

Parkside Derby still a hit at 43



The Charity Car won the derby for the first time ever. Pictured, left to right: Parkside Community Club president Jory Segberg presents the trophy to drivers Robert Peterson and Derek Olson.

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

At 43 years old, the Parkside Demolition Derby isn't just the small village's must-see event of the year. As long-time volunteer announcers Kerry Peterson and Kris Moe proudly proclaimed during the annual smash and bash on Saturday, July 25, it's also now the longest running demolition derby in Saskatchewan. The 2026 rendition of the derby demonstrated why it's enjoyed such longevity when most community events last no longer than a decade, as an enthusiastic crowd numbering into the thousands piled into the stands at the Darrel Martin Memorial

Speedway to take in all the automotive mayhem. Though old cars and trucks are getting harder to find, the drivers are more than up to the task of hunting them down and tuning them up. All told, 24 cars and 8 trucks competed this year, all with the hopes of being the last vehicle standing. In addition to providing a full day of smashing and bashing, the Parkside Demolition Derby has raised significant funds for local and provincial causes (as of 2024, the total donated by the community had reached \$384,000). This year's derby continued to build upon that legacy with another successful charity car auction.

With proceeds earmarked for Hope's Home, an organization that provides specialized care to children with complex medical needs, this year's Jurassic Park-themed car, built and painted entirely by volunteer contributions, brought in a winning bid of \$12,750 from Robert Peterson of Prairie Ag Commodity Trading (PACT). "The charity car is just an extra way for us to help out some of these charities in our province," Parkside Community Club President Jory Segberg said. "Most of our board likes building cars, so it's a lot of fun for us." While giving back is the raison d'être of the Parkside Demolition Derby, its aim is to provide a day of

entertainment for all ages. This year's derby brought that in spades, from the barrel races right until the final hit. Starting the day with the barrel races, there were eight competitors vying to be the fastest. In the end, Brendan Aug ran the cleanest and quickest race, placing first with a time of 24.51 seconds. Driving the charity car, Jory Segberg finished a close second, with Joel Beam right behind him in third place. During a brief intermission to allow the drivers to give their cars and trucks one last tune up, musical entertainment was provided by Levi Quist, Jaden Schutte, and their Dads. *Continued on page 9*



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Parkland ball program hits above its weight class

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

When Dillan Simonar says the Shell Lake and area Parkland Provincial Softball program is the best in the province, it's no empty boast.

Over the past few seasons, the Parkland Wildcats (boys) and Parkland Predators (girls) have become teams to fear at provincial tournaments in Saskatchewan. This, in turn, has fuelled further interest in the program, which only gives the teams a stronger talent pool to draw from.

"It's for kids who want to play more competitively and stretch out the season," Simonar said. "We're turning away kids because we have too many kids, which is a good problem to have."

As Provincials got under way at the beginning of July, the Parkland Provincial Softball program had teams in the running at nearly every age group from U11 up. And over the July 3 to 5 weekend, three of those teams brought home hardware.

Competing in Saskatoon, the U11 Parkland Wildcats had targets on their backs as three-time defending champions. But with a strong roster of kids from Leoville, Shell Lake, Canwood, Debden, Big River, and Shellbrook, the team refused to be denied a fourth consecutive gold medal.

To be certain, the win didn't come easy.

In a gold medal battle against the Langham Vikings, the team just squeezed out a 6-5 win in the final inning.

"The U11 group is always so much fun because they just don't have any fear. They could strike out three times in a row and they'll go up to bat like they've never struck out before," Simonar said.

"They got behind early... but they kept pushing and they didn't get too down on themselves when they made errors."

Over in Prince Albert, the U15 Wildcats were hoping for Provincials gold and a berth at Nationals in Surrey, B.C. in August.

With talent from Rosthern, Laird, Shell Lake, Debden, Canwood, and Spiritwood, the team put in a strong showing throughout the tournament to earn its first-ever Nationals spot. However, it fell just short of bringing home the gold.

"We played the [Prince Albert] Astros quite a few times and never did beat them," Simonar said. "They just had our number all year and we couldn't quite get through them."

With Nationals set to start next week, Simonar says the team has just been practicing as much as possible and finding ways to cement its bonds.

"Our goal is to just play seven innings of ball," Simonar said. "Our pitching is going to be on par with everybody. As long as we can get the hits in, that's the big thing."

