

Mont Nebo Store enters new era



Elder Marjorie Hyman cuts ribbon, flanked by Chief Larry Ahenakew to the left and former owners, Glenn and Sherry Mezzo to the right.

By BEVRA FEE
Spiritwood Herald Reporter

With a rich history in the tiny community of Mont Nebo, the local hub and the only remaining business saw a change of ownership that was marked by a grand opening on Nov. 26.

Over 30 attendees were gathered at noon to hear a message from Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation Chief Larry Ahenakew, as he welcomed new and current staff to the newest version of the Mont Nebo Store.

Built in 1950 by the Knight family, the store evolved into being the Stefens Store until 1978, when it became Gunderson's Store.

Most recently, it was owned and operated by a Gunderson daughter and her husband, Sherry and Glenn Mezzo. The Mezzos have been at the helm since 1997, when they renamed it the Mont Nebo Store.

"I have seen so many changes through the years that I could write a book," said Sherry Mezzo. "My dad added the post office in the mid 1980s, and we have done some trading post and pawn business to our regulars over the years. You have to always diversify to meet the customers' changing shopping habits. We have been affectionately known as the Mont Nebo Mall sometimes."

When Sherry and Glenn decided to

retire, their main focus was on keeping the store in operation and keeping the staff employed.

"Ahtahkakoop and Mistawasis have been our biggest supporters, with many of the members holding a post office box here," Sherry said. "We are grateful that Ahtahkakoop has taken it over and kept the Mont Nebo Store name — I know they will carry on the spirit of friendliness and community."

Economic Development Director for Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation Kevin Isbister touched on minimal changes to be made to the store's offerings.

"We will be adding 'Spirit Bear Coffee Bar' in the immediate future, and we will be selling gasoline at the

pumps. There is a food truck on hand today, that is owned by members, and we will be showcasing some of our members' merchandise and we will be promoting our members. We will employ three Ahtahkakoop members and two non-members. We are hoping to be able to expand the services of the post office, but we need to work with Canada Post on that issue. The hours of operation will stay the same, but possibly be extended during the summer."

Under Ahtahkakoop's management, the store is part of Treaty Six Developments. Isbister says the group played a role in the decision-making and helped get everything in order.

Continued on page 2



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Shellbrook entrepreneur receives \$5,000 bursary

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The Shellbrook and District Chamber of Commerce honoured the achievements of a member of the local business community, during a special lunch held at the Shellbrook Senior Citizens' Centre on Friday, Nov. 28.

On behalf of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce and the provincial Ministry of Trade

and Export Development, local chamber representative Darin Stene presented a 2025-26 Young Entrepreneur Bursary to Robyn Borgmann, owner of Robyn's Foot Care.

A licensed practical nurse certified in advanced foot care, Borgmann says her nursing background made it clear to her that there was a need for preventative foot care services in Saskatchewan. Seeing people facing challenges to access the care they needed, either due to a lack of transporta-

tion or a lack of available services, she decided to launch Robyn's Foot Care.

With her Young Entrepreneur Bursary, worth \$5,000, Borgmann says she plans to invest in specialized equipment, supplies, and ongoing education to ensure her clients continue to receive fast and up-to-date treatment.

"The most rewarding part of being an entrepreneur is seeing the difference I'm making in my clients' daily lives," she said. "When they tell me they can walk more comfortably, it makes everything worthwhile."

The Young Entrepreneur Bursary program is a joint initiative of the Government of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce. The government has provided the chamber with \$1 million over the next three years to deliver the program to entrepreneurs between the ages of 18 and 35 who have been in business for fewer than 10 years.

This year, A total of 57 young entrepreneurs from 48 communities across the province received \$5,000 each to help their small businesses get off the ground. In addition to Borgmann, Blaine Lake's Ashley Dyck, who operates the Flowing Well Café in Hepburn, Sask., was a recipient of a bursary.



Robyn Borgmann (right) accepts her Young Entrepreneur Bursary from Shellbrook Chamber of Commerce representative Darin Stene.

Shellbrook seniors honoured for volunteerism

Mont Nebo Store enters new era

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On hand to officially bless the opening of the new Mont Nebo Store were Elders Marjorie Hyman and Sheila Reimer. While Hyman's blessing was delivered in English, Elder Sheila spoke her blessing on the store in Cree.

Isbister invited the Mezzos to offer a message, "It's been a long journey for Glenn and I, being involved for over 40 years. We have made many friendships

and we have enjoyed our staff, they have helped us keep going."

Before heading outside for the ribbon cutting ceremony, Chief Larry Ahenakew addressed the guests, emphasizing the importance of creating jobs and training for the First Nations youth. Chief Ahenakew also thanked Elder Sheila and Elder Marjorie for cutting the ribbon and blessing the opening.

The grand opening

in Mont Nebo was the second major ceremony celebrated by Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation last week. On Monday, Nov. 24, the communi-

ty held a grand opening for the Riverbend Store (formerly the Olive Tree restaurant), located on Highway 12 just after the Petrofka Bridge.




Representatives from Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation cut the ribbon on the Riverbend Store.



Two Shellbrook Seniors Association members have been recognized by the Saskatchewan Seniors' Mechanism for their volunteerism. Adeline Fossey (left) received the Blooming Perennial Award, which goes to seniors older than 90 who are still actively engaged in their communities. Lorraine Thibeault received the Well-Being Award, recognizing her efforts to promote physical activity and overall well-being in the community.

By **JORDAN TWISS**,
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter



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Highlights of a Shellbrook Town Council meeting

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

(The following council highlights are not the approved minutes of council for Nov. 24.)

Shellbrook’s Town Council held its governance and priorities meeting and regular meeting in person and via teleconference on Monday, Nov. 24.

In attendance were Mayor Amund Otterson, Councillors Pam Boettcher, Cheryl Ledding, Brent Miller, Kathleen Nording, Arlette Segberg, and Tim Settee, and the town’s CAO, Sigourney O’Halligan.

During the brief governance and priorities session, which is typically reserved for high-level longer-term municipal strategic planning, CAO O’Halligan noted that planning and work are ongoing at the former Knox United Church, with Rempel Contracting handling things.

The building was acquired by the town a few years ago, and the hope is to turn it into the future home of the town office and the Shellbrook Public Library. The move would give both the town and R.M. of Shellbrook enough office space, and also save the town the annual cost to rent the library’s current space.

With the town having recently applied for the Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund (CHIF) grant for the water treatment plant project, O’Halligan expressed hope that some work and planning might be able to begin on that in the near future (if the town’s application is selected).

In other assorted items, O’Halligan noted that the contract to run the canteen will come to term next season and be put to tender, and the town’s garbage and recycling contract with Greenland Waste will come to term in December 2026.

For garbage and recycling, she said there have

been changes to the provincial recycling program that council will have to consider: either it can continue contracting the service, or it can join the SK Recycles program (formerly Multi-Material Stewardship Western) and have the organization provide recycling bins and services. If it chooses the latter, council needs to pass a resolution by February 2026.

Finally, O’Halligan noted that the town recently acquired two properties through tax enforcement. While it intends to keep one of the properties in its inventory, the other will need to be put to tender within the next year.

Officially wrapping up the governance and priorities meeting, Mayor Otterson called council’s regular meeting to order, beginning with the customary Treaty 6 land acknowledgement in recognition of Truth and Reconciliation. Then, it approved the meeting’s agenda, adopted the minutes of its Nov. 10 regular meeting, and moved on to the reports of administration and committees.

With the end of 2025 fast approaching, O’Halligan noted things are winding down and she’s focused primarily on year-end work and preliminary budgeting for 2026.

Touching briefly on the water treatment plant project, Mayor Otterson noted that Mike Tanchuk, the town foreman, has identified maintenance at the water treatment plant that has been deferred, such as replacing valves and cleaning reservoirs. Should the town’s application for the CHIF grant be denied, the town may need to proceed with the maintenance, rather than delaying it any further.

Aside from this, council briefly reviewed the accounts for approval and the CSO report for October, and then moved on to the mayor and council forum.

Here, Councillor Boettcher brought forward a concern from a resident about the need for a street-light or sign along a road off 2nd Avenue that leads to Happy Hearts Childcare Centre. There was some confusion about which road the resident was referring to, but council said it will seek more information about the concern.

Next, Councillor Miller returned to the idea of beautifying the end of Main Street where the CN Station/museum once sat. He suggested asking the public for input for a large sign or mural with art that represents Shellbrook. Councillor Boettcher said her visual arts students would be able to come up with something, while councillor Settee said the town could also look at improving lighting down there.

Shifting to new business, where council had little to discuss, the first order of business was approving the 2026 meeting schedule, followed by a motion to approve spending for normal town activities until the passing of the 2026 budget.

Finally, council agreed to purchase seven additional hours for the Shellbrook Public Library at a cost of a little over \$9,000. This means the library will continue to be open 35 hours per week (Wapiti provides 28 hours per week).

RCMP provides ice safety tips

By **SASK RCMP**
Submitted

Corporal Jamie Diemert, Coordinator of the Saskatchewan RCMP Underwater Recovery Team (URT), would like to remind the public to be careful on the ice and around water this time of year.

“Winter is coming very slowly this year. Lakes, rivers, sloughs, ponds and dugouts are slowly freezing on the surface, but there is still warm water below the surface,” he said.

“This creates weak ice that is unsafe. It can break under the weight of a single person. Please take ice very seriously. If you fall in, it is very difficult to get out of cold water while the ice is breaking around you. There is a high risk of drowning.”

