

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald



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www.shellbrookchronicle.com | www.spiritwoodherald.com

Looking back on the year that was 2022



Construction on Lake Country Co-op's new Shellbrook Agro facility got underway in January. The location was expected to open in late 2022.

JANUARY

In a second consecutive holiday season overshadowed by COVID-19 (albeit with fewer public health restrictions on social gatherings in place), one thing remained the same in the Shellbrook area: even in a pandemic, the community was as willing as ever to give to those in need.

This year, the food bank stuffed 35 hampers full of food staples and all the essentials for a Christmas dinner. All told, those Christmas hampers were expected to provide 104 people with a Christmas meal.

A project years in the making officially got under way in the lead-up to Christmas, as Lake Country Co-op began construction on its brand new Shellbrook Agro Centre location.

The new Agro Centre will consolidate Lake Country Co-op's agriculture services in Shellbrook, with an eye to

enhancing the agronomic solutions provided to local and area farmers. The facility will also house the entire sales team and include a warehouse complex, hardware sales, high speed fertilizer facility, bulk seed offering, and equipment and feed sales.

After 109 years of faith, fellowship, and community service, the congregation of Shellbrook's Knox United Church is no more.

The congregation made the difficult decision to disband over the summer of 2021 and took steps to finalize the decision just before Christmas, with the dispersal of 50 per cent of the Church's funds to the Shellbrook and District Health Services Foundation (\$49,066.67), the Shellbrook Kinettes, and Camp Tapawingo (\$16,355.56 each).

The Jesse Tree project in Spiritwood

that was hosted by the Sacred Heart Parish has once more filled the hearts of many families in town this Christmas season.

The Jesse Tree is based on a concept of "good stewardship" and has been practiced in Spiritwood for about 25 years as a way of collecting food from the start of December each year and giving it to less fortunate families in the area.

This year, they filled 40 hampers and handed them out to families in and around Spiritwood, including Rabbit Lake, Shell Lake, Medstead, Leoville, Glenbush and surrounding areas the weekend before Christmas. Along with the hampers, 64 kids were able to receive Christmas gifts.

The Village of Marcelin was all aglow in the lead-up to Christmas, as the Marcelin Events Committee hosted its annual Light Up Marcelin event.

Once all the votes were tallied, Jim and Pat Wasylkowski were crowned the winners of the top prize of \$100. In the spirit of Christmas, the couple said they would be donating their winning right back to the Marcelin Events Committee. Following the Wasylkowskis, Gabe and Sylvia Clouthier scored a second-place finish and a prize of \$75, while Lance and Sarah Milliken rounded out the top 3 and won \$50.

The Belbutte Community Hall Co-operative Association Ltd has been making donations to several non-profit community organizations, including: Medstead Volunteer Fire Department \$1,600, Medstead Central School \$1,250, Medstead Skating Club \$400, SARCS \$500, MADRA \$1,250, Bapaume Cemetery \$1,000, Belbutte Lutheran Cemetery \$1,000.

Continued on page 2

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Looking back on the year that was 2022

January Cont'd

On a day when Saskatchewan was setting a single-day record of 1,173 new cases of COVID-19, Premier Scott Moe made it clear his government would not be mandating vaccination.

Giving a statement, Premier Moe called vaccination a personal choice and said vaccines shouldn't be mandated by governments.

They say it takes a village to raise a child.

To this end, the Shellbrook Kinettes have created Shellbrook Mamas, a Facebook support group for new, expecting, and veteran moms. The new initiative is being spearheaded by Kinette Kat Mackin-Smith and will provide local mothers with a space to discuss, share stories, build a sense of community, and seek advice from fellow mothers and local supports like nurses, lactation specialists, and teachers.

In a bid to keep students in the classroom, the Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division (SRPSD) has made the decision to restrict extra-curricular activities in all division schools.

The decision came down, as COVID-19 cases in the North Central 1 and North Central 2 regions continue to rise. As of Sunday, Jan. 16, there were

103 active cases in the North Central 1 area, which includes SRPSD schools in Shellbrook, Wild Rose, Canwood, Debden, and Big River, and 282 in the North Central 2 region, which encompasses Prince Albert.

The Spiritwood Curling Club organized the Greygoose Funspiel, held in the Spiritwood Arena on Jan. 8 this year, in conjunction with CURLSASK's celebration of Curling Day in Saskatchewan.

All told, eight teams were entered into the funspiel and each team played three four-end games. The skips for the teams were Lacey Gallinger, Ali Sullivan, Lloyd Fisher, Karstin Booth, Jim Koetse, Wayne Pauls, Travis McMaster and Craig Thompson.

Efforts to improve Shellbrook were thrust into the spotlight in summer 2021, when Town of Shellbrook recreation director Jessica Kernohan entered the community into Communities in Bloom.

Communities in Bloom sees judges visit the participating communities and evaluate them across six categories, including community appearance, environmental, heritage conservation, urban forestry, landscape, and floral display.

Shellbrook received a score of 640 out of 1,000, good

enough for three blooms out of a possible five.

Additionally, the Hidden Hills of Shellbrook Golf Course received a special mention for the work a group of volunteers did to redesign flower beds and add an entrance display to the parking lot.

Shellbrook's Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre is now an award-winning recreation facility, after being selected as the recipient of the Cecil Nobes Facility Award of Excellence at the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association's (SPRA) 2021 RECOgnition Awards ceremony.

The Cecil Nobes Facility Award of Excellence is presented to a Saskatchewan municipality for construction of a new facility, or the retrofit or renovation project, where the unique or outstanding design contributes to the overall efficiency or accessibility of the facility's operation.

The award comes a year after the Shellbrook Recreation Project Steering Committee, with the support of the community, wrapped up a three-year, almost \$2 million upgrade of the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre.

Fatal vehicle collisions on Saskatchewan roads remained at historic lows in 2021, with preliminary statistics from SGI finding 87 deaths — the same number as in 2020, and slightly higher than the 2019's all-time low of 71 deaths.

FEBRUARY

More than three years after she was found dead in a rural area near the Muskeg Lake First Nation, police have made an arrest in relation to the death of Deanna Greyeyes in 2018.

On Jan. 28, officers arrested Stephen David James Greyeyes, 34, of Blaine Lake. Greyeyes was arrested in the Prince Albert area, and charged with one count of



The Jesse Tree committee in Spiritwood helped organize food hampers for 40 families. Pictured: front row, left to right: Stacey Gaboury, Amy Schmidt, Robyn Doell, and Christine Tkachuk. Back row, left to right: Shantal Hujber, Terra Turgeon, Sheila Turgeon, and Delia Marion. Missing: Leanne Jewitt.

second degree murder and one count of indignity to a body.

The Northern Lakes Economic Development Corp. (NLEDC) put on an organized trail event in town on Saturday, Jan. 29.

The 3.5 km trail was developed within SAD SAAC Park, primarily traversing the former chuckwagon track.

The event, named Winter Wonder 2022, aspired to get some people in town together to enjoy a good walk, ski, or snowshoe, with the promise of a warm bonfire and treats at the end. There were about 23 people who participated in the event.

Continued on page 3



In a symbolic gesture, the "keys" of the Knox United Church are handed to Shellbrook Mayor Amund Otterson by church chair Larry Chalifour.



Those who took to the trails for Spiritwood's Winter Wonder in February were treated hot chocolate and a bonfire at the end of their trek.



A team of about 25 people gathered at the Shellbrook Pentecostal Assembly just before Christmas (2021) to put together the Shellbrook Area Ministerial Food Bank's annual Christmas food hampers.

NOTICE

Lake Country Co-op Agro in Shellbrook will be **closed** from **January 8th through 15th, 2023.**

We will re-open at our **new location** **400-7th St. E., Shellbrook** **8:30 a.m. on Mon., Jan. 16, 2023**

To place bulk petroleum and heating oil orders during this time, please call **306-747-7776**
For **emergencies** please call **306-747-7361**



LAKE COUNTRY

Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience this may cause. We appreciate your patience. Thank you from the team at Lake Country Co-op Agro!

Rabbit Lake Housing Authority Maintenance/Caretaker Contract Position

The Rabbit Lake Housing Authority is now accepting applications for a Contract Maintenance/Caretaker.

The Housing Authority manages 7 senior units located in Rabbit Lake.

The successful candidate will report to the Board of Directors and be responsible for regular seasonal ground maintenance and for performing minor repairs. Basic working knowledge of carpentry, plumbing, heating, electrical, appliance repair and general maintenance is an asset. Must be able to perform manual labour and lifting tasks.

For further details, please contact Joan Dzialo at 306-230-8296.

Please submit written resume and remuneration expectations by January 9, 2023 to:

Attention: Marlene Martens, Chairperson
Rabbit Lake Housing Authority
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Looking back on the year that was 2022

February Cont'd

At 15 years of age, some may think Chase Wutzke's too young to already have a hockey nickname. But "The Debden Defender" is a moniker the 6'1" 145-pound goaltender has more than earned for himself over the past decade.

Chase says his confidence between the pipes has been the key to his success as he's made his way up through the ranks, to his current position as the starting goalie for the Saskatchewan Male AAA Hockey League's (SMAAHL) U18 Saskatoon Contacts. It also paved the way for him to be drafted by the WHL's Red Deer Rebels, and become the youngest goalie to win a WHL game in the Internet age.

On Friday, Feb. 4, Storytime at the Shellbrook Public Library packed a special surprise for the kids and parents who braved the bitter cold. Lisa Krueger of PA Regional KidsFirst stopped in to lead the reading and the activities, and also talk with parents about the resources they offer to help developing children.

A partnership between the Shellbrook Public Library and PA Regional KidsFirst is something Campbell has been encouraging for a few years now.

Last year, the two entities partnered on the Library's Sensory Room, which is filled with toys and objects (many of them made from simple homemade items) that allow children to explore, learn, and develop basic skills using all of their senses.

As Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe continues to promise that all public health mandates relating to the COVID-19 pandemic will soon be lifted, two key elements of the province's management of the pandemic have landed on the chopping block.

As of Feb. 7, COVID-19 PCR testing is now only available through Healthline 811 and is only being offered to priority populations.

As part of the shift in strategy, which will see public health manage COVID-19 like other respiratory illnesses like the flu, the province has also started to shutdown all drive-thru and walk-in test sites. And in addition to the changes to PCR testing, the province also ended its long-running practice of providing daily COVID-19 data.

Spiritwood's Fast Genetics has ac-

quired Illinois-based swine genetics company Acuity Ag Solutions. The addition of Acuity further increases Fast Genetics' footprint in the US marketplace and will better allow both parties to serve pork producers.

Fast Genetics and Acuity customers will now have access to genetic lines from both entities, as well as gene transfer centres, multiplication supply, technical services, genetic teams, and transformational technology.

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected supply chains on a global scale, and even local businesses like Spiritwood's Hujber's Market on Main haven't been immune to the struggles.

The supply problems that they've been facing vary from week to week. The produce section has been very challenging to keep looking nice as their stocks ran about 25 per cent short per truck delivery.

The government of Saskatchewan has made good on its promise to end the province-wide proof of vaccine or negative COVID-19 test mandate, becoming the first jurisdiction in Canada to do so.

The policy was officially dropped on Monday, Feb. 14.

Mistawasis Nēhiyawak has partnered with the Meadow Lake Tribal Council, and the nine First Nations that comprise it, and Saskatoon-based renewable energy firm miEnergy Inc., to form a new, majority Indigenous-owned enterprise that will drive economic activity and employment Indigenous communities across North

America.

The new commercial entity formed by the partnership, miEnergy North America, will provide service in the renewable energy sector, with a focus on solar power and related projects in Saskatchewan and throughout North America.

