

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald

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Community effort shines in wildfire response



Smoke filled the sky to the south and east of Shellbrook on Thursday, May 28, before the Lobstick fire spread and threatened the R.M. of Shellbrook and Holbein.

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

A week ago, washed out roads and inundated farm fields were the top-of-mind concerns for residents of the R.M. of Shellbrook.

But on a dime, the Lobstick wildfire pulled them from the flood and cast them into the fire.

According to the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency (SPSA), the blaze kicked off in the Nisbet Forest in between Duck Lake and Prince Albert on Tuesday, May 26. Though it was initially believed that the fire was started by an ATV, the SPSA has since attributed it to a lightning strike.

Fueled by dry, hot conditions and blustering southeasterly winds, the Lobstick wildfire blazed a path through the forest over the next few days, despite the efforts of SPSA crews and local fire departments to contain it.

Over Wednesday and Thursday, billowing smoke from the growing fire blanketed the Shellbrook area, but it remained at a safe distance from the surrounding communities. As an additional safeguard, however, local and provincial fire bans were put in place.

The situation changed rapidly on Friday, as the fire grew by 1,300 hectares throughout the day to reach a size of 13,000 hectares and jumped across the North Saskatchewan River, posing a

more immediate threat to Holbein and properties in the southern part of the R.M. of Shellbrook.

The rapid spread of the fire prompted the SPSA to issue an evacuation order for R.M. of Shellbrook residents who live 1 mile west and 5 miles east of Shellbrook and south of Highway 3, as well as an evacuation alert for Holbein and the areas south of the hamlet.

Though the fire posed no immediate threat to the Town of Shellbrook, long-term care residents and acute care patients at Parkland Integrated Health Centre were also evacuated as a precaution. The hospital remained open for emergencies.

To assist with the evacuation response,

the Shellbrook Community Hall was set up as a registration area, and members of the Shellbrook Kinettes stayed at the facility to assist evacuees.

As of Monday afternoon, the evacuation order and evacuation alert remained in place, and an estimated 130 people had been evacuated from their homes to communities as far away as Warman.

Christine Strube, Reeve for the R.M. of Shellbrook, said those residents won't be able to return home until the SPSA declares the fire contained. However, she expressed optimism that things were heading in a positive direction and praised the community for coming together.

Continued on page 2



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Community effort shines in wildfire response

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"I'm feeling incredibly overwhelmed with gratitude. The support we are receiving from this amazing community, local services and surrounding areas has been nothing short of astounding. We are truly blessed to live in a place where people show up for one another," she said in a statement.

"The statement 'Better Together' is the best way I can describe what we are experiencing here, and this situation is evidence of that. This collaborative spirit is what makes our municipality strong every single day."

To assist the community in preparing to evacuate, Lake Country Co-op opened its Shellbrook Home Centre on Friday night, and kept the gas station and C-store on Highway 3 open

late (with cardlock pumps available 24/7).

Meanwhile, numerous area residents offered up their properties for those in need of a place to evacuate to.

On Sunday morning, the Shellbrook Kinettes put out a call for donations of baked goods to help feed local fire crews and contractors, including members of Shellbrook Fire and Rescue. They received an overwhelming response of both food and monetary donations from local community groups, businesses, and individuals.

Per the SPSA's update issued Sunday, May 31, at 3 p.m., the Lobstick fire hadn't grown from its largest reported size of 19,000 hectares, and posed no immediate threat to any

new values or structures.

Helped by rain showers over the weekend and increased humidity, retardant lines were holding, and crews and equipment were continuing efforts to contain and extinguish the fire with a combination of water and fire gel.

The SPSA noted that Holbein was 11 kilometres away from the fire's northeast boundary, and had been surrounded by irrigation lines and perimeter sprinkler heads as well as a fire guard on the community's southwest corner. Additionally, Shellbrook Fire and Rescue was on-hand to extinguish any jump fires.

"We ask that the public limit vehicle traffic in the affected areas, including the reception area in Shellbrook,

to allow emergency services and first responders to respond accordingly," Reeve Strube said.

With the fire situation ongoing and evolving, Reeve Strube said any offers of services or assistance can be directed to rm493@sasktel.net.

For local evacuees, she reminded them that food security payments will be made to those who have registered with the SPSA and are staying with family and friends.

Those who evacuated but haven't registered with the SPSA can do so by making an account at: <https://app.saskecs.ca/>

In the meantime, any questions regarding the state of the fire should be directed to the SPSA at media.spsa@gov.sk.ca or 1-855-559-5502.

Beer Survivor brews up another rousing success

By BEVRA FEE
Spiritwood Herald
Reporter

Another round of Beer Survivor has raked in funds for the Spiritwood Area Recreation, Culture & Sport (SARCS) committee, as 51 teams were in the running for major payouts.

Each team consisted of six members – each of whom paid \$60 to be entered into the elimination draw. Once a team's players were all pulled from the bucket, that team was eliminated, but there were some sweet spots at which to bow out.

First name out of the bucket was awarded a case of one dozen beer – Dan Cronin was the lucky/unlucky first name out. And onward the names unravelled.

The lead salesperson for Beer Survivor (BS) was Les Walker and he is also the perennial face of BS at the evening's draw.

Barking out individual names with (mostly) mispronounced variations until the first entire team was eliminated, Walker dropped the name of the first team out as Clearwater Bound.

Clearwater Bound consisted of Grant Schweitzer, Marc Lepage, Rob Rohr, Cort Nicholson, Joe Schweitzer and Garth Nicholson. To be fair, Les was able to pronounce all their names correctly. Clearwater Bound took home six dozen bottles of beer, which computes to roughly one case each.

The second full team to get the axe was The Real Poon, which was comprised of JR Bussiere (who has never watched the TV show "Dallas"), Cole, Wazz, Colton, Tyler and Chris. Bussiere was the captain of the team and that must explain why he is the only one in possession of a last name. Upping the prize



The Committee running Beer Survivor, from left to right: Sue Kahl, Les Walker, and Glennalda Saam.

value, The Real Poon was able to straggle off with six 24s of beer.

The rest of the teams to take home six 24-packs were the Beer Busters, Last Minute, and Brewery Bruisers.

Running away with a wagon full of beer (15 x 24 packs) was the team Friends of Captain Morgan, while Show Me The Beer loaded up the pick-

up with 69 x 24 cases (that cannot be right, doesn't even make sense - my notes are way off, but I was also volunteering and trying to run a yellow highlighter, so...).

The second-last team to be canned (see what I did there?) was Double D out of Meadow Lake and the biggest beer winners on the night were the former volleyball cham-

pions of Medstead Central School (and Mick Allchurch): Tim Amendt, Des Boyd, Killer Kozlowski, Steve Schmidt and "Laces out, Marino" Sheldon Friesen.

Once all the money hits the bank, the event will have been a whole lot of fun while bringing in nigh onto \$13,000 in net profit. Adding to the evening, Northern Livestock Sales announced that they will donate

\$4,000 for the upcoming arena season, "which is going to cover our burger budget and convert into a lot more revenue for us!" noted Sue Kahl on behalf of the SARCS committee.

In his opening remarks, Les Walker thanked long-time Facility Manager Glennalda Saam (correctly pronounced, by the way), as she is moving on from the staff position and will be greatly missed.

FORM H
[Section 66 of the Act]

NOTICE OF CALL FOR NOMINATIONS MUNICIPAL BY-ELECTION TOWN OF BIG RIVER

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that nominations of candidates for the office(s) of:

Mayor: Town of Big River

will be received by the undersigned Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. from the 8th day of June, 2026 until the 24th day of June, 2026, at the Town of Big River Municipal Office.

Nomination Forms must be accompanied by a completed version of the Town of Big River's Public Disclosure Statement, as required pursuant to *The Municipalities Act*, and *The Local Government Election Act*, 2015.

Nomination forms, along with the Town of Big River Public Disclosure Form, may be obtained from the Town Office located at 606 1st Street North, Big River, SK.

Dated at Big River, Saskatchewan this 8th day of June, 2026.

Noreen Olsen
Returning Officer

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Hope to see you on June 18th, 2026!

Canwood fears future of health clinic

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

For more than 60 years, residents of Canwood have been able to access primary health-care services within their own community through an arrangement with the Prince Albert Co-operative Health Centre (PAHC) and the Prince Albert Community Clinic (PACC).

But with Saskatchewan in the midst of a healthcare crisis, some in the community are worried that this won't always be the case.