Here are Corporal Diemert’s ice safety tips:

- In early season, as the ice conditions are not stable, do not walk, play, work or drive on the ice.
- Do not walk on white or snow ice. It is the weakest type of ice. Because white

ice traps air and snow while freezing, it is not strong and can break under the weigh of a single person. It will form when temperatures are close to zero Celsius. This is the type of ice appearing these days across Saskatchewan and it is not safe.

- Wait for clear strong and stable ice to form before getting onto the ice. Clear ice, often appearing blue, is the strongest type of ice. It will form only when temperatures have been consistently below zero for a long time. Clear blue ice is safe only when it is of a certain thickness. The Canadian Red Cross recommends a minimum of: 15 cm (6 inches) for skating, walking or skiing in small groups; 20 cm (almost 8 inches) for larger groups, such as skating parties; and 25 cm (almost 10 inches) for snowmobiles or ATVs.

- If, for any reason, you must be on the ice, use a Personal Flotation Device (PFD) and have self-rescue ice picks ready to be used.
- If you fall in the wa-

ter, call for help. Do not press on the ice near you to raise yourself up. Instead, swim out of the water horizontally and kick your legs to propel yourself out of the water. Once out the water, don’t stand up. Instead, crawl or roll away from the area, spreading your arms and legs to evenly distribute your body weight.

- If you witness someone on thin ice who needs help, immediately call 911. The best way to safely help a person is from the shore – or there is a high risk you could end up in the water yourself. Extend your reach with a long pole or throw the end of a rope at the person in need.

- Consider other factors that can weaken ice that looks safe. Cracks in the ice, recent air temperatures fluctuating above and below zero Celsius, moving water under the ice, and the presence of storm sewers that bring salt from nearby roads can all make the ice unsafe.

The Underwater Recovery Team (URT) is a



specialized service offered by Saskatchewan RCMP Operational Support Services. URT provides assistance on a wide variety of police operations that require underwater investigation, including missing persons, evidence retrieval and search and recovery.

Lake Country Co-operative Association Limited
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Lake Country Co-operative Association Limited is seeking candidates to fill the following 2026 Delegate positions:

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CANWOOD	– One 3-year term	PRINCE ALBERT	– Five 3-year terms
CHOICELAND	– One 2-year term	SHELLBROOK	– One 3-year term
CHOICELAND	– One 3-year term	SMEATON	– One 3-year term
DOMREMY	– One 3-year term	SPIRITWOOD	– One 3-year term
DOMREMY	– One 1-year term	SPIRITWOOD	– One 2-year term
KINISTINO	– One 3-year term	WAKAW	– One 3-year term

Delegate Nominations will be held until December 11, 2025. For more information, and for the Nomination Application Form please scan the QR or visit the website at www.lakecountryco-op.crs



Shellbrook Chronicle
& Spiritwood Herald

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through
January 1/26
Regular office hours will
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is Fri., Dec. 19/25**
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Ottawa-Alberta MOU hits immediate roadblocks

In the House of Commons, wars of words between opposing parties are an every day occurrence.

But in a parliamentary system where the expectation seems to be that MPs will blindly and mutely go along with their party leader, conflicts within individual parties are rare (or, perhaps, just easier to hide).

Over the past few weeks, however, all the juicy drama in Ottawa has centred around MPs breaking ranks with their parties.

First, we had the great budget week betrayal at the beginning of November, when Acadie-Annapolis MP Chris d'Entremont resigned from Pierre Poilievre's Conservative caucus to join Prime Minister Mark Carney's Liberal government, and Edmonton-Riverbend MP Matt Jenneroux quit politics altogether.

Under normal circumstances, two sudden and unexpected departures from a political party would provide enough "excitement" to sate the appetites of political junkies for a good, long while.

But November's intra-party drama didn't end there.

Last week, Steven Guilbeault – the infamous Environment Minister of former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau – resigned from his cabinet post with Mr. Carney's government over Mr. Carney's decision to sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on pipeline development with Alberta Premier Danielle Smith.

The move wasn't as shocking as Mr. d'Entremont's aisle crossing; Mr. Guilbeault, after all, has made fighting for the environment his core mission and even been arrested for his beliefs.

Still, the blurring and breaking of party lines does highlight just how much Canadian politics have shifted in recent years.

The shift may not herald an era in which party reins are loosened and MPs are permitted to vote more freely with their consciences, rather than being forced to vote with their par-



JORDAN
TWISS

~
News Editor

ties. But it certainly seems to represent a new era in the long-estranged relationship between Ottawa and Alberta.

Well... maybe.

The MOU doesn't guarantee a pipeline will be built tomorrow, or even 10 years from now.

Instead, it outlines the emission and other climate conditions and timelines that need to be met in order for a new oil pipeline to the Pacific to be approved under Mr. Carney's major projects law.

These conditions include Alberta signing on to an industrial carbon pricing agreement to lower methane emissions by 75 per cent over the next 10 years, and the federal government axing the Trudeau era oil and gas emissions cap and making adjustments or exemptions to the federal oil tanker ban off the coast of B.C.

The MOU also includes commitments from both governments to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, and to engage with the government of British Columbia and B.C. First Nations to "ensure they share in the financial benefits" of any pipeline project.

Last, but certainly not least, the MOU identifies four projects:

- Construction of one or more private sector constructed and financed pipelines, with Indigenous Peoples co-ownership and economic benefits, in addition to the expansion of the Trans Mountain pipeline;
- Constructing and financing Pathways, the world's largest carbon capture, utilization, and storage project;
- Construction of thousands of megawatts of AI computing power, with a large portion dedicated to sovereign cloud for Canada and its allies; and
- Construction of large transmission connections with B.C. and Saskatchewan to strengthen the ability of the western power markets to supply low carbon power



to oil, LNG, critical minerals, agricultural, data centres, and CCUS industries in support of their sustainability goals.

In the midst of all the conditions and commitments, the MOU does include timelines for these things to happen within the next year, suggesting some level of seriousness on the part of both governments.

But before anyone celebrates the agreement and the new friendship between Ottawa and Alberta, there are some harsh realities that need to be taken into consideration.

First and foremost, a plan is not a guarantee that a pipeline will be built.

Mr. Carney clearly has no interest in repeating the mistakes his predecessor made with the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion. This means waiting for a private sector proponent to step forward, which means waiting for the right market conditions for a pipeline to be built.

Currently, global markets are inundated with an oversupply of oil, which is pushing prices down to below \$60 per barrel. Analysts suggest this could persist well into 2026, with JP Morgan projecting that prices could drop into the \$30 per barrel range by 2027.

In short, it's doubtful that a private sector player is going to be in any

hurry to build a pipeline in the next year or two.

Then, of course, there is the matter of getting B.C. Premier David Eby and B.C. First Nations on board with a pipeline.

The odds of that happening are somewhere between "over my dead body" and "snowball's chance in hell."

Apart from rejecting the idea of a pipeline to the west coast, Mr. Eby has expressed dismay at not being consulted during the negotiations between Ottawa and Alberta, calling the agreement a distraction from "real projects" that will benefit Canadians.

Meanwhile, B.C.'s Coastal First Nations have said they'll use "every tool in their toolbox" to keep oil tankers out of the northern coastal waters, and the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs is also opposed to a pipeline.

This leaves Mr. Carney in a difficult position.

If he maintains the status quo, Alberta's separatist fervour is certain to boil over again.

If he paves the way for a pipeline against the wishes of B.C.'s government and First Nations, he's unlikely to ever get cooperation from them on any future projects.

Essentially, then, the MOU has changed almost nothing.

Shellbrook Chronicle

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Spiritwood Herald

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

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

Jordan Twiss & Meghan Penney, Co-Publishers

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

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

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

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

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

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U18 Elks go the distance with Wolfpack

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

The U18 AA Parkland Elks had a light schedule over the weekend, travelling to Nipawin on Sunday for an afternoon faceoff against the North East Wolfpack.

In a season where not much has gone to plan for the Elks, Sunday’s game saw the Elks

limit the Wolfpack to just one goal in the first period, an early strike by Taylor Coleman, assisted by Nixon Coleman and Sawyer Pollon.

The Elks then tied the score at 1-1 on an early second period goal from Brady Hujber, assisted by Aiden Tait and Camden Olsen, and held that tie for nearly 10 minutes, until a pair of penalties, ending a pair of Wolf-

pack goals, came back to bite them. Nixon Coleman scored both goals, with Chase Skopliak earning two assists and Taylor Coleman and Hayle Dennis picking up one assist each.

A late goal from the Elks’ Davin Hart, assisted by Kyle Naytowhow and Hujber, closed the gap to 3-2, but another penalty near the middle of the third period cost

the Elks, allowing Dennis to score on assists from Nixon Coleman and Kane Huston.

Once again, Hart struck back for the Elks, scoring on assists from Danec Wilson and Logan Fisher. Then, with a little over 90 seconds left in regulation time, Tait snuck in a goal, assisted by Hujber and Olsen, to force overtime.

With neither team generat-

ing much offence, the overtime period decided nothing, ending the game in a 4-4 tie.

The Elks now sit at 1-10-0-1 on the season. This Saturday, Dec. 6, the team hosts the Saskatoon Sabercats at the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre. On Sunday, the team heads to North Battleford for an afternoon tilt against the North West Stars.

YOUR TWO CENTS From “Can AI?” to “Should AI?”

Dear editor,

If you had asked me five years ago if my instructional design work could be done by artificial intelligence (AI), I would have said no. Now, I would say yes. The question has changed from can AI replace human workers to, should it?

The recent federal budget cuts the federal public service by adopting AI tools. Imagine at 65, you defer your OAS benefits because you are still working. Then, your cheques start arriving. Your local Service Canada is closed. The automated phone menu is a maze. Your online My Service Canada Account is equally con-

fusing. You give up, trapped between AI systems with no human help.

