then-President Barack Obama in 2011 (and again in 2012 and 2013).

And yet, despite his failings as a negotiator, Mr. Obama managed to get Iran to sign the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in 2015 without dropping a single bomb on the country.

Through the JCPOA, which was negotiated over the course of 18 months, Iran agreed to limit uranium enrichment to 3.67 per cent, far below the 90 per cent enrichment level required for nuclear weapons, and reduce its uranium stockpile to 300 kilograms for 15 years.

It also granted the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) access to its nuclear supply chain, including 24/7 monitoring of its uranium mines, mills, and centrifuge production facilities. And in return, Mr. Obama agreed to ease sanctions on Iran and unfroze billions in assets that had been held in restricted ac-



JORDAN TWISS
~
News Editor

counts for decades.

The JCPOA was certainly imperfect, doing little to limit Iran's military capabilities as a destabilizing global force and state sponsor of terrorism.

As the author of the *Art of the Deal*, it's no surprise that Mr. Trump felt like he could improve upon Mr. Obama's agreement.

Naturally, there's no better way to improve something than to rip it up and ignore it – just as Mr.

Trump did with the JCPOA during his first term.

And of course, when Mr. Trump said that Mr. Obama would start a war with Iran because of his failings as a negotiator, what he really meant was that the best way to negotiate is to bomb the other party into submission.

This, according to Mr. Trump's supporters, is negotiating from a position of strength, while actually negotiating is an act of weakness or appeasement.

So, what did Mr. Trump's negotiating from a position of strength result in?

Well, for starters, it didn't even really result in a concrete deal, if one thinks of a deal as some sort of binding contract with clear terms and conditions and consequences for violating them.

Instead, the MOU is a commitment to a 60-day ceasefire (similar to the one agreed to in April) to allow the U.S. and Iran to continue negotiating an actual deal.

That's not to say there's nothing at all to the agreement. So far, it contains 14 points the U.S. and Iran have (allegedly) agreed to hash out.

This includes an end to the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz by both parties, development of a comprehensive plan to finance the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Iran to the tune of at least \$300 billion, the easing of U.S. sanctions against Iran, the unfreezing of billions of dollars in Iranian assets, and free flow of Ira-



nian oil and petrochemical products.

As for the important question of nuclear weapons, the MOU states that Iran will commit to never seek a nuclear weapon, and that the U.S. and Iran will determine the fate of its existing enriched material as part of the final agreement.

In the meantime, pending a final agreement, the MOU states that both parties will maintain the status quo, meaning, "Iran will maintain the status quo on its nuclear program, and the United States will not impose new sanctions on Iran or strengthen its forces in the region."

If you read all that and are still wondering when we get to the part where the U.S. won, you're not alone.

Objectively speaking, the deal is a victory for Iran. The country negotiated its way to a massive financial and economic windfall, while Mr. Trump simply negotiated a return to the way things were before he wasted billions of dollars, as well as the lives of 14 service members, in the conflict.

To make matters worse, the MOU is far from a sure thing.

April's ceasefire lasted only a few days before hostilities resumed. With Israel signalling that it won't honour the agreement and pause its campaign in Lebanon, this ceasefire is already on rocky ground.

From the outset, the goals of Mr.

Trump's not-war in Iran were murky at best.

Depending on who one asked, the not-war both was and wasn't about regime change and bringing freedom to the Iranian people.

Unsurprisingly, it accomplished neither of those things.

Militarily speaking, it was about obliterating Iran's military and nuclear stockpile, despite the fact that the latter had been completely destroyed during Mr. Trump's first attack on Iran in 2025.

To be certain, Iran's military and defensive capabilities have been greatly reduced. However, earlier this month it proved that it's still a threat (and that the U.S. isn't nearly as powerful as it believes) by using a cheap drone to take down an expensive American military helicopter, and the status of its nuclear stockpile remains unclear.

Economically speaking, everything became more expensive for the world, while Russia and Iran benefited from the easing of sanctions on their oil during the Hormuz blockade. Additionally, Iran learned it could use the strait as a critical bargaining chip in any future conflicts.

Again, this is objectively not a victory. But if this is how Mr. Trump negotiates a win, I like Canada's odds in the upcoming CUSMA negotiations.

Shellbrook Chronicle

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Canwood School toasts Class of 2026

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

Family, friends, and community members gathered in the Canwood Community School gymnasium on Friday, June 19, to bid a warm farewell to the seven students in the school's Class of 2026.

Serving as MC for the evening's festivities, teacher Kori Sansom says the ceremony was a beautiful occasion for the school and school community.

"The grads spent a lot of time with their families decorating the gym," she said, noting that the graduates opted for a colour scheme of black and gold, rather than a more traditional theme for the proceedings.

"It was all decked out with lights hung from the basketball hoops all over the gym. It was really pretty and magical feeling in there."

In keeping with a long-standing Canwood Public School tradition, graduates started the ceremony with the History & Prophecy, a short, often humorous, presentation which introduces who each of the graduates is, what they enjoy doing, what they'll be most remembered for, and what they have planned for the future.

Up next, graduates and guests were treated to a slideshow presentation, compiled by graduate NoveLeigh Vaagen, featuring photos of the graduates as they grew up over the years, before it was time for the evening's speeches.

As most of the Class of 2026 was together from Kindergarten to Grade 12, the graduates opted to return to the be-



From Left to right, Aaliyah Masuskapoe, Dylan Stewart, Chelsea Holmes, Leland Robertson, NovaLeigh Vaagen, Nicholas Ahenakew-Quessy, and Cailyn Isbister.

Photo by Backroads Photography

ginning of their school journey by asking their Kindergarten teacher, Lisa Howat, to serve as the special guest speaker.

Also sharing words with the grads were principal Sylvia Delisle, Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division Board member Cher Bloom and school superintendent Cory Trann, and class valedictorian Cailyn Isbister.

In addition to celebrating the students' graduation, the ceremony also took a moment to recognize academic achievements with the distribution of subject awards for 30 level classes, and the presentation of the school's Johanna & Walfred Carlson Memorial Scholarships to Cailyn Isbister and Leland Robertson.