The Shellbrook Kinsmen and Kinettes held their second annual online auction fundraiser for Telemiracle from Feb. 8 to 13, offering up a diverse selection of 155 prizes to bid on.

The selection, made possible by donations from individuals, businesses,

and community groups from Shellbrook and beyond, helped this year's auction haul in \$16,384 (compared to \$14,442 last year).

Twice annually the Spiritwood & District Lions Club awards grants of \$800 to community fundraising groups.

The first 2022 recipient of the Spiritwood and District Lions \$800 grant was Medstead Central School's music program. Funding will be used for the purchase of musical instruments for students.

Continued on page 4



On Jan. 27, Grace Kennedy was delighted to celebrate her 104th birthday day in the Great Room at Parkland Integrated Health Centre. A small group of family members greeted her, and healthcare workers dropped in to sing Happy Birthday before she enjoyed her Dairy Queen Ice Cream Cake.



At 15, Debden-born goalie Chase Wutzke made waves when he started and earned his first win with the WHL's Red Deer Rebels.



Lisa Krueger of PA Regional KidsFirst reads to children and parents during the Shellbrook Public Library's weekly Storytime program.

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Looking back on the year that was 2022

February Cont'd

The Spiritwood Public Library hosted a virtual Aboriginal Storytelling session for the students of Rivier Elementary School and Hartley Clark Elementary School on Feb. 10, featuring UofS professor Randy Morin.

With Shellbrook's Knox United Church set to find new life as the new home of the Shellbrook Public Library in the not-too-distant future, those who remember the church for its music will be pleased to learn that its musical instruments have also been given new life through the University of Saskatchewan's Music Department.

In its second edition, hosted from Feb. 18 to 21, the Shellbrook Winter Festival delivered plenty of good, wintry fun.

There was much to enjoy in-person and from home over the course of the Family Day long weekend. Kicking off Friday morning, the scheduled activities included a winter-themed story time at the Shellbrook Public Library and an evening screening of Trolls World Tour at the Shellbrook Theatre.

Saturday, meanwhile, featured family yoga, the return of children's archery (by popular demand), and the Parkland U18 AA Elks' home closer versus the Humboldt Broncos. Children's archery was offered again on Sunday, along with Day of KINDness, and free public skating and shinny sessions at the rink.



Seven teams participated in the Spiritwood Curling Club's annual Closed Bonspiel. Emerging victorious in the A-Event was Team Mayo, consisting of Laurie Mayo, Dennis Laventure, Kevin Latus, and Danika.

The highlight of the evening was a Bingo session, hosted via Facebook Live.

As for Family Day itself, and the Day of KINDness hosted by the Shellbrook Kinettes and Shellbrook Kinsmen, it was mostly rink-focused, with free adult skate, general skate, and shinny sessions.

The hunt is on for the next leader of the Official Opposition.

Ryan Meili, who has led the Saskatchewan NDP since 2018, announced in late February that he would be stepping down as the party's leader, but would remain in his current role until his replacement was chosen.

A fixture in Spiritwood's business community for the past 20 years will be opening a second building on March 1. Lise Stevens, owner of Soul Therapy, is hard at work on getting her new venture, Soul Therapy Wellness, up and running.

Although her new business will display a range of organic and other wellness products, Stevens says she will be offering educational classes for nutritional fitness and wellness to meet her goal to give support to people.

MARCH

After nearly two years of COVID-related public health measures, it's back to life as normal in Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan has become the

first province in Canada to lift all COVID-19 restrictions as it transitions to treating the virus like a common respiratory illness.

On Feb. 28 the provincial government removed its two remaining pandemic health orders, which included mandatory masking in indoor public places and a requirement to self-isolate for five days if you test positive.

A proposed water treatment plant and intermunicipal water pipeline being considered by the Town of Shellbrook, in partnership with the Prince Albert Rural Water Utility (PARWU), and the Rural Municipalities of Shellbrook, Prince Albert, and Duck Lake, is continuing to take steps toward certainty.

To this end, PARWU has announced the awarding of the contract for all regulatory and permitting matters related to the \$52.5 million project to Canada North Environmental Services (CanNorth), a private company owned by Kitsaki Management Limited Partnership, the investment arm of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band.

The RFP for this piece of the project focuses on regulatory requirements for aquatic habitat, environmental impact, heritage resource impact assessment, site evaluations, and the duty to consult.

Fresh off a difficult regular season, the Parkland U18 AA

Elks invited five teams from Saskatchewan and Alberta to Shellbrook for a three-day tournament at the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre. Joining the Elks for the tournament were the Martensville Marauders, the Indigenous Sports Academy (ISA) Eagles, the Balgonie Prairie Storm, the Leduc Roughnecks, and the KC Colts.

After playing some of their best hockey of the season, the Elks scored a big overtime win in the A final, defeating ISA by a score of 5-4.

The Northern Spirit 4H club hosted the District 33 4H Public Speaking Competition on Feb. 27 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Spiritwood Pioneer Center.

There were about 19 members who participated during the event who were from the Big River 4H multiple Club, the Canwood 4H Beef Club, the Canwood Light Horse 4H Club, and the Northern Spirit 4H club with four age categories in place.

In the Cloverbud contest, Rowdy Blanchard from the Canwood 4H Beef Club won first place, while Reiss Podhordeski from the Canwood Light Horse 4H Club claimed the first spot in the junior contest. Looking to the Intermediate placing, Harley Taylor from the Canwood 4H Beef Club won first place. And finally, in the Senior contest, Zoe McLean from the Big River 4H Multiple Club won first place.

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The Shellbrook Kinettes were kept busy serving up hot dogs, hot chocolate, and cupcakes throughout Day of KINDness.



The Parkland U18 AA Elks topped the ISA Eagles in the A Final of their inaugural hockey tournament at the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre, skating away as champions.

Shellbrook Chronicle

Serving the Communities of Shellbrook, Canwood, Debden, Big River, Parkside, Leask, Marcelin, Blaine Lake, Holbein, Mont Nebo, Mayview

Spiritwood Herald

Serving the Communities of Spiritwood, Shell Lake, Leoville, Chitek Lake, Mildred, Rabbit Lake, Medstead, Mayfair, Bapaume, Belbutte, Glaslyn

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

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

C. J. Pepper, Publisher

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

Natasha Cabase, Spiritwood Herald Reporter
(306) 914-3890 or tashacabase@gmail.com

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

Karen Stene, Bookkeeping/Reception
accounting@sbchron.com

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.;

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: In the interest of readers of this newspaper, we will publish opinions of our readers. Letters To The Editor are most welcome; however, they must be signed and include writer's contact information and will only be published with the writer's name on it. Letters should be limited in length and be typed or clearly written. We reserve the right to edit letters depending on available space.

Member of



Looking back on the year that was 2022

March Cont'd

A group of about 40 community members and dedicated library users gathered at St. John's Lutheran church in Shellbrook last Wednesday evening, to begin a campaign on behalf of Dian Campbell following her sudden dismissal as librarian for the Shellbrook Public Library.

With how busy life gets these days, it's easy to put off the things you've dreamed of doing until it's too late.

That could have easily been the case for Shellbrook's Luann Anderson. Instead, she realized her lifelong dream by opening up her own shop, called Lu's Crafty Boutique, on Shellbrook's



Spiritwood High School's boy's curling team won Provincials gold in Swift Current in March. From left: lead Bohdan Booth, second Owen Beaulac, third Jayden Dauvin, and skip Deon Laventure. Back row: Coach Brad Nemish.



WP Sandin High School's mixed curling team, consisting of (l. to r.) Carson Ledding, Jake Boettcher, Payton Keyowski, Marcail Philp and alternate Lane Keyowski (not pictured), won the District Playoffs in Prince Albert on Feb. 11, earning the right to compete as district winners and host team in Shellbrook.

Main Street, giving folks in the area another local option to hunt for unique, handmade goods.

An almost back to normal Telemiracle is in the books, and in its 46th edition the telethon set a brand-new fundraising record of \$8,002,722 — topping 2018's record-setting total of \$7,151,254 at Telemiracle 42.

All told, Shellbrook's donations totalled \$22,540.95, beating last year's record of \$21,409.40.

Spiritwood High School's boy's curling team competed in Saskatchewan High School Athletics Association (SHSAA) Provincials in Swift Current over the weekend, going undefeated to bring home Provincial gold.

The team, consisting of lead Bohdan Booth, second Owen Beaulac, third Jayden Dauvin, and skip Deon Laventure, had a perfect 2021-2022 curling season from start to finish, winning every game from Districts through to the end of Provincials.

Eleven teams gathered at the Canwood Memorial Arena on Friday, March 4 and Saturday, March 5 for the chance to become the Natural Arena Ice World Curling Champions. Players from Canwood, Debden, Shellbrook, North Battleford, Allan and Saskatoon came together for the event, which was won by Debden's Team Cyr.

The Spiritwood & District Lions Club met for their regular meeting on March 3 at the Civic Centre in Spiritwood. Among the new business ideas that were discussed, four long-time Lions members were given pins in recognition of their service.

Lions Wayne Pauls, Marg Pretli and Bryan Ferguson were presented with their chevron pins by Lion Sonja Nielsen, President of the Club. In addition, Lion Sonja was presented with a chevron pin by Past President, Lion Marg Pretli.

The Spiritwood Curling Club hosted its annual Ladies Bonspiel on March 12.

All told, 13 teams participated in the event, marking a better turnout than the bonspiel has had in recent years.

The Laurie Mayo team placed first in the A event to claim the 2022 Spiritwood Ladies Bonspiel Championship.

The Shellbrook Theatre came alive on Saturday night, when the dancers of Studio 747 took the stage for their first performance in front of a live audience in nearly three years.



Luka Sanchez and Aria Warkentin showed off all the right moves with their hip hop number at Studio 747's Mini Showcase.

Though it was billed as a mini showcase, the show was anything but mini, packing nearly 40 solo, duet, and group routines into a two-hour package.

The skaters of the Shellbrook Skating Club channelled the silver screen for their year-end ice show on Friday, March 18, as they entertained a large crowd at the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre for the first time in three years.

The ice show featured more than 50 of the club's skaters and an eclectic mix of routines, including solos, pairs performances, small groups, and larger groups for the beginners and younger skaters. All of them were met with cheers and applause from the audience.

The Spiritwood Skating Club hosted its annual Ice Carnival event called "Candy Rush" on Sunday March 20, 2022, in the Spiritwood Arena. The event was supported by a large crowd, which showed appreciation for the routines and all the creative costumes.

With March 21 marking the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, students and staff from Shellbrook Elementary School and WP Sandin Public High School took part in an awareness walk on March 22 to #MarchOutRacism.

Led by an RCMP escort, and carrying a banner featuring the #MarchOutRacism slogan, students and staff marched up and down Shellbrook's Main Street.



Shellbrook Elementary School and WP Sandin High School united in March to raise awareness for the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

May you have
a safe, happy and prosperous
New Year!

Hon. Jeremy Harrison
MLA for Meadow Lake
jharrisonmla@sasktel.net

Hon. Scott Moe, Premier
MLA for Rosthern-Shellbrook
scottmoe.mla@sasktel.net

Looking back on the year that was 2022

APRIL

The Village of Canwood has been forced to reverse course on years-old plans to upgrade the Canwood Curling Rink and will instead be demolishing the facility later this year.

Council for the village made the difficult decision, after receiving feedback from the Canwood Curling Rink Club and from ratepayers through a survey, at its regular meeting on Feb. 16.

