

# Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald

VOL. 108 NO. 21 PMR #40007604

Thursday, May 21, 2020

www.shellbrookchronicle.com | www.spiritwoodherald.com

## Hockey Day committee gives \$100,000 to rink project



**Amund Otterson (middle), project manager for the Shellbrook Recreation Project Steering Committee, accepts the \$100,000 from Mason Wallin and Tasha Cyr.**

The Shellbrook Recreation Project Steering Committee is one giant leap closer to its fundraising goals, after receiving a \$100,000 cheque from the Hockey Day in Shellbrook Committee.

The funds, which were raised at 2020's highly successful Hockey Day in Shellbrook (the event brought in more than \$100,000, making it the second most successful Hockey Day from a fundraising perspective), come as the Steering Committee is poised to begin work on the third and final phase of its project: the installation of solar panels to power the Shellbrook Recreation Complex.

For those who missed it, this year's Hockey Day in Shellbrook followed a tried and true format that has seen success in previous years, with Friday afternoon and

evening being reserved for a community skate, the Tremblay Classic, a Shellbrook Skating Club mini-showcase, and a Shellbrook Silvertips game.

With this year marking the second last Hockey Day, the organizing committee added a new event into Friday's mix: a come-and-go volunteer appreciation soirée, with music provided by Debden's Layton Ferster.

In keeping with tradition, Saturday kicked off with a pancake breakfast, coupled with an IP tournament the featured a host of local and area teams.

Meanwhile, the first-ever Hockey Day in Shellbrook Street Hockey Tournament got underway on the committee's second attempt to hold it (though, the frigid temperatures outside meant it was shortened).

And helping to keep the arena full into the afternoon was the AA and AAA hockey action on offer, as the Beardsley Blackhawks took on the Martensville Marauders, and the Prince Albert Mintos faced off against the Saskatoon Contacts.

Once afternoon shifted to evening, it was time for the action to shift over to the Shellbrook Community Hall for the Hockey Day in Shellbrook Banquet. There, Comedian Kelly Taylor handled MC duties for the event, while NHLer Dennis Hull served as the guest of honour.

Since the Shellbrook Recreation Project Steering Committee undertook the \$2.2 million project to upgrade the Shellbrook Recreation Complex, more than \$1.9 million has been raised.

That money has allowed for the a new

ice plant and a new ice resurfacing machine (phase one's major projects), as well as new boards and glass and a new ice surface (phase two's key projects), and a score of other big and small upgrades.

Hockey Day in Shellbrook has accounted for nearly 25 per cent of the funds raised thus far. And, following this year's Hockey Day, organizing committee member Stephanie Gosselin said the committee's goal was to help the Steering Committee pay off the whole project with the final Hockey Day in Shellbrook in 2021.

"It's a fairly lofty goal, but that's where we're setting our sights," she said.

Of course, while Hockey Day is still a long way off, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic could put a damper on the committee's goals.

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# Softball season delayed until at least May 31

Along with many other summer mainstays, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to cast a long shadow of doubt over the 2020 softball season.

In its most recent announcement, which was made on May 6, Softball Saskatchewan suspended all sanctioned activities until May 31, extending, by two weeks, a previous suspension until May 15.

"It continues to be our position that we keep any suspension deadlines as short as possible to be able to react as quickly as we can to the ever-changing environment, we are in," said Guy Jacobson, Softball Saskatchewan's executive director, in a statement.

While uncertainty lingers around the 2020 softball season, Jacobson says that Softball

Saskatchewan remains optimistic about the prospect of there being softball this year — even if the season has to be modified to adapt COVID-19 or delay starting until June or July.

Reflecting this optimism, Softball Saskatchewan has set Aug. 1 as the drop dead date for the 2020 softball season.

"Obviously lots can change between now and then but we are holding out hope as I'm sure our members are that we will still play some softball this year," Jacobson said. "The new softball season may not be for everyone, but we believe it is important to be able to provide programs and services for those that are ready to take part."

In other adjustments to ensure that Softball Saskatchewan is ready to start the season as



A Shellbrook Rangers player executes a textbook slide into home plate during action from Shellbrook's 2019 Sports Day event.

soon as it gets the green light from Sask. Sport and the provincial government — and to ensure that everyone can be included — the affiliation deadline has been pushed back to June 1.

The deadline for registration in provincial championships has also been pushed back to June 1, and Jacobson says Softball Saskatchewan has reached out to this year's provincial tournament hosts for their feedback on hosting provincial tourna-

ments in late August or early September.

Elsewhere, COVID-19 has caused the cancellation of the 2020 Western Softball Championships, as well as the postponement of the 2020 Saskatchewan Summer Games in Lloydminster. The Summer Games are expected to go ahead in 2021, and are tentatively scheduled to run from July 18 to 24.

Meanwhile, Softball Canada is expected to announce the fate of the 2020 Canadian Softball

Championships at some point this month.

Finally, for its part, Softball Saskatchewan is continuing to suspend all athlete, coach, and umpire clinics and will not sanction any organized activities including practices, player evaluations, games, or tournaments.

However, Jacobson says the organization is working with Softball Canada on digital solu-

tions to allow it to host its NCCP Coaching and Umpire Clinics.

In the meantime, softball falls under phase 4 for the province's Re-Open Saskatchewan plan, which doesn't currently have a start date.

Until that date comes, Jacobson is urging everyone to stay safe and follow the latest public health orders and guidelines to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

## Novus Law Group

**To our valued clients in Shellbrook, Big River, Spiritwood, Debden and surrounding areas:**

Through the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, our dedicated lawyers at Novus Law Group continue to provide legal services to the communities of Shellbrook, Big River, Spiritwood and Debden and surrounding regions.

While our branch offices in these communities are currently unavailable for in-person client meetings, we have in place a work management plan that enables the Novus Law Group team to continue to deliver legal services with minimal disruption.

For assistance during this time, please make arrangements by contacting by phone or email Bill Cannon (for Shellbrook/Debden/Big River), Shelley Cannon (for Spiritwood), or any of our firm's partners or other associate lawyers.

