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Thursday, December 18, 2025

www.shellbrookchronicle.com | www.spiritwoodherald.com

## Shellbrook Elementary hosts Christmas concert



Ms. Storry's Pre-kindergarten students perform "Santa Claus is Coming to Town."

#### By JORDAN TWISS

Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The holiday season is a time of many long-standing community traditions in Shellbrook. For Shellbrook Elementary School's students, there's no surer sign of the season than its annual Christmas Concert.

On Thursday, Dec. 11, the Shell-brook Theatre was filled to the brim with the festive spirit — and proud parents and community members — as the students took the stage to perform both an afternoon and an evening show.

Organized by the school's staff, the concert was MCed by students Kambry Knaus and Graham Taylor, who

kept the show moving along at a brisk pace by trading off jokes between each act.

to Town." The stage was then turned over to Mrs. Jewitt's Grade 2 class, which sang and acted out a series of

Up first on the program, the whole school joined in a performance of the classic Christmas carol, "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer." Then, Mrs. Senger and Ms. Storry's Kindergarten students took the stage to recite a welcome poem and sing and dance to "Jingle Bells," and Ms. Storry's pre-Kindergarten students gave an animated performance of "Santa Claus is Coming to Town."

Ms. Carrier's Grade 1 class was up next, showcasing their moves on the "Gingerbread Cookie Dance," followed by Ms. Amendt's Grade 1/2 class with their take on "Santa Claus is Coming to Town." The stage was then turned over to Mrs. Jewitt's Grade 2 class, which sang and acted out a series of Christmas songs set to the tunes of nursery rhymes while Mrs. Jewitt accompanied them on acoustic guitar.

Mixing music and poetry, Mrs. Chretien's Grade 2/3 class sang "That's Christmas to Me" and recited the poem Christmas joy, while Mrs. Verbonac's Grade 3/4 class shared the ABCs of Christmas and rocked out to "Jingle Bell Rock."

Heading into the final few acts of the show, Mrs. Ledding's Grade 4/5 class recited and acted out Dr. Seuss's classic *How the Grinch Stole Christ*mas, with Madison Graham taking on the role of the Grinch, while Mrs. Winsor's Grade 4/5 class sang a classroom-inspired rendition of "The 12 Days of Christmas."

Mrs. Pederson's Grade 5 class closed out the individual class performances, getting the audience laughing with their Christmas jokes and singing a lively version of "Run Run Rudolph."

In keeping with a long-standing tradition, the show concluded with the whole school uniting to sing "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

As with each year, the performance was made possible by the efforts of staff, students, the school's SCC, and many other volunteers. The costs of the production are covered by a silver collection.

More photos on page 16



231 Service Road E 306-747-2550





## Kinettes' Christmas Party raises funds, spirits

**By JORDAN TWISS** Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The holiday season is a time of togetherness. But with all the hustle and bustle of finding the perfect gifts for loved ones and holiday planning, it's all too easy to forget to slow down and enjoy the moment.

Hoping to remedy this all too common problem, while raising important funds, the Shellbrook Kinettes made a new addition to their already busy Christmas line-up by throwing a Small Business Christmas Party at the Shellbrook Community Hall on Friday, Dec. 12.

festive, community-fobrought local businesses, friends, and community members together while giving back," Kinette Kat Mackin-Smith explained.

"Planning began several months in advance, early in the fall, to allow time to secure entertainment, and ensure the event offered a great experience for attendees.'

Approximately 130 people accepted the Kinettes' invitation to festive fun, gathering in the intimately deco-

rated hall for cocktails and socializing at 5 p.m., and a full Christmas dinner of turkey, ham, and all the fixings starting at 6:30 p.m.

Scott Galloway serving as MC for the evening, with the Shellbrook Kinsmen, the POW City Kinsmen, and the Shellbrook Travel Club providing additional support.

The promised entertainment kicked off at 8 p.m. with Comedian Darryl "Junior" Koszman and his friends, Anjelene Mittelholtz and Jenny Ryan, kept the crowd laughing, and a dance with a DJ - provided by K2 Entertainment — capped off the night.

Adding some extra "The idea came from Christmas cheer and wanting to create a magic to the party, Santa made an appearance cused holiday event during the night, and a silent auction (supported by local businesses) offered some last-minute gifting opportunities (and extra fundraising for the Kinettes).

> Lastly, a 50/50 draw turned into an opportunity for Christmas generosity, as winner Merryl Wood donated her winnings back to the Community Hall.

> "Shellbrook has always shown strong support for community events, especially when it comes to the Kinettes. We felt peo-



A crowd of 130 people came out to the hall for a night of food, togetherness, and fun.

ple would appreciate a fun night out close to home, supporting a local cause, and connecting with others in a relaxed, festive atmosphere," Mackin-Smith said.

"We hope guests left feeling entertained, well-fed, connected, and proud of their own team and community with a few laughs, good memories, and holiday cheer to carry into the season."



With turkey, ham, and all the fixings on the menu, the party's buffet brought all the tastes of and comforts of Christmas.

All proceeds from the Christmas party will support the Kinettes efforts to maintain and upgrade the Shellbrook Community which the Kinettes took ownership of last year.

Mackin-Smith says the Kinettes have a "full roster" of items to be taken care of, with repairs to the roof and front posts at the entrance topping the list of immediate priorities.

In just their first year of ownership, the Kinettes have already installed new toilets at the hall, as well as a brand-new \$10,000 sound system that has been great at events.

Based on response to this year's party, Mackin-Smith says the Kinettes hope to turn the event into a new annual tradition the community can look forward to each holiday season, and an important fundraising vehicle for the group's work at the hall.

"It's an event the town used to have in the past and we were happy to revive it," she said



A decorated Christmas tree added to the festive environment and offered opportunities for friends and colleagues to take photos together.



The Shellbrook Kinettes were busy in the kitchen throughout the night, feeding a crowd of 130

You are invited to

Skate Shellbrook's

Christmas

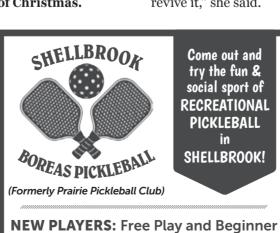
Ice Show

FRI., DECEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup>

6:30 - 7:30 PM

@ RICHARDSON PIONEER REC CENTRE

(125 MAIN ST, SHELLBROOK)



Lesson for the month of January!

For more information OR to register, phone/text:

Rhonda Martin at (306)468-7770

#### **Applicant Requirements:**

Sportsgrounds.

Key Responsibilities:

Experience in recreation or sports administration, strong communication and organizational skills, and the ability to work independently.

Attend meetings and provide monthly reports to Council Provide on-call evening and weekend availability

TOWN OF SHELLBROOK

www.townofshellbrook.ca

Request for Tender

**Sports Coordinator (Contracted Service)** 

The Town of Shellbrook is seeking proposals from qualified

individuals or firms for a one-year contracted Sports Coordinator

position, with potential for renewal. The Coordinator will act as a liaison between the Town and local sporting groups, supporting

communication, scheduling, community engagement, and recreation program coordination for the Pool, Rink, and

Engage with user groups and assess community needs

Support community sporting and recreational events

Coordinate facility and field scheduling

Foster positive relationships with

#### **Proposal Must Include:**

Cover letter, resume or profile, fee structure, two references, and any supporting information.

#### Submission Deadline: January 15, 2026

#### Submit to:

Town of Shellbrook - Chief Administrative Officer PO Box 40, 71 Main St., Shellbrook, SK SOJ 2E0 Email: cao@townofshellbrook.ca

## Premier Moe shuffles cabinet

**By JORDAN TWISS** Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe gave his cabinet a small holiday shuffle on Thursday, Dec. 11, bringing fresh faces into the fold while expanding the responsibilities of some current cabinet ministers.

"Nearly half of our government caucus was I didn't want to bring too many brand new members into cabinet right after the election," Premier Scott Moe said in a statement.

"Those members now have more than a year of experience as MLAs and with today's changes, one-third of cabinet will be new members. That will give our government a strong bal-

first elected in 2024, but ance of experience and fresh perspectives."

> Five MLAs, all elected in 2024, are making their cabinet debuts, including Mike Weger as Minister of Community Safety (previously called Corrections, Policing and Public Safety) and Minister responsible for Saskatchewan Public Agency; Chris Beaudry as Minister of Energy

and Resources: Darlene Rowden as Minister of Environment; Kim Gartner as Minister of Highways; and Sean Wilson Minister SaskBuilds & Procurement.