Over on the girls' side, the U19 Parkland Predators spent the season playing in the highly competitive U19A women's division in hopes of making their own run



The U11 Parkland Wildcats won gold at Provincials. Back row, left to right: coaches Emery Ham-borg, Mike Sarrazin, and Norm Poirier. Front: Dreyden Laventure, Brysen McAleese, Lincoln Hamborg, Carter Sarrazin, Cooper Anderson, Thomas Poirier, Kyler Denis, Ragnar Olson, Lynx-ton Gardner, Cole Grimard, and Kingsley Thomas.

at Nationals.

With talent from White Fox, Melfort, Naicam, Prince Albert, Shell Lake, Deben, Rabbit Lake, Martensville, and Warman, and a core group of five or six players that have been playing together since U12, the team certainly had a good shot at achieving its goal.

The team cruised along through the preliminary round, and needed just one more win to make the gold medal game and qualify for Nationals. Unfortunately, they hit a wall when they faced off against the Regina Kaos and had to settle for bronze medals to end their season.



The U15 Parkland Wildcats won silver at Provincials. Back row, left to right: Jaron Ens, Jase Simonar, Hudson Schmidt, Maddox Simonar, Coleby Rose, Aksel Nordquist, and Brayzn Benson. Front: Reed Martens, Nixen Simonar, Campbell Funk, Lucas Buswell, and Noah Poirier.

"The first place team was pretty strong, but we were certainly in the running for a silver if we could have pulled that win off," Simonar said. "That's just how ball goes."

That same weekend, the U15 Parkland Predators fell just short of Provincials bronze in Unity. And the weekend after, the U13 Parkland Wildcats teams hosted Provincials in Shell Lake, with the Blue team winning gold and the Green team falling just short of bronze.



The U19 Parkland Predators won bronze at Provincials. Back row, left to right: Jorja Hicks, Marinn Acorn, Hayden Peterson, Chantel Dmytrow, Sarah McNabb, Avery Cyr, Jordyn Loberg, and Peyton Turner. Front: Martina Moore, Julia Leicht, Sofia Laskowski, Emeri Simonar, and Venece Chu. Bat girl: Islah Simonar.

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RCMP highlights Sask crime rates

By JORDAN TWISS
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The Saskatchewan RCMP is shining a spotlight on crime rates in the province following the Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics’ release of national Crime Severity Index (CSI) data for 2025.

Introduced in 2009, The CSI assesses communities based on violent offences, non-violent offences, and the overall CSI (all offences combined).

Where conventional crime rates are calculated by adding up the number of crimes reported by police for a given period and geographical area, and then dividing that total by the population count for the area, the CSI looks at both the number and relative seriousness of crimes to create an index, and then tracks these changes over time.

Last year, Canada’s CSI was 75.01, down slightly from 77.9 in 2024.

While Saskatchewan’s CSI also declined from 2024 to 2025, it’s still almost double the national average at 146.64 (down from 154.36).

All told, the Saskatchewan RCMP said, 60 of 84 detachment areas in the province have CSIs higher than the national average, and 11 of those have a CSI more than 10 times higher than the national average.

Locally, the Big River RCMP detachment area had the highest overall CSI rate, seeing an increase to 463.69 from 423.86. This change was driven by a drastic uptick in the area’s violent crime CSI, which jumped to 724.76 from 566.24.

Similarly, the Spiritwood RCMP detachment area saw its CSI climb to 419.61 from 367.90 based on a significant increase in its violent crime CSI — up to 673.93 from 510.41 in 2024.

Following the national trend, the Ahtahkakoop RCMP detachment area actually saw its CSI drop slightly to 310.84 from 321.63, thanks to a

more than 100-point drop in its violent crime CSI (down to 389.22 from 493.11). That said, the non-violent crime CSI did increase, up to 282.14 from 255.81.

With the lowest CSI overall, the Blaine Lake RCMP detachment area also followed the national trend by recording a lower CSI of 188.52, compared to 191.44 in 2024. Again, this was driven by a drop in the violent crime CSI (to 139.52 from 160.33), and offset by a modest increase in the non-violent crime CSI (to 209.69 from 205.50).

“As Saskatchewan’s provincial police service, we have an obligation to make every effort to enhance our service delivery to combat crimes and continue to evolve with the changing policing environment,” Saskatchewan RCMP superintendent Amber Clark said in a statement.