The \$500 scholarships are awarded to students bound for post-secondary education who "represents the persistence and endurance of the pioneering spirit."

And personal growth was also celebrated, with the presentation of the school's Congeniali-

ty Award and Student of the Year Award to Nicholas Ahenakew-Quessy.

As she says farewell to another cohort of graduates, Sansom says she'll remember the Class of 2026 as unique and especially kind — in spite of the challenges they've each had to overcome.

"I don't think there's a single one of them that you couldn't ask for something that they wouldn't jump in and help you with," Sansom said. "Their uniqueness and giving nature is something that we'll miss in our building."

Noting that some of the grads have some ambitious dreams and are well on their way to achieving them, Sansom says she wishes them nothing but the best.

"I hope they have a great road ahead of them, and they enjoy the ride while they're on it."

Canwood Community School's Class of 2026 is: Nicholas Ahenakew-Quessy, Chelsea Holmes, Cailyn Isbister, Aaliyah Masuskapoe, Leland Robertson, Dylan Stewart, and NovaLeigh Vaagen.

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Highlights of a Shellbrook Town Council meeting

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

(The following council highlights are not the approved minutes of council for June 15.)

Shellbrook's Town Council held its regular meeting in person and via teleconference on Monday, June 15.

In attendance were Mayor Amund Otterson, Councillors Rod Atkinson, Pam Boettcher, Cheryl Ledding, Brent Miller, Kathleen Nording, and Arlette Segberg, the town's CAO Sigourney O'Halligan, and consultant Jim Puffalt.

Mayor Otterson called council's regular meeting to order around 5 p.m., beginning with the customary Treaty 6 land acknowledgement in recognition of Truth and Reconciliation.

Then, council approved the meeting's agenda as well as the minutes of its May 25 regular meeting, and welcomed delegate Tasha Cyr, who was in attendance to provide an update on the Parkland Pool Committee's fundraising efforts and discuss the current status of the existing swimming pool, which has faced issues with a boiler and the backing of its liner this season.

While the pool committee had settled on Centennial Park as the location for the new pool, the provincial government's budget commitment to build a new K-12 school in Shellbrook has raised questions about locating it at Shellbrook Elementary School after the new school is built.

In preliminary discussions with the Sas-

katchewan Rivers Public School Division, the town has learned that the likely timeline for the new school is three to five years. Though Shellbrook Elementary would be an advantageous location for the pool, this raises difficult questions about whether the existing pool can be maintained and kept running for that long, and at what cost.

Currently, the pool committee has funded about \$750,000, and the town is also holding money in reserves for the pool project. Cyr said the pool committee is willing to help with repairs to the current pool.

CAO O'Halligan suggested that the next steps should be to reach out to Western Recreation & Development or Paradise Pools to have an assessment done on the pool. It was also noted that a new boiler, which costs about \$30,000, could be acquired with the understanding that it would eventually move to the new pool.

Council further suggested that the town and pool committee need to begin seriously pursuing available grants.

With the discussion at a close, council moved on to the reports of administration and committees, starting with CAO O'Halligan's report. There, she reported that two new CSOs would be starting before the end of the month.

O'Halligan also said that administration is reviewing garbage tender documents, as the town's existing garbage removal contract is up for renewal this year, and that ratepayers will soon see the recycling fee removed from their monthly utility bills

because of changes made when the town joined the province's new recycling program.

Lastly, she reported that a contractor was scheduled to paint street lines in various areas around town.

In the mayor and council forum, Councillor Boettcher noted she had received a few phone calls about unsightly yards, and expressed hope for the situation to improve with the new CSOs starting.

In its lone item of unfinished business, council gave third reading to Fees Bylaw 2026-005, which sets out costs for municipal services and facility rental fees.

Then, in new business, council unanimously gave three readings to and enacted Bylaw 2026-005, which extends the deadline for administration to complete the town's audited financial statement. This is a fairly common practice for municipalities.

Moving on, council passed a motion to abate taxes on two non-taxable properties, and formed a committee, consisting of councillors Boettcher, Ledding, and Segberg, to come up with plans for a mural at the end of Main Street.

Council then reviewed the results of the town's Business Retention & Expansion Survey and Customer Service Charter, both of which were conducted by Jim Puffalt's Prairie Rising Consulting. The Customer Service Charter will serve as the town's guiding policy in dealing with the public, and sets the expectation that questions and concerns will be addressed with-

in two business days.

Up next, council reviewed a proposal from Associated Engineering (AE) to take the lead on the water treatment plant project, which includes a \$500,000 engineering fee. Puffalt suggested that this is a relatively low fee, given the projected total cost of the project.

Councillor Miller suggested the town should appoint an independent project manager, to remove any incentive for AE to run up costs. But councillor Atkinson believed this wasn't necessary, given his previous experiences with AE.

In the end council agreed that it should question AE about how it will have the project peer reviewed to ensure costs stay in line with expectations. It then carried a motion to proceed with AE's proposal, with the caveat that the agreement allow the town to pause at any time.

Closing out the meeting, council discussed issuing a refund to Happy Hearts Childcare Centre for garbage removal fees that were charged to it in error after it switched to a private contractor in 2022.

The town's policy is to only provide refunds for up to three months when such errors occur. However, O'Halligan had agreed to issue a refund covering all of this year, for a total of \$95.64.

After a lengthy debate, council voted to put a credit on the daycare's account in the amount of \$430.38, or half of what it was erroneously charged, thereby sharing accountability equally between the town and the daycare.

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Saskatchewan 

Farm and food safety can't be compromised

If ever we wondered why safeguards are important — especially in the agriculture field — we need look no farther than the current screwworm situation unfolding in Texas.

For those unfamiliar with the screwworm, it is the parasitic larva (maggot) of certain blowflies. Those larvae feed on the living flesh of warm-blooded animals, including livestock, pets, and rarely humans.

The name comes from the maggot's behaviour of burrowing into healthy tissue in a screw-like motion using sharp mouth hooks.

The screwworm is

not new to Texas. But thanks to programming — including a release of sterile flies to limit reproduction, it has been years since the parasite has been an issue.