The Village of Canwood's original plan was to demolish and rebuild the portion of the building over the three sheets of curling ice and add a concrete ice surface to allow the rink to be used as a year-round, multiuse facility.

The project carried a price tag of about \$450,000, with up to \$329,985 expected to be covered by the provincial and federal governments through an Investment in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) grant.

Nine officers from the Spiritwood RCMP Detachment were honoured by Indigenous leaders at a special public recognition ceremony hosted by the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN).

Each of the officers were honoured with a gift of a starblanket, an eagle feather, and sweet grass, for their work to crack-down on alleged drug dealers on the



The roof of the Canwood Curling Rink collapsed on Jan. 4, 2021, after an accumulation of snow. A little over a year later, the Village of Canwood has abandoned plans to rebuild the facility.

Witchekan Lake First Nation.

"It's something that really motivates my members to continue to do the hard work," Spiritwood Detachment commander Sgt. Sebastian Andrews said of the recognition.

The Spiritwood Lions Club was back in action on Saturday, March 26 at the Spiritwood Rec Centre's curling rink, hosting the popular Cordwood Bonspiel after a two-year hiatus.

The Lions put on a full event, as 81 young curlers came out to take part.

After a season that saw a reduced number of curlers participating due to COVID-19, the Shellbrook Curling Club's final bonspiel was a roaring success. Gayle Draper, who did much of the work organizing and registering the teams for the bonspiel, was impressed by the turnout of 16 teams.

The Spiritwood High School Drama Club scored a second place finish at the Saskatchewan Drama Association's (SDA) Region 8 Drama Festival, which was held in the Dekker Centre for Performing Arts in North Battleford on April 1 and 2, 2022.

The SHS drama club staged a comedy play entitled "Check Please" by Jonathan Rand (published by playscripts) and had 14 members who participated in the extra-curricular activity.

Additionally, SHS also attained a runner-up in Best Technical Crew, runner-up in Best Technical Production, and runner-up in Best Visual Production. Elsewhere, Bohdan Booth was presented with the Cheer Award for Spiritwood High School.

Assuming everything goes according to plan, Shellbrook's Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre will soon be the home of box lacrosse action.

Plans to bring lacrosse to the arena have been in the works since 2019, just after the new concrete surface and tall



Officers from the Spiritwood RCMP Detachment were honoured for their work on a March 6 drug bust on the Witchekan Lake First Nation.

glass were installed in the rink as part of the facility's three-year, \$2 million renovation project.

Hoping to build excitement for the sport, Try Lacrosse nights were held at the rink in early April.

They won't be heading to Las Vegas to compete or taking over your local saloon anytime soon, but members of the Shellbrook Seniors Association are finding a new way to stay active with a line dancing crash course.

The course kicked off at the Shellbrook Senior Citizen's Centre last Thursday morning under the instruction of Dolores Beaulieu, a retired LPN who's been line dancing with a close friend just for fun.

Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation and the governments of Canada and Saskatchewan

have reached a settlement agreement for Ahtahkakoop's Treaty Land Entitlement claim.

Per the agreement, Ahtahkakoop will receive \$30.7 million from the federal government and \$12.6 million from the provincial government, for a total of \$43.3 million. The First Nation also has the option to add more than 40,000 acres to its reserve lands.

Fame Dance Studios Ltd. had their Year End show dance recital on Wednesday, April 6 at the Spiritwood Civic Centre.

Mr. Anthony Gervais, the studio's dance instructor, said of the show, "I have never seen a community putting so much effort and helping each other so much like Spiritwood to put an amazing show on the stage."

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In addition to its second place finish at regionals, the Spiritwood High School drama crew was also runner up in Best Technical Crew, Best Technical Production, and Best Visual Production, and Bohdan Booth won the Cheer Award for SHS. From left: Jayden Dauvin, Noah Dauvin, Bohdan Booth, Sedric Asuncion, and Danielle Poulin.



A event winners of the Blaine Lake Community Association's Farmer's Spiel, from left to right: Skip: Dylan Derksen, Third: Tyler Derksen, Second: Laverne Derksen, and Lead: Sheldon Derksen.

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 1:30 p.m.
Rev. Sarah Urano

UNITED / ANGLICAN

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

CATHOLIC SUNDAY

Spiritwood - 11:15 a.m.
Leoville - 9:30 a.m.
Shell Lake - 2:00 p.m.
SATURDAY
Medstead - 6 p.m.
Everyone Welcome
Fr. Ramel Macapala

COWBOY CHURCH

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

LAKELAND COMMUNITY CHURCH

(Corner of 1st Ave. and 4th
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Sun., 11 am - Worship
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Pastor Michael Kluthe
306-883-2380

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

MENNONITE BRETHREN

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

Gideons International of Canada

Battlefords Camp
Phone Art Martynes
(306) 389-4633

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 Liviu Tilihoi
306-747-3398

BELBUTTE FULL GOSPEL

11 am Worship Service

PARTNERS IN WORSHIP

Shell Lake
Worship Services
Sunday 9:00 a.m.
Pastor Sarah Urano
306-841-7333

Looking back on the year that was 2022

April Cont'd

Shellbrook area couple Ian and Barbie Clark were recently awarded the prestigious Clayton Young Memorial Award during the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation's 94th Annual Convention.

This award is presented once annually in each zone by the provincial SWF to an individual whose lifetime volunteerism has had a profound positive influence towards fulfilling the Federation's mission statement "to ensure the wildlife legacy we leave to our children surpasses that which we inherited."

Students from WP Sandin Public High School had the opportunity to represent their school at this year's Model UN at St. Mary's High School on April 6. In attendance was WP Sandin, St. Mary's, and Carlton Comprehensive High School.

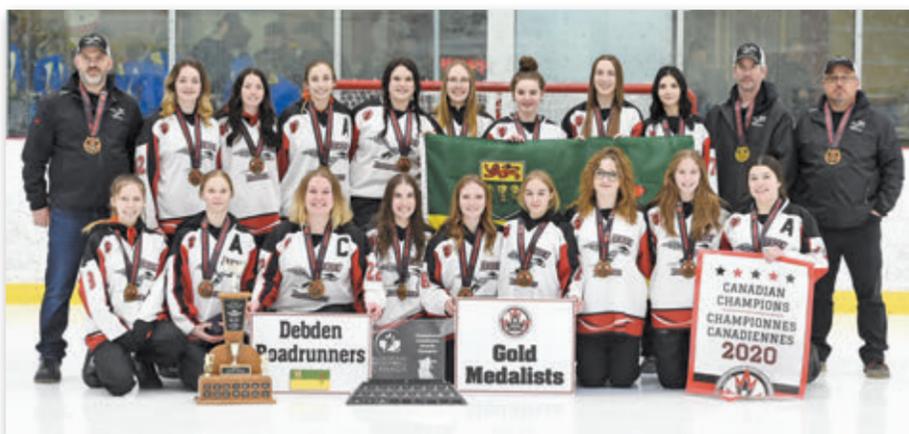
WP Sandin took 11 students, including Mason Mamchur, Daniel Vidal, Ben Lafond, Megan Cameron, Ethan Klaassen, Graham Lamontagne, Storm Rudolph, Allison Lamotte, Brielle Empey-McVicker, Abigail Kyliuk, and Josee Schatkoske.

The U20 Debden Roadrunners have made broomball history, becoming the first Saskatchewan ladies team to claim 2020 Juvenile Nationals gold after an impressive tournament run in Cornwall, Ont.

While he feels his team executed perfectly at every position, coach Dean Demers gives much of the credit for the win — and the successful season — to first line forwards Marissa Skavlebo, Rhyan Amundson, and Kenzie Demers, who he



Sam Hornilla, a Grade 8 student, works on his colour poster for the 2021 Remembrance Day Literary and Poster Contest. The poster advanced to the national contest.



The U20 Debden Roadrunners have made broomball history, becoming the first Saskatchewan ladies team to claim Juvenile Nationals gold after an impressive 2020 tournament run in Cornwall, Ont.



WP Sandin High School participated at the Model UN in Prince Albert on April 6. From left: Coach Kirk Pilon, Mason Mamchur, Daniel Vidal, Storm Rudolph, Ethan Klaassen, Graham Lamontagne, Brielle Empey-McVicker, Allison Lamotte, Josee Schatkoske, Abigail Kyliuk, Megan Cameron, Benjamin Lafond, and Coach Natasha Kostyniuk.

feels could go down as one of the best lines to ever play at Nationals.

For their performances, they all received All Star awards. Skavlebo, meanwhile, was named team MVP, A-Final MVP, and tournament MVP.

Efforts by the community of Shell Lake to rebuild its curling rink are \$10,000 closer to becoming reality, after a successful dance fundraiser.

Hosted at the Shell Lake Lions Hall on April 9, the fundraiser was a near-sellout event headlined by local act The Dirt Rich Band. Doors opened at 8:30 p.m. and The Dirt Rich Band took the stage shortly after, keeping the crowd dancing into the early hours of the morning.

Dancers from Studio 747 made a long-awaited return to in-person competitions in April, representing the community in Saskatoon at Dance City Promotions' #meetinyxe2022.

The studio's senior jazz routine was crowned winner of the Group Elevation Challenge, bringing home a prize of \$2,000, while dancer and coach Teanne



Ian and Barbie Clark accept the Clayton Young Memorial Award from Lake Country Wildlife Federation president Lyndon Tieszen.

Couture won the Maximum Elite Performer for the 14 to 18 age group and a \$500 prize. Studio director Kelly Woodley also earned most outstanding choreography of the week honours.

Spiritwood High School Student Sam Hornilla, received great news from the 2021 Royal Canadian Legion's Remembrance Day Literary and Poster Contest as his work of art has advanced to nationals.

Sam is currently in Grade 8. His Black and White Intermediate Level poster won first place at the zone level and second in the district stage while his Colour Poster won first at the Zone, District, and Provincial levels.

The Shellbrook Community Hall was decked out in purple on Friday and Saturday, when the Shellbrook Royal Purple welcomed fellow Royal Purple members from across the country to the commu-

nity for the Saskatchewan Royal Purple's annual general meeting.

While there was plenty of official Royal Purple business to discuss, the highlight of the weekend for many was the opportunity to have a look at the entries in the provincial level of the Canadian Royal Purple Brain Injury Prevention Poster Contest.

For Dian Campbell, the former librarian of the Shellbrook Public Library, the future remains uncertain.

After being fired without cause near the end of February, the beloved librarian filed a formal complaint with the Saskatchewan Labour Relations Board. As of March 25, Campbell indicated the board had filed papers with Wapiti and Wapiti had been given until the end of the month to reply.

Now, at the end of April, Campbell is still waiting.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SPIRITWOOD: Wapiti Regional Library - Tuesday 9 am - 5 pm; Wednesday 9 am - 5 pm; Friday 9 am - 5 pm

LEOVILLE: Wapiti Regional Library - Wednesday 10 am - 4 pm; Thursday 10 am - 3 pm

SHELL LAKE: Wapiti Regional Library - Tuesday 12:30 pm - 4 pm; Wednesday 12:30 pm - 4 pm

BLAINE LAKE: Wapiti Library - Wednesday 11 am - 6 pm; Friday 11 am - 5 pm; Saturday 10 am - 4 pm. Contact us for more info 306-497-3130, www.wapitilibrary.ca.

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

CANWOOD: Canwood Branch of Wapiti Regional Library. Tuesday 10 am - 4 pm; Thursday 10 am - 4 pm; Friday 12 pm - 5 pm. Kids Club is Fridays 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm, Crafter's Choice is the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month.