In addition to adding new faces, the cabinet shuffle hands some existing cabinet ministers additional duties. David Marit is returning to his role as Minister of Agriculture and is also Minister responsible for Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation; Ken Cheveldayoff remains Minister of Advanced Education and becomes Minister Labour Relations and Workplace Safety; Eric Schmalz remains Minister of Government Relations and Minister responsible for First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs and becomes Minister of Immigration and Career Training; and Warren Kaeding remains Minister of Trade and Export Development and becomes Minister responsible for the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority.

The duties of Jim Reiter (Deputy Premier, Minister of Finance), Tim McLeod (Minister of Justice, Government House Leader), Jeremy Cockrill (Minister of Health), Lori Carr (Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Seniors, and Rural and Remote Health, Government Deputy House Leader), Everett Hindley (Minister of Education), Jeremy Harisson (Minister responsible for Crown Investment Corporation, Public Service Commission, Lotteries and Gaming Saskatchewan Corporation), Terry Jenson (Minister of Social Services), and Alana Ross (Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport, Tourism Saskatchewan and Status of Women) remain unchanged.

Out of Premier Moe's cabinet are Travis Keisig, Daryl Harrison, and Colleen Young. However, they are expected to serve as chairs of legislative committees and the Premier said they will continue to play "vital roles within government."

Premier Finally, Moe's cabinet shuffle also named eight legislative secretaries, including James Thorsteinson (Agriculture), Travis Keisig (Crown Investments Corporation), Blaine McLeod (Community Safety), Barret Kropf (Education), Kevin Weedmark (Health), Megan Patterson (Social Services), Brad Crassweller (Parks, Culture, and Sport and Saskatchewan-India relations), and Jamie Martens (Trade and Export Development and Saskatchewan-Ukraine relations).

Legislative Secretaries will receive \$3,000 in annual remuneration for their additional responsibilities, below the full remuneration amount designated for Legislative Secretaries.

Jamie Martens will also continue to serve as Provincial Secretary while Blaine McLeod continues to serve as Military Liaison. Brad Crassweller becomes the Government Whip and Kevin Weedmark remains Deputy Whip.

## Lions Club awards winner of Cash Lotto



The Spiritwood & District Lions Club has made Christmas a little easier for one lucky winner of their annual \$1,000 Cash Lotto. The Lions have offered their December lotto annually for many years, consistently selling out their limited-ticket offering. This year's winner was Don Tipton of Spiritwood. Lion George Pretli (right) made the presentation to Mr. Tipton on Friday, Dec. 12. By BEVRA FEE, Spiritwood Herald Reporter

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald

Office will be closed from

December 23/25 through **January 1/26** 

Regular office hours will resume January 2, 2026

**Advertising Deadline** is Fri., Dec. 19/25

for December 25th edition. We will **NOT** be publishing a paper on **January 1st, 2026** due to the holidays. Please plan advertising accordingly, thank you!

Shellbrook Chronicle
Spiritwood Herald

Wishing You Health, Lots of Laughter And A Newsworthy Season

May your holiday season contain all the makings of lasting memories for you and your loved ones. We thank our customers, friends and readers for your continued support.

## **Better Information. Better Access. Better Care.**

The Saskatchewan Health Authority is strengthening access to emergency services and ensuring clear communication when temporary disruptions occur.

For service information or health advice, call HealthLine 811 anytime. In any life-threatening emergency, call 911.

For daily 4 p.m. updates about emergency service disruptions, visit www.saskhealthauthority.ca/servicedisruptions



## Political games sow fear and division

Much like fencing or chess, politics is often as much about gamesmanship as it is about the act of governing.

There are thrusts and counter thrusts, parries and ripostes, and carefully employed strategies to lure opponents into vulnerable positions – almost always with words, rather than foils and chess pieces.

To be fair, the rhetorical fisticuffs are the proverbial spice that livens up what

would otherwise be some coma-inducingly dreary business in Parliament. But sometimes, it seems the governing part of government takes a backseat to the gamesmanship.

This was the case last week, when Prime Minister Mark Carney's Liberal Government and Pierre Poilievre's Conservative Party opposition duelled over three pieces of legislation in the House of Commons and did their best to spin them and stoke outrage from the public.

It all started with the Liberals' Bill C-9, dubbed the Combatting Hate Act, and the government's decision to support a Bloc Québecois proposal to religious exemptions for hate speech.

Currently, the Criminal Code exemption applies "if, in good faith, the person expressed or attempted to establish by an argument an opinion on a religious subject or an opinion based on a belief in a religious text."

The Bloc's proposal was inspired by a 2023 incident in which a Montreal imam led crowds in a prayer for "Zionist aggressors" to be killed – a crystal clear example of hate speech, if ever there was one.

Certainly, the Liberal government still has much work to do to clarify and codify what exactly constitutes hate speech (though, contrary to overblown criticisms circulating on social media, the bill doesn't make it a crime to disagree with or offend someone).

However, the Conservative Party has done everything in its power to make this work more difficult, muddy-



**J**ORDAN **Twiss** 

News Editor

vision with outright lies that the legislation will outlaw parts of the Bible.

The Conservatives are also conveniently leaving out the part of the legislation that strengthens protections for religions by creating a new offence for "intimidating or obstructing people from entering places of worship."

The week also saw continued debate over the Liberal government's budget, which is working through its second reading.

Here, the Conservatives attempted to throw up a roadblock with a proposed amendment to "lower food pric-

The amendment calls for the House to reject a second reading because it "fails to implement a budget so Canadians can have an affordable life."

The amendment continues with other common Conservative criticisms of the budget's high deficit and inflationary government spending, the government's so-called hidden taxes on food - such as the industrial carbon tax, the food packaging tax, and the fuel standards tax – and a lack of a plan for a pipeline.

What it doesn't contain are any concrete policies or ideas to achieve the goals the Conservatives claim to be striving for.

Lowering or eliminating taxes is all well and good, but the loss of revenue means a higher deficit. To lower the deficit, difficult decisions would have to be made about cuts to government services and programs, which would almost certainly make life less affordable for some Canadians (generally, those who are already the most vulnerable).

What's more, the budget does call for reductions in government spending through the elimination of 40,000 public service jobs. But this, too, comes with costs in the form of severance and early retirement packages for those who will be losing their jobs, meaning government savings will come over the long term (as they did in

Chrétien axed 55,000 public service jobs at a cost of \$3 billion).

Conservatives have derided the fact that the job cuts will cost \$1.5 billion over five years to save \$82 million per year, but haven't indicated how they would achieve the job cuts at a lower cost without pushback from unions and potential labour disruptions.

Meanwhile, a plan for a pipeline is just that – a plan. Even if the government rubber stamped a pipeline and construction started today, it would still be at least a few years before any economic benefits trickled down to Canadians.

In short, the Conservatives didn't table a serious amendment; they tabled a distraction they knew would fail, so they could convince Canadians that the government isn't serious about making life more affordable.

They used this tactic again later in the week, tabling a motion to test the Liberals' commitment to its Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Government of Alberta on the potential development of a pipeline to the west coast.

The MOU was already signed by Mr. Carney and Alberta Premier Danielle Smith, and it received unanimous approval in the Alberta legislature.

The Conservative motion pulled language from the MOU, but initially ing the waters and sowing fear and di- the 1990s, when Prime Minister Jean excluded provisions requiring con- out of a job again.

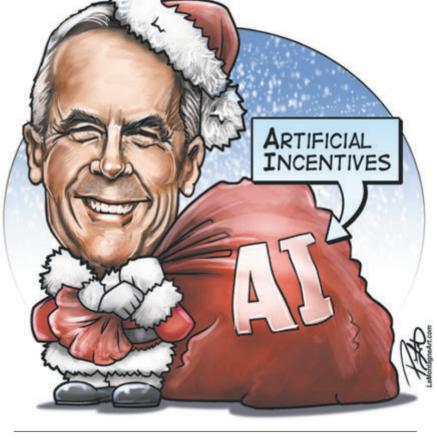
sultations with and consent from the Government of B.C. and B.C. First Nations, as well as the conditions Alberta agreed to, including a commitment to sign on to an industrial carbon pricing agreement to lower methane emissions by 75 per cent over the next 10 years, and a commitment to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

At the last minute, the Conservatives added portions about consulting with the Government of B.C. and B.C. First Nations, but conveniently omitted the consent portion and Alberta's commitments.

Unsurprisingly, the amendment was defeated, and Conservative MPs ran screaming to social media that Mr. Carney and Liberals had said no to a pipeline and reneged on the agreement with Alberta.

While the first two instances of Conservative game playing can be waved off as business as usual, the pipeline gambit is egregious in its recklessness.