But it is back now, with *producer.com* reporting that the screwworm has been reported in a three-week-old Texas calf. That was the first case reported, and there are now five, including two in cattle and a goat, and a dog in New Mexico. Wildlife and horses are other vectors.

The parasite is rather common in Mexico and Central America, so the threat to Texas is always right there.

But after years of sol-



CALVIN DANIELS

id defence against the screwworm, the current recurrence leaves the question of why now?

While you might not be able to draw a direct correlation, one needs to question whether the return is the result of decisions made under U.S. president Donald Trump.

It seems unlikely an

issue like the screwworm reappearing is not tied, at least in part, to the fact the USDA is operating with 25 per cent fewer animal health experts than it had at the start of Trump's second term.

That is a significant reduction in expertise and has to be impacting response efforts to the current screwworm issue.

Of course, Trump and his cohorts have shown a propensity for caring little about science and actual data. The recent decision by the Trump administration to pull more than 900 deep-sea ocean sensors out of the Pacific and Atlantic

oceans near Washington, Oregon, Alaska, North Carolina, and Greenland is another fine example of what seems very much 'an ostrich with its head in the sand' approach to things.

And of course, the Trump administration has also enacted huge cuts to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), reducing its workforce by more than 25 per cent and cutting federal public health grants according to varied reports.

It is a rather obvious disregard for public safety, for potential disaster preparedness, and a general distrust

of good science under Trump, which means here in Canada we need to be even more diligent.

In that regard, it was good to see the Canadian Food Inspection Agency move to restrict animals that had been in Texas within the last 21 days from entering the country.

But it goes deeper, too, in the sense that what is happening in terms of 'safety' in the U.S. under Trump is a clear message to Canada not to follow in that direction.

What we really need to do is bolster safety measures and those who monitor them.

Crop Report: June 9 to 15

By **MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**
Submitted

Seeding is 97 per cent complete, up from 93 per cent last week. This is slightly below the five- and ten-year average of 99 per cent. Progress was slowed by rainfall and excess moisture. Despite these delays, seeding is nearing completion in almost all areas.

The west-central and southwest regions are the most advanced at 99 per cent complete, followed closely by the southeast and northern regions at 98 per cent. The east-central region has made progress at 90 per cent complete.

Provincially, good progress was made in seeding oilseed crops and perennial forages,

while progress for pulse crops was notably slower. Seeding is nearly finished for key crops, including field peas, lentils, spring wheat and durum.

Rainfall varied significantly across the province, with some regions receiving no precipitation, while the RM of Lipton recorded 90 millimetres (mm) and the Langenburg and Elfros regions received 78 mm and 74 mm, respectively.

Topsoil moisture conditions remained stable overall, with increases in surplus moisture observed in some regions following recent rainfall.

Crop development varies due to fluctuations in rainfall and growing conditions throughout the season.

While most crops are reported to be developing at a normal pace, a notable portion is also behind expected stages.

Crop conditions vary by crop type, with the majority rated as fair to good. A notable proportion of crops are in excellent condition, indicating strong overall crop health. However, some variability remains across crop types and regions, reflecting differences in growing conditions.

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

With seeding almost wrapped up in many regions, producers are focused on in-crop her-

bicide 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.

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SAT., JULY 13 – 10:00 am – Bruce and Cathy Reinhart:
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ADMINISTRATOR

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF LEASK NO. 464

The Rural Municipality of Leask is currently accepting applications for the position of **Administrator**.

The Administrator position is responsible to Council for providing overall administration of the Municipality and will ensure the effective utilization of the financial and administrative resources. As the principal advisor to Council, the Administrator will provide to Council all relevant information necessary to make informed decisions, along with providing leadership for planning and executing a strategic vision that meets the current and future needs of the Municipality.

As the Administrator, you will have strong interpersonal and communication skills, including the ability to build trusted relationships with internal and external stakeholders. You will be a strong decision maker with high integrity and have authentic leadership skills, providing guidance and support for staff and community. As the successful candidate, you will have a thorough understanding of municipal operations, including: legislation, finance, budgeting, infrastructure, planning and economic development. In addition to your understanding of municipal operations, you will have the knowledge of business, administration, financial management, strategic planning, policy development, and implementation, resource allocation and leadership.

As the successful candidate you will have a:

- Certificate in Local Government Administration or equivalent
- Rural Class "C" Certificate or Higher; or
- Be in the process of completing the LGA Courses to obtain a Rural Class "C" Certificate
- Experience with MuniSoft software including the Tax Roll, Hail Roll, General Ledger, Accounts Payable and PubWorks
- Strong communication, management, organizational and interpersonal skills
- Experience in Residential, Agricultural and Commercial Development
- Experience with financial planning and asset management

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.

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Debden, CBC celebrate local stories

By **ALINE HANNON**
Branch Librarian

The Debden Library, in partnership with CBC/Radio-Canada, recently hosted a four-week workshop called “Pull Up a Log” (“Tire-toi une bûche” in French). Participants learned how to transform their personal anecdotes and memories into digital stories — short videos created using their own voices, words, and photo-

graphs. On Wednesday, June 10, a special presentation was held at the Debden Heritage Manor, where family members, friends, residents, and community members gathered to view the completed stories. The event showcased the unique experiences, memories, and perspectives of local participants, preserving personal histories while strengthening connections within the

community. Through storytelling, laughter, reflection, and shared experiences, the work-

shop provided participants with an opportunity to celebrate their lives and leave a lasting

legacy for future generations. The presentation was a meaningful conclu-

sion to a successful program that brought people together through the power of storytelling.



(Above) Community members and residents of Debden Heritage Manor gathered to watch the stories developed in their own community.

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Nicole Lavergne Smith leads the presentation on behalf of CBC/Radio Canada.