DEBDEN: Wapiti Library hours: Tuesday 10 am - 3 pm; Wednesday 3 pm - 7 pm. Librarian: Aline Hannon

LEASK: Wapiti Library & Legacy Gallery Hours - Tuesday 10:30 am - 4:30 pm; Wednesday 3 pm - 7pm; Friday 10:30 am - 4:30 pm

MARCELIN: Wapiti Library - Tuesday 2 pm - 7 pm; Thursday 2 pm - 8 pm; Saturday 9 am - 2 pm. 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 2 pm - 6 pm; Tuesday 12 pm - 8 pm; Wednesday 2 pm - 8 pm; Thursday 12 pm - 6 pm; Friday 9 am - 4 pm.

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Looking back on the year that was 2022

MAY

For the first time since 2019, the Shellbrook Theatre came alive with the sound of the music of Kerri English's students when they took to the stage for their spring recital.

With proud parents and loved ones cheering them on from the full theatre house, English's 19 students — and one special guest alumnus — bowed, plucked, picked, strummed, and sang their way through 26 separate numbers, including some solos, some duets, and even some larger ensemble pieces.

Six students from WP Sandin High School got to continue becoming more worldly, when they participated in the 2022 Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA) in Winnipeg.

The students had previously participated alongside others at the in-person MUNA in Prince Albert. Connecting via Zoom were: Ben Lafond, Megan Cameron, Storm Rudolph, Graham Lamontagne, Ethan Klaassen, and Daniel Vidal.

Spiritwood country music sensation Shantaia is continuing to make waves in the music industry.

Just weeks after being named a semi-finalist in SiriusXM and the Canadian Country Music Association's (CCMA) Top of the Country competition, the singer-songwriter has been added to the roster of the First Up with RBCxMusic program.

As part of the program, artists benefit from performance opportunities, financial grants, and media and promotional marketing support from RBCxMusic and its network of industry partners.

Statistics Canada has officially published population data gathered through the 2021 Census, and those figures suggest the population in the coverage area of the Shellbrook Chronicle and Spiritwood Herald is holding steady.

A man from Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation has been sentenced to seven years in prison for second degree murder.

Tyrell Knife, 25, was handed the sentence for killing his grandfather, 51-year-

old Jimmy Williams, on June 15, 2021. Knife, who claims the murder occurred just one day after a cousin's wake while he was black-out drunk, had previously pleaded guilty to manslaughter last January even though he says he has no memory of the incident.

Premier Scott Moe said a former Saskatchewan Party MLA should resign her legislative assembly seat, after she rehashed old party drama while raising concerns about the government's proposed changes to security in the Legislature building.

During question period, now-independent MLA Nadine Wilson asked how changes to legislative security under the government's proposed Bill 70 would affect surveillance in the building. In her line of questioning, Wilson referenced an incident in 2002 involving a hidden camera and a theft in another MLA's office.

On Tuesday, April 26, at 1 p.m., Wapiti's Canwood Library Branch welcomed teacher Mr. Tibbs and his Canwood School Grade 7 and 8 class, to a book presentation by local artist and illustrator Lucille Scott.

Ride, Gabe, Ride is a children's book released in 2021, and is Scott's first adventure as a children's book illustrator.

A long-standing tradition in Spiritwood, Pie In the Eye has raised money for a variety of community causes over the years.

This year's event, which took place on April 23, brought in over \$40,000, which is a substantial portion of the mortgage payment on the recreation centre. Every dollar spent on the voting, pies, and the

donations that were made went directly into the mortgage account to help pay down the debt on the recreation centre. Bar proceeds from the event are used as general operating funds, but even that was a huge boost for the recreation centre, with the bar gross proceeds being over \$3,000.

At its regular meeting for April 2022, the Shell Lake Fifty Plus Club had an opportunity to honour one of its long serving members, Gladys Simonar. Recently, Gladys enjoyed her 90th birthday and was awarded an Honorary Life Membership in the Shell Lake Fifty Plus Club.

From the tiniest tots to the most experienced dancers, every student of Shellbrook's Studio 747 got to showcase their passion and talent, when the studio held its first year-end showcase at the Shellbrook Theatre since COVID-19 mandates were lifted.

The large audience was highly supportive of both the performances and the 50/50s held both shows, helping to raise \$1,000 for the Parkland Pool Project Steering Committee, which is in the midst of fundraising and exploring options to replace the Shellbrook Swimming Pool.

Continued on page 9



Burke DeBruijn and Kael Bick delighted the audience at Kerri English's annual Fiddle Recital by playing and singing their rendition of "Davy Crockett".



Heather Sarrazin gives fellow real estate agent and good sport Shawna Schira-Kroeker a pie in the face during SARCS' Pie in the Face fundraiser.



Jory Segberg, president of the Parkside Community Club, presents a \$5,000 cheque to Dennis Simonar to support the Shell Lake Curling Club's effort to rebuild their rink.



The Tiny Tots put on a show filled with enthusiasm, smiles, and sass at Studio 747's year-end recital. Dancers included: Hazel Bergen, Everleigh Buote, Harper Canaday, Jovia Caswell, Everly Chmil, Domisaya Holowachuk-Cooper, Elijah Klumpenhower, Claire Kultgen, Victoria Reiter, Malcolm Sansom, Parker Senger, Ella Skarpinsky, and Ella Turner.

PRAISE & WORSHIP

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

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Zion - Canwood
Sunday School,
Worship Sunday, 9 a.m.
St. John's - Shellbrook
Sunday School,
Live-stream worship
service on Facebook,
Worship Sunday, 11 a.m.
Rev. Emmanuel Aristide

PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Parkside
10:30 a.m. Worship
306-747-3572
Shellbrook
Adult Study
9:30 a.m.
Sun., 10:30 a.m. - Worship
Pastor David Bodvarson
306-747-7235
Canwood

Summer: 10 a.m. - Worship
Pastor Bob Wrench
306-468-2138

Leask Gospel Tabernacle
Sunday 11 a.m.
306-466-2296

PRESBYTERIAN

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

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN

Parkside
11 a.m. - Worship

ANGLICAN CHURCH

Leask - All Saint's
Sunday Service - 9 a.m.
St. Andrew's - Shellbrook
Sunday, 11 a.m. Service
Canwood - Christ Church
Sunday, 2 p.m. - Service
Rev. Wendell Brock
306-460-7696
H.C. Service with Rev.
Brock - 1st Sunday of the
month

MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH

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

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
Sun. Worship - 11:00 a.m.
(10:30 a.m. June - August)
306-468-2525

UNITED CHURCH

Big River
Sundays
10 a.m. - Worship
at Anglican Church
Rev. Dave Whalley
306-747-2804

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Debden
Sun. Mass - 9:30 a.m.
Fr. Mariusz Zajac
Big River - Sacred Heart
Sun., 11:30 a.m. - Mass
Whitefish
Sun., 2:30 p.m. - Mass.
Victoire
Sat., 7:30 p.m. - Mass.
Fr. Mariusz Zajac
St. Agatha's - Shellbrook
Mass - Sunday 9 a.m.
St. Henry's - Leask
Mass - Sunday 11 a.m.
Mistawasis
1st & 3rd Sundays 1:30 p.m.
Fr. Tuan Doan

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
306-747-3398

Looking back on the year that was 2022

May Cont'd

After last year's budget of "restraint and maintenance" in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and a relatively new council, the Town of Shellbrook's 2022-2023 budget offers a glimpse of normalcy.

With this normalcy comes a 5 per cent increase in property taxes, due to the mill rate rising to 4.17 from the mill rate of 3.98 set in 2019. Along with this, the budget also ups the base tax on all properties to \$1,250 from \$1,200.

"It's kind of a catch-up budget, really, because we haven't had any increases for at least three years. With inflation, carbon tax, wages, five per cent is really the minimum," said Town of Shellbrook Mayor Amund Otterson.

A little over a month after box lacrosse was brought to Shellbrook in a pair of try lacrosse nights hosted by the Northern Sask. Predators, Shellbrook's inaugural box lacrosse season is already in full swing with a U10 and a U12 team competing in the Prince Albert Lacrosse league.

Though it was anticipated that there wouldn't be too many games played at the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre due to the logistics of bringing officials out to Shellbrook, both teams got their start at their home rink on May 2.

It was all about pampering mom on Sunday, May 8, when the Shellbrook Kinettes hosted their annual Mother's Day Brunch for the first time since 2019. All told, 174 people sat down to enjoy the Kinettes' buffet-style brunch and spend some quality time together.

Seven years after her remains were discovered just outside of Holbein, the Saskatchewan RCMP is renewing calls for information into Danielle Nyland's disappearance and death as part of an effort to solve cases involving missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.

Nyland was 22 at the time of her disappearance and death. Nyland was out with friends on the night of June 7, 2015, and was spotted at Movado's on the south side of Prince Albert, and at a party in the east flats. She was last seen the following morning at a gas station



Premier Scott Moe (fourth from left) takes part in the groundbreaking ceremony for Blaine Lake's new K-12 school alongside school staff, Prairie Spirit School Division representatives, and community members.

in the Shellbrook area.

Nyland was reported missing by family on June 10. It would take nine days for search teams to locate Nyland's remains in a wooded area only 500 metres south of the location where her phone was found.

The downtown core in Big River will soon receive a facelift, courtesy of an investment of more than \$370,000 from the Canada Community Revitalization Fund through PrairiesCan.

Improving accessibility and re-creating outdoor spaces in the downtown for people to enjoy have been among Big River Town Council's main objectives in recent years, and the cash infusion from the Canada Community Revitalization Fund will help council with these goals.

Improvements to Settlement Square on Main Street will include a wheelchair accessible washroom with storage room, a rubber surface with accessibility to the area, picnic tables made from recycled plastic, and fencing along the back of the square.

Beyond Settlement Square, the town will also look to add other new amenities, including a portable dock with accessibility ramp on Cowan Lake, a new pavilion and walking path across from the Health Centre, concrete tables and benches, decorative lighting, and planters.

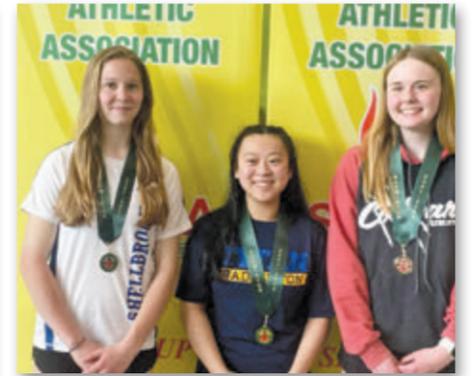
The Town will also continue to install accessible sidewalks in the downtown

core, to make it easier to visit Main Street businesses while being safer for pedestrians.

For most of us, moving is a nightmare. For the Shellbrook Pickleball Club, which is now setup in its bigger, weather-controlled spring and summer home at the Shellbrook Curling Club, moving means a better place for its members to play North America's fastest growing sport in the summer months.

With town council's blessing — and a \$100 per month rental fee to cover power bills — the club setup one tiled court and three cement courts in the Curling Club.

SHSAA Provincial High School Badminton Championships were played in Rosthern over the weekend, and two



WP Sandin High School's Marissa Skavlebo (left) competed in badminton Provincials over the weekend, bringing home a silver medal. Also pictured are gold medallist Nataly Ng (middle), and bronze medallist Grace Chamberlain (left).

local singles players and one duo were in the running for the titles.

On the girl's side, Marissa Skavlebo was able to claim provincial silver for the second time of her career. Meanwhile, Sturgeon Lake's Keston Gerard brought home a bronze medal, and Leoville's Brodie Geiger and Rylee Harris earned a fourth place finish in girl's doubles.