"A friend came to me with information she had regarding the community clinic being in jeopardy of losing our nurse practitioner," resident Donna Lovberg said. "This would probably cause a ripple effect with the clinic even being here."

Lovberg's comments came at a community meeting, held at the Canwood Elks Commu-

nity Hall on Thursday, May 28.

Attended by about 120 people from Canwood and the surrounding communities, the meeting was focused on developing a plan of action to ensure the Canwood Community Clinic stays open and staffed indefinitely.

Though no one from the PAHC or PACC attended the meeting, the organization did send the following statement: "The PAHC and PACC remain fully committed to ensuring stable and co-ordinated patient care for Canwood. Services at the clinic will continue to be delivered through physicians, and/or PAHC-employed nurse practitioners to support continuity and consistency of care for the community."

"PAHC and PACC remain open to dialogue with the Canwood board and community regarding future service delivery approaches, and welcome con-

tinued collaboration as part of our shared commitment to meeting community needs."

While the statement was intended to assuage fears about the Canwood Community Clinic's future, one resident noted that no PACC doctors stepped in to fill the service gap during the nurse practitioner's recent temporary absence.

This, the resident said, points to the need to establish some sort of contract with the PAHC to ensure a certain level of service is provided to the community.

Other residents, meanwhile, pointed to the importance of keeping healthcare services in an ageing community like Canwood, where people often don't want to or are unable to travel to receive care.

"We keep hearing that seniors live longer if they can age in their own home," said Sandra Willner. "We can't do that if we can't access healthcare. That



Residents of Canwood fear they may lose their local health clinic at some point in the future.

needs to be made clear. It's very important."

"Things are so much faster out here," added Tracy Thompson, noting that she was able to book a pre-op appointment in Canwood for June 1, but would have had to wait until June 12 to see her doctor in Prince Albert. "You get the care, the quality of care, and you actually have somebody who gives a damn."

One idea floated by attendees was for the community to brainstorm ways to run the Canwood Community Clinic independently. However, attendee Di-ana Nelson noted that the community and the Canwood & District Health Services Co-operative Board would need to do a lot of research into the financial aspects of running a clinic.

With so much speculation and rumour about the future of the Canwood Community Clinic, the need to gather more information was the key theme of the evening.

Following an hour of discussion, the only clear next step established was for the community to stand behind

the Canwood & District Health Services Co-operative Board and push for it to meet with PAHC leadership.

"The only way Canwood is going to win is by going back to the history. There was a promise made to the Canwood Community Clinic that we would always have doctors. Someone has to hold their feet to the fire," said Rick Jensen, who once served on the Canwood & District Health Services Co-operative Board and is now a councillor for the R.M. of Canwood.

"We don't need people driving to Prince Albert. If we can look after it here — we've got the building and infrastructure — let's look after it here."



A crowd of about 120 people attended a meeting in Canwood on May 28 to discuss ways to save the Canwood Community Clinic.

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TOWN OF SHELLBROOK

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Bids for the operations of the Shellbrook Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre Concession Lease for the 2026-2029 term will be received until 4:00pm on July 2, 2026 at the Shellbrook Town Office located at 71 Main Street.

The following minimum information must be included within bidding documents to be considered acceptable:

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3. Proof of Liability Insurance
4. Available Hours of Operations
5. Listing of Previous Experience
6. Proposed Menu Options

Interested bidders may request more information by contacting The Undersigned.

The Town of Shellbrook reserves the right to reject or accept any bid for any reason without explanation, whether arbitrary, unreasonable, or otherwise.

For more information please contact:
Sigourney O'Halligan
cao@townofshellbrook.ca

Please send bids by email to:
Executive_Assistant@townofshellbrook.ca

By mail to:
Town of Shellbrook
Box 40
Shellbrook SK, S0J 2E0
Phone: (306) 747-4900

Poilievre's principles change with the season

A couple months ago, shortly after the Sask Party government released its 2026-2027 budget, I reflected upon the things that make an official opposition effective.

While the duty of the official opposition is literally spelled out in its name, I suggested that there are many ways to oppose something.

Calling out government misconduct and holding politicians accountable is certainly important.

But the most valuable form of opposition is actually more akin to collaboration — taking an idea presented by a government, suggesting ways to improve it, and working with the government to see those improvements implemented.

This is easier said than done in the political arena, where people assemble themselves into “teams” based on personal philosophies that often conflict with the philosophies of the other teams.

But in a perfect political system, I posited, this kind of soft opposition and collaboration would be the rule rather than the exception.

Instead, in Canada's deeply divided political climate, we mostly see opposition for opposition's sake, where governments and their official oppositions draw lines in the sand and refuse to budge, even when doing so would be to the benefit of the people they were elected to represent.

In this hostile environment, it becomes all too easy for political parties to focus so intently on opposing their opponents that they abandon all sense of principle.

We've seen this on the grandest possible scale in the U.S. during the second presidency of Donald Trump.

Mr. Trump promised to be the president of peace. But he's bombed eight different countries within the first year of his second term.

He promised to lower costs for Americans on day one. But his senseless war in Iran has pushed the cost of gas to its highest point since the COVID-19 pan-



JORDAN TWISS

~
News Editor

dem, and his tariffs have raised prices on everything.

He promised full transparency and the complete release of the Epstein Files. But his Department of Justice continues to defy the law by withholding them, and hasn't launched a single investigation into anyone named in them.

In normal circumstances, this blatant betrayal would be enough to alienate a support base. Instead, Mr. Trump's cabal of sycophants

is now acting like this is exactly what they voted for.

In Canada, where Conservative Party leader Pierre Poilievre is interminably trapped between distancing himself from Mr. Trump and sounding eerily like him, a similar phenomenon is occurring.

Late in 2025, Prime Minister Mark Carney's government introduced Bill C-9, which strengthens religious protections by creating a new offence for “intimidating or obstructing people from entering places of worship,” and bans the display of hate symbols associated with terrorist organizations.

Conservatives, Mr. Poilievre included, have spent years decrying the erosion of free speech and religious freedoms in Canada. In November, they even introduced their own legislation to strengthen penalties for those convicted of mischief or vandalism at places of worship.

Yet, when it came to Bill C-9, all Conservatives focused on was the removal of a provision that allowed a person to use scripture as a shield against hate crime charges.

This, Conservatives railed ad nauseum on social media to stoke maximum outrage among their supporters, was tantamount to outlawing the Bible — even though the legislation applies to all religions equally.

As the Conservative Party continues to trail Mr. Carney's Liberals by 10+ points in nearly every poll, Mr. Poilievre has only doubled down on this style of opposition through misrepresentation.

Last year, when China slapped tariffs



on Canadian canola in response to Canada's tariffs on its EVs, Conservatives demanded swift action to get the tariffs removed.

Yet, when Mr. Carney forged a trade pact with China to get the tariffs lifted and open new opportunities for Canadian oil and gas and liquefied natural gas — at the expense of allowing up to 49,000 Chinese EVs into Canada per year — Mr. Poilievre and the Conservatives criticized him for cozying up to China.

And just last week, Mr. Poilievre pulled the same stunt after Mr. Carney's government signed a deal to export 1 million metric tonnes of liquefied natural gas to Germany per year.

The deal is huge for Canada, and Mr. Poilievre himself traveled to Germany in March and pushed for the German government to buy Canadian liquefied natural gas as a means to lessen its reliance on Russia.

But within hours of the deal being announced, Mr. Poilievre appeared in a social media video, armed with a globe and a smarmy grin, to decry the deal because the logistics of shipping from Canada's west coast to Germany are too impractical.

While Mr. Poilievre was attempting to make a broader point about the potential to develop liquefied natural gas infrastructure on Canada's east coast, he conveniently ignored the common

industry practice of shipment swapping, whereby multiple countries work together to reduce shipping distances and costs.

Just as they've abandoned their principles on trade, Mr. Poilievre's Conservatives also seem suddenly ambivalent about free speech.

A couple weeks ago, CBC and APTN faced criticism over the production of a satirical comedy show called Northland Tales, after participants in the show alleged they were misled or tricked into interviews under false pretenses.

The subjects of these ambush-style interviews, which have a well-established history in comedy, further allege that the sole purpose of the show was to humiliate them for their views on Canadian history and residential schools.

In response to the controversy, CBC and APTN paused production of the show. And, because the show was in production, not a single episode has aired on television.

But this isn't enough for Mr. Poilievre and the Conservatives, who are demanding a full inquiry.