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Building Rural Saskatchewan's Fiber Future

SHA issues rabies warning for Spiritwood

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) is offering preventative rabies treatments to anyone who may have come in contact with a bat with rabies that was found at a Spiritwood daycare in early June. According to a release issued by the SHA, the bat was discovered at the Love & Laughter Early Learning Centre daycare attached to Hartley Clark Elementary School on June 4. The SHA said the bat was subsequently captured by a conservation officer and sent for testing, which confirmed it had rabies. “All children and persons who may have had contact with the bat have been offered rabies immunoglobulin for immediate protection, along with rabies vaccination to provide longer-term protection,” the health

authority said in its statement. Following the incident, the Living Sky School Division sent a statement to parents on June 9, advising them of the incident and school and central services team had worked together to resolve it. “Our facilities team had a professional come out to inspect the building,” the statement said. “After his work, he reported the building to be clear of any other animals and cited that future bat activity is unlikely at this time.” Rabies is a viral disease that attacks the nervous system, and it is 100 per cent fatal to humans if symptoms appear. The SHA encourages Saskatchewan residents to contact HealthLine 811 if they encounter a bat within a dwelling for direction on the next appropriate steps. Those steps may include a preventative rabies vaccination.

The life of a pond: Part 1

By **PATRICIA HANBIDGE**
Orchid Horticulture

The view from my office on Vancouver Island is unequaled.

When I am working at my desk, I look over Lake Omar, which is a permanent catchment pond. Catchment ponds or retention basins are man-made ponds designed to collect and manage rainwater runoff.

A permanent retention pond acts as a vital artificial ecosystem that provides significant environmental benefits. Water that is sustained throughout the year supports complex aquatic life and this biodiversity creates a thriving habitat oasis.

Permanent ponds filter stormwater runoff and act as a natural filter. As the storm water enters, the water flow slows which allows sediment, heavy metals and other pollutants to settle to the bottom of the pond.

As the nutrients are taken up by thriving plant life, the water becomes more purified. These permanent ponds help cool the surrounding microclimate, prevents soil erosion along the plant covered banks and significantly improve the natural landscape.

They are typically nutrient rich and are not fed by natural streams. This body of water has ever-changing scenery that is soothing and extremely entertaining.

As I am writing this article, there are two pairs of Canada geese vying for this piece of paradise by loudly honking and exhibiting behaviour that will chase the less strong pair of geese to find another place to nest, and claim what they are viewing as the superior spot to raise their young. The superior pair are now resting on the Floating Umbrella and soaking up the morning sun.

As we move into summer, the pond changes and there is less run-off entering. The water levels fall, the temperature of the water rises, and



the plants and animals living in this body of water flourish.

The pond naturally supports cat-tails, water lilies and a variety of other native flora. Ducks, geese, herons, kingfishers, turtles and crayfish all love this body of water and we even get visits from beavers, muskrat and river otters.

Hidden from our naked eye, this pond is also a source of many invertebrates and other tiny plants and animals that aid our visitors as well as our Coho salmon in growing quickly as fry in the hatchery. We are part of the salmonid enhancement program on Vancouver Island and this past season, I was tasked with

modernizing the hatchery.

As we were getting ready to pond our tiny salmon this year, Lake Omar water was added to the incubating Heath stacks to gradually introduce what will be the new environment for the Coho, which is water from Lake Omar.

Just having this nutrient-rich water flowing through their gills, the Coho were absorbing nutrients without even actively feeding. Hence, those Coho that experienced Lake Omar water for a longer period of time, thrived as newly ponded fry with no adjustment period.

This spring we also released Rainbow Trout into Lake Omar as they

are an integral part of managing this body of water. It also allows interested students the opportunity to fly-fish right here on campus.

Needless to say, the Rainbow Trout that many of our students are trying to entice with their fly fishing skills are fat and happy with what they are eating in Lake Omar and not very tempted to work at catching a lure in spite of being expertly made by our students involved in the Fly-Tying 360 club.

A family of mallard ducklings is now nestled together on the stump in front of the hatchery, preening and getting ready to have their mid-morning nap. They were very accommodating to allow me to wander out onto the dock to capture their happiness.

Lake Omar has provided for this mother and her seven ducklings, ensuring they have a safe place to grow and be supplied with the best food source available for them.

We might think that the green stuff floating in Lake Omar is just another algae bloom – but it is instead a protein rich food called watermeal or mealy duckweed.

Watch for The Life of a Pond – Part II and learn more about the newest superfood!

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

Spiritwood Library hosts local students



The Spiritwood Public Library welcomed K-2 Students from Rivier Elementary School on Tuesday, June 9. As part of their Fun Day, each group went to different stations around town. At the Library, they had a story read to them, then divided into teams for about three rounds of an exciting indoor snowball fight. After the timer went, snowballs were counted to find the winning team. Everyone had a great time.

By **HEATHER GATZKE**, Branch Librarian



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Sask. launches online portal for flooding support

By SPSA
Submitted

The Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency (SPSA) is launching a new online information portal to help Saskatchewan residents, municipalities, businesses and agricultural producers access timely information and supports related to spring flooding.

Developed by the SPSA's Recovery Task Team, the portal is available on the saskatchewan.ca website. View the portal at saskatchewan.ca/residents/emergency/flooding-support.

"When flooding impacts communities, people need clear information and timely support. The portal was created to ensure people affected by flooding can quickly find reliable information and access available services in one convenient location," the Honourable Michael Weger Minister of Community Safety and Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency said. "The

Recovery Task Team will continue building on this work to ensure residents, businesses and agricultural producers receive the support they need to recover."

The portal includes:

- Emergency support for flooding;
- Recovery information for homeowners and municipalities;
- Business support and recovery resources;
- Information for agricultural producers;
- Environmental information; and
- Flood forecasting advisories and technical guidance.

The Recovery Task Team, established during the 2025 wildfire season to support recovery efforts in Denare Beach and other areas, consists of representatives from various provincial ministries, agencies and Crown Corporations. It aims to provide a structured and unified approach for recovery after emergencies and disasters.

GOOD NEWS

NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF WORDS

By DAVID BODVARSON
Submitted

I got an opportunity to preach at Canwood Pentecostal Church. I did something I likely never did on a Sunday and preached a one-point sermon. The theme of my message was to never underestimate the power of words.