Giving up has financial implications for you, as OAS benefits are taxable. However, the larger harm is psychological. Being at the mercy of AI algorithms is likely to produce stress and alienation, undermining your wellbeing and civic trust.

Canada needs long-term AI policies that keep pace with technology and protect humans. But under first-past-the-post (FPTP), parties chase short-term wins, ignoring future consequences. Even if the current government implements good policies, the next govern-

ment may change it to align with their politics.

To harness AI safely and for the common good, we need policies that prioritize humans and lasting solutions. Electoral reform with proportional representation (PR) fosters collaboration and consensus, encouraging long-term policymaking that benefits everyone. Support electoral reform with PR. Visit FairVote.ca or CharterChallenge.ca to learn how.

35% votes = 35% seats—simple math, fair representation

Nancy Carswell
Shellbrook, Sask.

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BRANDED CONTENT

BRINGING CARE WITHIN REACH: How Saskatchewan Blue Cross Is Helping People Access Support When They Need It Most

When it comes to health, access matters. Whether it’s getting care for a sudden illness, finding mental health support or simply needing advice from a professional, people across Saskatchewan deserve help that’s close, convenient and compassionate.

That’s why Saskatchewan Blue Cross has launched a groundbreaking strategic collaboration that offers expert **virtual care** and **mental health support** through Cleveland Clinic Canada and Homewood Health, included in all Personal Health Plans and eligible Group Benefit Plans. These programs are designed to make it easier for people to connect with care, **no matter where they live or when they need it.**

HEALTH SUPPORT FOR THE WAY WE LIVE TODAY

Saskatchewan is a province defined by community, but it’s also defined by distance. In many towns and rural areas, healthcare professionals and mental health services can be hours away. For people with busy schedules, caregiving responsibilities or mobility challenges, finding the right help at the right time isn’t always easy.

That’s why these new benefits matter. **Virtual Care and Assistance Programs** bring healthcare and mental wellness services directly to people, wherever they are. It’s a reflection of Saskatchewan Blue Cross’s commitment to supporting **whole health and wellness** province-wide.

VIRTUAL CARE: 24/7 ACCESS TO HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Through a partnership with **Cleveland Clinic Canada**, Saskatchewan Blue Cross members can connect with a **nurse practitioner** through the Express Care Online virtual care platform **24/7 from anywhere in Canada** (service in Quebec is available seven days a week, including evenings and weekends). You can book appointments at any time of day: **no waiting rooms, no travel time** and **no cost** at the point of care.

Virtual Care can help with many common medical needs:

- Non-urgent symptoms like infections, allergies or minor injuries
- Prescription renewals and new prescriptions
- Lab or imaging requisitions
- Medical referrals

For families and individuals in rural or remote communities, it’s a game-changer. It means people can get professional medical advice within hours, not days or weeks.

INDIVIDUAL AND EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS: WELLNESS AND MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

Health isn’t just physical — mental and emotional well-being are just as important. The **Individual Assistance Program (IAP)** and the **Employee and Family Assistance Program (EFAP)** offer confidential counselling, coaching and wellness services to help people navigate life’s challenges.

Support is available for stress, anxiety, grief, relationship concerns, financial pressures and more. Members can connect with professionals by phone, video or in person, with **flexible appointment options** and **no referral needed**.

The program also includes access to **digital wellness resources**, such as self-guided programs, articles, wellness videos and tools to support ongoing personal growth and everyday well-being. These services are provided through **Homewood Health**, one of Canada’s leading mental health and wellness networks, ensuring quality, privacy and compassion in every interaction.

A COMMITMENT TO EMPOWERING HEALTHY LIVES

These new benefits are part of Saskatchewan Blue Cross’s broader mission: **to empower healthy lives and make healthcare more accessible for everyone in our province.** By investing in digital and virtual health options, the organization is helping to close the gap between where people live and the care they need.

It’s a continuation of a long-standing commitment to community well-being — one that also includes initiatives such as the **Heart Safe Program, support for hospital foundations** and partnerships that enhance **Health Literacy** across Saskatchewan.

Together, these efforts strengthen the province’s health system by removing barriers and creating a more connected, supportive experience for residents.

HELPING SASKATCHEWAN THRIVE

As healthcare evolves, access and flexibility will continue to shape the future of well-being in our province. Saskatchewan Blue Cross’s addition of Virtual Care and Assistance Programs ensures that people from city centres to rural communities can get the right help at the right time. Because sometimes, the **most powerful kind of care is the kind that meets you where you are.**

To learn more about these programs and how they’re helping create a healthier, more connected Saskatchewan, visit sk.bluecross.ca.



Invested in our communities.
Empowering *healthy lives.*



RCMP releases November offenders list

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

The Saskatchewan RCMP has updated its list of the province’s most wanted offenders, in hopes the public can assist it in tracking them down.

The updated list, released on Nov. 21, was accompanied by the news that Ian Beeds and Joel McKenzie, who were only added to the list in October, had been arrested.

However, three of the offenders on the new list are still known to travel

in this area.

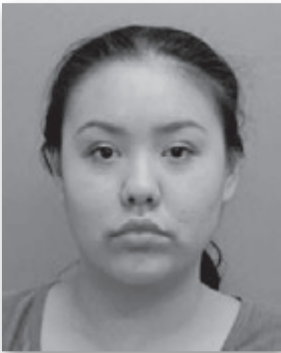
Police note that this list is not a complete list of all persons wanted by the Saskatchewan RCMP. Offenders appearing on this list are determined by a data-driven scoring system using the Crime Severity Index, a Statistics Canada measurement that looks at both the number and the relative severity of crimes. Factors such as age, gender, race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, religion, sexuality or disability are not considered in the scoring process.

Still wanted as of

Nov. 21 was 25-year-old Wionna Katcheetch (also known as Wynonna Katcheech, or Wynona Katcheech), who is wanted for attempted murder, intimidation of a justice system participant, kidnapping, robbery with a firearm, and failure to comply with a release order (2 counts).

Katcheetch is described as 5’4” and 161 pounds, with brown hair and brown eyes. Police warn that she could be in Medstead, North Battleford, Moosomin First Nation, or Saulteaux First Nation.

Also still on the list is 37-year-old Brennan Harold Sakebow, who’s wanted for: assault (two counts), mischief under \$5000, public mischief, failure to comply with undertaking (two counts), aggravated assault, breaking and entering, possession of prohibited weapon, pointing a firearm (two



Wionna Katcheetch.

counts), careless use of firearm, disguise with intent, discharging firearm with intent, forcible confinement, and possession of prohibited firearm.

Sakebow is described as 5’10” and 194 lbs., with black hair and brown eyes. Police believe he may be in Saskatoon, Meadow Lake, or Pelican Lake First Nation.

This month brings only one new addition to the most wanted list in 32-year-old Courtney Kaye, who’s wanted for: assault with a weapon, forcible confinement, robbery, and possession of a weapon for dangerous purpose.

Though police have no photo of her, Kaye is described as 5’5” and 130 pounds, with red hair and green eyes, and a scar on her left middle finger. She has known connections to Canwood, Debden, and Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation.



Brennan Harold Sakebow.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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

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

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

BIG RIVER: Wapiti Library - Tuesday 11:30am - 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: Kinette Club of Shellbrook presents Small Business Christmas Party – Friday, December 12, Shellbrook Community Hall. 5pm Cocktails; 6:30pm Christmas Supper; 8pm Comedian Darryl “Junior” Koszman & friends with dance to follow. Tickets: \$50 ea. or \$350/table of 8. \$10 entry fee for dance entrance after 10pm. Limited tickets available. For tickets contact shellbrook_kinettes@hotmail.com or Shellbrook Kinettes facebook page. All proceeds to Shellbrook Community Hall improvements.

SHELLBROOK: Kinette Club of Shellbrook – Twinkle Tour! Sunday, December 7. Meet & line up on Elevator Road at 5:30pm. Register your home prior to December 2 via email: shellbrooktwinkletour@gmail.com

PARKSIDE: A Journey Under the Stars – The Christmas Story: A Live Narration Event. Sat., Dec. 6, 6pm, Main Street, Parkside, SK. We invite you to take a walk with us through the historic event that changed the world forever. From Mary receiving the promise to the birth of Jesus in a manger, you will experience the Christmas story like never before. Free Admission & Parking; Entertainment; *Cash Only* Marketplace, Sleigh Rides, Heated tent serving chili & a bun. Parkside “Light Up” to follow. For more info: 306-714-0255

SHELLBROOK: Shellbrook & District Arts Council – Annual Carol Festival – Sunday, December 7, 7pm, Shellbrook Theatre. Admission \$5.

SPIRITWOOD: Witchekan Wildlife Federation Horn Scoring – Sunday, December 14, 2pm @ Ag Barn in Spiritwood.

Senior Elks drop two at home

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The Shellbrook Elks Senior Hockey Club had a busy line-up of hockey at the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre over the weekend, playing host to the Dalmeny Sabres on Friday, Nov. 28, and the Bruno T-Birds on Nov. 29.

After starting the season with two losses, followed by two shutout wins, the Elks were looking to continue their climb up the Twin Rivers Hockey League standings. Instead, they took two tough, one-goal losses.

Elks (4) vs Sabres (5)

Since the 2025-2026 regular season began, the Elks have had no problems getting pucks to the net. They continued this trend with early success against the Sabres, when Rylan Moe scored within the first 90 seconds to put them up 1-0. Cole Duperreault assisted on the goal.