**Contact us:**

**By Phone:** 306-922-4700 (Monday to Friday 9am-3pm)

**By Email:** Bill Cannon at [bcannon@novuslaw.ca](mailto:bcannon@novuslaw.ca)  
Shelley Cannon at [scannon@novuslaw.ca](mailto:scannon@novuslaw.ca)  
OR [princealbert@novuslaw.ca](mailto:princealbert@novuslaw.ca)

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## Extended Support for Saskatchewan Small Businesses

The Saskatchewan Small Business Emergency Payment (SSBEP) has been extended for businesses required to remain closed or substantially curtail operations after May 19, 2020. This \$50 million program is providing financial support to small and medium-sized businesses due the COVID-19 pandemic. Businesses that have already applied and continue to qualify for the program will automatically receive a second payment after May 19.

The SSBEP, which has provided direct financial support to over 4,600 applicants, will continue to provide grants based off of 15% of monthly sales revenue to a maximum of \$5,000. For more information visit [www.saskatchewan.ca/covid19-businesses](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/covid19-businesses).

**Hon. Scott Moe, Premier**  
MLA for Rosthern-Shellbrook  
[scottmoe.mla@sasktel.net](mailto:scottmoe.mla@sasktel.net)

**Hon. Jeremy Harrison**  
MLA for Meadow Lake  
[jharrisonmla@sasktel.net](mailto:jharrisonmla@sasktel.net)

**Nadine Wilson**  
MLA for Saskatchewan Rivers  
[saskrivers@sasktel.net](mailto:saskrivers@sasktel.net)



# Spiritwood Golf Course reopens for 2020 Season

"May long weekend kicked off to a great start with lots of golfing activity as well as several Memberships purchased," says Glennalda Saam, club house manager at the Spiritwood Golf Course.

Golf courses were allowed to reopen to the public on May 15, 2020, just in time for May long weekend. Of course, reopening did not come without some changes and restrictions that needed to be followed.

Bookings must be done over the phone or online as walk-ons will not be accepted at this time. Only one golfer is allowed entry into the club house at a time for the purpose of washroom use, payment for tee time, and the purchase of snacks and drinks. Score cards are handed out upon payment for



tee time. No food is being prepared on site and the beer cart is not operating. Golf cart use is limited to one person per cart unless they are living in the same household and keys are placed in the cart at the beginning of each day to

minimize contact.

Club house staff are required to wear a face covering and gloves while at work and a sneeze guard has been installed at the clubhouse counter. Surfaces touched by golfers are wiped down after each

use, this includes the counter, debit machine, doorknobs, carts, and the bathroom. The golf cart parking lot has been divided to separate carts that have been sanitized and those that have yet to be sanitized.

Apart from the new protocols put in place to help keep staff and golfers safe, there are other changes taking place at the Spiritwood Golf Course.

Glennalda Saam has taken over the position of club house manager and is working alongside clubhouse attendants Sarah Anderson and Jaycie Purdy. Brooklyn Saam, Glennalda's daughter helps out cleaning carts and restocking the cooler and chips. Dyllan Franson is looking after the course as the Grounds Manager with the help of workers Dean Olson, Jeremy

Chorney, Don Turgeon, Caleb Kilbreath, and Dora Hart.

The club is also in the process of adding 21 camping sites around the course, which has resulted in some construction overflow onto the front 9 holes. Temporary greens have been added to some holes on the front 9, although golfers are given the option to play the back 9 if they choose to avoid the construction.

No programs will be running until further notice due to government regulations. This means all Ladies Nights, Men's Nights, Youth Golf, and all tournaments will not be running unless some more restrictions are lifted. The club is currently looking into the possibility of private lessons for those interested. However, this idea is still in its preliminary stage.

The club is looking forward to a great season despite all the changes.

## COVID-19 support for businesses and workers

For the most recent and accurate information, visit: [saskatchewan.ca/covid19-businesses](https://saskatchewan.ca/covid19-businesses)

As well, the Business Response Team is available to help. Call: 1-844-800-8688 or email: [supportforbusiness@gov.sk.ca](mailto:supportforbusiness@gov.sk.ca)

[saskatchewan.ca](https://saskatchewan.ca)

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**Shellbrook Chronicle  
& Spiritwood Herald**



## COVID-19 should make us ponder pollution

Last week, I reflected about the lasting legacy of COVID-19, and, in particular, how it has exposed the dangerous flaws in our domestic food supply chain.

To be certain, our provincial and federal governments would be wise to use this pandemic as a chance to reflect on the way we feed ourselves, and develop policies to strengthen the links in this very fragile chain. But food security isn't the only issue COVID-19 may force us to reconsider as the global pandemic continues.

In the two months since lockdown protocols were implemented by many countries around the world, environmental scientists have been examining how the reduction in vehicular traffic and industrial activity has impacted air quality.

The satellite imagery



JORDAN  
TWISS  
~  
News Editor

emerging from these early studies is striking. More importantly, though, it offers us a glimpse of what the world might look like if we, as a global community, could all agree to make cutting down on air pollution a priority.

Two of the studies, conducted by the Royal Belgian Institute for Space Aeronomy in Brussels and the Max Planck Institute for Meteorology in Hamburg, Germany, found

that nitrogen dioxide pollution levels over China, Western Europe, and the United States dropped by as much as 60 per cent compared to last year.

While most conversation about pollution focuses on carbon dioxide and methane emissions, nitrogen dioxide is still a dangerous gas that can increase one's likelihood of contracting respiratory illnesses.

Like other pollutants, it typically enters the air through emissions from vehicles, power plants and industrial activities.

At the same time, northern China, in particular, has experienced a 35 per cent drop in particulate matter pollution.

Particulate matter is composed of solid particles and liquid droplets that are small enough to penetrate

deep into the lungs and cause damage.

That said, the studies also found an increase in ground-surface levels of ozone, which can cause pulmonary and heart disease. (However, this could simply be a by-product of the reduction of nitrogen dioxide levels, as nitrogen oxides are known to destroy surface ozone in highly polluted areas.)