“That’s why we’re not standing still. We’re modernizing how we police, investing in intelligence-led approach-

es, and strengthening partnerships to target prolific offenders, disrupt drug networks and continue focusing on our core mandate: community safety.”

To tackle crime, the RCMP says it’s moving to rotational drive-in models, where officers serve their communities in teams that switch off every eight days. The RCMP says the change has reduced staffing and workload strains, improved office attraction and retention, enhanced policing service, and led to more community engagement.

The RCMP says it’s also strengthened its investigatory capacity by hiring more analysts to help investigators identify evolving crime trends, uncover links between incidents, and allocate resources more effectively, and focused more on strategic and targeted enforcement through the Saskatchewan Enforcement Response Team, the Warrant Enforcement and Suppression Team, and the Crime Reductions Team.

Shellbrook fixing 1st Street sewer issue

By JORDAN TWISS
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

An unexpected issue with storm sewer infrastructure will see the section of 1st Street East, between 1st Avenue and 2nd Avenue East, in Shellbrook closed to traffic for the foreseeable future.

Town of Shellbrook CSO Sigourney O’Halligan says the town identified the issue in June when a section of the roadway on the south end of 1st Street East began to settle, creating a sinkhole.

As a similar problem had occurred a few years ago following a heavy rainfall, town crews at-

tempted the same fix by replacing the affected material.

This time, with heavy rainfalls persisting throughout much of summer, the roadway continued to settle and, over the following weeks, the sinkhole grew larger.

To determine the cause of the issue, the Town of Shellbrook had the storm sewer inspected with a camera and confirmed that a failure in the storm sewer was allowing material around the pipe to wash away.

Last week, crews were on hand to dewater the site, so that the condition of the storm sewer can be properly assessed.

“The Town is looking at options that may avoid a full excavation, but with aging infrastructure the extent of the repairs will not be known until work is underway,” O’Halligan said. “The

repair approach will be based on what is found once the area has been opened up.”

The town currently has no concrete timeline or estimated cost for the project.



An unexpected storm sewer issue on 1st Street East in Shellbrook had crews on site dewatering the area much of last week.

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Village of Parkside
Box 48
Parkside, SK S0J 2A0
Email: villageofparkside@gmail.com

For more information, please contact the Village Office at (306) 747-2235 (Tuesdays Only)

VILLAGE OF DEBDEN PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that Council intends to adopt a bylaw under *The Planning and Development Act, 2007* to amend Zoning Bylaw 2/2023.

INTENT
To create a new zoning district – C3 – Mixed-Use Transition District. The bylaw will rezone certain lands from C2 – Highway Commercial to the new C3 District and establish permitted and discretionary uses within the district.

AFFECTED LAND
Lot 4, Lot 5, Lot 6 and Lot 7 Block O2 Plan 84PA14577 and Lot 8 Block O2 Plan AK1413

A map showing the affected area is available online at debden.ca or at the Village Office.

REASON
It is intended to provide a flexible transition zone between commercial and residential areas.

INSPECTION
Any person may inspect the bylaw at debden.ca or at the Village Office Tuesday through Thursday from 10:00 am–3:00 pm.

PUBLIC HEARING
Council will hold a public hearing on August 13, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Debden Council Chambers to hear any person or group that wants to comment. Written comments may be submitted to the Village Office before the hearing.

Issued at Village of Debden this 16th day of July, 2026.
Tamara Couture, Administrator

FORM 6 SALE BY TENDER TOWN OF BIG RIVER

- Under the provisions of *The Tax Enforcement Act, 2000*, the Town of Big River offers for sale the following property:
Lot 6, Block 21, Plan BL3374
Civic Address: 88 Gilbert Street, Big River, Sask
- Tenders must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “**Property Tender**” and addressed to:
Town of Big River
Box 220
Big River, SK S0J 0E0
- Tenders must be received by the Town of Big River no later than **4:00 p.m. on September 10, 2026**.
- Each tender must be accompanied by a certified cheque payable to the Town of Big River in the amount of 5% of the tendered purchase price.
- The Town of Big River reserves the right to reject any or all tenders and the highest tender will not necessarily be accepted.
- The successful bidder will be required to pay the balance of the purchase price by cash or certified funds within 30 days of acceptance of the tender.