Nearly two years after it was formally announced, ground has been broken on the new Kindergarten to Grade 12 school for the Town of Blaine Lake.

Premier Scott Moe, Prairie Spirit School Division representatives, and the teachers, staff, and students of Blaine Lake Composite School were on hand for the official ground breaking ceremony in the existing school.

Continued on page 10



Shellbrook's inaugural lacrosse season got underway in May. Here, a loose ball in front of the goal allows U10 Shellbrook Smokejumper Jake Shewchuk to lay a big hit on the PA Eightytwos' Lucas Bear during the Smokejumpers' home opener.

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Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald

Looking back on the year that was 2022

May Cont'd

The Shellbrook Royal Purple continues to be one of the busiest community groups in Shellbrook.

After hosting the Saskatchewan Royal Purple AGM and the provincial level of the Canadian Royal Purple Brain Injury Prevention Poster Contest in April, the group turned its focus to fundraising on May 18 during its third annual BrainLove Brain Boogie Walk for brain injury awareness.

With members, families, and friends, 19 people, ranging from two years old to 79, took part, raising close to \$1,000.

Lake Country Co-op held a barbecue on May 12 to grill up funds for the Canwood Public Library. With community support, the fundraiser ended with a generous donation of \$900 to the library. The Canwood Public Library will use the funds to improve its collection of literacy materials, maintain a welcoming environment, and host special events and activities.

The Spiritwood Public Library has already put the \$3,000 grant it received from the Canada Post Community Foundation in September of 2021 to good use as part of its ongoing Project Growing up With Books initiative.

Targeting children and youth, the grant money received was poured into the purchase of easy-picture books, juvenile books, children's books, and young adult books.

Rivier Elementary School spent a day celebrating the Canonization of Marie Rivier on May 19, 2022.

Marie Rivier is the foundress of the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary and the namesake for the school. She was canonized in Rome by Pope Francis on May 15, 2022.

JUNE

As of June 1, the Shellbrook Primary Health Care Clinic and the Shellbrook Parkland Medical Centre, operated pri-



Ryan Demers, Co-op's Canwood food store team leader, mans the grill during Lake Country Co-op's barbecue to raise funds for the Canwood Public Library.



The Shellbrook Royal Purple's Brain Walk fundraiser, held in May, concluded with a trek to Kinsmen Park and a group photo.

vately by Doctors Olugbenga Adebayo and Benedict Omeike, have merged to offer services as a single clinic.

While the announcement of the merger may have caught patients of the fee for service physicians off-guard, or left them worrying about how their care might be impacted, Patricia Couture, the Saskatchewan Health Authority's (SHA) Northeast Primary Healthcare Director, says there's no reason to be concerned.

Rather than a harbinger of the service challenges the community has sometimes faced throughout the years, she says it was a decision made by Doctors Adebayo and Omeike to fill vacant contract physicians positions instead of run their own private practice.

Awards season has come and gone for Saskatchewan's weekly newspaper industry.

In a strong showing in the general excellence competition, in which two newspapers from throughout the year were selected at random and judged by industry peers, the *Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald* received the award for best editorial page in the 2,000 to 6,499 circulation range.

Meanwhile, in the Premier Awards, news editor Jordan Twiss won top honours for Best Agriculture Story and Best K-12 Education Story.

A new provincial political party is gearing up to enter the fray, and a pair of recognizable names are leading the charge to receive the 2,500 signatures required for it to be registered as an of-



Artist, author, and illustrator Heather Beauchesne showcased her latest works at Spiritwood's Main Street Gallery, helping raise funds for NASHI, a non-profit, entirely volunteer-run organization that addresses the issue of human trafficking both locally and globally.

ficial party.

Nadine Wilson, the independent MLA for Saskatchewan Rivers who resigned from the Saskatchewan Party Caucus last September over claims she misrepresented her COVID-19 vaccination status, has hitched her wagon to the fledgling Saskatchewan United Party and says voters are looking for different representation provincially.

Joining Wilson in the Sask. United Party's ranks as an advisor is former Battlefords-Lloydminster MP and Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz.

Nearly two years after a man died under suspicious circumstances in Shellbrook, three men have been ar-

rested and charged in his death.

The victim, 20-year-old Wesley Custer of Denare Beach, was dropped off at Parkland Integrated Health Centre (PIHC) in Shellbrook on the night of Aug. 21, 2020, with what police described at the time as "serious injuries." Custer later died in hospital, and police began investigating his death as suspicious.

The three arrested were Evan Ledoux, Curtis Ledoux, and Tyson Lachance.

The Pre-Kindergarten families of Rivier Elementary School went on a bowling spree at the Spiritwood Bowling alley on May 25 at 4 p.m.

School teacher Jade Hagel said that the school aims to have at least five family events in a year, as it's important to give children opportunities to bond with each other outside of school and have fun.

When the weather starts to get warmer, it's not uncommon to see Amund Otterson riding his bike.

On May 21 and 22, Otterson put his love of cycling to use for a good cause, taking part in a two-day, 100-mile bike ride from Regina to Moose Jaw and back as part of the 100 Mile Bicycle Trek for Orphans of Ukraine fundraiser put on by the Knights of Columbus Council associated with St. Basil's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Regina.

Otterson pedaled up about \$2,500 for the cause.

Continued on page 11



Shellbrook Mayor Amund Otterson (far right) was one of 13 cyclists to take part in a 100-mile bike ride to raise funds for Ukrainian Orphans.



Shellbrook Chronicle news editor Jordan Twiss won two awards at this year's Better Newspapers Competition, and the *Chronicle & Herald* was awarded best editorial page in its circulation class.



Students and staff of Rivier Elementary School took part in an afternoon mass during a day to celebrate the canonization of Marie Rivier, the school's namesake, on May 19.

Looking back on the year that was 2022

June Cont'd

The Shellbrook chapter of Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) hosted the organization's Provincial Recognition Days at the end of May, welcoming about 85 TOPS members from across Saskatchewan to the community to celebrate their weight loss accomplishments in 2021.

TOPS Shellbrook members had plenty to celebrate, as they lost a collective total of 220 pounds throughout 2021. With a loss to goal total of 28.9 pounds, Joanna Christianson of Parkside was crowned Saskatchewan's weight loss queen. Joining her on the throne as king was Shellbrook's David Bodvarson, with a loss to goal total of 33 pounds.

The Spiritwood Lions Club held its annual Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides on Sunday, May 29, raising \$5,835 for the

Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides. The walk had 14 registered walkers and 10 registered dogs.

An estimated 1,500 people descended on the Shellbrook Sports Grounds on Saturday, as the Shellbrook Kinettes, the Shellbrook Knights, and Shellbrook Minor Sports played host to their first-ever Ballapalooza.

While the event's name puts baseball and softball front and centre, and teams came from as far away as Meadow Lake, La Ronge, and Saskatoon to compete against the local squads, ball was just the beginning of what was on offer throughout the day.

At 33, and a year removed from coming out to her family and social circle, Britney Kuchirka of Big River says kids were her inspiration to finally embrace and proudly be who she's always been.

Now that she's found the courage to be her authentic self, alongside her partner Sara, Kuchirka's hope is to bring LGBTQ pride to life in small communities like Big River.

To this end, Kuchirka helped organize and host Big River's inaugural Pride Festival. Though the crowd of about 60 people that came throughout the day may be considered small by some, she says she's pleased with the support it received from the community.

Competition was fierce at the Saskatchewan High School Athletics Association (SHSAA) Provincial Track and Field Championships, which were hosted at Regina's Canada Games Athletics Complex June 3 and 4, and local athletes were in the running for some of the hardware.



The colouring of a rainbow crosswalk was a key piece of Big River's first Pride Festival.



Debden's Class of 2022. Back row, left to right: Jaxson Saam, Konner Bailey, Brayden Shepperd, Gunnar Nelson, Karson Aarrestad, Anthony Jean, Sir Santos. Front row, left to right: Jennifer Clark, Faith LaMotte, Teanne Couture, Jesse Gaudry, Kyra Johnson & Janelle Watrin.



Grade 10 student Rose Fry, Grade 11 students Desirée Pott and Gracie Cyr, and SLC advisor Gisele Poirier at the Student Citizenship Awards gala, where École Debden Public School was one of six big winners for its Mind Your Health initiative.

WP Sandin High School student Marissa Skavlebo claimed a provincial silver medal in senior girls discus, while Shaylin Knot of Medstead Central School claimed a silver medal in senior girls javelin.

In senior boys action, Big River's Lucas Klassen found himself on the podium in the discus contest, scoring a bronze medal. And moving to the junior girls, Anna Sherstobetoff of Blaine Lake Composite School zoomed her way to a bronze medal in the 100 metre dash.

On Friday, June 10, two local boys heard their names called first round in this year's SJHL Bantam Draft.

Spiritwood's Konnor Watson went in 1st round, fifth overall, to the Nipawin Hawks, and Linken Fisher, also from

Spiritwood, went in the 1st round, ninth overall, to the Battlefords North Stars.

The third annual beer survivor fundraiser was held via live stream by the Spiritwood Area and Recreation Center (SARCS) Committee at the curling mezzanine of the recreation centre on June 4.

The first place team was the "Echo Bay Beer Bombers," who took home the grand prize haul of 132 12-packs of beer. The team consisted of Don and JoAnne Walter, Debra Taylor, Randy Barwick, and Terry and Joe Gilewicz.

École Debden Public School held its graduation ceremony on Friday, June 10. It was exciting to finally have a public ceremony to celebrate our graduates.

After the ceremony finished, the grads took a parade through Debden on golf carts, with the procession being led by the Debden Village Fire Truck. The community came out to show their support by cheering on the graduates and giving waves and honks as they went by.

When members of the Shellbrook Kinsmen walked into the Kinettes' June meeting, Tasha Cyr became suspicious that something was afoot.

Her intuition was correct. While she was aware that both the Kinettes and Kinsmen had been nominated for the Kin Community Award in the 2021-2022 District 3 Kin year-end awards, she had no idea they'd also thrown her name in the hat for the Kinette of the Year Award in Zone D.

To sweeten the surprise, the unexpected guests came bearing the news that both the clubs and Cyr had won in their respective award categories.

Continued on page 12



Mrs. Holowachuk and the Rivier Elementary School Outdoor Club were busy planting trees in the first week of June out at SAD SAAC Park in Spiritwood. The students have planted about 40 trees at the ball diamonds.

FACT-CHECKING THE WORLD SINCE IT WAS FLAT.
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Looking back on the year that was 2022

June Cont'd

The seven students of Canwood Community School's Class of 2022 made some more moments to live for, when they were toasted at their graduation ceremony on June 10.

Taking their theme from the In Paradise tune "Moments we Live For", which offers both a hopeful look toward the future and a reminder to also appreciate and live in the now, the grads donned their finest, and gathered with loved ones, teachers, and community members in the school's gymnasium.

The 25 graduates in WP Sandin High School's Class of 2022 were honoured with a graduation ceremony that blended old and new traditions on Friday, June 17. The afternoon's festivities kicked off with a parade, which was followed by the formal ceremony in the school's gymnasium.

A newly anticipated café, located at 224 Main Street in Spiritwood, has finally opened its doors. The new dining location, called Merchant's Café, officially opened for business on June 5 and promises a place where guests can dine, chat, and enjoy a few drinks in an aesthetically calm and modern atmosphere.