According to Jenny Stavrakou, an atmospheric scientist and one of the lead authors of the Brussels study, such significant declines in emissions and air pollution levels haven't been seen since satellite air quality monitoring began in the 1990s.

But though these air quality improvements are likely only temporary, and the product of extreme and unusual circumstances,

they should, at the very least, give governments around the world something to ponder.

And, on an individual level, these air pollution reductions should give us enough reason to consider ways in which we might reduce our own pollution footprints.

It may not seem like anything we could do would ever matter in the grand scheme of things. But a sea of small changes can easily grow into an ocean.



But, of course, nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter pollution aren't the only forms of pollution we've been talking about in the context of COVID-19.

Last week, Green Party leader Elizabeth May turned heads and earned rebukes for her bold claim that Alberta's oilsands are dead.

She was wrong, and more than a little insensitive with her remarks. And yet, there were kernels of truth in what she said.

But the world still needs oil, and will for the foreseeable future, and so we can't simply rope off the oilsands and leave hardworking Canadians out in the cold.

Our leaders like to talk about plans to transition away from fossil fuels.

Perhaps COVID-19 will inspire them to come up with one that works for workers, first and foremost, but also for the environment and the economy.

## Bigger is not always better

Dear Editor,

The recent closures of meat packing plants in Alberta, Quebec and several American states due to the COVID-19 pandemic are shedding light on the tremendous expense of this style of massive meat processing operation. The expense borne by the workers at the plants is the greatest of all, their health threatened so severely, even causing death to two Cargill workers in Alberta. However the expense doesn't stop there, as consumers are expected to see meat prices jump, farmers have

seen the prices paid for their animals drop by more than 30% and tax payers will ultimately pay the price to help bail out this sector.

Several decades ago when the move to close smaller slaughterhouses in favour of building huge single entity plants was happening, the rationale was that there were going to be tremendous efficiencies in doing this. National Farmers Union studies showed that the promised efficiencies of consumers seeing cheaper meat and farmers making a decent living simply did not materialize. The spread

between what farmers are paid for their animals and what consumers pay for meat has grown. The working conditions at the plants with thousands of animals being slaughtered each day are stressful at the best of times and downright dangerous now. Farmers suddenly have nowhere to sell their animals and consumers are starting to see less meat on the shelves.

Now is the time to look at how we can build a meat processing system that will not cause these massive problems. A move to build

smaller, safer slaughter plants in each province would help to disperse the threats to food security. We could assure meat supply from local farms to meet local demands. If one plant was forced to close it would not disrupt the food chain across the entire country. Providing safe secure food from local farms to local consumers is entirely possible without putting meat packing workers at risk. Surely we've learned that bigger is not always better.

Vicki Burns, Winnipeg, MB  
Fred Tait, Rossendale, MB

### Shellbrook Chronicle

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### Spiritwood Herald

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A Division of Pepperfram Limited Publications  
Mail Registration #07621

Published Every Thursday Morning

P.O. Box 10, Shellbrook, Sask. S0J 2E0  
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Friday, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. & 1 to 4 p.m.;  
Advertising Deadline: Fridays at 4:00 p.m.  
websites: www.shellbrookchronicle.com  
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Member of





# Highway 3 slated to get new passing lanes

As part of a \$300 million investment in Saskatchewan's highways and infrastructure, the stretch of Highway 3 that connects Shellbrook to Prince Albert will be receiving three sets of passing lanes.

The provincial government announced the project last week, along with plans to upgrade 325 kms of thin-membrane surface highways, create 24 to 26 new sets of highway passing lanes (including the Highway 3 passing lanes), rehabilitate at least 100 RM roads, and improve community airports.

All these projects are part of the Government of Saskatchewan's broader \$7.5 billion two-year capital to plan to build a strong Saskatchewan and stimulate Saskatchewan's economic recovery in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Infrastructure investments are important for growth, quality of life, and safe transportation," Highways and Infrastructure Minister Greg Ottenbreit said in a statement. "This stimulus package will provide an economic boost creating jobs and building priority infrastructure projects which will serve the citizens of the province for decades to come."

According to the provincial government, the \$300 million in highways stimulus funds will be invested over the next two years as the government works to quickly re-start the Saskatchewan economy.

Getting into specifics, Ottenbreit said the decision to install passing lanes on the highways was based on the traffic flow.

"We'll look at the different traffic numbers in different areas and see which highways warrant either passing lanes or possibly twinning," he told *paNOW*.

Ottenbreit said adding them in the past has improved safety by up to 80 per cent. He added that putting in these lanes is also less disruptive overall than twinning, as it does not require the ministry to buy and develop as much land.

In terms of timelines, Ottenbreit said provincial crews will be breaking ground in 2021. He added that design work will be starting this year.

"By the time you do the surveying, acquire the land, get the contracts out, get the crushing done throughout the winter months, then they're good to go first thing in the spring," he said.

In regards to the specific location of the passing lanes, Ottenbreit said this will be determined during the design phase.

He explained the lanes will be installed where traffic flows are the highest and also take into account the surroundings, like geography and surrounding infrastructure.

The news of the passing lanes for Highway 3 was welcomed by Don Fyrk, Reeve for the Rural Municipality of Buckland, who has been calling for passing lanes or other safety improvements to be made to the stretch of the highway.

At one time, Highway 3 was the worst highway for accidents in Canada.

## Province announces COVID-19 supports for livestock producers

Agriculture Minister David Marit has announced \$10 million in additional funding to help livestock producers manage the impacts of COVID-19 related market disruptions.

The support includes \$5 million for Saskatchewan's share of the costs associated with participation in the national AgriRecovery set-aside program and \$5 million to partially offset higher premium costs under the Western Livestock Price Insurance Program (WLPIP).

With today's announcement, the Saskatchewan government will fund the 40 per cent provincial contribution to the AgriRecovery set-aside program. Saskatchewan livestock producers will now be able to access a total of \$12.5 million under the set-aside program. On May 5, the federal government announced their 60 per cent contribution to the AgriRecovery program.

"Our livestock sector is facing tremendous challenges, with producers facing higher costs to feed animals that cannot move along the supply chain as they normally would," Marit said. "Participation in the AgriRecovery set-aside program will compensate producers for the cost of temporarily holding cattle back from market until supply more evenly matches demand and processing capacity."