In addition to wasting time and doing nothing to make Canadians' lives more affordable, it undermines the work Mr. Carney has done to bring Alberta back into the fold, and stokes the fires of Alberta's separatist movement – a movement that, if successful, would almost guarantee the Conservatives never form government in Canada again, and leave Mr. Poilievre



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

#### Jordan Twiss & Meghan Penney, **Co-Publishers**

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

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

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

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

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Advertising Deadline: Fridays at 4:00 p.m. Websites: www.shellbrookchronicle.com www.spiritwoodherald.com

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Member of









## Your Two Cents

# Canadians need to stick together

Dear editor,

By now we have all noticed our country is under attack. The American president has done Canadians the biggest favour. He pushed us out of his basement, where it was warm and safe and forced us into the cold world to grow up. It's about time.

Canadians have all felt American arrogance. I have always searched for an answer to why Americans and others around the world see Canada as insignificant when we have always punched above our weight and have such a proud history. We are a strong, proud country. Far greater than we might imagine.

A long-time American immigrant once said to me on a cruise with an Eastern European accent, "Cenada, dat's not even a country." I didn't understand how he could think such a thing; my American friends would never tell me the truth, until Trump with his Grade 8 intelligence arrogantly called us the 51st state.

Now, I understand.

Our unswerving compliance

with the United States has been handy, but we have paid a big price in respect. Much more than I thought.

Mark Carney is giving us back our respect. We all need to support him, not try to trip him.

If we don't stick together, life in Canada will change more than we can imagine. As a lifelong Conservative and historian, the so-called liberal, Mark Carney, is arguably the most knowledgeable and competent prime minister we have ever had.

Canadians who are against pipelines, mines, ports, and refineries don't know how their bread is buttered. They don't realize that the government gravy train will dry up if we don't actually earn money.

Money doesn't grow on tree huggers, and toads don't need to be relocated when pipelines go through their habitat. We no longer have the luxury of prioritizing anything over bread on the table.

Earl I. Jones, Rabbit Lake, Sask.

# Spiritwood Skating Club hosts Christmas show



StarSkaters wore festive sweaters as they took to the ice for the Christmas showcase. From left to right: Emeri Simonar, Hallie Pomedli, Kylie Sarrazin, and Ariel Smolinski.



Younger Spiritwood Skating Club skaters take the ice, while others look on and wait their turn.

**By BEVRA FEE** Spiritwood Herald Reporter

To the delight of many skating families and their friends, the Spiritwood Skating Club hosted the second annual Christmas Showcase on Sunday, Dec. 14.

Organized by the Spiritwood Skating Club "elves" (board members) and coach Sherryl Britton Krause, the show saw skaters from all levels of the local skating program enjoy the opportunity to display their skills in a Christmas-themed pageant that provided sparkle and beauty, set to a seasonal backdrop.

Adding to the excitement of the skating program was the fun skate that followed the show. The club also offered a Christmas Cheer raffle of prizes and a 50/50 that was matched by Spiritwood Pharmacy. The Winner of the 50/50 was Marilyn Saam, who took home a jackpot of \$337.

#### **BRANDED CONTENT**

#### Building safety together: Free tools and training from WorkSafe Saskatchewan

A safe workplace doesn't happen by chance. It's built through awareness, education and action. Safety training gives workers and employers the tools they need to recognize hazards, prevent injuries and make smart decisions that protect everyone on the job.

WorkSafe Saskatchewan is here to help you build safer, healthier workplaces. WorkSafe Saskatchewan and its affiliates and partners provide training to more than 30,000 workers and employers on an annual basis. Monthly training sessions for Occupational Health Committee Level 1, Occupational Health Committee Level 2 and Supervision and Safety help workers and employers meet their legislative obligations.

WorkSafe Saskatchewan and its partners provide several training courses to equip everyone, from front-line workers to safety leaders with tools and resources to help prevent work-related injuries and make safety, health and well-being part of everyday work.

#### Learn with WorkSafe Saskatchewan

WorkSafe Saskatchewan offers a wide range of free and partner-provided courses designed for the needs of Saskatchewan workplaces. Topics include:

- Occupational health and safety committees
- Supervision and leadership
- Ergonomics
- New and young workers
- Psychological health and safety

- Return to work and disability management
- WHMIS and hazardous materials
- Workplace hazards and safety awareness

Courses are available online or in-person, making it easy for workers and employers across the province to participate. Each course is practical and designed so participants can act right away.

"Training equips individuals with the knowledge and skills to identify, assesses and mitigate workplace hazards. By investing in training, organizations can create a culture of safety that encourages continuous improvement."

Kevin Mooney, vice-president of prevention and employer services at the WCB

#### A smart investment

Every year, approximately 2,700 Saskatchewan workers are seriously injured—many performing routine tasks that could have been done safely with the right training and preparation. From understanding how to lift and carry properly to identifying high-energy hazards or responding to an emergency, training helps equip workers with the skills to prevent harm.

For employers, investing in safety training helps reduce injuries, improve productivity and lower the costs associated with lost-time claims. Research consistently shows that for every dollar invested in effective safety programs, organizations can save several more in reduced injury costs and downtime. Educated workers are more confident, more engaged and better prepared to prevent incidents before they happen. Training protects not only your people, but also your bottom line.

#### **Building a culture of safety**

When everyone understands their role in keeping the workplace safe, it changes the culture of an organization. Workers feel more confident and valued when they know how to protect themselves and their co-workers. Supervisors and managers gain peace of mind knowing their teams have the training to make safe decisions.

A strong safety culture also boosts morale and retention. Employees who feel supported and protected are more engaged and motivated to contribute to a positive work environment. In short, training builds trust and trust helps build safer workplaces.

## Accessible training for every workplace

In addition to its own training, WorkSafe Saskatchewan connects you with approved training partners who offer specialized programs—some free, others fee-based—that address unique industry needs. These partners provide expertise, certifications and skills development that complement WorkSafe Saskatchewan's core education offerings.

By training through WorkSafe Saskatchewan and its partners, you can be confident you're learning from credible, experienced safety educators who understand the realities of Saskatchewan workplaces.

#### Get started today

Safety training is one of the most effective ways to prevent injuries and improve well-being at work. Whether you're just beginning your safety journey or strengthening an existing program, WorkSafe Saskatchewan can help you find the right learning opportunities for your team.

Explore the full list of free and partner-provided courses, and register for training, at worksafesask.ca/training.

CLICK. TRAIN. WORKSAFE. Work Safe SASKATCHE WAN

Work to live.

worksafesask.ca/training



## Man sought after Little Red River collision

By JORDAN TWISS Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Police are asking the public for assistance in locating a 34-year-old man who is believed to have been involved in a vehicle-pedestrian collision in the community of Little Red River, Sask.

On Wednesday, Dec. 10, at approximately 8:30 p.m., the Prince Albert RCMP Detachment received a report of a collision involving a pedestrian. RCMP officers and local EMS responded and located

an injured adult female. The had not been located. female was transported to hospital by EMS with injuries described as serious but non-life-threatening.

Initial police investigation determined an altercation occurred between the female victim and an adult male in a pickup truck. The female was injured by the truck when the driver fled the scene.

As a result of continued investigation, the driver was identified as 34-year-old Jack Sanderson from Sturgeon Lake First Nation.

As of Monday, Sanderson

Sanderson is charged with two counts of operation of a conveyance while prohibited, and one count each of aggravated assault, dangerous operation of a motor vehicle causing bodily harm, and failure to stop after an acci-

Prince Albert RCMP is asking the public to report any sightings and information on the location of Sanderson, who is described as 5 foot 9 and 172 lbs, with brown eyes and short black hair. Sanderson has a geometric design tattoo on his right forearm and a barbed wire tattoo on his left arm.

Police believe Sanderson



Jack Sanderson.

may be driving an older model, red Dodge pickup truck. His current whereabouts are unknown.

Prince Albert RCMP continues to investigate.

Anyone who sees Sanderson is urged to not approach him, and instead report all sightings and information about his whereabouts to police at 310-RCMP (7267). Information can also be submitted anonymously by contacting Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or www.saskcrimestoppers.com.

## RCMP issues 'grandparent' scam warning

By SASK RCMP Submitted

Your phone rings. It's an urgent call saying your loved one is involved in a criminal incident. Your loved one needs help – and help can come in the form of a cash deposit to a lawyer or other person.

Only the high-stress situation you've been called about is not real - it's a fraud. This type of fraud is often referred to as an "emergency scam," "grandparent scam" or other variations.

Both the Regina Police Service and White Butte RCMP recently received multiple reports of "emergency" or "grandparent" scams or frauds.

In these most recent cases reported to police, the caller describes the false emergency to the victim and makes arrangements for someone to pick up cash from the victim. The callthey are under a "gag order" and there will be punishment if they go to police or tell anyone about the exchange of money. At this time, there are five confirmed victims in Regina and one in the White Butte area. In total, these victims report being defrauded in excess of \$40,000 dollars.