Justified opposition and criticism strengthen democracy. Opposition for opposition's sake weakens it, and does nothing to help Canadians.

If Mr. Poilievre aspires to be more than the leader of the official opposition, he needs to rediscover his principles and stand by them.

Shellbrook Chronicle

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Spiritwood Herald

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Phone 306-747-2442 or Fax 306-747-3000

Editorial: chnews@sbchron.com
Advertising: chads@sbchron.com

Jordan Twiss & Meghan Penney, Co-Publishers

Jordan Twiss, Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter
jordan@sbchron.com/chnews@sbchron.com

Bevra Fee, Spiritwood Herald Reporter
(306) 883-7058 or bevrafee@yahoo.ca

Meghan Penney, Advertising Sales & Composition/Pagination chads@sbchron.com

Bookkeeping/Reception
306-747-2442 or accounting@sbchron.com

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Spiritwood dancer performs in Saskatoon production

By **BEVRA FEE**
Spiritwood Herald Reporter

When Norie Beauchesne heard about an opportunity to dance in Saskatoon, she thought she would be too busy to fit *A Midsummer Night's Dream* into her dance schedule. Beauchesne's aunt had sent an application for local dancers to experience the big-stage production when Ballet Jorgen brought their Canadian-adapted version of the play to TCU Place on March 17.

Not fully understanding what the opportunity represented, Beauchesne dismissed it, but when the young Spiritwood dancer was at a competition in Saskatoon, she was pointed out to the organizers from Jorgen and wound up auditioning under the program's outreach to local dancers between the ages of 9 to 17. Ballet Jorgen was looking for a total of nine to 12 dancers to perform, based on recommendations from their dance teacher.

According to Jessie Berry, Beauchesne's dance teacher in Spiritwood, "Norie has been dancing and training with Rebound Dance Company in Spiritwood for the

past three years, dedicating countless hours each week to refining her technique and expanding her abilities across multiple disciplines, including both technical and performance-based styles.

"During this time, she has also participated in competitive dance, gaining valuable stage experience and learning the importance of discipline, teamwork, and perseverance. Her commitment to consistent training, willingness to take on challenges, and genuine love for dance have allowed her to grow steadily as a performer. She is focused, hard-working, and eager to learn, always striving to improve and make the most of every opportunity."

And that she did.

Cast in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as "Bunny" and "Train Bearer," Beauchesne was expected to rehearse with the company for two hours the day before the show and then four to five hours on the day of the show. Successful candidates were required to learn the choreography quickly, listen well and follow and retain directions.

Interpreting Jorgen's pro-

duction that conveys the Shakespeare classic as a Canadian story, it is anchored in a real historical moment

— the 1951 Royal Tour of Canada. The adaptation set the production in the small fictional northern hamlet of

Athens, Alberta.

"Creating this ballet has been on my wish list for many years. Mendelssohn's music makes our feet move, and the story has enough twists and turns to spin our heads. People fall in and out of love, and when you throw in a moose, a lion, a hobgoblin, and a handful of fairies, well, then we're truly set to go!" declares Bengt Jorgen in the event program.

A *Midsummer Night's Dream* Local Participant Program gives young dancers the opportunity to perform with a professional dance company. They interact with professional dancers and gain invaluable performance experience as they dance with Ballet Jorgen.

Beauchesne, who attends school at River Elementary in Spiritwood loves contemporary dance. She currently does ballet, contemporary and jazz. "I started when I was little with my friends and just really got into the music and the dancing. I enjoy going to the competitions — it keeps me pretty busy!"

When reflecting on the experience with Ballet Jorgen, Beauchesne admits she gained confidence.



Norie (right) with Spiritwood dance instructor Jessie Berry.

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June 13

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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 May 25.)

Shellbrook's Town Council held its governance and priorities meeting and regular meeting in person and via teleconference on Monday, May 25.

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.

During its governance and priorities session, which is typically reserved for high-level, longer-term municipal strategic planning, council began by meeting with Kelly Herndier, who has been hired on as the town's new sports

coordinator.

In this role, Herndier will serve as the liaison between the Town of Shellbrook and recreation user groups, with an aim to improve communication between the parties and ensure needs are better met and concerns are addressed.

Next, council listened to a report on the results of a Business Retention & Expansion Survey it commissioned from Puffalt's firm, Prairie Rising Consulting. The purpose of the report was to give council a clear understanding of the concerns that local businesses have, and how the town can create an environment to attract new businesses and ensure existing businesses thrive.

The report was presented by Prairie Rising's Nathaniel Puffalt, who began by noting that this was one of the firm's more successful surveys, with 22

businesses participating. Topmost concerns among the business community included communication with the town, water quality, and the appearance/maintenance of the town.

Along with the survey's findings, Nathaniel provided recommendations to address some of these concerns, including the development of a "Shop Local" or "Support Shellbrook" program and a Main Street beautification program. On the communications side, the town was advised to hold (at least) quarterly meetings with the business community.

Councillor Segberg expressed satisfaction with the report and said the town is on the right track and poised for growth if it can begin to address the community's concerns (particularly on the water issue).

With Prairie Rising Consulting contracted to continue working with the town on developing a customer service culture, advancing the water treatment plant project, and establishing an economic development strategy, Jim Puffalt said it's important for the town to think of businesses and community groups as potential ambassadors

for the town who can help it grow.

With the governance and priorities business at a close, 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 April 27 regular meeting and May 4 special meeting, and welcomed delegate Tracy Azevedo, who was in attendance on behalf of the Shellbrook & District Arts Council to discuss the group's vision moving forward.

Following this, council moved in to the reports of administration and committees, starting with O'Halligan's CAO Report.

While the town is currently searching for new Community Safety Officers, O'Halligan's report noted that the municipal e-ticketing system is ready for use, and training and implementation planning are already underway.

In some recreation items, O'Halligan reported that a contractor has been hired to assist with maintenance at the Shellbrook Sportsgrounds during the

peak season. However, O'Halligan noted there were difficulties at the Sportsgrounds to start the season, due to a water line break that needed to be prepared.

O'Halligan also noted that there have been many issues starting up the Shellbrook Swimming Pool this season.

"Issues have been identified with the liner which will need to be replaced next year, as well as the brackets that the liner attaches to, which have corroded," her report noted. "Issues have been identified with the concrete pool deck; the facility will need major renovations over the upcoming years to ensure continuation of service."

Finally, O'Halligan provided an update on the Field of Dreams, noting that it had been sprayed and volunteers were working to seed it to wheat for this season.

With nothing pressing in the remaining reports, council moved on to new business, starting with the third reading of Fees Bylaw 2026-005. Council opted to table this and send it back to review, following concerns about increases to the morning ice rate at the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre.

Up next, at the rec-

ommendation of the Recreation Committee, council approved a refund policy that will formalize the town's process for issuing refunds.

Moving on, council agreed to advise the Canada Day Committee to seek special event insurance for activities it has planned for Canada Day, on the grounds that this will better shield the group and the town from liability if anything goes wrong.

In other new business, council agreed to provide a letter support — but no financial support — to Pisim Power in connection with a project it's working on along the CN right-of-way running from Turtleford to Prince Albert. Council noted the potential for economic benefits stemming from regional infrastructure projects.

Closing out the meeting, council approved a request from the Shellbrook Legion to paint the crosswalk connecting Shellbrook's Veterans' Park to the Shellbrook Post Office in recognition of the Royal Canadian Legion's 100th anniversary, and approved a reversal of interest charges, totaling \$377.80, against the Shellbrook Curling Club.