At this time of the year, approximately 3,500 head of market-ready steers and heifers would typically be shipped from Saskatchewan to processing facilities in Alberta every week. Recently, less than 400 head of fed cattle from Saskatchewan have been processed weekly in Alberta plants.






Saskatchewan will work closely with industry, the federal government and other western provinces to finalize the details of the set-aside program. The Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation will deliver the program to Saskatchewan producers.

Continued on page 7

### Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan

The province is continuing to gradually re-open businesses and services.

To support our ability to progress through the plan's 5 phases, we need to keep the curve flat. It's important that Saskatchewan residents continue practicing the following:

-  Physical distancing of 2 metres.
-  10 or fewer people in a gathering.
-  Frequent handwashing and cleaning of surfaces.
-  Stay home if you're sick and call 811 if you have COVID-19 symptoms.
-  Keep household contacts to a small, consistent group of family or friends.

May 15, 2020	May 19, 2020	June 1, 2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fishing – Central zone</li><li>• Golf courses</li><li>• Drive-in theatres</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Retail services</li><li>• Shopping malls</li><li>• Select personal services</li><li>• Public markets/farmers' markets</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Parks and campgrounds</li></ul>

Full details at [saskatchewan.ca/COVID19](https://saskatchewan.ca/COVID19)



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# Honeywood sees strong support on opening day

With phase two of the Re-Open Saskatchewan plan getting under way earlier this week, Honeywood Heritage Nursery was able to herald the arrival of spring by holding its opening day on Saturday, May 16.

The nursery was blessed by warm and sunny conditions throughout the day, and, after two months of being discouraged to travel in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, guests were more than pleased for the opportunity to get out of the house (and perhaps pick up some flowers or plants in the process).

Though the slow start to spring meant that Honeywood's grounds weren't putting on their usual colourful show, there was still plenty of colour to behold in the greenhouse. There, annuals already in bloom were on display, thanks to a generous agreement with Malcolm Jenkins, owner of Canadian Tire in Prince Albert.

Outside, meanwhile, Honeywood's trade-

mark lilies were available for perusal and purchase, along with a wide variety of perennials, succulents, and fruit trees.

"Thanks to our volunteers, we potted a good number of lilies and perennials for our visitors and customers to choose from," Honeywood's Judy Harley wrote prior to opening day. "The plants we had in storage will take a little longer to wake up and get growing but as the weather warms up, they will emerge from their slumber and put on a show."

While Honeywood was allowed to open, the nursery did have measures in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19, such as limiting access to the greenhouse to one person or couple at a time. In addition, the greenhouse will be sanitized regularly, and hand sanitizer is being made available to guests before entering.

But Harley says that practices to prevent the spread of COVID-19 aren't the only thing that will change for Honeywood this year. Like so many other summer mainstays, Honeywood's Artists in Bloom and Lilies in Bloom events, which typically take place in June and July, respectively, have been cancelled due to the limits on public gatherings.

Elsewhere, the jury is still out on its season-closing A Touch of Autumn event, which is typically held in September. But Harley says it's looking doubtful at the moment.

This, Harley adds, could make 2020 one of Honeywood's most



**Guests take a gander at some of the lilies and perennials available for purchase.**



**Not all of Honeywood's guests on opening day were human. But all of them appreciated the plants and flowers on display at the nursery.**

challenging years.

"The events are held to invite people to enjoy the nursery, but also to raise the much-needed funds to maintain the Heritage site," she said.

"Without the support of you, our friends and supporters, we will not be able to continue to keep this heritage site in the great

shape so many have come to love."

Anyone interested in making any kind of donation can contact Honeywood via email: honeywoodn8@gmail.com, phone: 303-747-3307, or mail: Box 117, Parkside, SK, S0J 2A0.

All donations over \$20 are eligible for income tax receipt.



**Honeywood's greenhouse was full of colourful annuals, thanks to an agreement the nursery has with Malcolm Jenkins, owner of Canadian Tire Prince Albert.**

## TOWN OF SPIRITWOOD PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice is hereby given that the Council of the Town of Spiritwood intends to adopt a bylaw under *The Planning and Development Act, 2007* to amend Bylaw No. 486/13 known as the Zoning Bylaw.

### INTENT

It is proposed that the Zoning Bylaw amendment will:

- Change the sign placement regulations to allow for a sign to exist in an intersection sight triangle under certain conditions;
- Alter sign regulations for C2, C2A and M1 Districts by increasing the maximum sign height and face area.
- Replace figure 2-3 in the INTERPRETATION with the following new figure that illustrates the correct dimensions for a sight triangle.

### REASONS

- To provide more flexibility for the development of free-standing signs.
- To correct a typographical error on the dimensions of a sight triangle.

### PUBLIC INSPECTION

Any person may inspect the bylaw which is posted to the front door at the Town Office, located at 212 Main Street in the Town of Spiritwood. Contact the town office by email to get a copy of the proposed bylaw at [tos@sasktel.net](mailto:tos@sasktel.net).

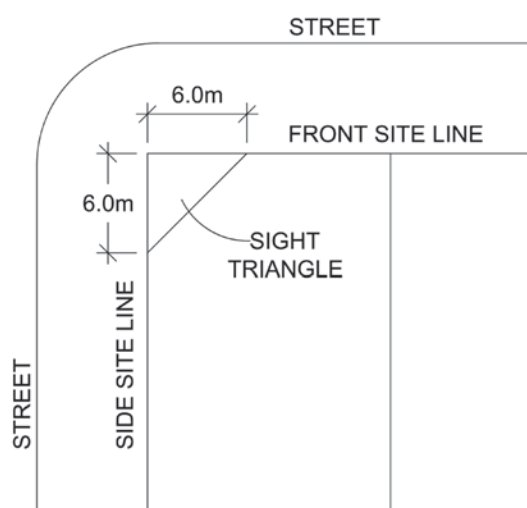
### PUBLIC HEARING

Council will hold a public hearing on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 6:30 PM at the Town Office. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, written submissions to Council pertaining to this bylaw are strongly encouraged. Written submissions must be received by June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 4:00 PM either by email or mail. Anyone wishing to make a verbal submission to Council must do so by phone. Please contact the Town Office by June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 4:00 PM to schedule a time slot in which Council will phone you directly to hear your concerns or suggestions.