The Elks’ slim lead held for most of the first period, until a power play allowed the Sabres to tie the game up on a goal from Kyle Martin, assisted by Corbin Schmidt and Dawson Rowley.

The Sabres’ power play remained sharp in the second period, when Easton Rask put the visiting team up 2-1 on assists from Chase Gallant and Terrin Belosowsky. And in very short order, the Sabres were up 3-1 on a goal from Rowley, assisted by Devin Dicus and Martin.

Having gone quiet since the opening minutes of the game, the Elks’ offence roared back to life with an immediate counterstrike, with Levi Logan scoring on an assist from Kaiden Couture and Duperreault scoring just over a minute later, on an assist from Nick Martin, to tie the game right back up.

But as the action moved to the third period, and more than 20 minutes went by without a goal, the Elks once again got themselves in penalty trouble. This allowed Dalmeny’s Wyatt Wurtz to put the Sabres up 4-3.

Once again, though, the Elks were able to strike back with a goal from Payton Kachur, assisted by Tyler Rock, to tie things back up with just seven

minutes left on the clock.

Then, just as overtime seemed inevitable, the Sabres scored with just one second left on the clock to take the win. Kyle Martin netted the goal on an assist from Nathaniel Martin.

Elks (5) vs T-Birds (6)

Hosting the Bruno T-Birds the following evening, the Elks followed a similar script by scoring early on an unassisted goal from Jody Blais.

But the T-Birds were also reading from the same playbook, as Ty Dauvin scored on assists from Landin Frank and Tristan Hermanson to tie the game up late in the first period. Then, they struck twice early in third period on goals from Mitch Girolami (assisted by Blake Berschiminsky) and Cody Bergermann (unassisted) to go up 3-1.

Just like the night prior, the Elks struck back with two rapid-fire goals from Cole Duperreault, assisted by Ethan Beaulac and Dallas Galloway, and Matthew Flodell, assisted by Brendon Beaulac and Duperreault, to tie the game at 3-3.

The T-Birds scored one last time before the period’s end, with Bergermann netting his second of the game on an assist from Spencer Bergermann.

But, the Elks retaliated with an early third period goal from Brendon Beaulac, assisted by Nathan Flodell and Jody Blais, to tie things up. Then, Dallas Galloway struck on the power play, assisted by Ethan Beaulac, to give the Elks a 5-4 lead.

Though they were outshot 25 to 9 throughout the third period, the T-Birds made their limited opportunities count. First Berschiminsky tied the game at 5-5 with an assist from Hermanson. Next, with just over two minutes left and a power play advantage, Hermanson put the T-Birds up 6-5 on assists from Girolami and Berschiminsky.

The lead would hold, leaving the Elks to take another loss and fall to 2-4 on the season.

This weekend, the team hits the road to face the undefeated Rosthern Wheatkings on Saturday night.

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Rural, municipal infrastructure can't be overlooked

If you live in an urban community, you are likely aware that there is an increasingly serious infrastructure deficit happening.

You need only drive the streets of almost any community you come too and you will find many of them pock-marked with holes in the asphalt.

The bouncing of your vehicle down an urban street, where asphalt may have been laid literally decades ago and is showing its age by its deterioration, is only the most obvious issue of infrastructure still

in place long after its reasonable expectation of life.

It's the same with deteriorating sidewalks, and more concerning underground services such as water and sewer lines. And the problem of old infrastructure extends to rural municipalities, too, with decades old bridges past due for replacement across the Prairies.

The bridge issue is a big one for rural areas. If one goes out of service, it can add miles to simply getting from the farm to town for all



CALVIN DANIELS

your needs. That situation is annoying if it's a grocery run, but could be deadly if it adds miles in a health emergency situation.

The situation is more concerning, because farmers now haul grain in much larger — and

thus heavier — units than when bridges were built and put into service. As they age, the bigger weights have to be concerning to the continued life of old bridges.

So while we can all appreciate the value of infrastructure, whether urban or rural, it has largely been ignored for decades in terms of replacement.

Everything wears out in time, and yet that simple fact has been largely ignored by all levels of government when it comes to having plans for timely

upgrades to old sewer lines, sidewalks, bridges, and all the rest.

It can be appreciated that, at the municipal level, there are always more demands on budgets than dollars to invest. Understandably, this often means local councils look at a street and figure a few patches might suffice when money to replace the asphalt is not there.

It's a similar situation in RMs, where repairing an old bridge has a lower immediate cost than full replacement.

And it's not like federal or provincial dollars

have flowed freely to help — somewhat understandable, because the need is so immense and ultimately the dollars from all three levels of government come from the same source: taxpayers.

But time moves ever forward, and as the years pass, asphalt and pipes and bridges grow older, and thus closer to failure and collapse and the issues such would cause.

How we deal with our infrastructure deficit in urban and rural municipalities will be a key to the future of both.

Sask. auditor to review wildfire response

By JORDAN TWISS

Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

After a wildfire season that saw communities evacuated, evacuees left stranded without guidance, and a portion of the province's air tanker fleet grounded during the worst of the wildfires, Saskatchewan's auditor's office has announced that it will be investigating the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency's (SPSA) wildfire performance.

In addition to looking at the SPSA's wildfire response, the auditor's office will also review the province's recent purchase of new water bombers as part of its routine financial audits, following allegations that the government paid twice what it should have for four new firefighting aircraft (at a cost of an extra \$100 million to taxpayers).

The performance review will take an in-depth look at government agencies' activities, systems, and processes to determine whether the use of public resources follows good practice and complies with legislative

authority.

This is not the same as a special investigation, which would require approval from the legislature. The Sask. Party government has already voted down a motion from the Saskatchewan NDP calling for a public inquiry into the wildfire response.

The performance review audit comes after residents of Denare Beach say the SPSA was inadequately prepared when wildfires destroyed half of the northern community in June. East Trout Lake was also largely lost to wildfires, and evacuees have reported sleeping in tents or cars due to a lack of hotel rooms and supports.

The auditor's findings are expected to be tabled next year in either the June or December volumes presented to the Legislative Assembly.

The provincial government has contracted tax and accounting firm MNP to conduct an independent review of the wildfire response.

In the meantime, the Provincial Ombudsman has launched an investigation into the lack of supports for

wildfire evacuees and the Saskatchewan NDP has renewed its calls for a full, independent public inquiry into the province's wildfire response.

"Clearly the Sask. Party failed to manage this disaster response from day one, and it's the people of the North who paid the price," NDP MLA Hugh Gordon said at a news conference in Saskatoon last Tuesday morning.

"What we need is a truly public inquiry ... where an independent judge can interview whoever they choose and release findings without government interference," he said. "Saskatchewan deserves a real inquiry that answers to the people and not to the premier."

The Saskatchewan NDP also continues to press for an exemption of the PST on home rebuilds in wildfire-damaged areas, alleging that the Sask. Party could take at least \$6 million from those who lost their homes in the wildfires.

NDP introduces rent control bill

By SASK NDP

Submitted

The Saskatchewan NDP has introduced a landmark bill to make life more affordable and get Saskatchewan's worst-in-the-country rent hikes under control.

The bill follows months of consultation with landlords and landlord organizations, home builders, industry experts, not-for-profit organizations, and renters. Currently, there are approximately 300,000 renters in Saskatchewan.

"I want the thousands of Saskatchewan renters out there to know that we've heard you," Leader Carla Beck said. "So many Saskatchewan people are working multiple jobs, doing everything right, and still having to choose between rent and groceries."

"That's not the future I want for my kids, or my parents, or for anyone in this province. We need rent

control, and we need it now."

Bill 608, The Rent Control Act, would tie maximum rent increases to the Consumer Price Index, stopping big corporate landlords from increasing rents by unreasonable double-digit amounts every year.

During consultations, the Saskatchewan NDP heard from countless seniors and young people concerned about 20 — sometimes even 30 — per cent rent increases from corporate landlords.

"Big corporate landlords — many of which are headquartered in Alberta and Ontario — should not be able to jack up rents 20 per cent in a single year," said April ChiefCalf, Shadow Housing Minister, who introduced the bill.

"Saskatchewan is like the wild west of big corporate landlords after 18 years of the Sask. Party. Our province deserves a future where everyone that works hard can afford to put a roof over their head."

Rita Racette, a Regina senior with cancer, had to give away her cats because she can't afford to keep them while her rent keeps going up on her Boardwalk unit.

"When I first moved into my unit in 2022, I was paying \$1,329. Now I'm paying \$1,684," said Racette. "I have no savings and I'm living on my pension. Everything keeps going up and it's ridiculous how long we wait for renovations."

According to Statistics Canada, nearly every province that has implemented rent control has seen a greater increase in new housing investments than Saskatchewan, contrary to the arguments of the Sask. Party and big corporate landlords like Boardwalk.

According to Rentals.ca, average rent in Saskatchewan has gone up for 40 consecutive months and has increased 24 percent in the past 2 years — the highest increase in Canada.

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Spiritwood Library November highlights

By **HEATHER GATZKE**
Branch Librarian

The Spiritwood Public Library was a hub of activity in November. The Dessert of the Month winner was Bernice Duhaime. She was unable to pick up her cherry cheesecake made by board member Dana Doucette, but Betty Duhaime was able to pick it up for her. On Wednesday, Nov. 19, the library had an early dismissal craft & activity. Participants

made and decorated their “Cool Penguin” craft with working thermometer, then had several indoor snowball fights. The snowballs were large white pom-poms. On Wednesday, Nov. 26, Lego masters were given the challenge to create something using only one colour or to make it monochromatic. Some fantastic builds were made including a side by side, a house, a fancy black prison, and some flowers and animals.