"Often the victims of these types of frauds are seniors, but anyone can fall victim," shares Staff

er tells the victim that Sergeant Shortland of a scam? Are the details RCMP South District. "High-pressure tactics are used to form urgent situations and often involve emotional manipulation. Educate yourself and speak with your loved ones about fraud awareness and empower them with tactics to use if they receive a suspicious call. RCMP investigators will continue working with partner police services – because these types of files cross borders and impact the public at large."

#### What to do

• Trust your gut! Ask yourself: could this be 'off' or circumstances strange?

• Do not offer any money or personal information until you confirm story details with your family first. Hang up and call your family at a number you know is theirs to verify information.

· Requests for payment in gift cards, a wire transfer. cryptocurrency or some other payment can indicate suspicious activity. Never provide your credit card number to the caller. Speak to your bank in person before making large

When to call police: if you believe you are a victim of this type of fraud, report it to your local police.

More tips and information is available here: https://antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca/protect-protegez-eng.htm

The Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre has information about how you can protect yourself from scams and fraud, features and variations of fraud, and more https://antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca/index-eng.

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE Resort Village of Pebble Baye**

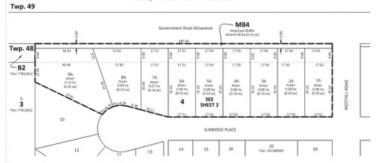
Public notice is hereby given that the Council of the Resort Village of Pebble Baye will consider adopting a bylaw under the Municipalities Act to amend Bylaw No. 3-84 known as the Zoning Bylaw and Bylaw No. 2-84 known as the Basic Planning Statement.

The proposed bylaw will redesignate a portion of Buffer Strip B4 Plan 78B10711 Ext 0 except for the northern most 3m running from Lots 1 through 9, Block 4, Plan 78B10711 from NA - Natural Area to R - Residential in the Basic Planning Statement. It will also rezone a portion of Buffer Strip B4 Plan 78B10711 Ext 0 except for the northern most 3m running from Lots 1 through 9, Block 4, Plan 78B10711 from P - Park and Community Facilities to R - Residential in the Zoning Bylaw.

#### AFFECTED LAND

The affected land is legally described as Buffer Strip B4, Plan 78B10711 Ext 0 as shown on the attached Plan of Proposed Subdivision dated March 14, 2025 and signed by Mathieu M.

## MAP:



#### **REASON**

The reason for the buffer strip rezoning and redesignation is to accommodate the proposed subdivision which provides for the portion of the buffer strip to be consolidated to the adjacent residential properties.

#### **PUBLIC INSPECTION**

Any person may receive a copy of the bylaw by emailing the Resort Village of Pebble Baye at resortpebblebaye@gmail.com.

Council will hold a public hearing on January 23, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. at the Council Chambers located at the Pebble Baye Maint, Shop/Fire Hall, 197 Westhill Rd, Pebble Baye, Sask, The purpose of the public hearing is to hear any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed bylaw. The Council will also consider written comments received at the hearing or delivered to the undersigned at the municipal office before the hearing.

Issued at Resort Village of Pebble Baye, Dec 12, 2025.

Terry Lofstrom, Administrator Resort Village of Pebble Baye

## Spiritwood Library activity highlights



Adults were happy to spend an evening at Spiritwood Public Library on Nov. 28 for a Christmas sign workshop. The Library received special permission to change its hours for Friday evening, with all spots filled. Participants were given some sign designs to pre-order, and then given all the wooden pieces to paint and glue their choice of sign. Let it Snow, Tis the Season, Merry Christmas, and Reindeer Crossing were the choices. Each sign was designed and made by Kilogram Design (Koltyn Gaboury). Everyone was happy with their signs to take home.

By HEATHER GATZKE, Branch Librarian

December 18, 2025

www.shellbrookchronicle.com | www.spiritwoodherald.com

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald 7

## Wheat research could be game changer

Some might call it the 'holy grail' of Prairie agriculture.

Now, whether plant researchers cracking the mystery to finally breed a nitrogen fixing wheat is really that significant will be a discussion for ag historians a decade or two after it happens. But if such varieties are created it will significantly change farming.

The idea of breeding a wheat capable of fixing nitrogen in the same fashion legumes such as alfalfa and field peas do is not new, but it has proved somewhat elusive.

According to a recent article at *producer.com*, a team at University of California Davis, led by Eduardo Blumwald, is working on a project, funded in part by Bayer Crop Science, that has used gene editing techniques to grow wheat plants that promoted the formation of nitrogen in



the surrounding soil.

It is probably the news story of the year in prairie farming, and that is suggesting a lot when you have the near daily trade shenanigans of U.S. president Donald Trump sending shockwaves through ag trade — largely because his meddling makes sense to no one but himself.

Where Trump is bad news — practically in anything he says or does — the wheat research is compellingly positive.

Wheat is something Canadian Prairie farmers know how to grow very well, and this country has earned its positive reputation as producers of high quality milling wheat.

So, if farmers can pencil out a positive return, it's a great crop to include in cropping rotations.

The problem is that

wheat has a hard time generating the returns of other crops — in particular canola, and other specialty crops, depending on the year.

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That is especially true in the case of legume crops, which can generate good returns based on supply and demand in a given year, while also impacting nitrogen needs by fixing it rather than having it farmer applied. That's good news for the year of the legume in terms of input costs, and it ripples into the follow-up year as well. That is why peas ahead of canola is such a good rotation.

Now, imagine farmers could get the same cost-benefit growing wheat that fixes

nitrogen. It would, to put it simply, be a game-changer.

And if the technology works in wheat, could it then be extended to work in other cereals, such as barley and oats?

Farmers could, in theory, greatly reduce their need to invest in nitrogen fertilizer, which, while immediately reducing costs, would also enhance longer term viability and reduce the crop's impact on the environment.

Now, such varieties are not imminent, but strides in research are speeding developments along, making the idea of a nitrogen fixing wheat seem more like a possibility than just a dream.

# Op-ed: Sask. debt climbing too high, for too long

By GAGE HAUBRICH CTF Prairie Director

The government has increased the debt by 136 per cent since 2017.

Since Premier Scott Moe took the helm of government, he has more than doubled Saskatchewan's provincial debt. Every Saskatchewanian's per capita share of the provincial debt is now about \$18,866.

Debt isn't a fun topic, but it's something taxpayers must face because we are the ones forced to pay the debt back and we're burdened with paying the debt interest charges every year.

Moe is planning on increasing the debt by \$2.1 billion this year, even though there have been no major droughts or natural resource price shocks shaking the province.

This shows the government is spending beyond its means has become a habit rather than a necessity.

Moe's government needs to come up with a debt-slaying plan, fast, because all this borrowing isn't free.

Every dollar the government borrows must be paid back plus interest. And there is a lot of interest.

Debt interest payments are costing taxpayers \$878.4 million this year.

Paying interest on the debt is costing Saskatchewan taxpayers more money than the departments of Environment, Natural Resources, and Economic Development combined.

Debt interest payments have cost taxpayers more than \$5 billion since 2017. That's enough money to build 17 new Saskatoon Children's hospitals.

But instead, the money was poured down the drain to cover for the government's years of borrowing.

The government can't just blame the pandemic and the government lockdowns for its debt increases. The Saskatchewan government only borrowed about half of that money during COVID. The government racked up the other \$7.2 billion in debt before and after the pandemic.

And this debt isn't an "investment." When business owners take out loans to buy equipment, they do it because it will

generate a profit and they have a plan to pay it off.

The government isn't going to be selling off kilometres of highway or old hospitals for profit. And it has no plan to pay off the loans anytime soon. That's because the government currently has no plan to stop borrowing money.

The government plans to keep increasing the debt until at least 2029.

Because of overspending, the government has already surpassed the debt number it planned to hit next year.

A big problem is the fact that the province keeps blowing its own budget. The government blew past its own spending plans by almost a billion dollars in 2024. In 2023, the government blew past its budget by \$2.2 billion. In 2022, it was \$1.4 billion. And in 2021, it was \$2.5 billion.

If Saskatchewan just stuck to its own budget, it could have cut its borrowing in half

Moe recently praised Saskatchewan for being the most affordable place to live in Canada. Part of the reason that Saskatchewan is so affordable is because we have lower taxes than some other places in Canada.

But if the government keeps racking up debt and wasting hundreds of millions of dollars a year on interest payments, there's a real risk the government will raise taxes on Saskatchewanians.

That's why an immediate plan to deal with the debt is crucial. Debt today is taxation tomorrow. And Saskatchewanians having trouble affording the basics need a tax hike like farmers need another drought.