TAX ENFORCEMENT LIST

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF SPIRITWOOD NO. 496
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 4, 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
NW 35-49-11-3 EXT 18	136698878	\$184.21	\$458.00	\$642.21
BLK/PAR A-PLAN 101797117 EXT 8	142759479	\$426.50	\$458.00	\$884.50
BLK/PAR A-PLAN 101650339 EXT 6	146849844	\$1,775.79	\$458.00	\$2,233.79
SE 21-51-08-3 EXT 0	146515507	\$1,004.56	\$458.00	\$1,462.56
NE 30-53-10-3-EXT 1	148081260	\$194.94	\$384.00	\$578.94
NE 30-53-10-3 EXT 2	148081350			
NE 30-53-10-3 PLAN A04380 EXT 82	148081394			
NE 30-53-10-3 PLAN A04380 EXT 83	148081372			
NE 30-53-10-3 PLAN A04380 EXT 84	148081406			
NE 30-53-10-3 PLAN A04380 EXT 85	148081417			
NW 30-53-10-3 EXT 1	148081349	\$201.61	\$384.00	\$585.61
NW 30-53-10-3 EXT 2	148081462			
NW 30-53-10-3 PLAN A04380 EXT 86	148081439			
NW 30-53-10-3 PLAN A04380 EXT 87	148081484			
NW 30-53-10-3 PLAN A04380 EXT 88	148081507			
NW 30-53-10-3 PLAN A04380 EXT 89	148081518			
NW 30-53-10-3 PLAN A04380 EXT 90	148081125			
LSD 10-31-53-10-3 EXT 1	148081248	\$193.47	\$384.00	\$577.47
LSD 15-31-53-10-3 EXT 2	148081204			
LSD 16-31-53-10-3 EXT 3	148081215			
NW LSD 9-31-53-10-3 EXT 4	148081237			
NW 31-53-10-3 EXT 0	148081136	\$243.22	\$384.00	\$627.22
SE 31-53-10-3 PL 102058523 EXT 0	148081181	\$191.30	\$384.00	\$575.30
BLK/PAR A-PLAN 101606116 EXT 14	119307944	\$1,333.44	\$357.51	\$1,690.95
LOT 8-BLK/PAR 2-PL 82802078 EXT 0	118681982	\$4,292.51	\$458.00	\$4,750.51
LOT 5-BLK/PAR 3-PL 101935942 EXT 0	155431425	\$465.78	\$399.00	\$864.78
LOT 6-BLK/PAR 3-PL 101935942 EXT 0	152287702	\$4,775.05	\$458.00	\$5,233.05
BLK/PAR D-PLAN 102134742 EXT 0	152237303	\$2,988.52	\$458.00	\$3,446.52
LOT 4-BLK/PAR 1-PL 102254240 EXT 0	152070858	\$2,665.85	\$158.00	\$2,823.85
BLK/PAR A-PLAN 102387652 EXT 0	158715748	\$1,352.43	\$458.00	\$1,810.43
LOT 1-BLK/PAR 3-PL 102433306 EXT 0	158029825	\$964.34	\$458.00	\$1,422.34
LOT 2-BLK/PAR 3-PL 102433306 EXT 0	158030209	\$956.24	\$458.00	\$1,414.24
LOT 3-BLK/PAR 3-PL 102433306 EXT 0	158030197	\$968.84	\$458.00	\$1,426.84
LOT 4-BLK/PAR 3-PL 102433306 EXT 0	158030186	\$969.73	\$458.00	\$1,427.73
LOT 5-BLK/PAR 3-PL 102433306 EXT 0	158029971	\$961.63	\$458.00	\$1,419.63
LOT 1-BLK/PAR 4-PL 102433306 EXT 0	158029836	\$519.58	\$458.00	\$977.58
LOT 2-BLK/PAR 4-PL 102433306 EXT 0	158029847	\$519.58	\$458.00	\$977.58
LOT 3-BLK/PAR 4-PL 102433306 EXT 0	158029881	\$523.53	\$458.00	\$981.53
LOT 6-BLK/PAR 4-PL 102433306 EXT 0	158030007	\$787.12	\$458.00	\$1,245.12
LOT 7-BLK/PAR 4-PL 102433306 EXT 0	158030029	\$725.05	\$458.00	\$1,183.05
LOT 8-BLK/PAR 4-PL 102433306 EXT 0	158030041	\$716.05	\$458.00	\$1,174.05
BLK/PAR A-PLAN 102433306 EXT 0	158029959	\$1,874.58	\$458.00	\$2,332.58

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

Dated this 29th day of May, 2026

Colette Bussiere, Administrator

Victoria Hospital expansion reaches halfway mark

By **MINISTRY OF HEALTH**
Submitted

Construction of the new Prince Albert Victoria Hospital (PAVH) acute care tower has reached 50 per cent completion and is progressing on schedule.

"The Prince Albert Victoria Hospital Expansion Project is one of the most significant infrastructure investments in Saskatchewan's history," Health Minister Jeremy Cockrill said. "The expanded facility and added services represent our commitment to putting patients first by ensuring patients in the northern part of our province have access to the right care in the place at the right time."

PCL Construction Ltd. has completed assembly of the primary structure, including the heliport. Exterior insulation is nearing completion, and exterior cladding work is in progress.

With access to the full tower, crews are advancing work on major mechanical and electrical systems and interior finishes including drywall and door frames, are well underway.

The new multi-story acute care tower at Victoria Hospital will increase capacity by approximately 40 per cent, raising inpatient beds from 174 to 242. Key features of the new space include a rooftop heliport, larger emergency and operating rooms, dedicated pediatrics and maternity units, a new adult mental health and intensive care unit, and enhanced medical imaging with the region's first MRI. In addition, the Malhotra Neonatal Intensive Care Unit will be relocated to the new tower and the number of bassinets will increase from 11 to 13.

The Government of Saskatchewan appreciates the important role of the Boreal Healthcare

Foundation, the City of Prince Albert and surrounding communities for their contributions towards the cost of furniture, fixtures and equipment.

Prince Albert Grand Council (PAGC), a key partner in this project, has been actively involved in the facility's design from the outset.

PCL Construction Ltd. and the Saskatchewan Health Authority are working to ensure minimal disruption for visitors and staff at this stage of construction. Impact on patients or patient care is not anticipated.

The facility is expected to be completed by Spring 2028.

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AI's role in agriculture remains uncertain

Artificial intelligence is seen by some as the plague which may signal the end of time.

For others, AI is a steadily developing tool which will herald the arrival of better times.

While the reality is likely somewhere in the middle overall, the viewpoint is also one highly dependent on who is looking upon AI.

Certainly, AI's influence on the Internet is concerning, in as much as it gathers data and doles it out at the top of web searches with far too many simply accepting those snippets of information without ever

looking for greater detail, or for corroboration from a trusted source.

The need for verification of information is more critical than ever when you have what once was thought of as reliable sources, such as the U.S. government, sullied by the likes of U.S. Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. providing rather obvious misinformation that needs much deeper investigation than his public statements.

The AI gathering also tends to thwart the efforts of reliable information sources because people won't click their



CALVIN DANIELS

mouse enough to find their websites in the face of the collected snippets.

And, of course then there are the concerns regarding AI data centres.

In a moment of obvious irony, an AI Overview via Google, notes,

"AI data centres face significant problems, primarily driven by extreme resource consumption. A single AI facility can demand as much electricity and water as a mid-sized city, straining local power grids, driving up utility bills, degrading local air and water quality, and creating constant, disruptive noise pollution for nearby communities."

If you combine those concerns with water issues related to climate change, and with the drain on other resources, the data centres are a significant issue.

But on the farm, AI is generally going to be seen in a more positive light.

For example, a recent *producer.com* article looked at an India-based robotics company "touting its three-in-one artificial intelligence-powered robot as a partial solution to labour shortages among specialty crop growing operations.

"The Niqo RoboThinner, which performs precision weeding, crop thinning and targeted weed control, was a highlight of the Southwest Ag Summit in Yuma, Arizona, in Feb-

ruary." It doesn't take a lot of thought to grasp why such technology, thanks to AI, could provide huge benefits in certain farm situations.

The idea of autonomous machinery to offset worker shortages, and the ability of AI to pick out certain weeds or adjust fertilizer applications, are all aspects of the tech which can have a positive impact.

The duality around AI is a stark contrast, and whether the benefits will ultimately outweigh the drawbacks, which could be severe, remains to be seen.

Crop Report: May 19 to 25

By **MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**
Submitted

Producers made significant seeding progress this week, thanks to favourable weather conditions in most of the province. Seeding progress reached 52 per cent, which continues to be behind both the five-year average of 74 per cent and the 10-year average of 77 per cent.

Regionally, the southwest continues to lead seeding progress at 74 per cent complete due to early field access and generally drier conditions. The west-central region is close behind at 69 per cent. Progress in the southeast region reached 61 per cent, and the northwest region reached 55 per cent, with producers continuing to make gains as field conditions improve.

The east-central region is 26 per cent seeded, and the northeast region is just behind at 25 per cent complete. While these regions experienced comparatively slower progress due to less favourable field conditions, seeding activity continues to advance as opportunities allow.

Pulse crops, including lentils and field peas, remain the most advanced in seeding progress, while

cereals and oilseed crops continue to expand steadily, contributing to a consistent increase in overall seeded acreage.