There is a saying, "If a child lives with encouragement, he learns confidence. If a child lives with praise, he learns to appreciate. If a child lives with approval, he learns to like himself."

On Dec. 15, 2024 I had the blessing to preach in Rocanville. Marlene and I had pastored there for some 12 years. I opened up the altar for prayer and we prayed with people. I not only ministered to others, I was ministered to myself.

The pastor, through the Holy Spirit, gave me a word that made my spirit leap. To paraphrase "David, your pastoring days are done but God will open doors to go to churches to give them words of encouragement."

I mentioned this morning that Job went through a heap of trouble. He had three comforters. At times they weren't all that comforting. Yet, one of Job's comforters does say something complimentary to Job. Eliphaz tells Job, reading from Moffatt's translation, "Your words have kept men on their feet."

Never underestimate the power of words.

One can speak life into a person. One can speak life into a situation.

Mike Howerton describes how the different motivational methods of the

two men who coached his high school football team, Coach Crow and Coach Rush. When his team was losing the two coaches would give two different "pep talks" during halftime.

"Coach Crow would come in growling, spitting disdain in his words at us: 'What a bunch of losers.' He would leave, and absolute silence would descend, virtually no sound except for the muffled sobs of Monty, our kicker, in the corner.

Then our defensive head coach, Coach Rush, would come in. When he began to speak, you could feel strength flow into your limbs. He would begin with something like this, 'I don't see high school students. I see lions. This locker room is filled with lions. A bunch of lions is called a pride. A pride of lions hunts together. Lions are majestic to behold. Lions are the kings of the land, and this is your land. But there's one thing I haven't heard you lions do tonight. I haven't heard you roar. Now we're gonna go out there and everyone in this two-bit town is gonna hear you roar because you are Lions and Lions Roar!'

And we'd erupt in an ear-splitting roar because we weren't seniors or juniors; we were Lions and Lions Roar, and we'd go out to inevitable victory. When Coach Rush died unexpectedly a few years later, he was so beloved that there was a motion to name the stadium after him."

Those are life giving words. Words matter.

As Proverbs 18:21 reminds us, "Death and Life are in the power of the tongue."

ADVERTISING DEADLINE IS FRIDAY 4PM

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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TOWN OF SHELLBROOK PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice is hereby given that the Council of the Town of Shellbrook intends to adopt bylaws under *The Planning and Development Act, 2007* to amend Bylaw No. 2012-06 known as the Official Community Plan and Bylaw No. 2018-01 known as the Zoning Bylaw.

INTENT

The proposed bylaws will:

- Redesignate lands described below and shown on Maps A & B from Commercial to Residential;
- Rezone lands described below and shown on Map A from C1 - Downtown Commercial to R1 - Low Density Residential;
- Rezone lands described below and shown on Map B from C1 - Downtown Commercial to R2 - Medium Density Residential; and
- Rezone lands described below and shown on Map C from M - Industrial and C2 - Highway Commercial to M - Industrial.

AFFECTED LAND

The affected land is legally described as follows:

- Lot 1A, Block 13, Plan No. 102478743 as shown within the bold dashed line on Map A;
- Lot 5, Block 13, Plan No. U390 as shown within the bold dashed line on Map B; and
- A portion of Parcel L1, Plan No. 10227945 as shown within the bold dashed line on Map C.



REASON

The reasons for the amendments are:

- To provide for the development of medium density residential;
- To correct a zoning error;
- To provide for the development of a closed lane.

PUBLIC INSPECTION

Any person may inspect the bylaw at the municipal office located at 71 Main Street, Shellbrook, SK, Monday to Friday between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:00 pm, excluding statutory holidays. Copies are available at a cost.

PUBLIC HEARING

Council will hold a public hearing on July 13th, 2026 at 5:00 pm at the town office located at 71 Main Street, Shellbrook, SK to hear any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed bylaw. Council will also consider written comments received at the hearing or delivered to the undersigned at the municipal office before the hearing.

Issued at the Town of Shellbrook this 12th Day of June, 2026

Signed: *Sigourney O'Halligan*

No guarantee, but McKenna likely No. 1

Will there be a surprise when National Hockey League general managers and head scouts get together this week in Buffalo for the annual draft of 18-year-old players?

A big surprise, of course would be that the No. 1 pick owned by the Toronto Maple Leafs was someone other than Gavin McKenna, the Whitehorse, Yukon flash who starred for two seasons in the Western Hockey League and then spent the past campaign skating for Penn State in the U.S. college system.

For almost two years, McKenna has been pegged as the consensus No. 1 pick. Sporting goods stores in Toronto are already selling Leafs' jerseys with 'McKenna 72' on the back. Most mock drafts published in recent weeks by respected hockey journalists rank McKenna first.

But then, along comes a feature article in The Athletic by Corey Pronman which pours water on the theory that McKenna will be a slam dunk No. 1 selection. The writer quotes an unnamed scouting director as saying "I wouldn't want to be picking (No.) 1 this year. There's a very good chance the best play-

er in this draft doesn't even go in the top five."

That's the problem with drafting 18-year-olds. Sometimes it takes four or five years to get a true reading on who is the obvious best player. Hot scorers in junior hockey sometimes flame out and settle in as third-line centres; some lesser acclaimed defenceman might add 20 pounds of muscle and become a Hall of Famer.

For now, however, McKenna seems to be the consensus No. 1 pick, although he doesn't seem to get scouts drooling like they did for Matthew Schaefer, Macklin Celebrini or Connor Bedard. A team with plenty of offence and some defensive deficiencies might be tempted to rate defenceman Chase Reid, Daxon Rudolph, Keaton Verhoeff or Carson Carels No. 1. The recent hiring of Manny Maholtra as coach of the Canucks has created a fly-in-the-ointment situation for Vancouver, which has the No. 3 pick. Forward Caleb Maholtra, Manny's son, is a definite first-rounder and some are wondering whether family considerations will affect their drafting philosophy.