The Saskatchewan Party says it believes in a "steady, gradual reduction in government spending and taxation while maintaining a firm commitment to balanced budgets." The province deserves credit for recent tax cuts. But spending isn't going down and budgets aren't balanced if the debt doubles.

Moe needs to immediately control government spending so the Saskatchewan government can stop borrowing money and get debt interest payments going down.

#### **COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**DEBDEN:** Wapiti Library hours: Tuesday 10am - 4pm; Wednesday 12pm - 6pm. Librarian: Aline Hannon **LEASK:** Wapiti Library & Legacy Gallery Hours - Tuesday 9am - 2pm;

Wednesday 2pm - 8pm; Friday 9am - 12pm MARCELIN: Wapiti Library - Saturday 10am - 2pm; Thursday 2pm - 8pm.

For information on all your library needs, please contact 306-226-2110. **SHELLBROOK:** Shellbrook Branch of the Wapiti Library located at 105 Railway Ave., West (Provincial building). Library Hours: Monday 2pm - 6pm; Tuesday 2pm - 8pm; Wednesday 2pm - 8pm; Thursday 12pm - 6pm; Friday 10 am - 5pm (Story Time 10:30am - 11:30am); Saturday 10am - 4pm.

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

**SHELLBROOK:** You are invited to Skate Shellbrook's Christmas Ice Show – Friday, December 19, 6:30 to 7:30 pm @ Richardson Pioneer Rec Centre (125 Main St, Shellbrook). Silver Collection at door. Raffle prizes available.

**SHELLBROOK:** Shellbrook Boreas Pickleball (Formerly Prairie Pickleball Club) – Come out and try the fun & social sport of Recreational Pickleball in Shellbrook! New Players: Free Play and Beginner Lesson for the month of January! For more information or to register, phone/text: Rhonda Martin at (306)468-7770.

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## Shellbrook Library November highlights

By EDDIE HOEHN
Branch Librarian

November was an exciting month for the library. **Participants** made poppies from egg cartons, felt, and their choice of pipe cleaner or popsicle stick stems at the Remembrance Day Poppy Craft Program on Thursday, Nov. 6. On Thursday, Nov. 13, participants created salt dough ornaments for decorating their Christmas tree at the Salt Dough Models Program. The kids used flour, water, salt, and cooking oil to make the salt dough,

with cookie cutters, and decorate them with food lour mazes on scrap pacolouring. kids drew different colour mazes on scrap paper with markers. They

On Monday, Nov. 17, participants made a Christmas tree decoration from popsicle sticks, construction paper, string, pipe cleaners, and cotton balls at the Popsicle Stick Christmas Tree Craft Program. The kids had fun making a homemade snow globe with a glass jar, a plastic toy animal, water, and glitter at the Animal Snow Globe Program on Thursday, Nov. 20.

Participants enjoyed working with robots at the Ozobots Program on Saturday, Nov. 29. The lour mazes on scrap paper with markers. They put the Ozobots on the paths to travel along them. The lights on the Ozobots changed colour to match the colour of the path that they were on.

The kids were excited to exercise their creativity at Lego Club by creating a skyscraper group build, a cell phone

recharge station group build, and a mosaic from Lego. Volunteers Samuel Schafer and Marj Bradley helped with some of the Lego Club sessions.

Participants used their imagination at Bear and Nursery Rhyme Storytimes. They listened to songs and made a foam bear finger puppet and a paper plate decoration of the cow jumping over the moon. Volunteer and local library board member Samuel Schafer presented Dinosaur Storytime on Friday, Nov. 7. The kids especially liked participating in a scavenger hunt where they found plastic toy dinosaurs hidden in the library.

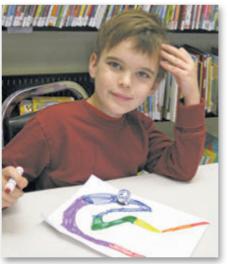
The library hosted a Guess the Book Contest for November, in which participants needed to guess the correct book title from a quote in order to win. Rosie Hodgson won the contest, with the correct answer being *We are in a Book!* by Mo Willems. She won a \$10.00 gift card donated by Prairie Homestyle Bakery on behalf of the local library board and a small container of playdough from the library.





Natasha, Ava, Bennett, Milo, Wesley, Wyatt, and Dawson with their cell phone recharge station for Lego Club.





Calder with his Ozobot at the Ozobots program.



Everly displays her foam bear finger puppets made at Bear Storytime.



Aubrie, Drohnen, Elijah, Emery, and Raelynn with their homemade snow globes at the Animal Snow Globe program.

## Spiritwood High School Toy Bingo a huge success

By DAVE HYNDMAN
Submitted

Under the "O", Outstanding!
That was the assessment of the

evening, following the Spiritwood High School's annual Toy Bingo.

There was a large crowd of Bingo players of all ages cramming the gymnasium Thursday, Dec 4, for the yearly event.

"We set up for 350," said SHS Principal Susan Fry. There were only a handful of chairs unoccupied, and virtually every table in the building had been conscripted into use.

The evening featured 13 games, including a "Share the Wealth" and Bonanza. Shantal Hujber was the lucky winner of the \$487.50 Share the Wealth prize, while Daune Dewhurst won the 50-inch 4K television set, which had been donated by Owen Day and family. There were three people calling Bingo, necessitating a "Bing-off" in which Dewhurst was the lucky winner.

Daune's son Bodie was congratu-

lated by friends as he carried the TV out of the building.

"It's not mine," he lamented. "My mom won it."

Prizes for the Bingo were donated by local and area businesses and many families.

Coralie Smith was the winner of the Food Basket in the raffle. This prize was donated by Hujbers Market on Main.

Members of the Grade 12 class, most of them dressed in costume, acted as elves, delivering prizes, selling bingo sheets and raffle tickets, clearing tables, and generally assisting where needed. It took three or four "elves" to deliver the prizes to the lucky winners.

Hosts for the evening were Avarie Conacher and Peyton Smith. Caller was Corbin Wingerter, who sprinkled in a number of Christmassy jokes, (What kind of money does Santa spend? Jingle Bills. They get worse. What is a vegan's favorite Christmas carol? Soy to the World. Told you! But they were entertaining.)

The Toy Bingo is an annual fundraiser put on by the SHS graduating class to raise funds for their graduation exercises in June. The event began sometime in the 1990s, started by C.D. and Cathie McIvor as a fundraiser for the Spiritwood Concert Band.

Following their retirement from the SHS staff, the Toy Bingo was taken over by each successive Grade 12 class. It has been held in December each year since its inception, apart from a two-year hiatus due to COVID.



Grade 12 students were "elves" for the evening, delivering prizes, selling bingo paper and raffle tickets, clearing tables and generally assisting where needed.



Close to 350 bingo players of all ages supported the Toy Bingo.



Hosts for the evening were Avarie Conacher and Peyton Smith, while Corbin Winger was the Bingo Caller.



Many parents of the grads were on hand to help, including these three who sold bingo paper to the almost 350 who came to play. Left to right: Lindsey Dauvin, Rhonda Turgeon, and Larissa Swityk-Conacher.

## U18 Elks lose two over weekend

By JORDAN TWISS

Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The U18 AA Parkland Elks were busy at home and on the road over the weekend, hosting the Martensville Marauders at the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre on Friday, Dec. 12, before traveling to Saskatoon the following evening to face the Saskatoon Crunch.

#### Elks (6) vs Marauders (7)

The Elks showed up ready to play against the Marauders on Friday night, striking in the first two minutes on a goal from Owen Hansen, assisted by Dalen Thiel. The lead lasted only a minute before the Marauders struck back.

Then, after a lull in the action, the Marauders took a brief 2-1 lead, before Davin Hart made it 2-2 on an assist from Kyle Naytowhow.

After a clean first period, the Elks' first penalty of the game got them in trouble, allowing the Marauders to reclaim their lead, then extend it to two goals at even strength just a couple minutes lat-

An unassisted goal from Brady Hujber narrowed the Marauders' lead back to one goal, and a late exchange of goals, including an unassisted goal for the Elks' Danec Wilson, saw the second period end with the score sitting at 5-4 in the Marauders' favour.

In what had the makings of a thrilling comeback, the Elks tied the game at 5-5 just under two minutes into the third period on Hart's second goal of the game, assisted by Logan Fisher. Then, with the help of a power play, they jumped ahead on a goal from Gabe Wadham, assisted again by

But the Elks shot themselves in the skate with another penalty, and the Marauders pounced on the opportunity to tie the score at 6-6.

A late goal gave the Marauders a 7-6 lead, and the Elks couldn't find the back of the net again, taking a hard-fought loss on the evening.