Rainfall varied across the province this past week, with the highest amount reported in the Martin area at 60 millimetres (mm). The Craik area received 59 mm, the Fertile Belt area received 45 mm, while the Stanley and Abernethy areas received 40 mm, respectively.

Overall, topsoil moisture levels remained relatively stable, despite some areas receiving precipitation alongside high temperatures and windy conditions.

Crop development varies due to localized weather, leading to differences in temperature and moisture. Currently, fall cereals are at 58 per cent of normal development, with one per cent ahead and 41 per cent behind in development. Spring cereals are 37 per cent normal, 63 per cent behind. Pulse crops are 45 per cent normal and 55 per cent behind. Oilseeds are at 27 per cent of their normal stage of development and 73 per cent behind. Perennial forage is 50 per cent at normal development, with two per cent ahead and 48 per cent behind. Annual forage is at 39 per cent normal development, with two per cent ahead and 59 per cent behind.

Crop development remains generally behind across all categories, with minimal acres ahead of normal. Oilseeds and spring-seeded crops are showing the greatest delays, while fall cereals and perennial forage are closer to expected stages.

Crop damage across the province was generally minor. Some producers reported localized damage caused by flooding, wind, frost and gophers. In addition, dry conditions and periods of heat contributed to minor crop stress in certain areas. Insect activity was observed, with some producers implementing control measures where populations warranted intervention.

If weather conditions remain favourable, most producers anticipate that seeding will progress rapidly next week. In addition to seeding, producers are busy moving cattle to pasture, applying herbicides and land-rolling.

As producers continue with seeding and field operations, they are encouraged to prioritize safety in all activities. The Farm Stress Line is available to provide confidential support for producers toll-free at 1-800-667-4442.

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

Premier's advisory council on CUSMA established

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

Premier Scott Moe held the inaugural session of the Premier's Advisory Council on CUSMA, an industry-facing council made up of business leaders from economic sectors across the province, and Friday, May 29.

A CUSMA joint review will begin on July 1, 2026. Discussions will be led by the federal government, and Saskatchewan will share its priorities leading up to and throughout the review process.

"While CUSMA negotiations take place on a federal level, it is crucial that subnational voices like Saskatchewan's are heard," Moe said.

"With the U.S. being our largest trading partner, CUSMA and free and fair trade is essential for the economic health and prosperity of the province. This council will help advise and inform our government as formal discussions between Canada, the United States and Mexico begin. As a significant trading partner with the U.S., it will be essential that Saskatchewan priorities are communicated with the federal government."

The advisory council is represented by a cross-section of industries, consisting of companies that have significant exports to the U.S. and those that have been heavily impacted by tariffs. The province will hold sector-specific roundtables for agriculture, manufacturing, energy, mining and forestry over the coming

weeks.

"Saskatchewan's resource economy depends on predictable, rules-based trade with our partners," Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce CEO Prabha Ramaswamy said. "The chamber welcomes this advisory council as an important mechanism for ensuring the province's priorities are heard throughout the CUSMA review process. From potash to canola to uranium, the businesses we represent have real stakes in the outcome of these negotiations, and we look forward to contributing to a process that strengthens Saskatchewan's position in the markets that matter most."

The U.S. is Saskatchewan's largest trading partner with exports to the country valued at \$23.7 billion

in 2025, about 54 per cent of the province's total exports. Top export products included crude oil, potash, canola oil and uranium. Mexico is also an important partner - the province exported over \$949 million to Mexico in 2025.



Bailey Johnson named Coach of the Year

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

Some of Bailey Johnson's best early memories and most enduring friendships were made at the hockey rink.

So, when she started coaching her son in Shellbrook's minor hockey program about five years ago, she wanted him to have the same experiences and make the same kind of friendships that she did growing up.

"I just wanted to help my kids learn and grow on the ice, and help other kids whose parents aren't able to step into those roles," she says of her reason for stepping into coaching after playing for most of her life.

"My philosophy is to go out there and have fun, and make sure everyone has the opportunity to learn, grow, and make those core memories and friendships along the way. It's important to build that little community."

Johnson's approach to coaching has resonated, prompting the communi-

ty she's played a key part in building to nominate her for Hockey Saskatchewan's 2025-2026 Coach of the Year Award.

Last Tuesday, during a brief surprise ceremony at Shellbrook Elementary School, Johnson was presented with the award by Hockey Saskatchewan general manager Kelly McClintock, who recognized her for her fun-first approach to coaching and

her work to launch the Shellbrook Sirens girl's hockey program in the 2024-2025 hockey season.

"Bailey is a dedicated coach and mom who is always up for a task or willing to help out whenever she can," said Shellbrook Minor Hockey representative Tiffany Aiken following the award presentation.

"She has developed the Sirens program into an amaz-

ing and thriving group of hockey girls. To be able to watch this has been inspiring. We are proud to have you on our team."

Much like her leap into coaching her son, Johnson's decision to form the Shellbrook Sirens program stems from her own experiences of growing up playing all girls' hockey.

This time, though, it was about passing those experi-

ences on to her daughter and other girls.

"It gives the girls a chance to grow on their own and have their own support from girls," she said. "They get to see other female athletes. The PWHL is huge now, so it gives them something to look up to and to strive for."

"These girls who are playing together now are going to stick together for life."

With two seasons of Shellbrook Sirens hockey under her belt, Johnson says the program is growing and thriving. Indeed, with the 2026-2027 hockey season just around the corner, Johnson says Shellbrook has more girls than boys registered to play hockey at the U7 level.

And Johnson says more players are always welcome to join the Sirens community.

"Some girls might be scared or worried about joining hockey," she says. "I just want to make it approachable, welcoming and friendly for everyone to come out, no matter their skill level. Whether they've played hockey or not, we want everyone to join."



Bailey Johnson (back row) was named Hockey Saskatchewan's 2025-2026 Coach of the Year for her work to build the Shellbrook Sirens girl's hockey program.

Spiritwood seniors host Strawberry Tea

By **BEVRA FEE**
Spiritwood Herald Reporter

The Spiritwood Pioneer Centre was the hub of strawberries, cake and tea on May 6 for the Seniors Club's popular annual spring fundraiser.

Well over 350 strawberry shortcakes were sold, many of those purchased for delivery or takeout.

The funds raised from the Strawberry Tea are for general operations, namely the upkeep of the Pioneer Centre.

"We have an \$1,800 insurance bill every year, so that pretty much takes care of the revenue from our Strawberry Tea," says Helen Mack, key organizer for the Seniors' event.

Volunteers from the Club bake the cakes and whip the cream in order to feed the eager customers. Many en-

joyed the atmosphere while visiting at the Pioneer Centre, visiting over their cake and tea (coffee, juice).

While Mack and others provided table service, other volunteers boxed up orders to take uptown to offices and stores where employees could enjoy a sample without leaving work.



Ladies enjoy their shortcake with strawberries and tea. From left to right: Christine Wollms, Terri Buban, Jessica Buban, and Adele Wasden.



Lloyd Fisher awaits his to-go order, prepared by Helen Mack.

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Lions host annual walk for dog guides

By **BEVRA FEE**
Spiritwood Herald
Reporter

Ten walkers and seven dogs hit the pavement on Sunday, May 31 for the Pet Valu Dog Walk hosted by the Spiritwood and District Lions Club.

This year, the walkers generated \$2,295 for the cause, which is to fund the training of guide dogs.

“The Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides (LFCDG) receives no government funding and relies entirely on the generosity of donors, sponsors, volunteers, and community-driven fundraising events such

as the Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides. Together, we are building a more inclusive Canada, where everyone has the opportunity to live with dignity, independence, and possibility,” said Lion George Pretli.

Treats were given out for some category achievements, such as most money raised, most dogs, Marjie Fast, along with her pup Hodi, were the team who raised the most sponsorship money. The youngest dog to participate was Merle, along with his owner Bailey Hiebert. Marcia King coached the oldest dog, Kirra, while

Les Walker brought two canines — Jasper and Jersey — which meant treats for these teams as well.

Lion Pretli was the project lead and was assisted in the Legion Hall by Shelley Allard, Megan Allard and Marg Pretli. To lay out the walk route and place water bowls along the way, Lion Bryan Ferguson lent his expert help with signage and a kickoff introduction and information blurb.

Walkers then traversed the route and ended up back at the Legion Hall for the awarding of prizes and to catch their breath before heading home.

The Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides (LFCDG) is a national charity founded by the Lions of Canada, dedicated to empowering people with disabilities to live with greater confidence, independence, and connection. Their mission is to remove barriers and open doors by providing life-changing Dog Guides — at no cost — and supporting each individual throughout their journey.