Hosting old friends and new for



WP Sandin High School's class of 2022: Back, left to right: Daniel Vidal, Lance Paton, Lynden Kerber, Holden Willoughby, Torr Gosselin, Dawson Stieb, River Rudolph, Anson Favel, Cole Tanchuk, Parker Warren, and Ben Lafond. Middle, left to right: Claire Dupuis, Layla Dorko, Alexis Wood, Abigail Simpson, Jade Keyowski, Cassidy Saam, Tegan Naumann, and Mya Sommerfeld. Front, left to right: Amy Larsen, Marissa Skavlebo, Rielle Puddicombe, and Carnell Olsen. Missing: Brett Bucknell and Landen Willoughby.

an event for the first time since the fall of 2019, Parkside's Honeywood Heritage Nursery was all abuzz on Sunday afternoon during its annual Artists in Bloom event.

For the first time since 2018, the young actors and actresses in WP Sandin High School's Drama Club were able to take the stage at the Shellbrook Theatre and perform in front of parents, friends, staff, and community members during an Evening of the Arts.

The curtain rose on the club's production of playwright Jona-

than Rand's Check Please, a one-act comedy in which young singles take the plunge into the world of blind dating, only to quickly discover that dating can always get worse.

The wild rose 4-H Beef club recently attended the 2022 Prince Albert Regional 4-H Beef Show & Sale at the Prince Albert Exhibition grounds from June 11 to June 13.

Dawson Beulac won grand champion heifer, then reserve overall with the cows and heifers.

He also won home raised heifer. Sarah and Lena Gagne won reserve two-year-old cow/calf pair. Jacob Feige won grand champion steer. Lisa Brodacki won home raised steer.

The Spiritwood Ag Society hosted the 75th Annual Regional 4-H Achievement Day on June 5 and 6. In attendance were the Medstead Multiple 4-H Club and Northern Spirit 4-H Club. The Current Year Male Grand Champion winner was Mackenzie Walter, and the Current Year Female Grand Champion

winner was Phoenix Walter.

JULY

The Shellbrook Ministerial Association celebrated Canada Day in the most Canadian way possible: by helping people.

The organization hosted a Canada Day Breakfast at the Shellbrook Pentecostal Assembly, welcoming in more than 100 guests to raise funds for the Shellbrook Area Ministerial Food Bank.

All told, donations for breakfast totalled \$835, while the Silent Auction raised \$655, and the raffle brought in \$59. With an added gift of a \$400 donation factored in, the total raised on the day was \$1,949.

History came alive at the Doukhobor Dugout House on Saturday. To celebrate the National Historic Site's 2022 season opening, a special re-enactment was staged in honour of the historical relationship between the Doukhobor people and Indigenous people.

The event, inspired by the events of nearly 125 years ago, recalled a day when James Greyeyes snuck off the Reservation for a horseback ride and found a group of Doukhobor people struggling with their plough. Returning to the Reservation, Greyeyes rallied his community to help the Doukhobours and brought them a horse to pull the plough.

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In June the Cameo-Hilldrop Ladies guild made the difficult decision to disband after 58 years of community service and more than \$70,000 raised for various charities. Pictured, from left: Kathy Buckingham, Judy Philp, Georgina Hill, Linda Mason, Sharon Korody, Benita Hamilton, and Lilith Shantz.



Daniel Vidal's Guy is left speechless when his blind date turns out to be the mime Mimi, played by Maddison Nelson, in WP Sandin's production of Check Please.



Merchant's Café became the latest business to open its doors on Spiritwood's Main Street in June.



Doukhobor and Indigenous people gathered at the Doukhobor Dugout House site to recall and renew their historical bonds. Pictured, from left: Brooklyn Penner, Jeanette Stringer, Bailey Penner, Kimiwan Ahenakew, Kakashew Ahenakew, Cara Fancy Shawl, Deb McGuire, and Deb Schroeder.



Canwood Community School's Class of 2022. Back row, left to right: Johnathan Bather, Dominic Sten, and Ethan Bodnarchuk; Front row, left to right: Rebecca Moritz, Petra Borix, Emma Arcand, and Tessa Genereaux.

Looking back on the year that was 2022

July Cont'd

Graduation season came to an end June 30, as Spiritwood High School celebrated the 21 students of the Class of 2022 in a ceremony held at the school's gymnasium.

In addition to the speaking portions, the graduation ceremony also doubled as an occasion to present diplomas, subject proficiency awards, and scholarships.

New Saskatchewan NDP leader Carla Beck has hit the ground running in her first week at the helm, embarking on a cross-province tour to meet and connect with the people of the province. On Thursday, June 30, her tour brought her to Shellbrook, where she highlighted the healthcare challenges many communities are facing.

Weather watchers near Blaine Lake were treated to a rare sight on July 8, when a tornado touched down near the town.

A three-peat wasn't in the making for Shell Lake golfing phenom Brooklin Fry, who teed off in Golf Saskatchewan's 2022 Junior Women's U19 championship from July 5 to 7.

Instead of bringing home her third consecutive Junior Women's trophy, Fry was forced to settle for a second place finish, ending the third and final round of the tournament 18 shots back from winner Ella Kozak of Yorkton.

Thirteen years after they began, negotia-



Spiritwood High School's Class of 2022. Back, left to right: Carter Parenteau, Pierce Jim, Kaleb White, Kayne Salisbury, Jayden Stephenson. Middle, left to right: Tanner Wright, Logan Smith, Owen Beaulac, Jaron Beaulac, Rubyn Lariviere. Front, left to right: Reese Wasden, Doreen Constant, Danielle Poulin, Tesa Tipton, Paige Joseph, Seanna Priestley, Katelyn Majury-Pauls, Vanetta Tipean, Diamond Daniels-Horse, Avery Salisbury, Shawn Thomas. Photo credit: Shyhorses Photography

tions between Mistawasis Nêhiyawak, the Government of Canada, and the Government of Saskatchewan have ended in a tripartite settlement agreement on the Mistawasis Nêhiyawak Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) claim.

This settlement will allocate to Mistawasis Nêhiyawak a compensation amount of \$31.6 million. The Government of Canada will pay \$22.5 million of this amount and the Government of Saskatchewan will pay the remaining \$9.1 million.

The settlement agreement supports Mist-

awasis Nêhiyawak in adding up to 29,394.18 acres of land to their reserve. Canada and Saskatchewan further agree to set aside a total of \$4.9 million as compensation to rural municipal and school divisions once taxable land is set apart as reserve.

The Spiritwood RCMP hosted a Barbeque at Cameron and Bourdages Memorial Park on July 7 in observance of the 16th anniversary of the deaths of Constables Marc Bourdages and Robin Cameron, who were killed in the line of duty in 2006.

Roughly 300 came out to enjoy the burgers, donuts, and drinks served up by RCMP members and staff, and door prizes were on offer as well.

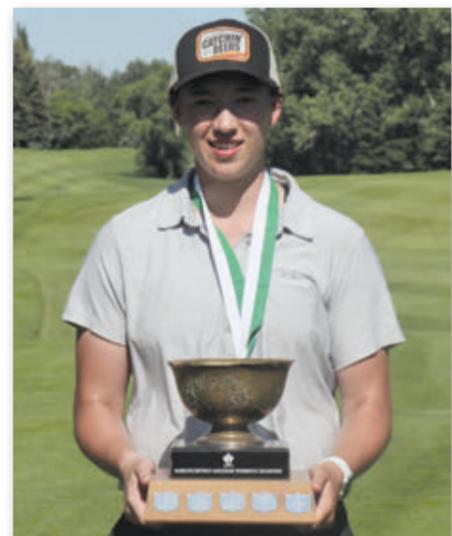
In January 2022, the Spiritwood Sports, Area and Recreation Centre (SARCS) received an anonymous donation, and chose to promote and recognize a monthly volunteer within the Spiritwood community.

From January through June, the volunteers of the month were: Jason Reddekopp, Les Walker, Ed Szasz, Barb Szasz, Paul Durette, and Jill Mayo.

Four new landmarks were added to Shellbrook's landscape last week, when members of the Shellbrook Kinettes installed four Little Free Libraries around town.

The project was spearheaded by Shellbrook Kinette Kat Mackin-Smith, who first learned about Little Free Libraries when she was living in Saskatoon. As a lover of reading, and of sharing books, Mackin-Smith thought it would be the perfect initiative to bring to Shellbrook.

History repeated itself for Shell Lake golf



For the second time, Shell Lake's Brooklin Fry is Saskatchewan's amateur women's golf champion.

phenom Brooklin Fry, who claimed her second Saskatchewan Amateur Women's title at Prince Albert's Cooke Municipal Golf Course on Thursday, July 13.

The U11 Shellbrook Knights baseball team was in action — both as competitors and as hosts — when it invited nine teams from across the province to the Shellbrook Sports Grounds for Tier 5 Provincials.

It was the second consecutive year hosting Provincials for the Knights, who claimed Provincials gold in their first season as an organization. With dominant play throughout the tournament, the team claimed gold again.

The Light of Christ Catholic School Division's pop-up literacy program "Pages in the Park" visited Spiritwood for the first time on July 15, 2022. The event was held in the Rivier Elementary School playground from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. where three blue book tents were set up.

Activities such as rock painting, colouring, and word searches were also part of the event.

On July 6, Federal support of \$9,864,265 was announced for 55 projects through the Canada Community Revitalization Fund (CCRF).

SARCS received funding totalling \$37,500, and the money was to be used to cover the costs of the SAD SAAC washroom project. It was expected to be completed by October, and include the excavation of the area, trenching water, sewer and power, installing screw piles, and building a new structure with three flush toilets.

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The U11 Shellbrook Knights, 2022 Tier 5 Provincial baseball champions: Back, left to right: Coaches Dave Philp, Dion Rondeau, and Jamie Capner, and manager Brittney Capner. Middle, left to right: Devlin Capner, Caleb Philp, Will Kasner, Ty Keyowski, Keanu Dustyhorn, and Tyson Hrechka. Front, left to right: Mason Harris, Brody Moe, Tanner Mason, Dallan Kasner, and Ryder Verbonac.



A tornado was spotted near Blaine Lake on Friday, July 8, and was quite the sight for storm watchers. Photo Credit: Jeff Wizniak



New Sask. NDP leader Carla Beck stopped in Shellbrook on Thursday to meet with healthcare workers and to call on the Sask. Party government to address staffing challenges in healthcare across the province.

Looking back on the year that was 2022

July Cont'd

For one day only, the Village of Parkside saw its population increase to nearly 2,700 from 130 people, as a large crowd gathered for the long-awaited return of the Parkside Demolition Derby.

This year's derby winner was Cody Sommerfeld. Meanwhile, the charity car sold for \$16,000, with proceeds going to Ronald McDonald House.

The 39th annual Homesteader Hey-Days took place on July 15 and 16 and the reports coming in say it was a rousing success.

Three Provincial softball teams called the Village of Shell Lake home for the 2022 season: The U11 and U15 Parkland Predators girls, and U11 Parkland Wildcats boys. All three teams captured silver medals at their respective Provincials tournaments.

Circus Funtastic's journey across Canada brought it through central Saskatchewan in July, with shows in Spiritwood at the Spiritwood and District Recreation Centre on July 21 and in Shellbrook at the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre on July 22.

AUGUST

With grant funding from Canada Post, the Shellbrook Public Library is looking a little different these days.

A \$3,000 Canada Post Community Foundation grant allowed the library to update its desks and furniture, which were very out of date. Smaller desks were put in place of the existing ones, freeing up space for a more comfortable sitting area for reading.

While programming is lending a sense of normalcy to the library, thanks to the Shellbrook Public Library board and substitute librarian Beryl Peake, who has agreed to stay on for the summer, it is proving to be challenging to fill the void left by the termination of former librarian Dian Campbell.

Unfortunately, Campbell's future at the library remains in limbo, as she continues to work through the labour dispute process, after being fired by Wapiti in February.