Dated this 30th day of July 2026.

Noreen Olsen
Administrator
Town of Big River

Iran war becomes a theatre of absurdities

Obliterated. Destroyed. Crushed. Vanquished.

For months, we've been hearing about how U.S. President Donald Trump, the self-proclaimed president of peace, has waged the most successful war that ever warred in his not-a-war against Iran.

Indeed, of all the wars ever won throughout the history of mankind, no conflict has ever been won so decisively, nor so many times in such a short span, as the now five-month-long campaign in the Middle East.

In June, when Mr. Trump announced an MOU for a ceasefire with Iran, it seemed like the winning was at an end.

And really, what more was there for Mr. Trump to win when Iran's military and nuclear program had been bombed to oblivion and the country's leadership was begging for mercy?

Through the ceasefire MOU, Iran negotiated its way to a massive financial and economic windfall and learned that it could use the Strait of Hormuz as a bargaining chip, while Mr. Trump negotiated a return to the way things were before he spent at least \$37.5 billion, as well as the lives of 18 service members, on the conflict.

Nothing says victory more than that, right?

True to his winning nature, Mr. Trump quickly realized that there were still more victories to be had in Iran.

Taking a page out the Iranian play book, Mr. Trump announced earlier this month that the U.S. military would reinstate its blockade of Iran's blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, and serve as the "Guardian of Hormuz."

In return for such a noble act of service, all Mr. Trump asked for is reimbursement, at the rate of 20 per cent on all cargo shipped, "for any and all costs necessary to do the job of providing safety and security to this very volatile section of the world."

As the U.S. resumed its strikes on



JORDAN TWISS
~
News Editor

Iran, the desperate and utterly defeated Iranian regime responded in kind, killing four U.S. troops and becoming more vocal in calls for Mr. Trump's death.

And in the clearest display of Mr. Trump's non-stop winning, the conflict is now spreading further across the Middle East, as Iranian-backed militant groups in Yemen turned their weapons on Saudi Arabia and threatened to blockade the Red Sea (another crucial hub for the global transportation of oil).

With a larger theatre of war comes an even larger military budget. To this end, and to ensure Mr. Trump keeps on winning, the United States House of Representatives adopted a \$1.15 trillion military spending bill that includes provisions to integrate the U.S. and Israeli militaries.

Surely, such a mind-boggling budget will allow Mr. Trump to claim the ultimate victory he's seeking in Iran – whatever that may be.

In all seriousness, though, the goals of Mr. Trump's not-a-war in Iran have always been murky at best.

Depending on who one asked, the not-a-war both was and wasn't about regime change and bringing freedom to the Iranian people.

Unsurprisingly, it accomplished neither of those things.

Militarily speaking, it was about obliterating Iran's military and nuclear stockpile, despite the fact that the latter had been "completely obliterated" during Mr. Trump's first attack on Iran in 2025.

To be certain, Iran's military and defensive capabilities have been greatly reduced. However, it's repeatedly proved that it's still a threat (and that the U.S. isn't nearly as powerful as it believes) by using cheap drones to take down costly American military equipment, and the status of its nuclear stockpile remains unclear.

Economically speaking, everything became more expensive for the world, while Russia and Iran benefited from



the easing of sanctions on their oil during the Hormuz blockade.

It's also alleged that Jared Kushner, Mr. Trump's son-in-law and "Envoy for Peace," has pocketed at least \$9 billion through business dealings in the Middle East by manipulating markets using his insider knowledge of the peace talks with Iran.

Meanwhile, with the blockade back in place, the price of oil jumped over \$100 per barrel again last week, leaving the world to foot the bill for Mr. Trump's not-a-war.

None of this screams victory for anyone but Mr. Trump, and those like him who profit from others' misery.

And with the leadership in the United States, it seems there's no end in sight to the world's pain and suffering.

At a time when he's asking more men and women to put their lives on the line, you'd expect U.S. Secretary of Defense to be laser-focused on delivering an actual win in the conflict with Iran.

Yet last week, the only thing that seemed to be on his mind was troops' hormone levels.

Apparently forgetting that the Republican Party is supposed to be opposed to "woke" things like gender affirming care and hormone replacement therapy, Mr. Hegseth is mandating testosterone screening for troops over the age of 30.