Kids made a “cool penguin” craft with a thermometer.



Betty Duhaime (left) accepts the November dessert of the month from Dana Doucette on behalf of winner Bernice Duhaime.



Lego Club participants work on monochromatic builds.

Sask., Feds renew \$10 per day childcare deal

By **MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**
Submitted

Education Minister Everett Hindley and Secretary of State (Ru-

ral Development) Buckley Belanger, on behalf of Canada’s Minister of Jobs and Families and Minister Responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency of Ontario, Patty Hajdu, announced the extension of the Canada-Saskatchewan Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement for another five years, starting in 2026-2027. The newly negotiated extension reinforces Saskatchewan’s commitment to building an early learning and child care (ELCC) system guided by a shared vision with Canada focused on quality, affordability and access. “Affordable child care is an economic tool that helps Saskatchewan grow,” Hajdu said. “When parents can find good, reliable child care, they can work, train, or build a business. That helps families earn more and helps the whole province stay competitive. In Saskatchewan, lower fees are saving families thousands of dollars and keeping more people in the workforce. We will keep working with partners to protect and expand these spaces so every child can

learn, and every family can plan for a strong future.” “This agreement reflects the needs of Saskatchewan families and supports the flexibility of our child care landscape,” Hindley said. “Since 2021, we have created thousands of new spaces and reduced fees to \$10 a day. We will continue to build on that tremendous progress to deliver affordable, high-quality care and support the dedicated professionals who make it possible.” Also extended are the Canada-Saskatchewan Bilateral Early Learning and Child Care Agreement for another five years, starting in 2026-2027, and the Infrastructure Fund for an additional year, until 2026-2027. The extended agreements include expanded age eligibility so that children in child care who turn six while attending Kindergarten can continue to receive \$10 a day care until they complete the school year. This multi-year federal investment of \$1.6 billion will continue improving access and affordability to early learning programs and child care for children and families in Saskatchewan. Base funding for early learning and child care programs will increase by three per cent (via an

escalator) per year for four years starting in 2027-2028. Saskatchewan has created more than 91 per cent of the 28,000 additional child care spaces targeted in the initial agreement with the federal government in 2021 and was the third province to reduce child care fees to \$10 a day. Saskatchewan is also committed to attracting, retaining and growing a strong and skilled workforce of Early Childhood Education (ECE) professionals. From April 2021 to September 2025, over \$171 million in provincial and federal funding has supported a made-in-Saskatchewan approach, including:

- Wage enhancements of up to \$8.85 per hour for certified ECEs working in regulated child care;
- Workforce enhancement grants for recruitment and retention initiatives;
- Tuition-free training and professional development for ECEs; and
- Bursaries and grants to support individuals to take training.

The extension of the Canada-Saskatchewan Early Learning and Child Care Agreements is an important step in Canada and Saskatchewan’s continued work together to ensure accessible, affordable and high-quality child care.

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The Chronicle & Herald will still be picked up from community pick-up bins as usual and will remain free for non-subscribers.

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald



ADVERTISING DEADLINE IS FRIDAY 4 P.M.

Shellbrook Library activity highlights

By **EDDIE HOEHN**
Branch Librarian

On Wednesday, Nov. 19, Laurel Jensen taught attendees about Kenya and talked about the many different kinds of animals she encountered on her safari trip there in December 2016.

Laurel showed attendees pictures of her travels. She saw many wild animals and birds, including elephants, buffalos, impalas, hippos, hyenas, lions, topis, waterbucks, Vervet Monkeys, Black-backed

Jackals, Saddle-billed Storks, ostriches, Crowned Cranes, a mongoose, zebras, giraffes, warthogs, and Thomson's Gazelles. She also saw the Secretary Bird, which eats snakes as part of its diet.

Laurel travelled to Nairobi, which is the capital city of Kenya. In Kenya, the two official languages are Swahili and English. Shillings are the currency used in Kenya. Some people climb Mount Kenya, which is located in

the former Eastern and Central provinces of Kenya. Kenya has cattle and other livestock. Laurel visited a small dairy in Kenya which hosts people for lunch. The public can buy cheese at the dairy.

On Tuesday Nov. 25, the library hosted its sixth Trivia Night. Volunteer and local library board member Samuel Schafer presented snow

and ice-themed Trivia Night. There were seven participants who were split into two teams. They needed to identify pictures of animals that turn white in winter, as well as famous animated characters with cold-based powers. The participants also named the seven dwarfs from Snow White and answered which Olympic Sports have the most

gold medals for Canada.

Author Wanita Koczka came to the library on Nov. 25 to present a reading from her book *Courage and a Castle*. Wanita was born in Saskatoon and lives on an acreage near Holbein. *Courage and*

a Castle is about Wanita's mother, Mary, and her life before and after she was placed in a care home. Wanita watched interviews of Mary on videotape and took notes in order to collect the true stories to write her book.



Laurel Jensen shares a photo of a lion she saw on a Kenya safari trip.



Naomi, Sarah, MaryAnne and Marj (in front) take part in Trivia Night.



Author Wanita Koczka shared her book *Courage and a Castle*.

Sask. amends firearms act

By **MINISTRY OF CORRECTIONS,
POLICING & PUBLIC SAFETY**
Submitted

The Government of Saskatchewan has introduced amendments to The Saskatchewan Firearms Act. The amendments are in response to the federal government's decision to move forward with its national buyback program to remove more than 2,500 firearms models reclassified as prohibited by federal legislation since 2020.

The legislation proposes that anyone who seizes a firearm under new federal firearms laws must pay the owner fair market value as determined by the Saskatchewan Firearms Commissioner. Firearms will be deemed to be as "seized" in Saskatchewan if both the firearm is impacted by federal firearms legislation or bans and the owner does not receive fair market compensation within 12 months of the federal legislation or ban coming into effect.

The Government of Saskatchewan continues to advocate for alternatives to the federal buyback program; however, the amendments to The Saskatchewan Firearms Act will help ensure those impacted by the federal government's decisions can receive fair market value for their property.

"The amendments we are introducing will promote public safety and help safeguard the heritage of law-abiding firearms owners by holding the federal government accountable for providing fair compensation to all affected Saskatchewan firearms owners," Corrections, Policing and Public Safety Minister Tim McLeod, K.C. said. "Rather than targeting law-abiding firearms owners, we believe our approach of providing law enforcement with the tools and expertise they need to secure and protect Saskatchewan communities from illegal firearms is a more effective firearms safety measure."

The federal government has stated that funding for the buyback program will be capped at \$742 million and compensation will be offered on a "first-come, first-served" approach, with no guar-

antees of compensation once the funding cap is reached.

To help ensure all affected Saskatchewan firearms owners receive fair compensation from the federal government, an online portal will soon be launched to provide appraisals for all firearms, ammunition and accessories impacted by federal legislation.

Saskatchewan firearms owners will then be able to use the appraisals as evidence in court to hold the federal government accountable for providing fair compensation to all those affected by their legislation.

"Individuals should not be criminalized for having a firearms licence and owning legally-obtained property," Saskatchewan Firearms Office (SFO) Commissioner Robert Freberg said. "Lawful firearms owners are not causing public safety concerns in our communities. The firearms affected by the federal government's reclassification, which are currently legally owned by individuals and businesses, are rarely used in criminal activities across Canada. The real concerns are firearms that have been smuggled in from the United States or

those that have been illegally modified for use in gang and illegal drug activities."

The amendments will also allow the SFO to collect and store firearms on behalf of Saskatchewan firearms owners who wish to voluntarily turn in their firearms. This will ensure firearms owners do not face potential criminal charges for possessing prohibited firearms while they pursue compensation from the federal government.

Additional amendments include:

- Enabling medical professionals to report patients to the SFO if they have a medical condition that may impact their ability to use or possess firearms safely; and
- Allowing the Chief Firearms Officer to inspect firearms ranges and clubs and designate firearms safety instructors in the province.

The provincial government and SFO will continue to advocate against the buyback program and encourage the federal government to invest in initiatives that will address firearms smuggling and the use of illegal firearms in criminal activities, such as the recently established Saskatchewan Ballistics Laboratory.

Shell Lake Legion holds AGM

By **CAROLYN LALONDE**
Shell Lake Legion

The Shell Lake Legion branch held its annual general meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 18, with eight members present.

The group passed resolutions to dispense with the audit, in lieu of a detailed financial statement at year's end, to use Innovation Federal Credit Union as its financial institution, and to approve its executive members, includ-

ing president Christine Wollms, secretary Anita Weiers, treasurer Gwen Stringer-Klassen, vice chair Jack Klassen, and second vice chair Stephen Cornielson.

The branch's standing committee appointments are: Sergeant at Arms — Jack Klaasen, Rentals — Christine Wollms, Bar — Bernard Lalonde, Padre — David Jensen, Lottery — Christine Wollms, Gwen Stringer-Klaasen, Maintenance — Stephan Corneilson, Bob Kostiuk, Jack Klassen

(advisor), Publicity — Carolyn Lalonde, Anita Weiers, Food Convenor — Christine Wollms, Recruitment — Bernard Lalonde, and Nominating Committee — Jack Klassen.

The branch also voted to hold two events throughout 2026, with menus and details to be decided upon at a later date.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

A lunch was provided by Gwen Stringer-Klassen.

Minutes of an RM of Spiritwood meeting

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

The Regular Meeting of the Council of the Rural Municipality of Spiritwood No. 496 was held on Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2025, in Council Chambers located at 218 Main Street in Spiritwood, Sask.