Since 1983, LFCDG has proudly partnered with individuals, families, and communities from coast to coast, matching specially trained Dog Guides with children, youth, and adults of all backgrounds. Our programs support people who are blind or partial-

ly sighted, deaf or hard of hearing, and those living with medical, physical, neurological, disabilities.

This includes Dog Guides trained to assist individuals with epilep-

sy, diabetes, autism, and those working in professional roles responding to trauma. Every Dog Guide receives extensive, customized training to meet the unique needs and goals of their

future handler. All associated costs — including training, travel, accommodation, and lifelong support — are fully covered, ensuring equitable access for all qualified applicants.



Marjie Fast and Hodi raised the most money in the 2026 walk.



Dogs and their walkers await the start of the annual Lions Walk For Dog Guides. From left to right: Marcia King with Kirra, Les Walker with Jersey, Lion Bryan Ferguson petting Jasper, and Marjie Fast with Hodi.



Lions Megan Allard and Shelley Allard register walkers Angelica Vargas and Luna.

Shellbrook Boreas Pickleball winds up season of growth

By **RHONDA MARTIN**
President,
Shellbrook Boreas Pickleball

Since the formation of the club three years ago, Shellbrook Boreas Pickleball (formerly known as Prairie Pickleball Club) has been dedicated to the growth of pickleball in Shellbrook. The club’s focus is on promot-

ing recreational pickleball centered around the social and fun elements of the sport.

Pickleball continues its rapid rise across Canada, with the latest report from Pickleball Canada of an estimated 1.8 million Canadians now playing the sport in 2026. This is a 14 per cent increase from last year and an impressive 80 per cent growth

since 2022.

Community members in Shellbrook and area are experiencing the fun of picking up a paddle, making pickleball friends and reaping the additional health and fitness benefits.

This past season, Shellbrook Boreas Pickleball offered players a choice of one or two games a week during the October to May season. For those

new to the sport, a free lesson was offered with the club’s certified NCCP instructor. During the year, tips and practice sessions were held for all members.

A spring social was held for club members at the Shellbrook Seniors Centre on April 30 and an end-of-season fun night was held on the courts on May 27.



Shellbrook Boreas Pickleball members held an end-of-season fun night on May 27.



Shellbrook Boreas Pickleball members ended their season with a spring social.

Police investigating SLFN robbery

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The RCMP is asking the public to share any information it has, as officers continue to investigate an attempted robbery that occurred on the Sturgeon Lake First Nation Saturday, May 23.

Police received a report about the incident at around 3 a.m. that morning, and officers responded immediately.

Investigation determined three individuals were parked in a vehicle, when an SUV pulled up and the occupants demanded the victims get out of their vehicle. The victims drove away and as they did, a firearm was discharged and struck their vehicle, injuring two of them. One was taken to the hospital with injuries described as non-life-threatening and the other was treated by EMS at the scene.

The suspect SUV is described as black or dark-coloured. It had a sticker, potentially white and blue, on

the back window on the passenger side. The occupants are described as males, one of whom was wearing a mask.

If you've seen this SUV or have information about this incident, report it to Prince Albert RCMP by dialling 310-RCMP. Information can also be submitted anonymously by contacting Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or www.saskcrimestoppers.com.

BRFN robbery suspect arrested

A young woman involved in an armed robbery and assault on the Big River First Nation on Sunday, May 17, has been arrested.

According to police, the detachment received a report about the robbery on Highway #793 on Big River First Nation around 9:45 p.m. that evening.

Officers responded, and investigation determined an SUV was stopped on the side of the highway. A group

of individuals approached the SUV and demanded the vehicle's keys. An altercation occurred, during which bear spray was deployed into the SUV, and the SUV was stolen.

The occupants of the SUV were assessed by EMS and reported non-life-threatening injuries to police.

The stolen SUV is described as a black Hyundai Tucson with Saskatchewan license plate 089 NFP. Big River RCMP made patrols searching for the SUV and the suspects.

As a result of investigation, 18-year-old Mariah Bill from the Big River First Nation was identified as the culprit and charged with three counts of assault with a weapon and one count each of robbery with a weapon, assault, uttering threats against a person, possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose, and possession of a weapon contrary to order.

Police arrested Bill on Monday, May 25, on Big River First Nation. She made her first appearance in Prince Albert Provincial Court on May 29.

Most wanted suspect arrested

One of the Saskatchewan RCMP's most wanted offenders for May has been apprehended by police.

On Wednesday, May 27, the RCMP reported that Stephan Littlepine, 24, had been arrested by the Saskatoon Police Service May 19.

Littlepine was wanted for sexual in-

terference, invitation to sexual touching, sexual exploitation, and sexual assault.

He is scheduled to make his first court appearance on June 17.

BRFN stabbing, robbery suspect sentenced

A man involved in a number of stabbings on the Big River First Nation in 2025, as well as an attempted robbery in Victoire, has been sentenced to three years in prison and one year of probation.

Ryan Lachance, 30, received the sentence for the incidents, which occurred between Sept. 17, 2024, and Feb. 19, 2025, in Prince Albert Provincial Court on Monday, May 25.

Lachance had been charged with four counts of possession of ammunition contrary to prohibition order, three counts of failing to comply with a release order condition, three counts of aggravated assault, and two counts of robbery, as well as one count each of possession of a weapon for a dangerous person, mischief under \$5,000 (damage to property), and breaking and entering.

He was also charged with failing to attend a court date last February.

Lachance also has a prior conviction for robbery, and a criminal record stretching back more than a decade.

With credit for time served, Lachance has 721 days remaining on his sentence.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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

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

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

BIG RIVER: Wapiti Library - Tuesday 11:30am - 5:30pm; Wednesday 11:30am - 4:30pm; Thursday 11:30am - 4:30pm. Phone # 306-469-2152

CANWOOD: Canwood Branch of Wapiti Regional Library Hours: Tuesday 9:30am - 4pm; Wednesday 10:30am - 5pm; Phone: 306-468-2501

DEBDEN: Wapiti Library hours: Tuesday 10am - 4pm; Wednesday 12pm - 6pm. Librarian: Aline Hannon

LEASK: Wapiti Library & Legacy Gallery Hours - Tuesday 9am - 2pm; Wednesday 2pm - 8pm; Friday 9am - 12pm

MARCELIN: Wapiti Library - Saturday 10am - 2pm; Thursday 2pm - 8pm. For information on all your library needs, please contact 306-226-2110.

SHELLBROOK: Shellbrook Branch of the Wapiti Library located at 105 Railway Ave., West (Provincial building). Library Hours: Monday 2pm - 6pm; Tuesday 2pm - 8pm; Wednesday 2pm - 8pm; Thursday 12pm - 6pm; Friday 10 am - 5pm (Story Time 10:30am - 11:30am); Saturday 10am - 4pm.

BIG RIVER: Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting - Every Wednesday, 7:30 pm @ Train Station in Big River (Railway Avenue)

CANWOOD: Canwood Legion Br. #132 - 100th Anniversary Celebration of the Royal Canadian Legion. Open House at Canwood Legion Hall, Saturday, June 6, 1pm to 5pm. Exhibits, Videos, Legion & War Memorabilia. Short Program at 2pm followed by Coffee and Refreshments, Anniversary Cake & Dainties. Come join us as we celebrate our organization and our commitment to serve veterans and our community!

SHELLBROOK: Ballapalooza - June 13 @ Shellbrook Sports Grounds! Admission \$10. Play Ball - All day starting @ 9am: Slo-pitch, Baseball, Softball; Canteen - 9am to 7pm: Food, Drinks & Snacks; Kidzville - 10am to 6pm: Petting Zoo, Face Painting, Bouncy Castles, Games, Lazer Tag, Glitter Tattoos, Dunk Tank & More!; Beer Gardens - Noon to Midnight; Juggling - 2pm & 6pm: Roaming Jugglers All Day & Shows @ Centennial Building. Supper - 5pm to 7pm @ Centennial Building. Battle of the Businesses Slo-Pitch on Friday, June 12 (no entry fee). Games at 6pm and 7:30 pm @ Diamonds #1 and #2. Beer Gardens and Food Truck. Prize for Best Dressed Team!

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NDP sounds alarm over crime

By **SASK NDP**
Submitted

Disturbing new data shows Saskatchewan has the highest rate of severe crime in Canada, the fastest-growing rate of severe crime and the worst rate of rural crime in several concerning areas.