Elks (1) vs Crunch (5)

Traveling to Saskatoon the following day on less than 24 hours of rest, the Elks faced a tough challenge in the second-place Saskatoon Crunch.

The Elks weathered the early storm, surrendering just one goal in the first period, and one goal early in the second period, before scoring midway through the second on a goal from Davin Hart.

With the score at 2-1 after Hart's goal, the Elks still had a fighting chance. But the team couldn't get pucks to the net, while the Crunch fired a total of 63 shots on goal. More of those shots found the mark throughout the second period, giving the Crunch a 4-1 lead heading into the third, where a power play goal put an exclamation point on their victory.

With the pair of losses, the Elks sit at 2-13-0-1 on the season. The team was set to play its last game of 2025 on Thursday, Dec. 18, hosting the Humboldt Broncos in Shellbrook.



Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald

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## Minutes of an RM of Canwood meeting

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

A regular meeting of the Council of the Rural Municipality of Canwood No. 494 was held in the Municipal Council Chambers, at 641 Main Street, Canwood, Sask., on Oct. 21, 2025, commencing at 9:10 a.m.

Present were Reeve Levi Schutte, Chief Administrative Officer Lorna Benson, and the following Councillors for their respective divisions: #1 Kenneth Stene, #2 Gerald Muller, #3, Rick Jensen, #4 Mario Boisvert, #5 Kevin Olson, and #6 Cody Lockhart.

Delegations:

9:15 a.m. Dwight Diehl, Public Works Supervisor, Municipal Operations Update

Lockhart: That the minutes of the Sept. 16, 2025, Regular Council Meeting be approved as presented. Carried

Schutte: That the Statement of Financial Activities for the month of September 2025 for the R.M. General Account be approved as presented. Carried

Public Works Supervisor Dwight Diehl attended the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Boisvert: That we approve the payments as listed on the attached account listing for a total of \$815,459.52, Council Direct Deposits for October and Payroll Direct Deposits for 2025 Pay Period 20 & 21. Carried

Jensen: That we offer Wade Reiter, Debden, Sask., \$55,000 for Block A Plan 101598969 Ext 87. Carried

Muller: That we accept the bid of Levi Moore for the 2013 Ford F-150 XLT in the amount of \$2,000. Car-

Muller: That the regular meeting of Council be suspended at 9:55 a.m. for an in-camera session to discuss legal matters. Carried

Lockhart: That the regular meet-

ing of Council reconvene at 10:10 a.m. Carried

Muller: That we authorize the payment of \$7,500 to Peszko Legal as a retainer to seek legal advice. Carried

Councillor Boisvert declared a pecuniary interest and left the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

Jensen: That we authorize Prairie Road Solutions Inc. to proceed with the tender for the Larsen Bridge Project. Carried

Muller: That we proceed with the contract close-out for the conversion of the bridge to culverts at the Wreford Bridge. Carried

Schutte: That we acknowledge the Occupational Health Committee Meeting Minutes of Sept. 22, 2025. Carried

Olson: That we instruct the Reeve and Chief Administrative Officer to duly execute the Clearing the Path annual declaration. Carried

Olson: That Bylaw 2025-10 attached hereto and forming a part of these Minutes, being a Bylaw of the Rural Municipality of Canwood No. 494 to authorize the closing and leasing of certain roads pursuant to Section 13 of The Municipalities Act, now be read the first time. Carried (Editor's note: Council unanimously gave the bylaw three readings and adopted it.)

Olson: That we approve the development of a signed and maintained snowmobile trail in the Rural Municipality of Canwood No. 494. Permission is given to legally enter and use the identified trail in a lawful manner for the purpose of snowmobiling only. Entry and use are permitted only on the recreational right-ofway. Further to this, approval will be valid from Jan. 1, 2026, through to March 31, 2030. Carried

Public Works Supervisor Dwight Diehl left the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

Muller: That we accept the payout of \$90,000 from Saskatchewan Government Insurance for the 2019 International Gravel Truck LT. Carried Public Works Supervisor Dwight Diehl left the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Lockhart: That we accept the tender of Konica Minolta for the Bizhub C361i at a cost of \$6,674 plus applicable taxes with service rates locked in for 5 years. Carried

Jensen: That we accept the tender of Jensen Stromberg Chartered Professional Accountants, Saskatoon, Sask., at a cost of \$15,000 for 2025, \$15,750 for 2026, and \$16,500 for 2027. Carried

Boisvert: That we hire the website developer "loop" as the municipality's website provider and subscribe to a pre-designed theme and the Essentials Plan at a cost of \$3,250 plus applicable taxes. Carried

Jensen: That we adopt the revisions to Policy 8.04 Access to Information. Carried

Stene: That Bylaw 2025-08 attached hereto and forming a part of these Minutes, being a Bylaw of the Rural Municipality of Canwood No. 494 to provide guidelines for the record retention and the destruction of documents, now be read the first time. Carried (Editor's note: Council unanimously gave the bylaw three readings and adopted it.)

Jensen: That Bylaw 2025-09 attached hereto and forming a part of these Minutes, being a Bylaw of the Rural Municipality of Canwood No. 494 to establish a code of ethics for members of council, be read the first time. Carried (Editor's note: Council unanimously gave the bylaw three readings and adopted it.)

Muller: That we acknowledge the Development and Building Permit Applications of Saretta and Mark Pethick/Button to move in a cabin, with approval pursuant to Section 9.1.1(1)(b) of the Municipal Bylaw 2003-7. Carried

Jensen: That we acknowledge the Development and Building Permit Applications of Highway 55 Waste Management Corporation to replace window(s), with approval pursuant to Section 5.2.1(3)(e) of the Municipal Bylaw 2003-7. Carried

Stene: That we acknowledge the Development Permit Application of Alexander De Lara to install a dock and a bridge, subject to the condition(s) that the work must follow the parameters set out in the approvals obtained from Water Security Agency, or any other governing body issuing permits pertaining to this matter. Carried

Muller: That we acknowledge the Development Permit Application of Chantel and Kendall Nahorniak for a Temporary Use Permit for the well and shed located on Municipal Reserve at Pratt Lake. Carried

Muller: That we acknowledge the Development and Building Permit Applications of Brock and Sharon Evans to construct a new cabin, with approval pursuant to Section 9.1.1(1) (a) of the Municipal Zoning Bylaw 2003-7. Carried

Jensen: That we approve the request of Dean Holmes to consolidate Lot 7 Block 1 Plan 101955102 Ext 0 with Lot 8 Block 1 Plan 101955102 Ext o. Carried

Boisvert: That we acknowledge the Development and Building Permit Applications of Peggy Reimer to move in a cabin, with approval pursuant to Section 9.1.1(1)(b) of the Municipal Bylaw 2003-7. Carried

Jensen: That we acknowledge the Development and Building Permit Applications of Garth and Cheryl Evans to construct an agricultural pole barn, with approval pursuant to Section 5.1.3(1) of the Municipal Zoning Bylaw 2003-7. Carried

Muller: That we adopt the revisions to Policy 4.19 Employee Recognition Program. Carried

Jensen: That we now file the correspondence. Carried

Muller: That we now adjourn at 2:05 p.m.

## New Shellbrook school top priority for SRSD

#### By MICHAEL **OLEKSYN**

LJI Reporter, PA Daily Herald

Rivers School Division Blais. has approved three major capital infrastructure projects to be completed over the next three years.

On Monday, Dec. 8. the board approved the major and minor capital recommendations to be sent to the Ministry of Education. The facilities committee discussed the projects at a meeting in November.

The projects were approved for the 2027-2028 major and minor capital renewal program. The division's priorities remain the same as in the 2025-2026 cycle.

The Major and Minor Capital report was presented by superinten-Saskatchewan dent of facilities Derek

> The top major capital priority is the construction of a new K to 12 school to replace W.P. Sandin High School and Shellbrook Elementary School. This project has been moved into the Top 10 priorities for the province.

> "We definitely find that encouraging, that we are now on the top 10 list in the province for our top priority," **Education Director Neil** Finch said. "We don't know what that means timing wise, but definitely there's a consid-

eration for our top priority to be something that we'll see in the future."

Second on the list is renovation and renewal for Carlton Comprehensive High School and third is construction of a new school to replace École Arthur Pechev School. Carlton remains a second priority because of the age of the building.

The Shellbrook consolidation project was the top priority in 2025 for the 2026 budget and remains in place for when the province passes their 2027 budget.

Finch said the reasons they had for supporting a new K-12 school remain in place.

focused on consolidation as a top priority for several years. During Budget 2025, the Shellbrook consolidation project entered the Top 10 for the province on Budget Day.