Issued at the Town of Spiritwood this 21<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2020.

Rhonda Saam, Chief Administrative Officer

### SKETCH



## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**PARKSIDE:** Honeywood (Dr. A.J. Porter) Heritage Nursery Inc. *Provincial Heritage Site* Parkside, SK NOW OPEN. Open daily 9 am - 5 pm. **NEW:** Canadian Tire Annuals. New and old lily varieties, assortment of perennial plants. COVID-19 GUIDELINES WILL BE IN PLACE. Ph: 306-747-3307, email: [honeywoodn8@gmail.com](mailto:honeywoodn8@gmail.com). Like us on Facebook @ Honeywood Heritage Nursery Inc.

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## During COVID-19 science matters more than ever

It was interesting, although hardly surprising, to see a recent article in the agricultural press suggesting a growth in Ag technology coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

That is a statement that could be applied to a host of sectors post COVID-19, from the obvious medical research, to the logistics of food distribution, to in-store bio-security and more.

Of course, a spike in technology post crisis is very much the norm for humanity. We as a species have always done a rather admira-

ble job of creating solutions to problems through science. When our backs are to a wall science becomes focused on solutions, and is generally rather successful.

While those solutions might be to a rather specific problem, the knowledge gained through the process often opens doors to more discoveries and foster new solutions to a myriad of other issues.

Little discoveries made on the path to creating a COVID-19 vaccine, or treatment, will ultimately be used to aid in the research into other



CALVIN DANIELS

diseases.

Similarly, solutions to the range of problems COVID-19 has thrust on us will go into dealing with other things, once the current situation is

under control and the journals filled with new science can be studied and applied to other situations and problems. That is why remaining true to science is so critical to our future. It is our only hope in dealing with whatever crisis we face as a species, whether that crisis be one emerging from the world around us, or one we have created by human blundering.

Recognizing that science is at times our folly as a species, it is also the only avenue to salvation, whether that means a bold new discov-

ery, or simply the creation of enough knowledge that we learn from our mistakes and change our ways toward a better future.

That is why few things are scarier in our world today than the voices railing against science.

To abandon science is to leave us with no base on which to expand our knowledge. It would be a slow and dangerous decline into some new dark age where we have lost sight of how to best assure new solutions to existing and future problems.

The voices against science

are of course a curious lot, using as they do social media to rally people to their cause. Few people, especially in Canada and the United States go through a day without utilizing what science has created, from pasteurized milk, to open heart surgery, to electricity, fibre optics, computers, the internal combustion engine, and the list goes on.

Science is not always successful, and not every discovery is as positive as we might hope once in our hands, but it is the place from which our best future can emerge.

## Province announces COVID-19 supports for livestock producers

### Continued from 5

"COVID-19 has had multiple effects on Canada's cattle producers," Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association Chair Arnold Balicki said. "Industry put forth a number of recommendations to governments to address our complex industry's challenges. It is great to see Saskatchewan stepping up on set aside and price insurance. These will help with the backlog and make it more affordable for producers to participate in price insurance, injecting some certainty into the coming months."

"It is vital that we work together

to address the impact of the serious challenges presented by COVID-19," Saskatchewan Cattle Feeders Association President Chad Ross said. "We welcome the measures announced today and look forward to continuing to work closely with government and other industry partners to support producers."

The impacts of COVID-19 have been felt across the entire livestock sector. To address this, Saskatchewan is also taking action to temporarily reduce the cost of purchasing livestock price insurance through the WLPIP.

WLPIP is an important risk management tool for Saskatchewan livestock producers. WLPIP premiums have increased significantly since the end of February, due to the uncertainty of COVID-19. The provincial government will provide 40 per cent of the increased premium costs, dating back to February 25, 2020.

"Today's funding to offset increased livestock price insurance premium costs will help ensure our risk management programs meet the needs of Saskatchewan producers," Marit said. "The Government of Saskatchewan is

taking steps to ensure livestock producers have the support they require during this unprecedented period."

Additionally, the deadline for obtaining calf price insurance though the WLPIP is being extended from May 28, 2020 to June 18, 2020.

"We welcome the response of the Government of Saskatchewan to help address the challenges beef producers are facing," Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association President Bill Huber said. "Western Livestock Price Insurance is a valuable tool to help pro-

ducers manage risk, particularly as we navigate market volatility due to COVID-19. Today's announcement will help make premiums more affordable and allow additional time to enroll in the program."

These premium adjustments will be in place until September 1, 2020, at which time the provincial government will review and reassess. The province continues to encourage the federal government to support the sector by contributing the remaining 60 per cent of the increase in premium costs.

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# CFL's future may hinge on gov't assistance

The risk is real: The CFL may become Canada's Forgotten League. Out of sight, out of mind.

That's the observation made by Lyle Bauer, former Canadian Football League player and executive with Winnipeg Blue Bombers and Calgary Stampeders, after Commissioner Randy Ambrosie gave ominous state-of-the-CFL comments as they relate to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Ambrosie met with federal government officials in early May to plead his league's case for a financial bailout. The league is hanging by a thread, he said, and a full season with no football — or a truncated schedule played in front of reduced crowds, or no crowds — would be disastrous.

He asked for \$150 million. A decision is apparently pending, but public opinion seems to be on the side of 'no'. A sports league's future in the midst of a global pandemic where thousands of people are dy-

ing is low on a priority list of a government dealing with life and death matters, not to mention the basic economic foundation of our country.

Still, isn't the CFL a major part of our country's economy? Don't millions of people make weekly treks to football stadiums across Canada to watch professional football players provide terrific entertainment for those in the stands plus millions of others watching on TV? Doesn't TSN pay a few million a year to the league to broadcast games to the masses? Aren't the nine CFL teams responsible for thousands of jobs for Canadians — not even counting the football players themselves, more than half of whom are born-and-bred Canadians? And what would become of Grey Cup Sunday, almost a national holiday in Canada?