Present: Reeve — Shirley Dauvin, Division 2 — Dale Wasden, Division 4 —Steve Buban, Division 6— Dennis Laventure, CAO — Colette Bussiere, and Foreman — Darcy Laventure.

Absent: Division 1— Vacant, Division 3 — Terry Wingerter, and Division 5 — Heather Warkentin.

A quorum being present the meeting was called to order at 8:20 a.m. by Reeve Shirley Dauvin.

Laventure: That the Foreman’s report having been read now be filed. Carried

Foreman Darcy Laventure left the council meeting at 9:35 a.m.

Laventure: That the minutes of the Sept. 9, 2025, Regular Meeting of Council be approved as presented. Carried

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

Delegations
10 a.m. - Spruce Bay Board - Bi-annual Meeting

Wanda Keen, Noelle Grismer & Patrick Cross, board members of the Organized Hamlet of Spruce Bay, joined the council meeting at 10:01 a.m. for open discussion relating to the Organized Hamlet of Spruce Bay.

The delegates left the council meeting at 10:34 a.m.

10:30 a.m. - Sheldon Everson - Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency

Sheldon Eversen of Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency (SPSA) joined

the council meeting at 10:35 a.m. to discuss: Civic Addressing Signage and relevance to 911 Dispatch; Emergency Management Planning; and Regional Fire Depts.

SPSA Officer, Sheldon Everson left the council meeting at 11:07 a.m.

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

Buban: That the bank reconciliation for the month ending Sept. 30, 2025 be accepted as presented. Carried

Wasden: That the “List of Accounts” as listed on the attached Schedule “A” forming part of these minutes be passed for payment: Cheque No. 15329-15360 (\$307,332.25), EFT No. 2025-0158 - 2025-0173 (\$180,574.05), and Payroll File No. 0038, 0039 & 0040 (\$61,938.82). Carried

Laventure: That the Statement of Financial Activities for the month ending Sept. 30, 2025, be approved as presented. Carried

Buban: That we enter into a 5-year contract with SaskTel for the Integrated Business Communications (IBC) with Webex for internet hosted communication services. Carried

Buban: Council for the RM of Spiritwood No. 496 recommends approval of the proposed subdivision application for a larger residential parcel on NW 14-50-08-W due to the physical limitations of the parcel and being land with marginal agriculture value. The proposal conforms with the RM of Spiritwood Zoning Bylaw and District Plan policy and there are no incompatible land uses in the vicinity that would make this unsuitable for the intended use.

The applicant shall be responsible for approach development in accordance with the Municipality’s approach development policy standards.

Public Notice was provided and there were no comments received. Carried

Councillor Dale Wasden declared a perceived conflict of interest and abstained from discussion and voting on the matter.

Laventure: Public notice was provided and there were no comments received. That the discretionary use application for a proposed Premix Mineral Facility to be located on NW 28-50-10-W3 be approved. Carried

Wasden: That the Rural Municipality of Spiritwood No. 496 (hereinafter called the “Municipality”) is hereby authorized to:

- borrow money upon the credit of the Municipality;
- renew the \$249,000 line of credit obligations of the Municipality;
- give a guarantee on behalf of the Municipality to secure performance of an obligation of any purpose;
- sign bills, notes, contracts and other evidences of or securities for money borrowed or to be borrowed.

That the Municipality is hereby authorized and empowered from time to time to exercise all or any of the foregoing powers on behalf of the Municipality in such a manner and subject to such regulations and restrictions as they may see fit. Carried

Buban: That the Rural Municipality of Spiritwood No. 496, in partnership with the Town of Spiritwood, host a First Aid/CPR training workshop for municipal employees. Carried

Laventure: That permission is hereby granted to Morris Sanitation, Wilko Farms Ltd. and Muskeg Lake Cree Nation Public Works for the disposal of liquid domestic waste (sewage) from all residential property located in Aspen Ridge Estates, Lots 9, 10 & 11 in Sunset Rim Estates, Lots 1-4 in Caswell Development & PT SE 13-50-09-W3 (Reiger) into the Aspen Ridge Lagoon located at PT SW 10-49-08-W3. Carried

Buban: That Reeve, Shirley Dauvin attend the Northern Lakes Economic Development Corporation’s strategic planning session held on Dec. 10, 2025. Carried

Wasden: That the RM of Spiritwood No. 496 provides approval to Thickwood Trails Snowmobile Club to develop, sign and maintain a snowmobile trail on rights-of-way under the control & administration of the municipality. Permission is given to legally enter and use the identified trail in accordance with snowmobile laws and legislation of Saskatchewan. This approval shall be valid from Jan. 1, 2026 to Dec. 31, 2030. Carried

Buban: That the application fee for requests for information be set at \$100 & that the operational policy be approved. Carried

Wasden: That the council meeting be closed to the public at 2:16 pm under the authority of Part III of The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, to go in camera to discuss Human Resources. Carried

CAO Colette Bussiere left the council meeting at 2:16 p.m.

CAO Colette Bussiere returned to the council meeting at 2:26 p.m.

The regular meeting of council was out of camera and resumed at 2:26 p.m.

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

Wasden: That the meeting be adjourned.

CAO Colette Bussiere left the council meeting at 2:16 p.m.

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Sask. strengthens protections against interpersonal violence

By **MINISTRY OF JUSTICE**
Submitted

The Government of Saskatchewan has passed The Cyberstalking and Coercive Control Act, which expands the definition of interpersonal violence in The Victims of Interpersonal Violence Act to include cyberstalking and online harassment, as well as coercive and controlling behaviour.

“As a government we are pleased to move this priority legislation through during this sitting of the legislature, and to continue the important work that needs to be done to eliminate interpersonal violence

and abuse in Saskatchewan,” Justice Minister and Attorney General Tim McLeod, K.C., said. “This bill makes clear that victims and survivors of these types of abuse are entitled to protections under our laws, while increasing accountability for the perpetrators of such acts.”

The Victims of Interpersonal Violence Act provides protections for victims of interpersonal violence including emergency orders to restrict perpetrators from contacting victims and a process for ending long-term tenancies where a victim is at risk of future violence.

The addition of cyber-

stalking and coercive control to the legislation clearly identifies this conduct as a form of interpersonal violence and provides legislative support to victims. Expanding the definition of interpersonal violence to include cyberstalking bolsters provisions found in the Criminal Code, and addresses instances where individuals use or attempt to use tracking devices to monitor an individual without their consent.

“Expanding the definition of interpersonal violence to include cyberstalking, online harassment, and coercive control gives the legal system and law enforcement more tools to address this issue,” Minister

Responsible for the Status of Women Alana Ross said. “For victims and people at risk, this enables them to apply for emergency orders against perpetrators or end leases to help escape circumstances where this form of abuse is occurring.”

Coercive control is a pattern of behaviour that seeks to take away a person’s freedom and strip away their sense of self. It can include behaviours like strictly controlling someone’s finances, depriving them of their basic needs, closely monitoring their activities, and isolating them from family and friends.

This year, the Government

of Saskatchewan is dedicating approximately \$32 million to facilitate interpersonal violence programs and services through the justice system. This includes \$14.2 million per year being provided to community-based partners, annualized funding for second-stage shelters, and additional funding for Victims Services and other important supports.

The passing of this legislation is a step in the right direction, but the government recognizes more work needs to be done on this very important topic and will continue to advance that work to end interpersonal violence.



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Would McKenna spark a Flames' revival?

Should the Calgary Flames be gaggin' for Gavin?

The big prize in next summer's National Hockey League amateur draft is expected to be Gavin McKenna, the pride of Whitehorse, Yukon, a former Medicine Hat Tiger superstar and currently a high-profile winger with Penn State, a National Collegiate Athletic Association hockey power.

Next year, when he's 18, he's probably going to be a member of an NHL team, with McDavid and Bedard-like expectations. Flames' fans hope he'll be wearing the flaming 'C' when he steps onto an NHL ice surface.

Thanks to the draft's lottery system, having the league's worst record is no guarantee of picking No. 1. But it certainly enhances the opportunity, and the Flames, currently languishing near the bottom of the 32-team NHL, may as well try to manoeuvre those odds in their favour. How?

By losing as much as possible.

Drafting a franchise cornerstone like McKenna could be the beginning of a Flames' turnaround. They are not only among the worst teams in the league, but also one of the oldest. Four offensive leaders, Nazem Kadri, Jonathan Huberdeau, Mikael Backlund and Blake Coleman, are all on the wrong side of 30. Their team logo should be a rocking chair, not a flaming 'C'.

A total rebuild is in order. A few younger pieces are already in place, such as goalies Devin Cooley and Dustin Wolf, who was a rookie-of-the-year finalist last season, Matt Coronato, Connor Zary, Morgan Frost, Joel Farabee and recent draft picks Zayne Parekh and Sam Honzek. Adding a star like McKenna and dispatching some of the aging deadwood via trades for younger players or draft picks would go a long way to righting the Flames ship.

Tearing down and



BRUCE
PENTON

rebuilding has worked for other teams. The Oilers lucked out by getting McDavid in 2015 and they've been a Stanley Cup finalist two years in a row. Chicago Blackhawks and San Jose Sharks, after years in the doldrums, are now contenders after selecting Connor Bedard and Macklin Celebrini, respectively. Anaheim Ducks are one of the big surprises of the current NHL season thanks to some astute drafting of players such as Leo Carlsson, Mason McTavish and Jackson Lacombe. Montreal Canadiens are another example of a team that put its fans

through years of suffering before building a young, solid roster through the draft. Cole Caufield, Lane Hutson, Ivan Demidov and Juraj Slafkovsky all came through the draft, as did captain Nick Suzuki, who was picked in the first round by Vegas but abruptly traded to Montreal in the Max Pacioretty deal.