"Scott Moe and the Sask. Party talk tough on crime and are the first to pose for a photo, but the reality is we're in a full-blown public safety crisis in Saskatchewan - and it's only getting worse," said Carla Beck. "Imagine having the audacity to tell people that things are getting safer in their communities when they can see with their own eyes the exact opposite."

"The arrogance, the lack of concrete action and the constant self-congratulation - these are all telling signs of a government that has stopped putting the very people

that elected it first. Clearly, it's time for change."

The Statistics Canada data, released Tuesday, May 26, reveals that Saskatchewan's crime rate has shot up a staggering 51 per cent since 2014.

Among the most devastating figures in the data release are those involving rural Saskatchewan. Rural communities here had the highest rate of break-and-enters in the country, with 561 incidents per 100,000 people.

Police reported that rates of sexual assault in rural communities were up well beyond urban centers, reporting 153 incidents per 100,000 people.

And mischief rates in rural Saskatchewan are reported to be 19 times higher than that of rural Quebec and 13 times higher than in rural Ontario.

"Small-town Saskatchewan is at the heart of our province's

identity - these towns are built around family and community. However, crime and social disorder keep getting worse and worse in these communities, impacting these families. People no longer feel safe to keep their doors unlocked during the daytime or walk in their neighbourhoods alone."

Hugh Gordon, Associate Community Safety Shadow Minister added, "This is an all bark, no bite government. Scott Moe appointed a new Community Safety Minister five months ago after the last one was a total disaster. Still, nothing has changed."

"People in Saskatchewan don't need another cabinet minister shuffled out, they need this government shuffled out."

Moe's bad news budget saw three times the amount of money spent to service his debt than to hire more police.

Not everyone loves CFL's new look

The new-look Canadian Football League season kicks off this week and while some are applauding the significant rule changes made to the game since last year's Grey Cup, not everyone is thrilled.

Commissioner Stewart Johnston, who took the helm about a year ago and is the architect, at least in the public's eye, of these changes, say the new rules will help to speed up play and lead to more exciting touchdown drives and fewer boring field goals. More changes are in store for 2027, which include reduction of the field to 100 yards and moving the goalposts to the back of the end zone.

When the 2026 season kicks off June 4 in a game between Montreal and Hamilton, here are two major changes fans will see:

- A 35-second play clock
- Elimination of the one-point rouge if the ball is kicked through the end zone by way of a field-goal attempt, a

punt or a kickoff (the rouge remains if the ball stays within the end zone and the returner takes a knee or is unable to advance the ball into the playing field).

The latter change means teams will no longer automatically get one point for a missed field goal, oftentimes the winning point in a tight game. That, says retired CFL referee Bud Ulrich, is an abomination.

"That takes away from some of the most exciting plays we witnessed for many years," Ulrich wrote in a letter to the Winnipeg Free Press.

"These changes can only be viewed as aligning our game with the National Football League," Ulrich continued. "In today's climate of Canada needing to be self-reliant and not dependent on the United States, for the development of our game, I am both surprised and disappointed... with the changes."

The play-clock



BRUCE PENTON

change is likely to speed up play, say CFL officials, and Grey Cup champion quarterback Trevor Harris agrees. "I think it's going to increase the amount of plays," Harris told Taylor Shire of the Regina Leader-Post. "And so, if you're watching a 60-minute football game, you're going to see more plays and that's exciting. Less wasted time and I'm fired up about it."

Meanwhile, Roughrider fans all over the country are hoping for a Grey Cup repeat from their favourite team. After a Week 1 bye, the Riders open their season

at home on June 13 against the B.C. Lions. The nine CFL teams will vie for six playoff positions, but next year, the playoff format will include eight of the nine teams.

In a press release, the CFL said the playoff format changes will "create more meaningful games, better summer experiences for fans, and a more competitive path to the Grey Cup."

Detractors, however, say allowing eight of the nine teams into post-season play will render the regular season meaningless.

Cynics state the obvious: The move was made to allow more teams to have playoff games, ergo, more revenue. If the move proves to be extremely unpopular, the fans will respond by staying home.

Fat chance of that. Mike Bianchi of the Orlando Sentinel, on the fall from grace of a golf great: "Tiger Woods was never supposed to be a punchline. He was supposed to be a legend carved in

marble."

- Former Steelers' coach Mike Tomlin, on a player who said he wanted to be traded: "I'm okay with that. We want volunteers, not hostages."
- Shane Ryan of Golf-Digest.com, on Russell Henley's poor performance in last year's Ryder Cup: "If I had to compare his Ryder Cup to a bird, it would be a pigeon that gets hit by a tractor."
- Janice Hough of left-coastsportsbabe.com: "The Montreal Canadiens beat the Buffalo Sabres (in Game 7). I'm so old I remember when it wasn't a shock that a Canadian team MIGHT win the Stanley Cup."
- South African golf great Gary Player, on Elvis Presley's golf grip: "Like he was a cow giving birth to a roll of barbed wire."
- Journalist Michael Farber, on referencing a former NHLer when asked what to call a feline pet: "Al Iafate Cat."
- Mike Bianchi of the

Orlando Sentinel: "The Lakers may not be the Beatles in their prime, but they're like the Rolling Stones of today — older, richer and running mostly on legacy — but somehow still selling out every arena in America."

- One more Bianchi offering: "Kudos to the Washington Wizards for winning the NBA's draft lottery. Finally, a success story in D.C. that doesn't include a leaked memo, a subpoena and a congressional hearing."
- Another headline at the onion.com: "Shai Gilgeous-Alexander Trying To Draw Foul While Shooting Free Throw"
- Steve Simmons of the Toronto Sun: "If Mitch Marner had played the way he's playing now in Vegas, he'd still be a Leaf."
- Another one from Simmons: "Bruce Cassidy reminds me of Pat Burns. Five-year contract, three-year act."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Op-ed: Moe must stand firm against carbon taxes

By GAGE HAUBRICH
CTF Prairie Director

And then there was one.

Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe is the last man standing.

He's the only premier who is refusing to give his blessing to Ottawa's costly industrial carbon tax.

And the Alberta government's latest agreement with Ottawa shows that he needs to keep standing firm.

Prime Minister Mark Carney told reporters in Calgary that Alberta's industrial carbon tax will be six and a half times more expensive by 2040 because of the new agreement signed between Carney and Alberta Premier Danielle Smith.

That's a bad deal for Alberta taxpayers. That's because the industrial carbon tax applies to nearly everything and makes life more expensive and businesses less competitive.

The carbon tax hits fuel refineries, making gasoline and diesel cost more at the pumps. The carbon tax hits utility companies and electricity generation, making home heating and home electricity cost more.

That means next January, keeping your pipes from freezing and your lights on in Alberta will cost more, thanks to this industrial carbon tax

from Ottawa.

No other oil-producing nation imposes an industrial carbon tax, according to Cenovus Energy CEO Jon McKenzie. That means the tax "incentivizes industry to invest outside of Canada."

The United States doesn't impose a national carbon tax. In fact, more than 70 per cent of countries around the world don't have a national carbon tax.

Smith signed the deal because the federal government said in exchange for a more costly carbon tax on Albertans, Ottawa will consider approving a pipeline to the coast in the future. But there are no guarantees.

To date, no private company has offered to spend its own money to build a pipeline from Alberta to the coast.

Saskatchewanians be warned. Carney is likely coming for Saskatchewan next.

Moe recently said that the Saskatchewan government will start talks with Ottawa to find a "workable place" on charging Saskatchewanians an industrial carbon tax again.

There is no "workable place" for taxpayers who will be paying the increased cost of any industrial carbon tax imposed on the province.

In Saskatchewan, the industrial carbon tax would nail fertilizer plants, increasing costs for farmers, making food cost more and it would also hit the mining industry costing people money and their jobs.

But all that can be stopped: If Moe stands firm against Carney and his carbon tax.

That's because Saskatchewan has already been carbon-tax free for more than a year.

The Saskatchewan government scrapped its industrial carbon tax on April 1, 2025. When removing the tax, Moe said that Saskatchewan is "taking the lead on the removal of this harmful tax."

Scrapping the industrial carbon tax is saving the average Saskatchewan family about \$112 per year on their power bills, according to Saskatchewan Power. Farms will save about \$330 per year.

The industrial carbon tax hike is now a certainty for Albertans. That can't happen to Saskatchewan. Moe cannot flinch from this position.

The premier of Saskatchewan has been fighting carbon taxes for years, just like his predecessor, former premier Brad Wall.