W.P. Sandin is 66 years old and is in need of replacement, according to the report. The Facilities Committee, which includes Blais, several board members. and CFO Jerrold Pidborochvnski, helps to lead decision making.

The Committee uses the Facilities Master Plan as a guideline.

The Ministry of Ed-Infrastrucucation Branch invites ture all school divisions to submit their top three

The board has been major capital and top two minor capital funding requests by Feb. 16, 2026.

The Ministry changed the way capital submissions are dealt with. They broke the capital submissions into two categories with some being higher priority handled through capital allocation such as school replacement.

Other necessary items did not rank high enough and the Ministry made the decision to split them off.

The top minor capital priority is the renovations and renewal of Christopher Lake Public School and in second place is renovation and renewal of Red Wing School.

Christopher Lake School is currently holding strong for population and is at 120 per cent student capacity.

Finch said it is good be remain consistent in funding requests.

"We haven't been approved for either." Finch said. "We've got our top major and top minor capital projects that have not been approved, so our priorities haven't changed. We're still hoping to get something approved within those lists."

All submissions are reviewed, prioritized and placed on both the Major and Minor lists. Decisions on awarding funding will be announced on Budget Day 2026.

## Recognizing Canada's best in 2025

It's been a great year for Canadians on the world's athletic stages. As 2025 winds down, it's time for the year-end awards in the top three categories — male and female athlete and top team

Male athlete — It's pretty hard to not be declared the athlete of the year in Canada when you've actually shown you're the best player in the National Basketball Association (i.e. the world). Twenty-six-yearold Shai Gilgeous-Alexander of Hamilton had a dream year with the Oklahoma City Thunder, leading his team to the league championship, taking the individual scoring title and being voted the NBA's Most Valuable Player. He averaged 32.7 points per game last year and is off to a similar start this year as the Thunder lost only one of their first 23 games.

Runner-up — Tennis star Felix Auger-Aliassime moved up the men's world rankings to No. 5 thanks to a sensational season on the court. The 6-foot-425-year-old won more than \$5 million in prize money, had a 50-24 record in singles' play, and won three tournaments — in Brussels, Belgium, Montpelier, France and Adelaide, Australia.

Female athlete — There is no official world ranking for swimmers, but Toronto's Summer McIntosh is either No. 1 or No. 2 among females. The 19-year-old won four golds and one bronze at the world aquatic championships and is the current 200- and 400-metre world record holder.

Runner-up came out of nowhere (almost), but Victoria Mboko, who started 2025 ranked 350th in the world, zoomed all the way up to 18th thanks to her sensational play on the tennis court. The highlight was her victory in Toronto at the Rogers National Bank Open. where she beat Naomi Osaka in the final. Mboko also won a tournament in Hong Kong and racked up \$1.44 million in earnings.

Team of the Year —



This one was easy: Toronto Blue Jays came within one out of winning the World Series, and the team's success captured the hearts of Canadians from coast to coast. Pre-season picks to finish at or near the bottom of the American League East, the Jays instead roared to a record of 94-68, thanks to outstanding offensive seasons from George Springer, Vladimir Guerrero, Jr., and Bo Bichette. After beating the Seattle Mariners in the A.L. championship series, the Blue Jays took the powerful L.A. Dodgers to Game 7 of the series before bowing out with a 5-4 loss.

Runner-up Rachel Homan curling could logically lay claim to being the greatest women's curling team in Canadian history, quite a title when the competition includes the likes of Sandra Schmirler, Colleen Jones and Jennifer Jones. A threetime world champion, including 2025, Homan and her rink of third Tracy Fleury, second Emma Miskew and lead Sarah Wilkes put together an astonishing 75-8 record in 2025 and capped off the year with a decisive victory in the Canadian Olympic curling trials. She and her team will wear Canada's colours in Milan, Italy, at the 2026 Winter Games where she will seek her first Olympic medal in her third try.

- The Babylon Bee, on Twitter: "Sad: Britain Tries To Play Baseball But Gets The Rules Wrong And Forgets Their Gloves And Puts Sticks Behind Home Plate For Some Reason"
- From Jack Finarelli's site, sportscurmudgeon. com, on Weber State

coach Mickey Mental being fired: "And obviously, if he and his wife ever have triplets, they should name them Funda, Instru and Monu."

- Headline at fark. com: "Congratulations on making the World Cup for the first time in 50 years, Haiti. Too bad your fans won't be allowed into the U.S. to see it."
- Vancouver comedy guy Torben Rolfsen: "Raiders' coach Pete Carroll said he is 'all in' on QB Geno Smith. Just like he was 'all in' on that Super Bowl pass from the one-yard line."
- A soccer fan on Twitter after the Great One had trouble pronouncing names of countries at the FIFA World Cup draw: "The World Cup Group of Death is Wayne Gretzky and any country's name he has to pronounce."
- More on Gretzky's pronunciation mishaps: "Can you imagine if Niger had qualified and he picked that ball... you'd see like 20 people try to tackle him before he started to speak."

- Torben Rolfsen again, on the Professional Women's Hockey League expansion team in Vancouver: "The 'Let's Go Goldeneyes' chant is a bit too long. Could we shorten it to 'Let's Go G-eyes?"
- Headline at fark.com: "Jayden Daniels cleared to be injured in game that some say could decide how far the Commies end up from the playoffs."
- Another one from Rolfsen: "Shohei Ohtani said he will play for Japan when the World Baseball Classic opens at the Tokyo Dome. Hey, whatever happened to tryouts?"
- Mike Bianchi of the Orlando Sentinel: "UCF starting quarterback Tayven Jackson will enter the transfer portal and will soon be on his way to his fourth college. At this point, he isn't getting an education; he's collecting frequent-flyer miles. His next NIL deal should be sponsored by U-Haul!"

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

## Elks top Royals, Raiders stay undefeated

By JORDAN TWISS Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Needing a win to climb up the Twin Rivers Hockey League standings, the Shellbrook Elks Senior Hockey Club traveled to Hague on Friday, Dec. 12, hoping to pick up a win against the Hague Royals.

The Elks jumped out to just the start they needed, taking an early 1-0 lead on a goal from Payton Kachur, assisted by Kaiden Couture.

In a period that saw the Elks outshot 13-7, Elks goalie Alex Bell did a good job keeping the Royals off the board, until Darius Sawatzky struck, unassisted, to tie the game at 1-1.

The Elks made the most of their limited opportunities on a late power play, reclaiming the lead on a goal from Cole Duperreault, assisted by Ethan Beaulac. And Duperreault added an insurance marker early in the second period, which was negated by a late Royals goal from Owen Tallmadge, assisted by Mackenzie Wallace and Matthew Ripplinger.

In a third period that almost perfectly mirrored the second, the Elks went back up by two goals on an early strike from Matthew Flodell, assisted by Kaiden Couture, while the Royals' Noah Lessmeister scored late on an assist from Coltyn Blanchard to narrow the gap to 4-3.

With time winding down, the Elks tightened their defences and held on for the win.

The Elks now sit at 3-5 on the season.

This weekend, the team ends 2025 by hosting the Royals for a grudge match on Saturday, Dec. 20. The action at the Richardson Pioneer Centre kicks off at 7:30 p.m.

#### Raiders (6) vs Vikings (4)

Over in Blaine Lake, the 3-0 Blaine Lake Raiders were hoping to remain perfect for their home opener against the Langham Vikings on Saturday, Dec. 13.

Hoping to play the role of season spoiler, the Vikings made the most of a mid-period power play to jump out to a 1-0 lead on a goal from Chad Bernier, assisted by Nick Kalnicki and Jordan Unger. The Raiders happily returned the favour later in the period, however, when Patrick Gauthier struck on the power play, with assists from Kelly Friesen and Kyle Schmidt.

Though the game remained tied at 1-1 for the remainder of the first period, the tie didn't last long into the second, as the Raiders rattled off three unanswered goals within the first four minutes. Braiden Onishenko struck first with an unassisted goal, followed by Gauthier with his second of the night on an assist from Thomas Jean. Shortly after, Gage Helm scored on assists from Onishenko and Schmidt.

Keeping the offensive fireworks going, the Vikings got back on the board less than a minute after Helm's goal, with Jordan Unger narrowing the gap to 4-2 on an assist from CJ Lewis. But the Raiders had the last laugh of the second period, taking a 5-2 lead on a goal from Adam Horner, assisted by Helm and Clay Casavant.

With the help of a period near the midway point of the third period, the Raiders surged ahead by four goals on a strike from Brandon Lesko, assisted by Kelly Friesen and Patrick Gauthier. Though the

Vikings would score two more goals to cut the Raiders' lead in half, they couldn't catch up before the final buzzer.