Being bad and drafting high doesn't work for everyone. Buffalo Sabres haven't made the playoffs since 2010-11, despite twice having the No. 1 pick in the draft — Rasmus Dahlin in 2018 and Owen Power in 2021. They also got Jack Eichel at No. 2 after McDavid in 2015.

The Sabres situation proves there are no guarantees. But a rebuild has to start somewhere, so keep losing Calgary and hope those draft lottery ping pong balls bounce in your favour.

• Norman Chad, with another comment overheard from a competitor at the Westminster Dog Show: "By the way,

you all eat at least three times a day and feed us just twice a day — what's up with that?"

• fark.com headline: "The glorious mullet returns for a 38th season of professional hockey."

• Mike Bianchi of the Orlando Sentinel: "Best line of the week about the NBA's new convoluted, confusing 'international' format came from Orlando radio guru Marc Daniels: 'I'd rather watch Chauncey Billups hosting a poker game.'"

• Another one from Bianchi: "I'm not saying the NBA's new All-Star Game format is stupid, but even the Pro Bowl is sending its thoughts and prayers!"

• Cathal Kelly of the Globe and Mail, on the Maple Leafs' woes: "On Saturday, they played a statement game in Chicago. Their statements was, 'Is it bedtime yet?'"

• Greg Cote of the Miami Herald: "Miami Dolphins have won three of their past four to climb to 4-7 and are a slight betting favourite to also win the bye

week."

• Greg Cote again, on a preview of the recent Seahawks-Titans game: "This is NFL version of a hungry lion vs. a limping hyena in the wild."

• RJ Currie of sports-deke.com: "Canadian tennis star Felix Auger-Aliassime, got married after the U.S. Open. His wife, Nina, was game, Felix was set, and now they're a match."

• Another one from Currie: "I won't say Riders' QB Trevor Harris, 39, is old. But add five more years, and he'd be almost as old as the Kars4Kids commercial."

• Headline at theonion.com: "Detroit Lions Rookie Asks For Thanksgiving Off"

• Another fark.com headline: "So, which one was a more painful experience for Bill Belichick? North Carolina losing to Wake Forest or attending his girlfriend's cheerleading competition?"

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Medstead claims silver at volleyball Provincials

By JORDAN TWISS

Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

When the senior boys volleyball season got under way, coach and Medstead Central School principal Greg Knot had a feeling it was going to be a good one for his team.

"We had pretty much everybody back from last year," he said. "We built into this year, knowing this would be our strong year."

While anything can happen in high school athletics, his team lived up to his expectations and put in the hard work, travelling to eight tournaments and winning five of them — including Mega Volley in Maidstone.

Based on the team's performance, Knot says he knew a couple weeks in that it had a good chance of making Provincials. And when the team won Conferences and then Regionals, and was ranked third going into Provincials, he was sure it had what it took to play for a medal.

"This is one of the most positive groups of guys," he said. "Everybody knew their role and knew it was important. No one was worried about doing somebody else's job. Once they bought into that, they really started rolling."

Provincials, played in Rouleau, Sask., on Nov. 21 and 22, started as well as

Knot could have hoped for, as the team scored back-to-back-to-back wins over Kenaston, Frontier and Sturgis on day one without losing a set.

The team closed out the round robin by facing Rouleau, the 2024 provincial champion, to determine who would finish first in the pool, falling in two hard-fought sets with scores of 25-18 and 25-

19.

Paired against Glaslyn in the quarterfinals, Medstead got back to its winning ways to advance to the semi-finals against Annaheim. Though the Annaheim squad pushed it to the limit and stole the first set by a score of 26-24, Medstead rallied to win the second and third sets by scores of 25-20 and 15-12,

respectively, guaranteeing itself a spot in the gold medal game against Rouleau.

Though the team put up a good fight, it ended up settling for silver after losing to Rouleau in two sets with identical scores of 25-20 (the most points Rouleau gave up in a set throughout the whole tournament).

"We knew Rouleau was the big dog, and there were going to be a few teams fighting for second through fifth," Knot said. "We were hoping to make them at least play for it, if they won it. I think we were able to do that, so we were really happy with the season."

Looking back on Provincials, Knot says the recipe for his team's success stemmed from the fact that they played as a unit and for each other, rather than playing for themselves.

With the season over, Knot bids farewell to three Grade 12 players who played key roles on the team. Despite the losses, he feels the remaining players will be more than up to the task of stepping into the roles and expects the team will be able to make another run at Provincials next year.

"The biggest thing will be who can fill the roles that are missing, and buying into it again," he said. "We're not starting over, we're just defining new roles. If they can take that on, that'll be the big thing."



Medstead Central School's senior boys volleyball team won silver at Provincials. Back row, left to right: Coach Greg Knot, Brenner Egeland, Austin Dzialo-Findlay, Tyler Hundt, Jack Sherman, Brayden Moore, Josh Masse, and Donavin Harty. Front row: Vaan Merkel, Cash Sherman, and Pablo Bedard.

OBITUARIES

Gordon Allan Coates



COATES – Gordon Allan Coates aged 69 years of Leask, SK, passed away on

Wednesday, November 19th, 2025. Gordon was born on April 19th, 1956 in Prince Albert, SK. Gordon spent much of his life dedicated to farming, as well as operating a seed-cleaning plant and grain elevator, work that connected him deeply to the land. He took pride in keeping up with the heritage of the farm and the surrounding area. He was predeceased by his father, Arthur;

and grandson, Ethan. Gordon will be remembered by his children: Krista, Brody, Jeremy, and Jessie; his ten grandchildren; mother, Myfanwy (Van); and siblings: Jean, Bruce, and Bernice. A Private Family Service will be held at a later date. Arrangements are entrusted to Moose Jaw Funeral Home, 268 Mulberry Lane. Shirese Noble Funeral Director 306-693-4550 www.moosejawfuneralhome.com

Marcel Blair Haugen



Marcel Blair Haugen 1956 – 2025 In Loving Memory, he will never be forgotten

Numerous cousins; Aunt Hildegard Butz; His special friend and caregiver Gloria Dienes. He was predeceased by his parents Elwood Haugen and Katherine Haugen; Brother-in-law Edward Davies; Great nephew Kion Haugen. Marcel attended Grade 1 at Canwood in the old Red Brick School House and then completed 6 years at the Kinsmen school in Prince Albert. He was baptized in 1960 at the old Valbrand Church and confirmed in 1971 at Zion Lutheran in Canwood. Marcel was a hard worker and was willing to help others. Once he started a job, it was hard to get him to stop until it was finished. He did not have a lot of requests for himself, but he was always pleased when mom made his favorite cake. Marcel helped his father on the farm as well as many other farmers in the area. He was well known in Canwood for his snow shovelling, grass cutting at the cemeteries, Chronicle delivery for almost all of the senior ladies in the community.

Marcel was a big Elvis fan; in 1982 he was able to travel to Memphis to see Graceland. It was a memorable trip. When he was younger, he enjoyed snowmobiling. If anyone ever got stuck, they could count on Marcel to get them out. He will be buried with his parents at a later date in the Dry Creek Cemetery. Marcel loved Elvis, he worked hard when he was interested in a project, and he was always interested in the Canwood news. It is with sorrow we announce his sudden passing. Memorial donation suggestions are the Zion Lutheran Church Canwood (Box 358 Canwood, SK S0J 0K0) or the Dry Creek Cemetery (Box 506 Canwood, SK S0J 0K0). 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.

GOOD NEWS

YOU THINK HIGHLY OF YOURSELF

By PADRE DAVE BODVARSON Submitted

A number of years ago, I owned a little red car. It was a Suzuki. I was fond of that car. For one of my birthdays I was given a customized sign that I placed on the back window that read ‘David’s Suzuki.’ One day, I was driving with my wife around the community and happened to see someone walking. I stopped and opened the window and made conversation. I happened to be wearing my green University of Saskatchewan sunglasses that our youngest son, J.D., had given to me. I said to the lady I was speaking to, “What do you think of my sunglasses?” Her response took me by surprise. She said, “David, you think highly of yourself.” I thought that was quite humorous. I have been thinking on the Sunday message that Kenny preached. He is our oldest son, who carries both a ministerial degree and a counselling degree. Kenny did a great job. One of his points was taken from the words of Jesus, where Jesus said “Love your neighbour as yourself.” (Mark 12:31) This got me thinking on the idea of thinking highly of yourself, and of a quote I read recently, which says “A man can stand a lot as long as he can stand himself.” I have reminded our congregation a number times of what the Psalmist said

in Psalm 139:14. It says, “I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvellous are Your works, and that my soul knows it very well.” We need the attitude that the Psalmist displayed here. A song I love — “You Say” by Lauren Daigle — captures a similar idea. Some of the words are: “I keep fighting voices in my mind that say I’m not enough. Every single lie tells me I will never measure up. Am I more than just the sum of every high and every low. Remind me once again just who I am because I need to know. You say I am loved when I can’t feel a thing. You say I am strong when I think I am weak. And you say I am held when I am falling short. And when I don’t belong I am Yours. And I believe. Oh, I believe. What You say of me I believe.” When asked in Mark 12:28-34 which commandment is the most important, Jesus says “And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.” However, Jesus adds, “Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.” I wonder, if we love God, will it help us to love ourselves?