Having grown up on family farms, husband and wife duo Kegan and Melodie Thiessen learned early that you need to work hard if you want to live.

Those childhood lessons have served them well into adulthood, as they've taken on their own farming operation and trucking business. And they're hoping those lessons will continue to prove helpful with their latest venture, Prairie Homestyle Bakery, which officially opened its doors on Shellbrook's Main Street on Monday, July 18.

When "Try Lacrosse" sessions were held at Shellbrook's Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre in April, the turnout exceeded Ryan Sandry's expectations, allowing the community to field teams in the 8U, 10U, and 12U age groups of the Prince Albert Lacrosse league.

The 8U and 10U teams were both very competitive in their respective leagues, and the 10U teams even gave the unbeaten Prince Albert team a run for its money in the championship game.

Conservative MP for Desnethé-Missinippi-Churchill River Gary Vidal hit the road for a constituency tour ahead of the Civic Holiday long weekend, making stops in Shell Lake, Leoville, Spiritwood, and Big River.

Residents of the Village of Debden – both past and present, and near and far – gathered in their hometown from July 29 through 31, to celebrate the village's Centennial. The week-end-long celebration was filled with activities steeped in Debden's cultural, spiritual, and linguistic heritage, and offered plenty of



The Fatima rededication at the World War II Memorial drew a large crowd during Debden's Centennial celebration.

opportunities to have fun, visit, and reminisce.

When she was approached by Métis author and retired teacher Wilfred Burton in February of 2020, Lucille Scott needed just 30 minutes to decide that she'd illustrate his children's book, *Ride, Gabe, Ride*.

She's now an award-winning illustrator, as the book earned one of five finalist distinctions in the children's book category for Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC) authors and illustrators in the Next Generation Indie Book Awards.

The Spiritwood Library has made more use of its SARCS (Spiritwood Area Recreation, Culture and Sport Inc.) grant, with the purchase of four brand-new bean bag chairs.

According to Heather Gatzke, librarian for the Spiritwood Public Library, these beanbag chairs have been a big hit so far and provide a cozy reading space that is greatly appreciated by readers.

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Cody Sommerfeld (right) was this year's winner of the Parkside Demolition Derby. Here, he accepts the trophy from Parkside Community Club president Jory Segberg.



Desnethé-Missinippi-Churchill River MP Gary Vidal kicked off his summer constituency tour with meet and greets in Shell Lake and Leoville, taking time to listen to residents' concerns.



Wife and husband duo Melodie and Kegan Thiessen are the owners of Prairie Homestyle Bakery, which opened on Shellbrook's Main Street on July 18.



Canwood-based Métis artist Lucille Scott is now an award-winning illustrator, having earned a finalist distinction in the Next Generation Indie Book Awards for author Wilfred Burton's children's book *Ride, Gabe, Ride*.

Looking back on the year that was 2022

August Cont'd

Lake Country Co-op's Spiritwood team leaders, Michael Sarrazin and Karon Abdai, have been awarded the 2022 Saskatchewan Inclusive Employer award in recognition of their commitment to inclusive employment through support of their team member, Megan Allard.

It was a ball season to remember for Shellbrook's Kamden Shewchuk. It began like any other, with him donning red, white, and blue to play catcher and shortstop for the U15 Shellbrook Rangers.

That team went on to win gold at Provincials, and Shewchuk's play saw him picked up by the Prince Albert Astros to compete at the U15 Boy's Canadian Fast Pitch Championship, where he was named to the All-Star Team as the top shortstop in Canada.

The Shellbrook Royal Purple lodge has spent the summer making the most of a \$2,000 grant it received from the Canadian

Royal Purple Society.

With about \$1,500 of the grant money, the Shellbrook Royal Purple contracted Stu Danberg to build two benches for Shellbrook's Centennial Park. The remaining \$500 in grant money was donated to the Shellbrook Swimming Pool, with the funds to be used to replace the 40-year-old lifeguard chair.

The Canwood grain elevators came to life Sunday, Aug. 14 for a community car show. Attendees from Canwood, Big River, Blaine Lake, Shellbrook, Debden, and MacDowell enjoyed the afternoon outside, visiting and viewing classic vehicles, antique tractors, motorcycles, and personal inventions.

The Spiritwood Fire department hosted its sixth annual street dance on the Saturday, Aug. 13, bringing a night of live music and fun to Spiritwood's Main Street.

The dance was headlined by the Dirt Rich Band, which features hometown

boys Dallas Schira as lead vocalist, and Landon Fran-son on guitar and vocals.

Veteran green thumbs, bakers, crafters, and hobbyists packed into the Parkside Heritage School on Aug. 18, when the Walter Willoughby Horticulture Society hosted its 59th annual Horticulture Show.

The show, the second since the COVID-19 pandemic put a temporary halt to everything, saw 225 exhibits displayed for the judges by 17 exhibitors.

After scores were tallied, Toni Sommerfeld won the grand aggregate prize.

SEPTEMBER

When former Big River resident Sean Reimer, 19, headed off to the 2022 Canada Summer Games, held in Niagara Falls from Aug. 6 to 21, his main goal was to leave the games ranked higher than he came into them.

In the end, he achieved his goal by bringing home a silver medal for Team Alberta

With the help of the Canwood Wapiti Public Library Board, Austin Castle (Swift Current), Booker Blakely (Saskatoon), and Tristen Durocher (Saskatoon) arrived in Canwood for a fiddle show and family dance on Aug. 30 to prepare for the 32nd Canadian Grand Masters Fiddling Competition.

Joining the competitors was 15-year-old Becky Wilson from Canwood, who is an active fiddle student with Shellbrook fiddle teacher Kerri English.

Everything old is new again. Sometime in the early 80s, a new sign was designed and erected on the access road into Shell Lake. It stood loud and proud, until someone wrecked the wooden support pole.

Though the sign was replaced, the village noticed this year that the sign was



Mike Sarrazin, Karon Abdai, and Megan Allard accept the 2022 Saskatchewan Inclusive Employer Award from Inclusion Saskatchewan's Connie Andersen.

in dire need of repair. Rather than have a new one made, volunteers helped give it a much-needed facelift.

The Spiritwood Horticultural Society had a successful Horticulture and Homecraft Show.

There were 34 entrants this year, and the Grand Aggregate winner for the Horticulture Show was Eleanor Pallo. Meanwhile, the Novice Grand Aggregate was awarded to Barb Hepp.

Churches are a pillar of small towns in Saskatchewan. The years and the slow but steady urbanization of the province may have seen some congregations disband as their numbers dwindled, but most have stood the time.

Recently, residents of

Parkside (both old and new) gathered in the village to celebrate one such church, as the Parkside Pentecostal Church celebrated 100 years of faith and fellowship.

The Saskatchewan RCMP says no criminal charges will be laid in connection to an alleged exorcism that was performed on a boy exhibiting "seizure-like symptoms" at the Redberry Bible Camp near Blaine Lake.

"We conducted a thorough investigation and did not gather any evidence that would allow any Criminal Code charges to be laid in relation to what the children experienced," RCMP Supt. Josh Graham said in a statement.

The figure skating hardware continues to pile

up for Shellbrook's Ashlyn Schmitz and Regina's Tristan Taylor, after the pair competed in their first Junior Grand Prix in Riga, Latvia from Sept. 7 to 10.

Schmitz, 16, and Taylor, 20, skated their way to junior pairs bronze medals through their short and free programs.

In memory of past Board member Jerome Weiland, the staff and clients of Prairie Community Endeavours ventured out to Memorial Lake Regional Park on Aug. 30 to enjoy the sunny weather.

They had a wiener roast, including marshmallows, and afterwards went for a walk in the park. They also had a lively game of yard Yahtzee. Everyone enjoyed the beautiful weather and spending time with friends.

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Olena Nesterenko, Sofia Pozdnyakova, and Mariia Pozdnyakova have settled in Shellbrook after escaping the war in Ukraine.



Former Parkside resident Marvin Dynna speaks from the pulpit during the Parkside Pentecostal Church's 100th anniversary celebration.



Ashlyn Schmitz and Regina's Tristan Taylor are now international bronze medallists, after finishing third at the Junior Grand Prix in Riga, Latvia.

Looking back on the year that was 2022

September Cont'd

The Royal Family is mourning the loss of Queen Elizabeth II, after announcing on Thursday, Sept. 8, that the long-serving monarch had died at age 96.

As the United Kingdom and the world mourned and memorialized Queen Elizabeth II during her funeral on Monday, Sept. 19, the Shellbrook Royal Canadian Legion branch joined Legions across Canada in honouring the late monarch.

In addition to members of the Shellbrook Legion, the local memorial service, held Monday morning at 11 a.m., was attended by members of the Ah-tahkakoop-Shellbrook RCMP Detachment, dignitaries, including Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe and Shellbrook Mayor Amund Otterson, and a small group of onlookers.

There was barely enough room for all the dancing couples at the Shellbrook Senior Citizen's Centre last Friday afternoon, as the Shellbrook Seniors Association's Old-tyme Dances made a long-awaited return.

The Spiritwood Area Recreation, Culture, and Sports (SARCS) organization hosted its first Kinder Ball activity spree on Sept. 12 at the Spiritwood Arena.

The Kinder Ball program is an introduction to multiple sports designed for younger kids.

Spiritwood Area Recreation, Culture, and Sports (SARCS) has recognized Scott Haggarty as the Volunteer of the Month for September.

A decade ago, Brenda Cheveldayoff was pulled into her doctor's office and given the news no one ever truly expects to hear. She had been diagnosed with ovarian cancer, and her doctor suggested that she "get her affairs in order."

Fast-forward to today, and her love of fitness and pageantry earned her an invite to the Miss World International



Blaine Lake's Brenda Cheveldayoff is crowned at the Miss World International pageant in Miami. Cheveldayoff won in the 55+ division, and in the open fitness category.



Led by piper Dave Hjertaas, members of the Shellbrook Legion march in the colours during the Legion's memorial service for Queen Elizabeth II on Sept. 19.

beauty pageant in Miami, Fla.

In the end, Cheveldayoff's dedication to her fitness shone through, earning her the crown in the 55+ Division. While being crowned once was enough of a shock, Cheveldayoff was in for an even bigger shock when she bested 77 other competitors of all ages to claim the fitness crown as well.

Like most women, Shellbrook's Kelsey Fitch wears many hats in her day-to-day life (and, often, more than one at the same time).

Now, with the launch of her latest endeavour, Neoma Wellness, she's expanding her hat rack and hoping to help other women like her, who may be struggling to find time for their own wellness and mental health as they try to juggle the many roles they're expected to play.

Rivier Elementary School in Spirit-



Elder Wilma Schraeder addresses Grade 6 and 7 students as part of WP Sandin High School's observation of Truth and Reconciliation Day.



After 15 years of lobbying government, Blaine Lake Ambulance has finally expanded to two fully crewed ambulances.

For 65 years, Blaine Lake Ambulance has served the 50-kilometre radius surrounding the Town of Blaine Lake with just one ambulance.

After 15 years of lobbying the government, and a frantic search for employees, the company's second ambulance entered service as of Oct. 11.

Global inflation has raised the costs of nearly everything. Now, even the Prince Albert Rural Water Utility's plan to build a new water treatment plant and intermunicipal water pipeline, in conjunction with the Town of Shellbrook and the Rural Municipalities of Buckland, Duck Lake, Prince Albert, and Shellbrook, is feeling the sting.

Originally pitched with a price tag closer to \$45 million, before a preliminary study pointed to \$52.5 million as a more realistic cost, the new projected cost is now just under \$80 million. In an update on the project, PARWU liaison Teresa Hanson cited inflation, materials, and construction costs as the reasons for the cost increase.