Those found to have a deficiency will be offered testosterone replacement therapy to "restore and optimize their natural capabilities, and ensure they have the biological foundation required to sustain the fight" (though, any offer from this administration is certain to be more of a threat).

Few people were more excited by this than Fox News' Jesse Watters, who cheerfully declared that the testosterone boost will turn U.S. troops into "wild animals."

Then, in a gleeful callback to the "good old days" of the Korean and Vietnam wars, when U.S. troops earned a shameful reputation for exploiting and assaulting Asian women, he warned female service members and women in ports and in Asia that they better "watch out."

What makes the obsession with testosterone as a measurement of manliness and lethality especially amusing, is the biological reality that the body converts excess testosterone to estrogen – which Mr. Hegseth clearly fears more than anything, given his aversion to promoting highly qualified women to high-ranking roles in the military.

It's a bad joke at the world's expense. And with the asylum inmates running the Iran war effort, the cost of Mr. Trump's winning will only climb higher.

Shellbrook Chronicle

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Spiritwood Stingers win 11U Provincials

By JORDAN TWISS
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

As the 2026 ball season got under-way in May and June, Adam Kotun wasn't even the head coach of the 11U Spiritwood Stingers. But when the team decided that it wanted to make its first-ever run at Provincials, he agreed to get certified to take them there.

From the start of the season, the team had what it took to compete, thanks in no small part to the coaching of Chris Robinson and JR Busiere, who have coached for the past three years. Playing in the Turtle River Minor Ball League, the Stingers amassed a perfect record before going on to claim the league championship for the third consecutive season.

"This is a strong group of athletes and good ball players. They did everything you could ask of them. They hit well, fielded well. They all pitched really well. They're a very well-rounded team," Kotun said.

"Going into provincials I had high hopes and expectations."

The 11U AA Tier 4 Provincials tournament was played in Elrose, Sask., June 17 to 19, and Kotun's hope was that the team would at least make it to playoffs on the final day of the tournament.

But as the team got started and downed the Redvers A's, the Wynyard Blues, and the Biggar Nationals in the round robin to go a perfect 3-0, Kotun began to believe that the team could go all the way.

The Stingers stuck to their winning ways in the semi-finals, overcoming the East Central Expos to earn their place in the gold medal game against the Cudworth Cyclones. There, they easily triumphed to bring home Provincials gold.

"It was hard work and dedication. It's a time of year when they could be at the lake or on holidays, but we had quite a few practices and exhibition



The 11U Spiritwood Stingers won gold in their first Provincials run. Pictured, back row: coaches Dustin Smolinski, Adam Kotun, and Curtis Schmidt. Standing: Beau Doucette, Sawyer Kotun, and Sawyer Doucette. Kneeling: Trigg Scott, Maddox Beuker, Aidan Smolinski, Ryker Caffet, William Buswell, and Charli Caffet. Front: Bennett Schmidt and Huxley Kotun. Missing: manager Brittany Kotun.

games, and they were very dedicated to that," Kotun said.

"The time they put into the ball season... it was a good feeling for those kids to win it."

The Provincials championship caps off a great year of sports for the group of kids. Earlier this year, the cohort also brought home the S.T.E.P. Hockey League championship.

Looking ahead to next season, Kotun says seven of the players will be moving up to the 13U age group, meaning the 11U team will be on the younger side again. It's unclear if the team will make another Provincials run next year.

The 11U Spiritwood Stingers are: Adam Kotun, Huxley Kotun, Beau Doucette, Trigg Scott, Maddox Beuker, Ryker Sawyer Doucette, William Buswell, Caffet, Bennett Schmidt, Sawyer Kotun, Charli Caffet, and Aidan Smolinski.