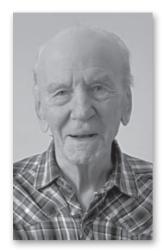
With the 6-4 win, the Raiders climb to 4-0 on the season.

The team is in action on home ice again this weekend, hosting the Perdue Pirates on Friday, Dec. 19. Puck drop is set for 8 p.m.



#### **O**BITUARY

## Magnus George Hansen



Magnus George Hansen May 20, 1939 December 9, 2025

Magnus will be lovingly remembered by his wife Bonnie of 61 years; his 2 sons Darren (Shawna) and Curtis Hansen (Sherry) Hansen; his 4 grandchildren Derrek (Amanda) Hansen, Cameron (Jessica) Hansen, Hokan (Madison) Hansen, Hailey Hansen; his 4 great grandchildren Brody Hansen, Dacia Hansen, Sawyer Hansen, Gunnar Hansen; his sisters-in-law Leota Sommerfeld, Diana Linda (Ken) Herman, Baumgartner; as well as numerous nieces and nephews and all his close friends and neighbors.

Magnus was predeceased his parents Haakon and Esther Hansen; an infant son; his 2 brothers Arvid Hansen and Gary Hansen; his brothers-in-law Lyle Herman and Howard Brunton; his parents-inlaw Raymond and Mildred

Brunton.

A private Celebration of life will be held at a later

In lieu of tributes, donations may be made to Shellbrook and Districts Health Services Foundation (Box 33 Shellbrook, SK SoJ 2Eo) or Whispering Pine Place Recreation Dept., Canwood, SK (Box 418 Canwood, SK SoJ oKo).

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

## Varied conditions across the province at freeze-up

**By WATER SECURITY AGENCY** Submitted

The Water Security Agency (WSA) has released the Conditions at Freeze-up Report for 2025. As we often see in Saskatchewan, conditions vary regionally. While this report gives an early indication of areas that are more vulnerable to potentially above or below normal runoff, it is not a spring runoff forecast; winter snow, which plays a big role in spring runoff, cannot be accurately predicted at this time.

Lakes and reservoirs in the Qu'Appelle, Souris and Saskatchewan River basins are expected to be at or near normal levels prior to the spring runoff in 2026. Inflows to Lake Diefenbaker are expected to remain near normal throughout the winter. Outflows from Lake Diefenbaker have been increased to manage lake levels within normal winter operating levels and are planned to be in the middle of the normal operating range on March 1, 2026.

freeze-up in November brought light to moderate snowfall across Saskatchewan, with heaviest accumulations near North Battleford, Melville and the southwest.

At freeze-up, soil moisture levels are near adequate in eastern areas of the grain belt, while western areas and the north are exhibiting soil moisture deficits.

Current long-range forecasts suggest slightly above normal precipitation and below normal temperatures through the winter months over much of the province. At this time, there are no areas where WSA believes that there is a heightened risk of above normal spring runoff in

Over the winter, WSA continually monitors conditions in Saskatchewan as well as the snowpack in the mountains, which greatly contribute to spring stream flows. WSA undertakes snowpack surveys at multiple spots in the province to better understand current conditions prior to issuing the runoff report. The preliminary Spring Runoff Outlook for 2026 The two short snowstorms prior to will be issued in early spring 2026.

#### GOOD NEWS

#### CONSUMERISM GETS YOU NOWHERE

#### By JORDAN CLARK

Shellbrook Pentecostal Assembly

The bible was written by God, through men, so that we could understand who God is, how to worship Him, and how to grow close to Him. The saddest thing about our state of Christianity in Canada is the fact we have allowed the mindset of culture to infect our daily routines, our habits, our values and even how we view God.

Christmas.

For Christians this is a time to reflect on the wonderful birth of Christ. A time when light penetrated the darkness. When hope came to the hopeless in the perfect God-man Jesus Christ. Yet, for the world it is a time of consumerism. A time to buy gifts, to put them under a Christmas tree and open them on Christmas morning.

It is a time when marketing companies target our wallets and tell us that we need to buy their material plastic they will help us and change our lives, if we buy these products. Unfortunately, so many Christians prioritize celebrating Christmas exactly as the world celebrates it — buy everything, go broke, open gifts, visit the mall Santa — this is what Christmas is all about.

It reminds me of Genesis 13:10. "Lot lifted his eyes and saw all the valley of the Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere — this was before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah — like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt as you go to Zoar. So, Lot chose for himself all the valley of the Jordan... Lot settled in the cities of the valley and moved his tents as far as Sodom."

The context here is a little ironic. You see, Abram was given an amazing blessing by God in Genesis 12:1-3. God was going to give him a nation — the land of the Canaanites, who were enemies of God. Abram built an altar at Shechem, but ultimately fled to Egypt because famine struck the land. There, he lied to the Pharaoh about his wife being his sister because he was afraid of imprisonment, or worse, death.

Yet, God didn't punish Abram. Rather, He punished the Pharaoh and struck plagues on Pharaoh. Abram, Sarai, and Lot eventually came back to Canaan after the famine with an abundance of material items, livestock, and gold gifted to them by the Pharaoh because God struck the Pharaoh with plagues. This materialism ultimately looked like a

Now, Lot's herdsmen were bickering is the Christian's living hope.

and fighting with Abram's herdsman forcing them to split up. One would think all their problems would be solved because they had all the money and resources one could as for. Yet, this "blessing" ultimately would become a "curse" for Lot.

Lot chose the land that looked fertile, populated by the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. It seemed like a strong strategic choice. But there was one problem.

"Now the men of Sodom were wicked exceedingly and sinners against the Lord." (Genesis 13:13)

This decision by Lot would eventually lead to Lot's wife getting killed by God as she fled from the Lord's judgement of Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis 19. This happened because she was not willing to give up the wickedness this city had to offer. She desired to have what Sodom had as she looked back towards the burning Sodom and Gomorrah her eyes were fixed on the world's lusts rather than the hope only God can bring (Gen. 19:22-27).

There is much in this world fighting for our eyes, our gaze, our attention. Sodom looked nice, it looked like a good place to live, but everyone was rebellious to God, unrepentant in their sin, which is why God burned it.

Lot only cared about his material need instead of what his soul needed — he was willing to live in a wicked place because it offered what seemed like true abundance in material resources, but it led to death, destruction, and his wife's death.

The reason God helps Abram (who later becomes Abraham) is because God has a plan. A plan to save the world from their sin, to come down as Jesus Christ, to die on a cross, rise from the grave, and bring the world a true sign of hope.

You can't buy this hope at Walmart, Best Buy, or Amazon. You can't put this hope on a Christmas tree or light it up in a Christmas light outside your house. You can only find this hope in the one true living God who was born in a manger to a virgin girl who came from the faithful lineage Abram.

We know what Lot chose, but look who Abram chose.

"Then Abram moved his tent and came and dwelt by the oaks of Mamre. which are in Hebron, and there he built an altar to the LORD." (Genesis 13:18)

Repent. Turn to God. Keep your eyes on Him. Jesus loves vou. Jesus has made a way to bring you into heaven, a priceless gift of grace that is given if only we put our faith in Him and Him alone. He

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## Shellbrook Elementary hosts Christmas concert



Ms. Carrier's Grade 1 class shows off its moves on the "Gingerbread Cookie Dance."



Mrs. Jewitt's Grade 2 students sing a Christmas song to the tune of "The Wheels on the Bus."



Mrs. Chretien's Grade 2/3 class sings "That's Christmas to Me."



Ms. Amendt's Grade 1/2 class performs "Santa Claus is Coming to Town."



Mrs. Pederson's Grade 5 class play air (and leg) guitar on "Run Run Rudolph."



Mrs. Verbonac's Grade 3/4 class performs "Jingle Bell Rock."



Mrs. Senger and Ms. Storry's Kindergarten students perform "Jingle Bells."



Mrs. Ledding's Grade 4 students recite How the Grinch Stole Christmas.

## Canwood Library November highlights

By BEV WYATT Library Board

Wapiti's Canwood Public Library has been filled with fun and laughter at a variety of programs and activities this past while. The library has had a couple of classrooms visit with K and Grades 1/2. The Board also sponsored party at Whispering Pine Place.

The library was pleased to host the elementary school kids and musician Nina Kell, who sang some great songs that got everyone's hands clapping and toes tapping.

The Kids Club welcomed more than 50 kids at its weekly events in No-

a month of Bingos and the birthday vember alone. In the spirit of giving, Place. A wonderful way to spread joy they decorated beautiful angels to gift over this holiday season. to the residents at Whispering Pine

We love to see you at the library!



Kids display their colourful Christmas trees.



Kids Club participants made angels to gift to residents at Canwood's Whispering Pine Place.