After two years of dozing due to the pandemic, one of the most awaited events in Spiritwood has once more brought a near-sellout crowd to the Spiritwood & District Rec Centre.

The 2022 SARCS Silver Buckle Bull Riding Competition entertained a crowd of 814 people on the night of Oct. 8.

The crowd enjoyed every ride from the bull riders, but in the end, it was Keaton Martz who held on long enough to win the Silver Buckle.

Six years after the Village of Leask made the decision to save the local hardware store by purchasing the business, the future for the venture is looking grim.

The mood at the Leask Community Hall on Monday, Oct. 17, was equally grim, as the current council for the Village of Leask held a public meeting to share recent findings of its investigation into the current state of the hardware store.

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Chief Anne Thomas of the Witchekean Lake First Nation takes part in the community's Solidarity Walk for Truth and Reconciliation Day.

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Looking back on the year that was 2022

October Cont'd

A local student more than did his part to help in the fight against cancer, donating \$700 to the Terry Fox Foundation during Leoville Central School's annual Terry Fox Run.

Kegan Hoffman, a Grade 7 student at the school, spent the summer working for farmers and doing chores in the community, whether it be hauling hay bales, feeding livestock, or working in the pasture.

The environmental policies of the Liberal federal government could cost Saskatchewan up to \$111 billion by 2035, according to a report commissioned by the Ministry of Finance.

Titled "Drawing the Line: Defending Saskatchewan's Economic Autonomy," the report examines the direct compliance costs of nine federal environmental policies, including the carbon tax, for households and the agriculture, transport, and upstream oil and gas sectors.

The 2022 Annual Fall Walk/Run event was held at the Spiritwood Golf Course during the sunny day of Oct. 8, allowing participants to get out, get some exercise, and enjoy the fall colours.

Almost 40 people registered and participated in the Walk/Run which consists of different age groups that either walked or ran 5-10 kilometres around the Spiritwood golf course.

Anne Thomas, Chief of the Witchekan Lake



Shellbrook's Jamie Capner (right) has been named Baseball Sask.'s 2022 Builder of the Year for his work in founding the Shellbrook Knights baseball program.

First Nation, is sounding the alarm about the problem of illicit drugs in her community after the community's COVID centre was destroyed in a fire.

The building, which was used to house community members who needed to quarantine after testing positive for COVID-19, went up in flames the night of Oct. 5.

Thomas says the fire is one of a series that have occurred over this year, destroying 10 homes and buildings within the community. Fortunately, there haven't been any serious injuries or fatalities in any of the fires.

Jamie Capner may have been the last to find out he'd been nominated for Baseball Sask.'s Builder of the Year Award, which honours individuals who have

"contributed in an outstanding manner in developing and structuring baseball teams/leagues or associations in their communities."

The founder of the Shellbrook Knights baseball program, and two-time provincial champion coach, only found out three weeks ago, when he received an email informing him he'd won the award.

Saskatchewan is well equipped with everything it needs to succeed, and its best days lie ahead.

This was the key takeaway from Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe's keynote address during his Oct. 20 Premier's Dinner at Plaza 88 in Prince Albert, where he was joined by members of the Sask. Party Caucus, local and regional officials, Indigenous



Premier Scott Moe addresses the audience at his Premier's Dinner in Prince Albert on Oct. 20.

leaders, and Sask. Party supporters.

The Prince Albert Rural Water Utility asked for public input on its plan to build a new water treatment plant and intermunicipal water pipeline, in conjunction with the Town of Shellbrook and the Rural Municipalities of Buckland, Duck Lake, Prince Albert, and Shellbrook, during a pair of informational open houses.

Representatives from PARWU, and experts responsible for the engineering and design of the project, were on hand in Shellbrook and Prince Albert on Oct. 18 and 19, respectively, to share details about the work done so far, answer questions, and listen to concerns. Visitors were also asked to fill out a brief questionnaire to

share their thoughts on the project.

In Celebration of Saskatchewan library Week, the Leask Wapiti Library hosted an author reading on Tuesday, Oct. 18. 26 people attended to hear Gayle M. Smith talk about her book *Thickwood*, and share a few excerpts from her book, as well as some information on how she chose to write it.

What a day for the Canadian Royal Purple Lodges in Canada, as it visited and presented care bags to women's shelters in Canada. This was the first annual Purple Thursday, which going forward will be held on the third Thursday in October. The Shellbrook and Prince Albert Royal Purple lodges donated 40 plus to the shelter in

Prince Albert.

NOVEMBER

It proved to be a banner year for fundraising for the Terry Fox Foundation at Leoville Central School's annual Terry Fox Walk/Run.

In addition to Grade 7 student Kegan Hoffman raising \$700 to support the work done on cancer research by the Terry Fox Foundation, Kindergarten student Lily Blais-Larson drummed up pledges totalling \$805.

After two years of the nasty tricks delivered by the COVID-19 pandemic, visitors to WP Sandin High School finally got a Halloween treat with the return of the school's annual Quarter Carnival.

Normally held at the high school on an evening close to Halloween, this year's event was held from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., allowing the high school to invite students from Shellbrook Elementary School over by the busload. This meant everyone had a chance to take part in the Halloween festivities.

The Government of Saskatchewan says it will complete the transition of liquor retailing to the private sector in 2023 by selling off the 34 public liquor stores still operated by the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority (SLGA).

Premier Moe made the announcement about his government's plans before the delivery of the speech from the throne, saying the stores are no longer part of the government's "core business."

The Spiritwood Public Library celebrated Sask. Library Week from Oct. 16 to 22.

The theme for this year's Saskatchewan Library Week was "Libraries Expand Horizons". To this end, The Spiritwood Library chose to celebrate the week with a display of what the library provides.

The library ended the week with a come and go tea. It also decided to celebrate previous librarian, Mrs. Joyce Carriere, and presented her with a plaque and a red rose for her 42 years of service for the Spiritwood Public Library.

Continued on page 20



Always popular, the Halloween Sack Race at WP Sandin's Quarter Carnival had participants bouncing for the finish line.



Leoville Central School student Lily Blais-Larson was a fundraiser extraordinaire, drumming up \$805 for her school's Terry Fox Run/Walk.



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Looking back on the year that was 2022

November Cont'd

Started about 20 years ago, the Field of Dreams is a fundraising effort organized and executed by local farmers and volunteers on 150 acres of Town of Shellbrook-owned land. Each year, the volunteers put in the man and machine hours to seed and harvest the Field of Dreams crop, whether it be canola or a cereal like wheat, barley, or oats, with the proceeds going toward capital expenditures the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre.

The fruits of this labour are clear to see. With 2022's barley crop, the Field of Dreams raised \$57,107.25 for the hockey rink and the curling rink.

The Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division's (SRPSD) numbers for the 2022-2023 school year are in, and with schools now free of the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic, enrolments appear to be holding steady at Shellbrook and area schools.

Saskatchewan Rivers MLA Nadine Wilson rose in the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly on Nov. 3 to call upon Premier Scott Moe to initiate a Commission of Inquiry to investigate his government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Saskatchewan citizens were subjected to numerous emergency medical health orders and mandates during the COVID-19 pandemic," she said. "Considering that hundreds of credible sources disputed the necessity of those measures and the efficacy of the interventions and



Dr. Mohsen Karami is now practicing in Spiritwood, helping to end a physician shortage that has been a problem for the community for a couple months.

treatments that were allowed, this Government owes the Saskatchewan people nothing less than a full public inquiry to show how and why they took the decisions that caused irreparable harm to our society."

The Canwood Elks and Royal Purple Elks hosted the Provincial Elks Bowling from Friday, Nov. 4 through to Sunday, Nov. 6. Brave souls from Melfort, Moose Mountain, and Shaunavon managed to stay on the roads and participate in the weekend activities.

Scores were tallied and the Canwood #2 Ken Moar team won first. Meanwhile, the Canwood #1 Terry Hamborg team won second, and the Melfort Gail Jones team won third.

As communities across the province deal with across-the-board staffing shortages in health-care, Spiritwood hasn't been immune to these challenges, especially

when it comes to local physicians. Recently, the arrival of the community's newest doctor, Dr. Mohsen Karami, has helped alleviate some of the community's concerns.

Shellbrook observed two days of remembrance, with the joint Remembrance Day ceremony for Shellbrook Elementary School and WP Sandin High School held at the high school on Nov. 10, and the community's Remembrance Day ceremony held on Nov. 11.

A third ceremony, scheduled to be held for the long-term care residents of Parkland Integrated Health Centre on Nov. 9, unfortunately had to be cancelled due to staff members being out sick.

The Shell Lake Lions Club had its 2022 Golf Cart raffle draw. Jerri Olson of Shell Lake won the top prize of the 2022 Club Car, James and



Shellbrook Legion Sergeant at Arms Henri Dagenais lays a wreath at the cenotaph during the community's Remembrance Day ceremony.

Rose Grypiuk of Shellbrook won the second prize of \$3,000, and Joan Giesbrecht of Saskatoon won the third prize of a 2023 golf membership, which was donated to the Lions by Memorial Lake Regional Park.

The sacrifices of those who served, and continue to serve, in the Canadian Armed Forces were honoured in Spiritwood, during a Remembrance Day service held at the Spiritwood Legion Hall on Nov. 11.

As COVID restrictions were no longer a concern, there was a good number of people who came to observe and honour veterans this year, including the Spiritwood

Royal Canadian Legion members and members of the Spiritwood RCMP detachment.

The Shell Lake Royal Canadian Legion Branch No. 15 remembered all the brave men and women who fought to keep our country free on Nov. 11, during a ceremony held in the Partners in Worship Church.

With the countdown to Christmas officially on, folks from Shellbrook and the surrounding area had an opportunity to get their hands on some one-of-a-kind items for their loved ones when the Shellbrook & District Arts Council's Christmas Craft Sale made its

long-awaited return on Saturday, Nov. 19.

Meanwhile, over at the Shellbrook Senior Citizen's Centre, the Shellbrook Kinettes' Winter Market (a spiritual successor to the Home-based Business Trade Show) returned for its second year. In addition to the range of goods offered by the trade show's vendors, members of the Parkland Pool Project Committee were once again offering treats, with proceeds (by donation) going towards the committee's efforts to get a new local pool built.

If that wasn't enough, local businesses also joined in the festivities. Designer's Edge Salon and Gift Shop and Lu's Crafty Boutique both had their doors open so customers could come and browse through the wares of their many artisans, while Prairie Homestyle Bakery was serving up its full menu, as well as a selection of holiday-inspired treats and drinks.

Team Laventure, from the Spiritwood Curling Club, will be representing Saskatchewan at the Canada Winter Games in Prince Edward Island from Feb. 28 to March 5, 2023, after placing first at the Saskatchewan Curling Trials for the Canada Winter Games. The team, coached by Ron Craswell, consists of skip - Deon Laventure, third - Karstin Soucy, second - Bohdan Booth, and lead - Jayden Dauvin.



Spiritwood Royal Canadian Legion branch members during the community's Remembrance Day ceremony, from left to right: Raymond Trach, Mike Swityk, Trevor Primeau, Troy Blixrud, Jack Boechler, Betty Hall, Kayleen Trach, Marg Pretli, George Pretli, and Carrol Brisbane.



Team Laventure from Spiritwood is heading to the 2023 Canada Winter Games to represent Saskatchewan in boy's curling. From left to right: Coach Ron Craswell, lead - Jayden Dauvin, second - Bohdan Booth, third - Karstin Soucy, and skip - Deon Laventure.