BRUCE PENTON

In many of the mock drafts printed recently, Swedish forward Ivar Stenberg was No. 1 or No. 2 alongside McKenna. While scouts agree McKenna has some deficiencies, they are also in agreement that he has that "special skill" that comes along so rarely. "I would have a really hard time passing on the special skill," a veteran scout said in the Pronman story. "That's the kind of stuff that gets you fired."

Ultimately, when Commissioner Gary Bettman announces the No. 1 pick this week, it will almost assuredly be McKenna going to Toronto. His puck handling and playmaking ability could make a 50-goal scorer out of Auston Matthews and his powerplay talents could turn the Leafs' fortunes around immediately.

A solid defenceman might make more sense in the long run, but the Leafs aren't a team that avoids the big splash. And this year, that big splash is McKenna.

• Joseph Laminga of Fried Egg Golf, on the PGA Tour surveying members asking whether the golf ball should be rolled back: "You might as well survey rats on if there is a cheese problem!"

• Super 70s Sports: "Baseball was better when Harry Caray was around. This cannot be disputed."

• Headline at the-onion.com: "MLB Attempts To Reduce Human Error With New Electronic Bat Boys"

• Tom Hawthorn in The Tyee, in a story reminiscing about long-time junior hockey coach Ernie (Punch) McLean, who recently died at age 91: "Punch's face looked as though the Pillsbury Doughboy had gone 10 rounds with legendary enforcer John Ferguson."

• Cathal Kelly of the Globe and Mail, in a column about Mike Babcock's reputation as a bully: "... the sort of guy who starts rolling up his sleeves if you accidentally bump shoulders in the dairy aisle."

• The New York Times 'The Morning' after the Knicks overcame a 29-point third-quarter deficit to beat the Spurs by one point in Game 4 of the NBA final: "Knicks fans are ready to erect a statue of OG Anunoby outside the Garden. Spurs fans are seeking therapy after the biggest collapse in finals history."

• Comedy guy Torben Rolfson of Vancouver: "Scary 6 the movie came out yesterday. Is that something to do with Jeff Hoffman?"

• Rolfson again: Fun fact: The first baseball game ever was played in Beachville, Ont. in 1838. Hoffman's great, great,

great, great grandfather blew a save."

• Headline at fark.com: "Knicks fans celebrate their team's historic comeback win with all the grace and humility you would expect from New Yorkers."

• Steve Simmons of the Toronto Sun: "What do awards mean? Members of the Tampa Bay Lightning won the Hart Trophy (Nikita Kucherov), the Vezina Trophy (Andrei Vasilevskiy) and the Adams Trophy (Jon Cooper) this season. What they didn't win was a round in the playoffs."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

NDP sounds alarm on food insecurity

By SASK NDP
Submitted

The Saskatchewan NDP is calling out Scott Moe for shrugging off the sky-high rates of poverty and food insecurity identified in a damning new report that shows just how terrible his record on child poverty and affordability has been.

The 2026 Food Banks Canada Poverty Report Card gave Saskatchewan a D+ grade on poverty measures, finding that 26.7 per cent of Saskatchewan people live in food-insecure households. Even more troubling, the report notes Saskatchewan's 2025 deadline to cut poverty in half by 2015 — has passed and child poverty sits at 27.1 per cent, the highest rate in Canada.

"Kids are going to school hungry in the morning and going to bed hungry at night," said Matt Love, Shadow Minister for Educa-

tion, "Families are being forced to make impossible decisions each and every day between keeping a roof over their head and putting food on the kitchen table.

"Our children only get one chance at childhood. We have to get this right. No one in this province should be satisfied with the news that children are going hungry, especially not the Premier."

Love held a news conference on the report in North Battleford where the local food bank has been overrun with demand in recent months.

The report also found that:

- Saskatchewan's poverty rate sits at 11.6 per cent, above the national average.
- Social assistance provides just 44.8 per cent of the income needed to reach the poverty line.
- Disability benefits cover only 55.9 per cent of the poverty line.

The report also notes Saskatchewan remains one of few Canadian provinces without any protection for renters.

In the Spring Sitting, Carla Beck's team brought forward nine pieces of legislation to immediately cut costs for families — the Sask. Party refused them all.

In the prior Fall Sitting, Beck's team brought in The Rent Control Act to cap rate increases at the rate of inflation. Again, Scott Moe and co. refused to pass the bill and provide support to renters.

"There are solutions on the table — it just takes a government willing to do the right thing and listen to the very people that elected them," Love said. "Scott Moe frequently states that Saskatchewan is the most affordable place to live in Canada. I don't think the families going hungry day after day agree. This data speaks for itself.

"It's time for change."

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OBITUARIES

Abraham Wesley Cross



Abraham Wesley Cross
April 24, 1934 – June 11, 2026

Dad passed away peacefully on June 11, 2026, with family by his side. Dad was born April 24, 1934, in Spiritwood, to Mathilda and Edward Cross. The second youngest of 9 children, Dad grew up on the family farm south of Spiritwood,

SK.

Dad met Mom (Beulah Schlegte) in 1953 and married in November 1955. They settled on the family farm in Spiritwood where they grain farmed, raised cattle, and Mom worked at the hospital. In 1962, they purchased the farm when his parents retired to town. In the early years, Mom and Dad enjoyed many social activities. They were part of the Northern Twisters square dance club and attended many baseball games, hockey games, and rodeos together.

In his younger years, Dad excelled in baseball and hockey and continued playing in the old-timer leagues for many years. Dad had a love for rodeo and along

with his two friends, Bev Phelps and Harry Tipton, brought the sport of rodeo to Spiritwood. They ran the rodeo for many years until the Kinsmen Club took it over. Dad enjoyed team roping with his pinto horse, Rocky, and traveled to many rodeos over the years.

Dad was known as Papa, Bapa, Grandpa, Funcle (fun uncle), and “Uncle Abe” to many others. Dad loved the farm, wagon treks, and the cowboy way of life. He had a tremendous love of animals, especially his horses, dogs, and cats. He instilled the love of horses within his own children/grandchildren and many others as well. Always quick witted, Dad had a saying for everything, such as, “Knee High to a

Grasshopper” to describe a young child, along with many other “Abe-isms” not appropriate to share.