The Trudeau government in the past has been quick to shell out big dough to huge cor-



BRUCE  
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porations like Bombardier; why not a big corporation like the CFL? If Gymnastics Canada can receive \$72 million in government funding, shouldn't the CFL's request be a non-brainer?

One year with no football could be a death knell for the CFL, which lives and dies by people paying money at the gate to watch the action. A media report suggested six of the nine teams — Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatchewan, Winnipeg, Hamilton and Ottawa — scrape by with little or no profit, while the other three — Toronto, Montreal and B.C. — lose millions of dollars.

A Postmedia story in the Winnipeg Sun had Bauer saying that the league lost \$20 million last year "when there were no disruptions." He feared for the league's future if the 2020 season is wiped out.

Millions of Canadians who are out of work these days are sitting at home collecting government assistance cheques. A bailout for the CFL makes sense if the alternative is the league's extinction.

• RJ Currie of sports-deke.com: "Eight years ago Canada began phasing out its penny. Thus ended great Canadian traditions like penny jars, penny-ante poker and CFL signing bonuses."

• Advice from Jack Finarelli, The Sports Curmudgeon: "Any golf writer who focuses on anything Tiger Woods says or does in a tournament where Woods is 15 shots off the lead should be banned from covering golf and made to cover camel racing in Saudi Arabia."

• The late Doug Sanders, who famously missed a 30-inch putt that would have given him the 1970 British Open: "They still ask me if I ever think about that putt I missed to win the 1970 Open at St. Andrews," he said years later. "I tell them sometimes it doesn't cross my mind for a full five minutes."

• Norman Chad of the Washington Post: "Kristin Cavallari and Jay Cutler are getting a divorce. She finally looked at his NFL stats."

• Chad, on the many differences between himself and Tom Brady, now of the Tampa Bay Bucs: "Brady advocates drinking 1/32nd of one's body weight in water each day. I buy Orange Crush by the keg. He launched his own line of vegan snacks. I eat Fritos and Bugles."

• Brad Dickson of Omaha, who lives in a state where COVID-19 is rampant: "Nebraska's no COVID-19 plan: All citizens are going to line the border throughout

the state and scream 'GO BIG RED' to scare the virus away."

• From ESPN, via fark.com: "New Cowboys quarterback Andy Dalton eyes the upcoming season as a setup to 'second half' of career, which means he may bounce around a few teams sitting on their bench."

• Dwight Perry of the Seattle Times: "Spotted in Lady Gaga's bizarre shoe collection: a pair of high heels with toes made from horses' hooves. On the downside, though, her feet tend to get sore after 6½ furlongs."

• Peyton Manning, to TBS, on why fellow QB Tom Brady's gaffe for walking into the wrong house forced their upcoming charity golf event to be playing in Palm Beach: "The tournament had to be in Florida after Tom's arrest. With the ankle monitor, he couldn't leave the state."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

## CTF: Ottawa's carbon tax hike out of step with global reality

**By Aaron Wudrick,  
CTF Federal Director  
& Franco Terrazzano,  
CTF Alberta Director**

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has chosen to make life more expensive by increasing the federal carbon tax by 50 per cent amidst the COVID-19 economic and health crisis. Meanwhile, governments around the world are moving in the opposite direction because hiking taxes during a global pandemic is a bad idea.

Provinces have already tapped the breaks on their own carbon tax hikes. British Columbia Premier John Horgan announced that he would not be going forward with his planned April 1 carbon tax hike. Instead of mirroring the federal carbon tax hike, Newfoundland and Labrador is maintaining its tax at \$20 per tonne. The price of car-

bon allowances in the Quebec-California cap and trade system have also fallen due to COVID-19 and the current macroeconomic realities.

The European Union's cap and trade scheme, which applies to 30 countries, has also seen its carbon tax rate drop significantly. For most of 2019 and early 2020, EU carbon prices traded around €25 per tonne before nosediving to around €15 per tonne in March. The EU's cap and trade carbon tax rate has fallen 32 per cent below its 2020 peak, according to the most recent data available on the ICAP Allowance Price Explorer. While the tax rate has increased since bottoming out, S&P Global Platts Analytics forecasts the COVID-19 shock keeping downward pressure on the cap and trade market.

Other counties are provid-

ing further carbon tax relief. The Norwegian government reduced its carbon tax rate on natural gas and liquefied petroleum gas to zero and will keep the rates below the pre-coronavirus level until 2024. Norway also deferred payments on various fuel taxes until June 18.

Estonia Finance Minister Martin Helme formally called for his country to consider leaving the EU's cap and trade carbon tax system to provide relief. The prime minister later announced that Estonia would not seek to leave the EU's carbon tax system, but the Estonian government lowered the excise tax on electricity to the minimum allowed by the EU and lowered its excise tax on diesel, light and heavy fuel oil, shale oil and natural gas.

"Due to the economic downturn, both people's incomes

and the revenue of companies are declining, but daily household expenses such as electricity or gas bills still need to be paid. To better cope with them, we are reducing excise duty rates on gas and electricity for two years," Helme explained.

Outside of the EU, the United Kingdom is saving its taxpayers between £15 and £20 million per year by walking back its plan to increase its carbon tax top-up. New Zealand's cap and trade tax rate has fallen by more than 20 per cent this year and South Africa pushed back carbon tax payments by three months.

It's worth noting that it's unlikely Canada's carbon tax will have any meaningful impact on global emissions. Only 45 countries (out of 195 countries worldwide) are covered by a carbon tax, and only 15.6 per cent of total emis-

sions are covered by these carbon taxes, according to the World Bank. Furthermore, about half of the emissions covered by carbon taxes are priced below US\$10/tCO<sub>2</sub>e — significantly lower than Canada's federal rate and too low to make a difference.

With Canada only accounting for 1.5 per cent of global emissions, it's easy to understand Trudeau's acknowledgment that, "even if Canada stopped everything tomorrow, and the other countries didn't have any solutions, it wouldn't make a big difference."