Sask. bolsters municipal transparency

By MINISTRY OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS Submitted

Government Relations Minister Eric Schmalz has introduced The Municipalities Modernization and Red Tape Reduction Act. This Bill will amend The Cities Act, The Municipalities Act, and The Northern Municipalities Act, 2010 to support good local governance, increase transparency for ratepayers and reduce red tape. “Saskatchewan residents rely on the services provided by municipal governments every day and it is vital that we review and update the provincial municipal legislation so that it evolves with the expectations of ratepayers and the responsibilities of mayors, reeves and councils,” Schmalz said. “Thank you to all residents and municipal representatives who provided their feedback to ensure that we continue to modernize our legislation to

meet the evolving needs of growing municipalities.” Amendments in The Municipalities Modernization and Red Tape Reduction Act include: • Improving public access to municipal information by requiring municipalities to post meeting minutes, financial statements and bylaws on a public website starting in 2027. In advance of these changes taking effect, government will begin posting municipal financial statements to saskatchewan.ca in January 2026. • Supporting local governance by requiring municipalities to offer orientation training after each general election in order to better support council members in their roles. Additional amendments will also strengthen provisions related to harassment by making harassment of municipal employees an offence under the municipal Acts. • Red tape reductions including improving the fairness and efficiency of

property assessment appeals; more efficient tools to address dangerous animals, illegal dumping, and collecting tax arrears from delinquent oil and gas companies; replacing special service areas in rural municipalities with a simpler taxation tool; and removing duplicate forms for newly elected councillors and unnecessary reporting requirements to government. The Ministry of Government Relations began consultation on The Cities Act, The Municipalities Act, and The Northern Municipalities Act, 2010 in 2024 with stakeholders and the public which resulted in the prioritization of these amendments. Upon passage, the majority of the amendments would come into force immediately. The ministry will continue to listen to and work with stakeholders to develop related regulatory changes and provide education, awareness and technical advice to municipalities.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS
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100A - 10th St. East
Prince Albert, SK, S6V 0Y7
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NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the estate of GORDON COATES, late of the Village of Leask, in the Province of Saskatchewan, deceased. All claims against the above Estate, duly verified by statutory declaration and with particulars and valuation of security held, if any, must be sent to the undersigned before the 3rd day of January, 2026.
Jeremy Coates
Box 135
Leask, SK S0J 1M0
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**Shellbrook Chronicle
Spiritwood Herald**

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PRAISE & WORSHIP

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

LUTHERAN CHURCH
Zion - Canwood
Sunday School,
Worship Sunday, 11 a.m.
(in-person only)
St. John's - Shellbrook
Sunday School,
Worship Sunday, 9 a.m.
(in-person and online via Facebook live)
Rev. Emmanuel Aristide

PENTECOSTAL CHURCH
Parkside
10:30 a.m. Worship
Pastor Lorne Valuck
306-747-3572
Shellbrook
Adult Study
9:30 a.m.
Sun., 10:30 a.m. - Worship
Rev. Jordan Clark
306-850-0429
Canwood
10 a.m. - Sunday School
11 a.m. - Worship
Pastor Lyndon Petten
587-973-2223
Leask Gospel Tabernacle
Sunday 11 a.m.
Pastor Josh
1-780-690-2100

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

ANGLICAN CHURCH
Leask - All Saint's
Sunday Service - 9 am MP
St. Andrew's - Shellbrook
Sunday Service - 11 am MP
H.C. Service Nov. 30 with
Archdeacon Brody Albers
9 a.m. in Leask,
11 a.m. in Shellbrook
Minister's Warden:
306-922-5159

EVANGELICAL FREE
Big River
10:00 a.m. - Worship
Bible Classes resume in the fall
306-469-2258
Youth Nite:
Fridays at 7 p.m.
Mont Nebo
Sun. Worship - 11:00 a.m.
(10:30 a.m. June - August)
306-468-2525

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
Parkside
11 a.m. - Worship
(in-person and online via Facebook Live)
10 a.m. - Sunday School

PRESBYTERIAN
Mistawasis
Sunday worship
11:00 a.m.
Rev. Stewart Folster

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
Pastor Myshan Irving
306-747-3398

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**Shellbrook Chronicle
& Spiritwood Herald**

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 9:00 a.m.
Rev. Sarah Urano

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

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

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

FIELDS OF HOPE (HOFFNUNGSFELDER)
MENNONITE CHURCH
Glenbush
11:00 am Worship

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

PARTNERS IN WORSHIP
Shell Lake
Worship Services
Sunday 11:00 a.m.
Pastor Sarah Urano
306-841-7333

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

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What happens when you don't advertise?

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Unusual small bush fruit

By **ALAN WENINGER**
Sask Perennial Society

I've always been interested in the plants that don't get a lot of attention. Overlooked plants, like overlooked things in general, are usually interesting but don't fit a general norm of expectations. A fruit on a bush, for example, is expected to taste sweet and flavourful, like a Saskatoon berry or a blueberry. That first bite is the dealbreaker: not sweet enough, or an unusual flavour or texture, and it will probably be the last bite.

Here are a few fruiting bushes along with my thoughts on why they continue to live in the shadows (figuratively, of course):

Black currant (*Ribes nigrum*) is having a bit of a revival these days. If you've ever popped one in your mouth, you'll know that the fresh taste is strongly skunky and notably different than the taste you get when it's used in ice cream, or jam, or pie. Night and day, really. Cooked, it is one of my favourite flavours, and I literally

buy every blackcurrant thing I can get. As an alternate host for the tree-killing disease white pine blister rust, it was discouraged in cultivation, but new varieties that are disease resistant are now being grown. Once seemingly appreciated only by those of European origin, I've noticed that they are now part of a local U-pick operation. Black currants are easily grown and bountiful.

Another uncommon cur-

rant deserves mentioning, as I always snack on it as I work in Patterson Arboretum. It is alpine currant (*Ribes alpinum*), and although sweet, tasty, and bright red, it's size may be limiting its popularity. The tiny fruit is not produced in abundance and only in small clusters, nevertheless it still holds a place in my heart. If you've got kids, especially, this one is a winner.

Black chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*), not to be con-

fused with our native chokecherry, is another bountiful and misunderstood fruit bush. Eaten fresh, it would be considered an acquired taste, and texture. I've seen it growing in cottage gardens in Siberia, and it appears to be more popular in Europe and Asia than here in its native homeland of North America. Again, the key is to use it mostly for cooking, and not to judge it for its fresh taste. The fresh taste, acceptable to some, improves after it is fully ripe, usually in the late autumn. At this same time it's glossy round leaves will be turning a vibrant red colour, a beautiful sight.

Goji berry (*Lycium chinense* is a species commonly cultivated here), is a brightly coloured, shiny, pepper-like fruit (same plant family as sweet peppers and tomatoes), that hang in an orderly fashion down along an arching cane of tiny leaves. It is a sprawling plant, with aspirations to be a vine if it finds a shrub or fence to grow over. I find that the fresh fruits go down easily at first, but

soon the lingering taste can be described as weird. Really weird. Despite this, I have eaten them in a soup in Asia and they were a pleasant, tangy complement to the broth. It is also used in trail mixes. Black goji berry (*Lycium ruthenicum*), a species with smaller, very dark fruit, is also hardy here. To cultivate Goji berry you will need a full sun exposure, which mimics their native desert environment. They will not grow in shade.

There is a type of unusual shrub fruit that I really do enjoy fresh. It has a lovely flavour that often surprises people. They are hawthorn berries, and there are two species in Patterson Arboretum in Saskatoon that produce tasty fruit. I offered some to my boss at the Horticulture Field Lab a few weeks ago. "Too many seeds" she said as she spit it out. Oh well.

This column is provided courtesy of the Saskatchewan Perennial Society (SPS; saskperennial@hotmail.com).



Black currants are experiencing a revival these days.
Photo Credit: Sara Williams

RCMP sounds alarm over road fatalities

By **SASK RCMP**
Submitted

Between Nov. 1 and Nov. 25, Saskatchewan RCMP police officers responded to 11 fatal motor-vehicle collisions resulting in the death of 11 people on Saskatchewan roads. This is an increase of 175% in the number of fatal collisions and an increase of 37.5% in the number of fatalities for the same period in 2024 (with 4 fatal collisions resulting in the death of 8 people).

Seven of these collisions, resulting in the death of seven people, happened in the last seven days of this window.

This year so far, from Jan. 1 to Nov. 25, Saskatchewan RCMP police officers responded to 89 fatal motor-vehicle collisions resulting in the deaths of 94 people on Saskatchewan roads. This is an increase of 32.8% in the number of fatal collisions and an increase of 23.7% in the number of fatalities for the same period in 2024 (with 67 fatal collisions resulting in the death of 76 people).

Excluded from the fatal motor-vehicle collisions and fatalities statistics are fatal collisions that happened on a private property, in other police jurisdictions, off-road crashes and collisions caused by medical emergencies.

Staff-Sergeant Jason Sauve, with

the Saskatchewan RCMP Traffic Services, said: "While weather conditions may have been a factor in two of the fatal collisions this month, an astounding majority of these deaths involve the same four factors: seatbelts, speed, impairment by drug or alcohol, and distraction.

We keep repeating the same road safety messages continually because we see the role played by these factors every time we attend the scene of a fatal collision. We see how wearing a seatbelt, not driving impaired, not speeding, or staying focused on the road may have prevented these deaths.

We also see firsthand the impacts of

these collisions. These tragic scenes leave a lasting impact on every single person who sees, hears about, or responds to them. If us repeating safety messages can help prevent us from having to respond to one fatal collision call – we will continue to share them.

We are running out of ways to say it: Please, when you take the road from now on, take the time to consciously remind yourself of these four things:

- Wear your seatbelt,
- Pay attention to your surroundings at all times,
- Do not speed,
- Do not drive impaired – by drugs or alcohol."



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