Dad remained on the family farm until April 2024 when he went to live at the Rabbit Lake Health Care Centre. In 2025, Dad moved to the Spiritwood Long Term Care Complex. While it wasn't the farm, it did allow family and friends to visit more often. The family is eternally grateful to the staff who cared for Dad with love and compassion during his time there.

Left to cherish his memory are his:

Daughter, Debra (Brian) Jordan: granddaughter, Jaela (Kevin) Menssa, great-granddaughter, Jade; granddaughter, Karli (DJ) Sraybash, great-grandsons, Ashton

& Gavin.

Son, Kelly: special grand-dog, KC (Poochie).

Daughter, Valerie (Marty) Kelliher: granddaughter, Bailey (Michael Zadick), great-granddaughter, Parker Jo; granddaughter, Madison (Austin Epperson), great-grandson, Landon; grandson, Logan (Madi Martin).

Daughter, Tamara.

Sister, Anne (Don) Lavoy.

Numerous nieces and nephews.

Irish Blessing

May the road rise up to meet you.

May the wind always be at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face, and rains fall soft upon your fields.

And until we meet

again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

A private celebration of life will be held at a later date. Friends that wish to make a donation may do so in Abe's memory to the Spiritwood Long Term Care Complex or the Wild Horses of Alberta Society (<https://www.wildhorse-sofalberta.com>) or Say a cheer to Dad with a Labatt's Light beer—out of a glass or bottle—never a can!

Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit <http://www.beaulacfuneralhome.com>. Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau “Lac” Funeral Home and Crematorium, R. Mark Muir, Funeral Director, Spiritwood, SK (306) 883-3500.

Dorothy Suzanne Gray



With sadness in their hearts but thanksgiving for a beautiful life lived, the family of Dor-

othy Suzanne Gray (née Dupuis) announce her peaceful passing at the Rose Garden Hospice on June 8, 2026, at the age of 95 years. Dorothy was born in Hoey, SK, on February 17, 1931, the fifth child in a family of twelve. She attended elementary school in Hoey and high school in Duck Lake with Sisters of the Presentation of Mary. Dorothy took her Registered Nurse training at St. Paul's Hospital in Saskatoon, graduating in May of 1953. She met

Harold Gray and they were married on May 9, 1957. Dorothy nursed in four different provinces while raising a family, having to relocate whenever Harold was transferred. Their many places of residence included Prince Albert, Regina, Ottawa, Edmonton and Victoria. Dorothy retired to Shellbrook in 1992, and in October of 2017, River Breeze Retirement Complex in Prince Albert was her home until her passing.

Dorothy is lovingly

remembered by her son, Ken (Dawn) Gray; her daughter, Sandra Gray; and her grandson, Mitchell (Summer) Lupichuk. She will be remembered by her sister, Paulette; her brothers, Lucien (Donna) and Bernard (Peggi); her sister-in-law, Helen; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. She was predeceased by her daughter, Joanne (1987); her husband, Harold (2021); her sisters, Therese Beauchamp,

Denise Provencher, Sr. Lucille Dupuis, Helene Kendel, Alberta Nerbas, and Diana Mansfield; and her brothers, Andre Dupuis and Eugene Dupuis.

Graveside Service will be held at 1:00 p.m., on Saturday, August 22, 2026, at Prince Albert Memorial Gardens, Hwy 2 South, Prince Albert, SK. Following the service, please join the family for a time of refreshments and fellowship at My Place, 2345 10 Avenue West, Prince Albert,

SK.

In lieu of other tributes, donations in memory of Dorothy may be made to the charity of the donor's choice. Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit <http://www.beaulacfuneralhome.com>. Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau “Lac” Funeral Home and Crematorium, Tracy-Lynn Lenchuk, Funeral Director, Prince Albert, SK 306-763-3322.

Mike Peter Krushelniski



Mike Peter Krushelniski

April 25, 1942 – May 26, 2026

Mike was born to Pete and Mary Krushelniski on the farm in the Junor area. He started his education at Pearl School – walking there first with his older brother John and eventually joined by

his younger siblings. He graduated high school in Leoville. He then moved to Prince Albert and worked as a surveyor for the Department of Highways.

In Prince Albert, Mike met Monique Duret and they were married in 1968. While living in Prince Albert, Mike and Monique welcomed their daughter Michele (1970) and son Kyle (1973), in 1978, David joined the family in Leoville.

In 1974, Mike decided to move back to Leoville to be closer to family and to start a new career. Mike's new career was owner operator of Mike's Shop Rite. When the original store no longer served its purpose, Mike decided to build a new

store. The store that he built still operates in Leoville today.

Mike sold the store in the early 80s and focused on driving school bus. A perfect job for him because between runs, he had time for many other side jobs. Mike enjoyed buying and selling vehicles that required repair and kept busy building things including numerous house additions and renovations in the community.

Mike helped build the new curling rink and was active with ice-making and caretaking for many years. Summers were spent adventuring locally and numerous cross Canada trips. Weekends were spent teaching his family about the area

where he grew up and the skills that he developed throughout his life including fishing, building, mechanics and the importance of family. He also spent hours on the road supporting his children at various sport events.

Mike eventually sold the house in Leoville and took the opportunity to build a year-round home in Chitek Lake. Mike and Monique lived in Chitek for many years until Monique had to move to the Evergreen Center in Leoville. Mike remained in Chitek for a few years—travelling daily into Leoville to visit with Monique. He eventually moved back into Leoville to be closer to Monique.

Mike was diagnosed

with cancer in 2023 and tackled his treatments with the same determination as he tackled every task that came his way – straight on and with full effort.

Mike is remembered by his loving wife of 57 years Monique. His children Michele (Clayton) and their children Wayland and Jaycie (Tyson); Kyle (Corrine) and their children Camryn, Cole, Kipton and Karys, and David (Lindsay) and their children Evan and Lucas.

Siblings Walter (Terri), Bill (Joan), Ruth (Wally), Jim (Rose), Mary Ann (Donny), Doreen (Earl), Kory (Rich), sister-in-law Verna, and brother-in-law Philippe.