Now, more than ever, Canadian taxpayers need relief. With carbon tax burdens declining around the globe during the COVID-19 crisis, walking back the recent carbon tax hike should be a no-brainer for our federal government.



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## Getting ready for spring

**By Erl Svendsen**

Now is the perfect time to start getting ready for the year ahead - it's what I consider the twilight time between winter and spring that can last as little as a week or two or more than a month. This winter has already dragged on far too long (I think that every year), so who knows how long we have before we're in the full swing of things.

Here are a few activities to keep you occupied while you're chomping at the bit to do some real gardening:

**Equipment maintenance:** Get your lawn mower and rototiller tuned-up now to avoid the rush. While you're at it, have the mower blades sharpened. Sharp blades do less lawn damage, promoting healthy lush growth.

**Tools:** Sharpen and clean your hand tools. Use an axe file to put a new edge on your shovels and hoes. For tools like pruners that require a finer edge, use a sharpening stone.

**Lawn care:** Drain any standing

water. Standing water that remains longer than a week or two is a problem not only for lawns but also trees and perennials. If you can, direct the water away from your yard with a ditch or pump it out to the street. Wait until early June (after the grass has started to grow) to dethatch or aerate.

**Tree and shrub care:** Remove dead, damaged, rubbing or diseased wood. In the case of overgrown shrubs, remove up to one third of the oldest branches (thickest stems with darkest brown bark) at their base to rejuvenate. If you've had trouble in the past with aphids, leaf rollers, mites, or scale insects, consider applying a horticultural or dormant oil spray to trees and shrubs before they leaf out. Horticultural oil is a fairly benign product, that works by literally suffocating the eggs or overwintering insect stage rather than killing the adult insects with a toxic substance.

**Perennial care:** Once your beds are somewhat dry, cut back pe-

rennials and remove dead and decaying leaves. You can put this organic material in the compost provided they weren't diseased last year (e.g. don't compost rust-infested hollyhock stems). Do this before new growth appears; ornamental grasses and chives are especially early to start growing.

**Mulch:** Apply fresh compost or other organic mulch to preserve soil moisture and moderate soil temperatures around perennials, trees, shrubs and bush fruit during the growing season.

**Seeds:** Order or purchase seeds for the upcoming season. Most vegetables can be started now (tomatoes, squash).

**Vegetable garden:** As soon as the soil is dry enough, rototill your garden to loosen and warm up the soil. This will also bring overwintering pests and weed seeds to the surface to dry out or get picked off by our feathered friends. But remember: if you rototill when it is too wet, you will end up with compacted soil - and



**Top up the mulch layer to 3-4 inches deep where it has become sparse with some post peelings, bark, coarse peat, compost or other organic options. Photo courtesy of Joe Hoover.**

a muddy mess. Add organic matter such as well-rotted compost or manure. The common wisdom of waiting until the May-long weekend to seed or transplant seedlings applies to tender or chilling-sensitive plants such as beans, corn, cucumbers, peppers, potatoes, squash, tomatoes and the like. What you can plant now are beets, carrots, lettuce, peas, radishes and spinach for an early harvest.

This should keep you busy, at home and off the streets for the next few weeks. Happy Spring!

*Erl gardens in Saskatoon and tweets about it on occasion @ErlSv.*

*This column is provided courtesy of the Saskatchewan Perennial Society (SPS; saskperennial@hotmail.com). Check our website (www.saskperennial.ca) or Facebook page (www.facebook.com/saskperennial).*



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# Wild Rose 4-H Beef update

By Alea Beaulac

The 4-H year has come to an end earlier than we hoped. The Regional Show and Sale in Prince Albert has been canceled this year due to COVID-19.

The club is all disappointed not to be able to show off their project animals which they worked so hard with this year. They all really enjoy the "Learn to Do by Doing" aspect of the Regional Achievement day. At achievement day members learn so much and it is a bunch of hard work but fun too.

The club is planning on getting together once the

restrictions have been lifted to have a year-end celebration.

Wild Rose 4-H Beef Club would like to show their appreciation to parents for all their help, club leaders, and sponsors who have

allowed the club to run over the year. Hopefully everyone will be able to attend achievement day next year.

Club members hope that everyone is staying healthy while physical distancing.



Club members Carson Brodacki (bottom right), Cooper Woytiuk (top), and Jack Archdekin (bottom left) with their 4-H project animals.

## PRAISE & WORSHIP

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

**LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Zion - Canwood  
Sunday School,  
Worship Sunday, 11 a.m.  
St. John's - Shellbrook  
Sunday School,  
Worship Sunday, 9 a.m.  
Rev. Emmanuel Aristide

### IMMANUEL LUTHERAN

Parkside  
11 a.m. - Worship  
Pastor Chris Dean

### PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Parkside  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
Pastor Doug Hope  
306-747-3572  
Shellbrook  
Sun., 10:30 a.m. - Worship  
Pastor David Bodvarson  
306-747-7235  
Canwood  
10:00 a.m. - Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. - Worship  
Pastor Glenn Blazosek  
306-468-2138  
Leask Gospel Tabernacle  
Sunday 11 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.  
Pastor Lorne Valuck

### SOVEREIGN GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

Currently meeting in homes on Sunday morning & Wednesday evenings  
Parkside 306-747-2309  
Leask 306-466-4498  
Marcelin 306-226-4615

### EVANGELICAL FREE

Big River  
11:00 a.m. - Worship  
Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.  
Summer: 10:30 a.m. - 12  
306-469-2258  
Youth Nite: Fridays  
Mont Nebo  
Bible Study & Prayer  
Sun., 11:00 a.m. - Worship  
Pastor Bill Klumpenhower

### CATHOLIC CHURCH

Debden  
Sun. Mass - 9:30 a.m.  
Fr. Michael Fahlman  
Big River - Sacred Heart  
Sun., 11:30 a.m. - Mass  
Whitefish  
Sun., 2:30 p.m. - Mass.  
Victoire  
Sat., 7:30 p.m. - Mass.  
Fr. Michael Fahlman  
Eucharist Celebrations  
Muskeg  
Sunday, 3 p.m.  
St. Agatha's - Shellbrook  
Mass - Sunday 11 a.m.  
St. Henry's - Leask  
Mass - Sunday - 9 a.m.  
Mistawasis  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays, 1:30 p.m.  
Fr. Phong Tran