It's one thing for Carney to ram a carbon tax down the throats of Sas-

katchewanians from Ottawa. People in Western Canada are used to that. That's what former prime minister Justin Trudeau did for years.

But it's different when a premier stands on stage and gives their blessings to Ottawa to impose carbon taxes on their provinces.

Moe must tell Carney no.

Polling shows that 69 per cent of Saskatchewanians support keeping the province carbon-tax free, according to Insightrix.

Overall, 68 per cent of Canadians believe businesses pass most or some of the cost of the industrial carbon tax on to consumers, according to Leger polling.

Taxpayers need someone in their corner, fighting against Ottawa's costly carbon taxes.

People need a premier to speak for them, to stand up and say no.

Moe needs to keep Saskatchewan carbon tax-free.

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OBITUARY

Jerald John Clark



Saskatchewan. He passed away peacefully with family at his side on May 21, 2026, at Parkland Integrated Health Centre Long Term Care Facility in Shellbrook, SK, at the age of 90.

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Jerald John Clark (Jerry), born August 17, 1935, in Shellbrook,

Jerry was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather and a friend to many... Whether he was casting a line out on the water, spending a day on the golf course, curling, bowling or out dancing, he approached every passion with his whole heart. He will

be remembered for his kind spirit and gentle strength and a quiet sense of humour that would catch us by surprise and leave everyone laughing.

He is survived by his loving wife Marion, who was his partner in his latter life and best friend for 28 years. They shared many happy memories together. Madeline Clark was his predeceased former spouse with whom he shared 34 years together and remained lifelong friends. They had 4 daughters

together. Jerry was an incredibly proud father to his four girls, Debbie, Karen, Brenda and Karla. Jerry also gained two more wonderful stepdaughters, Bev and Brenda through his second marriage. Jerry's many grandchildren and great grandchildren were his greatest pride. Jerry is survived by his older brother Cecil Clark. Jerry was predeceased by his parents, John Mathew Clark (born in Scotland) and Ina (Dalgleish) Clark.

To his family and

friends, he leaves behind beautiful memories, and a reminder to always appreciate the simple joys in life.

Jerry will be deeply missed.

A Celebration of his life was held for all those who knew and loved Jerry, Saturday, May 30, 2026, at 10:00 am in the Great Room at the Parkland Integrated Health Centre Long Term Care Facility attached to the Shellbrook Hospital. Interment will follow at the Shellbrook Cemetery.

In lieu of tributes, me-

morial donations may be made in memory of Jerald to the Shellbrook and Districts Health Services Foundation - Recreation Dept. (Box 33 Shellbrook, SK S0J 2E0).

Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit www.beaulacfuneralhome.com. Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home and Crematorium, Mark Muir, Funeral Director, Shellbrook, SK 306-747-2828.

GOOD NEWS

FAITH INVOLVES EXPECTATION

By **DEB ANDERSON**
Submitted

I still recall the day my Dad assembled us three kids together with Mom and asked us what we would like to do on our summer holidays. We looked at each other, not sure of what was up. There was still snow on the ground!

He gently offered us two possibilities, trying not to show his preference for going to Expo '67. "Would you like to go to Expo 67 or to Dis-

neyland?" Without missing a beat, the cry was unanimous, "Disneyland!" None of us knew what an Expo 67 was.

Next came the waiting, and waiting, and waiting. The expectation that the promise may not materialize never crossed our minds. With each passing day, the excitement grew. Finally, school was ended for the summer, and there was nothing left for us to do but pack. It was an exciting time and a wonderful trip.

Faith is a certainty of heart and at-

titude that exists between asking for something and receiving the answer. That "place" can be difficult to cling to, as the wait may be long. Yet James encouraged believers not to waver (believe, then give up hope, then believe again). He compared wavering to a ship tossed about on the sea, and remarked that such "faith" receives nothing from the Lord.

Our faith can be refined, as gold is refined — made purer and better. The testing of our faith is precious, though that can be difficult. Strength comes with hanging in there, continuing to believe, expect and wait.

"Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours," Jesus taught. These

are challenging words to implement, yet 'seeing' what is on the way keeps us from speaking and acting against the answer as it makes its way to us.

Faith does not doubt "in the heart." It's not about what we "think" or what is possible. Faith knows God, His will, and His Word. Pray, and then give thanks for God's answer, though not yet seen. Expect, as a child when the parent promises a special holiday this summer.

We all live this within our salvation—pondering our heavenly home, based on God's promises to save those who follow Christ. Let that faith—the time between prayer and answer—be strong and unwavering as we journey through the challenges of this time. How great is our God!

How to garden in containers

By **PATRICIA HANBIDGE**
Orchid Horticulture

I love growing a garden in a container! It is easier, there is no dealing with the challenges you may find in your local soil, and I can control all facets of the growing!! The only downside is you always need to do more watering!

If you are new to growing in containers, then we need to begin with the basics. Ensure that whatever you are using for a container has adequate drainage holes. My favourite containers, are large tree pots that I obtained by planting container trees. However, you can always use a vessel that was once used for something else — as long as it is of non-toxic material and you can drill holes so water can leave the pot/container.

As you are providing the entire home for the plants you put into the container, it is important to choose plants that have similar cultural needs. For instance, do not mix shade and sun lovers in the same pot and ensure that the moisture levels

that plants will need are similar.

When it comes to choosing between plastic or terra cotta — I recommend using plastic or glazed pots unless you are growing succulents or cacti. Terra cotta pots breathe well and dry out quite quickly, while plastic or glazed/sealed pots tend to breathe less as they are impermeable to air and water. I always prefer using the pot within a pot technology, as then you retain the pretty and

the practical and maintenance is simplified.

Bigger is generally better — but that is also dependent on what is growing. Tomatoes and other fast growing, heat loving veggies need to be planted in what seems like a ridiculously large pot in early summer. Do not worry — the tomatoes will grow and will need to have a water reservoir in order to provide you with tasty tomatoes right through until our temperatures drop in the fall.



Container gardening opens up limitless possibilities.
Photo credit: Earthworm/Flickr

For other plants, you are better off, transplanting as the plant grows.

For annual ornamental plants — the pot size is generally set and you fill the container accordingly. If you wish to have an early show with a full container, you literally overplant in the spring and as summer progresses and your annuals get larger, some will be removed. If you do not follow this guideline, then plant with some extra space in the spring. I generally plant at about 80% of what is recommended if you were planting in a bed and thus hit the middle ground for container success throughout a season of three to four months. If you have a longer season, then plant at a higher percentage than 80% spacing.

Never fill your containers with only garden soil as the plants will never do well. Use a peat based potting mix as it will give proper aeration and drainage. If you are potting up containers outside, then you can mix your own with one part garden soil: two parts peat moss: and 1 part perlite.

Fill the container about three

quarters of the way with your soilless mix and then add a bit of slow release fertilizer like 14:14:14. This will help your plants to have enough food to grow to their best ability. I find that sometimes, I do not feed the containers with great regularity so this helps reduce this habit as summer progresses and other things get in the way of the best culture. Plan to feed weekly with a complete fertilizer or alternatively every time you water with a dilute solution. Leave a couple of inches of headspace to the rim of the pot, so watering is simplified.

Arrange the plants appropriately using the "Thriller, Filler and Spiller" and ensure you loosen any that are root bound. Choose plants that look attractive together and suit what you like to see. Water immediately with a dilute high phosphorus, complete fertilizer and enjoy the show you have created.

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.

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EVENING LIGHT TABERNACLE
Ahtahkakoop FN
Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
Communion 1st Wed. of each month
Pastor Burton Ahenakew
306-468-7537

PRAISE & WORSHIP

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

PARTNERS IN FAITH
Lutheran/United/
Christehurch Anglican,
137-2nd St. W.
Spiritwood
Worship 10:00 a.m.
Rev. Sarah Urano

UNITED /ANGLICAN
Worship Services
Glaslyn
Time is on the sign
Rev. Kun Kim
Rev. Don Skinner

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

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

FIELDS OF HOPE (HOFFNUNGSFELDER) MENNONITE CHURCH
Glenbush (May thru Sept)
10:00 am Worship
Rabbit Lake Mennonite Church (June thru Sept)
2nd Sunday - 10 am Worship

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

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

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

PARTNERS IN WORSHIP
Shell Lake
Worship Services
Sunday 10:00 a.m.
306-883-8885

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

www.shellbrookchronicle.com
www.spiritwoodherald.com

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