Mike was predeceased by his parents, Pete

and Mary, his brothers John and Orest, and granddaughter Cassie.

Memorial donations may be made in Mike's memory to Family & Residents C/O Evergreen Health Centre Leoville, SK or any cancer organization of donor's choice.

A Memorial Service was held on June 19, 2026, at 1:00 PM at the Leoville Community Hall.

Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit <http://www.beaulacfuneralhome.com>. Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau “Lac” Funeral Home and Crematorium, R. Mark Muir, Funeral Director, Spiritwood, SK (306) 883-3500.

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Minutes of an RM of Spiritwood meeting

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

The Regular Meeting of the Council of the Rural Municipality of Spiritwood No. 496 was held on Tuesday, April 14 2026, in Council Chambers located at 218 Main Street in Spiritwood, Sask.

Present: Reeve — Shirley Dauvin, Division 4 — Steve Buban, and Division 5 — Heather Warkentin, Division 6 — Dennis Laventure, Administrator Designate Erin Wingerter, and Foreman — Darcy Laventure.

Absent: Division 1— Vacant, Division 2 — Dale Wasden, Division 3 — Terry Wingerter, and CAO — Colette Bussiere.

A quorum being present the meeting was called to order at 7:59 a.m. Reeve Shirley Dauvin.

Warkentin: That Erin Wingerter be appointed as the Administrator Designate for this meeting. Carried

Laventure: Pursuant to Section 147(c) of The Municipalities Act we, the Council of the RM of Spiritwood No. 496 excuse the absence of Councillor, Terry Wingerter from the February, March & April regular meetings of council due to illness & unforeseen circumstances outside of his control. Carried

Warkentin: That the Foreman's report having been read now be filed. Carried

Foreman Darcy Laventure left the council meeting at 9:03 a.m.

Delegation: CSO Phillip Bueckert 10 a.m.

Community Safety Officer (CSO), Phil Bueckert and Bylaw Officer, Cassidy Franzius joined the council meeting at 10:02 a.m. to provide updates for NorthWest Community

Safety Services (NWCSS) operations.

Bylaw Officer Cassidy Franzius left the council meeting at 10:03 a.m.

CSO Phil Bueckert left the council meeting at 10:34 a.m.

Warkentin: That the CSO Reports having been read now be filed. Carried

Laventure: That the Administrator's report having been read now be filed. Carried

Warkentin: That the minutes of the March 16, 2026, Special Meeting of Council be approved as presented. Carried

Reeve Shirley Dauvin adjourned the Regular Meeting of Council at 11 a.m. for the public hearing.

Public Hearing: Bylaw No. 2026-1 (Zoning Bylaw District Map Amendment).

Reeve Dauvin called the public hearing, to hear comments on Bylaw No. 2026-1, being a Bylaw to amend the Rural Municipality of Spiritwood No. 496 Zoning District Map to order at 11 a.m.

Reeve Dauvin provided a summary and the intent of the Zoning Bylaw Map Amendment being proposed by Bylaw No. 2026-1.

The RM of Spiritwood did not receive any written, verbal or in-person comments on the proposed bylaw amendments.

Reeve Dauvin declared the public hearing be adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

The regular meeting of Council was called back to order at 11:03 a.m.

Warkentin: That Bylaw No. 2026-1, being a bylaw to amend Bylaw No. 4-2015 know as the Zoning Bylaw be read a second time. Carried

Laventure: That Bylaw No. 2026-1, being a bylaw to amend Bylaw No. 4-2015 know as the Zoning Bylaw be

read a third time. Carried

Buban: That the verbal reports of council be accepted as presented. Carried

Buban: That the bank reconciliation for the month ending March 31, 2026, be accepted as presented. Carried

Warkentin: That the "List of Accounts" as listed on the attached Schedule "A" forming part of these minutes be passed for payment.

- Cheque No. 15481-15500 (\$39,691.61)
- EFT No. 2026-0043-2026-0060 (\$97,138.16)
- Payroll File No. 0058 & 0060. Carried

Buban: That the Statement of Financial Activities for the month ending March 31, 2026 be approved as presented. Carried

Warkentin: Pursuant to clause 69(1) (b) of The Municipalities Act and subsection 34(4) of The Municipalities Regulations, that 60% of the tax sundry levied against property in the Organized Hamlet (OH) of Spruce Bay be retained by the RM of Spiritwood No. 496 and that 40% of the tax sundry be allocated to the OH of Spruce Bay; and

That the financial statement for the Organized Hamlet of Spruce Bay for the year ending Dec. 31, 2025, be approved as presented & attached. Carried

Buban: Whereas, the RM of Spiritwood has an existing quarry lease on NW- 25-50-12-W3, that council wishes to have the NW 25-50-12-W3 reserved from sale. Carried

Warkentin: That we authorize Kevin Turner, as a professional service provider, to apply dust suppressant products in accordance with the RM Dust Suppressant Policy and submit-

ted applications. Carried

Laventure: That the Council of The RM of Spiritwood No. 496 approve the Road Haul Clearance with the Ministry of Highways. Carried

Buban: That we enter into a servicing agreement, as presented & attached, with the applicant for further development of municipal infrastructure to accommodate the proposed subdivisions located on SW 14-49-12-W3. Carried

Laventure: Upon recommendation of the Fire Chief of the Spiritwood Fire Dept. (SFD), that there be no charge for the water rescue call of March 25, 2026, as the SFD was not able to assist with the water rescue. Carried

Warkentin: That the petition for SHA Hospital Disruption Map be displayed at the office and returned by the specified date. Carried

Laventure: That we support the Town of Spiritwood with the Tru-Green Metal Community Fundraiser Initiative. Carried

Buban: That the council meeting be closed to the public at 11:34 am under the authority of Part III of The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, to go in camera to discuss Human Resources. Carried

Erin Wingerter left the council meeting at 11:34 a.m.

Erin Wingerter returned to council chambers at 11:51 a.m.

The regular meeting of council was out of camera and resumed at 11:51 a.m.

Buban: That the correspondence, having been read, now be filed. Carried

Laventure: That the meeting be adjourned.

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