### PRESBYTERIAN

Mistawasis  
Sunday worship  
11:00 a.m.  
Rev. Katherine Bretzlaff

### SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

407-2nd Ave E, Shellbrook  
Sat., 9:45 a.m. - Sabbath School  
Sat., 11:00 am - Worship  
Broadcast on  
VOAR 92.1 FM  
Pastor Liviu Tilihoi  
306-313-8685

### ANGLICAN CHURCH

Leask - All Saint's  
Sunday, 9 a.m. - Service  
St. Andrew's - Shellbrook  
Sunday, 11 a.m. Service  
Canwood - Christ Church  
Sunday, 11 a.m. - Service  
2 p.m. Service 2nd Sunday  
of the month  
Rev'd Eyad Ajii  
306-980-5916

### UNITED CHURCH

Shellbrook - Knox United  
Sun., 10 am - Worship  
306-747-3434  
Student Minister  
Jon Worrall  
Big River  
Sundays  
10 a.m. - Worship  
at Anglican Church  
Rev. Dave Whalley  
306-747-2804

### MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH

Blaine Lake Gospel Chapel  
109 Railway Ave. W.  
Blaine Lake  
306-497-3316  
Pastor: Rick Schellenberg  
Sunday, 10:30 a.m.  
Worship

## Good News

### FAITH WILL SEE US THROUGH COVID-19

By Jonathan Worrall, Student Minister, Knox United Church

We find ourselves in a strange and difficult time.

We are in the season of Easter; a time of joy and celebration. The tomb was empty! Death did not have the final word. We celebrate the witnesses, who recount the resurrection. New life! Yet, due to the reality of COVID-19 and self-isolation, it may be hard, nearly impossible, to find something to be joyful for.

We had made it through the season of Lent. A time of trial, temptation, resistance and restraint, but ultimately, triumph. It was during this season that the world seemed to shut down. Like many other institutions, the church closed its doors.

Easter represents the promise of new life. However, we are still unable to gather in groups larger than ten, making worshiping in our communities of faith, impossible. Rather than celebrating, it feels as if we are still in the wilderness with Christ, or among the exiled, who found themselves in a strange land, unable to worship in their temple and celebrate God's presence.

Amidst the suffering, death and isolation, many of us may reasonably be asking ourselves, "Where is God?" Or, "Why is God allowing this to happen?" Many may undoubtedly feel betrayed or abandoned by God. Moreover, many will be angry with God. These are feelings which shape a large part of our faith tradition.

The Psalms contain not only praise and feelings of joy but also rage, doubt, and anger directed towards God. These feelings are entirely normal and are foundational to our faith. I assure you; God does not take it personally. However, we can find affirmation in the words of Hans Küng, who stated, "God's love does not protect us from suffering. God's love protects us in the midst of suffering."

I have heard it said that we, as a society, are in a collective state of mourning or lament. We mourn the loss of our old life. We yearn for human connection that we have been denied. We are cut off from family, friends and loved ones. We want things to go back to normal. In a moment of reflection, I recalled the words of my professor, Don Schweitzer, who stated, "Lament is the moral imperative for action in the present that will shape the future." May we shape our future wisely, learn from our mistakes, and make our life's focus that which is truly important.

Lastly, during this time let us remember God's unyielding promise and presence. We belong to God. Remember these wise words: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me." (John 14:1) We can trust God. Trust God with your fears, anxieties and frustrations. Lean on God. God can bear the weight of our troubles. These are uncertain times, and I do not know what life will look like when we finally arrive back to a state of normalcy, but I do know that God is with us. Always.

## PRAISE & WORSHIP

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

### PARTNERS IN FAITH

Lutheran/United/  
Christchurch Anglican,  
137-2nd St. W.  
Spiritwood  
Worship 11:00 a.m.  
Rev. Nora Borgeson

### UNITED /ANGLICAN

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

### PENTECOSTAL

Glaslyn  
Pre-service Prayer  
Sunday, 10:30 am  
Sunday Service 11:00 am  
Kids Club Tuesday  
3:30 pm - 5 pm  
Wednesday Prayer  
7 pm - 8 pm  
Pastor Ruth Phillips

### CATHOLIC SUNDAY

Spiritwood - 11:15 a.m.  
Leoville - 9:30 a.m.  
Chitek Lake - Closed for the Season  
SATURDAY  
Medstead - 6 p.m.  
Shell Lake - Closed for the Season  
Father Peter Nanga MSP

### PARTNERS IN WORSHIP

Shell Lake - Sun. 10 am  
(Worship in Lutheran -  
United Church)

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### SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

407 - 2nd Ave .E.,  
Shellbrook  
Sat., 9:45 am -  
Sabbath School  
Sat., 11:00 am - Worship  
Broadcast on  
VOAR 92.1 FM  
Pastor Dan Guiboche  
306-930-3377

### MENNONITE BRETHREN

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

### FIELDS OF HOPE (HOFFNUNGSFELDER) MENNONITE CHURCH

Glenbush  
Worship - 11:00 am

### BETHEL

Medstead  
1st Sunday, 10 am -  
Worship  
Pastor David Jensen  
3rd Sunday - 10 am  
Worship  
Pastor David Jensen

### EVANGELICAL FREE

Mont Nebo  
Wed., 7:30 pm -  
Bible Study & Prayer  
Sun., 10:30 am - Worship  
Pastor Bill Klumpenhower

### LAKELAND COMMUNITY CHURCH

Spiritwood  
Sun., 11 am - Worship  
Service & Sunday School  
Pastor Gerry Zak

### BELBUTTE FULL GOSPEL

11 am Worship Service  
1st Sun., 7:30 pm  
- Hymn Sing  
Pastor Floyd Berg

### COWBOY CHURCH

Spiritwood  
Every Wednesday Night  
7 pm  
Spiritwood Legion Hall  
Pastor Rick Martin