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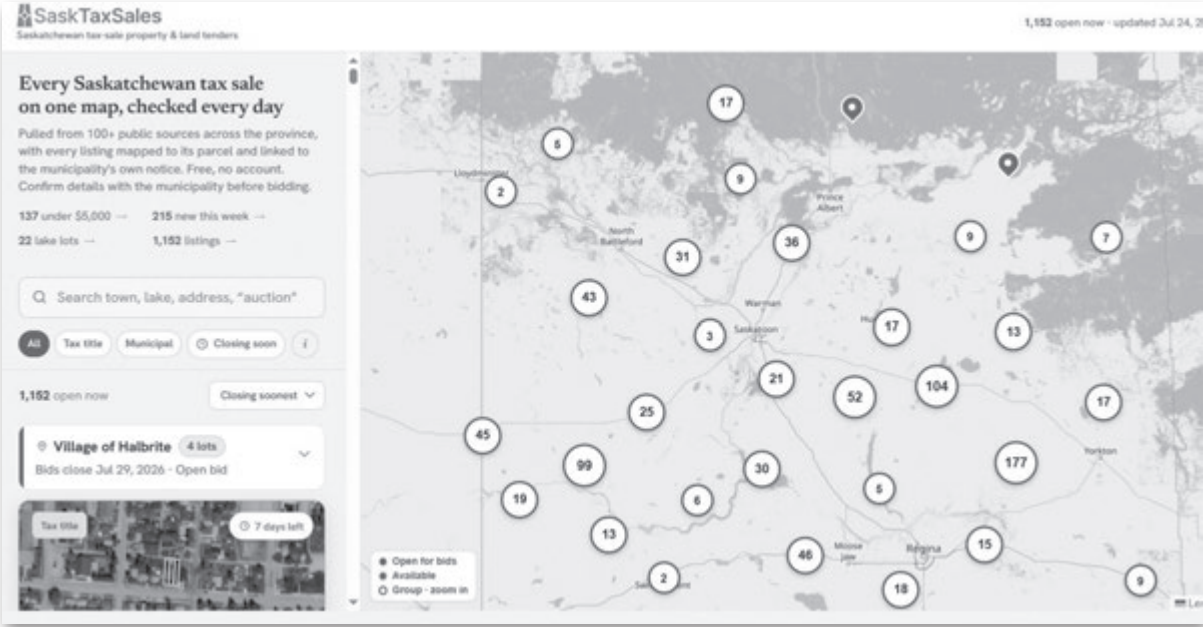


Online map charts Sask. tax-sale properties

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

When Palle St Cyer was looking for cheap land in Saskatchewan, he kept running in to the same problem over and over again. Often times, the cheapest land one can find in the province is property that’s been seized through tax enforcement and is being sold by a town, village, or Rural Municipality. But keeping track of listings means spending countless hours combing through multiple newspapers for notices or blindly calling municipalities. St Cyer, who grew

up in Blaine Lake and now works full-time in branding for businesses and creative technology, knew there had to be a way to make tax-sale properties easier to find. And as he started mapping things out for himself, he quickly discovered he wasn’t alone in wanting a solution to the problem. So, making use of his professional skills, St Cyer developed *sasktaxsales.ca*, a free-to-use online map and database that compiles tax-sale property listings from across the entire province and provides any available information about them — including who to contact.



A new website, *sasktaxsales.ca*, aims to help land hunters find land for sale near them in Saskatchewan.

“The notices are all public, but until now you had to know which

paper to read and which town office to call. Putting it on one map lets an ordinary person look up their own town, see what’s for sale nearby, and find affordable land they’d never have known existed,” he said. “It also gives a feel for the wider Saskatchewan land market that just wasn’t visible before,” he adds, noting that this could also make it valuable to investors or developers. St Cyer began working on the website a few months ago, using a mix of tools he built to pull public notices together and “old-fash-

ioned legwork.” In addition to scouring every local newspaper he could get his hands on and visiting municipal websites, he called more than 80 communities and R.M.s and emailed over 100 more to confirm listings. And getting this information was only the first step. Next, he had figure out how to map each listing properly based on its legal land description to ensure it was accurately displayed. “Getting each listing onto the right spot with the right detail, took a lot of doing,” he said. “That human side

is genuinely the hard part, and it’s a big reason nobody had pulled this together before.” Now that *sasktaxsales.ca* has been live for a little over a month, the work hasn’t necessarily slowed down. St Cyer still has to scan sources daily to add new listings, keep existing listings up to date, and add more detail to listings as he obtains it. Currently, *sasktaxsales.ca* boasts more than 1,100 listings across roughly 70 municipalities. Already, more than 100 people have registered to be notified when new land listings go live.

Shellbrook business tied to immigration fraud case

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

A Shellbrook business that never opened its doors was linked to an immigration fraud case that concluded in Saskatoon earlier this month. According to court records, the false immigration claims were tied to Vault’s Kitchen and included counselling foreign nationals to submit false employment information on federal and provincial immigration applications, including falsified pay stubs, offers of employment, and other supporting documents for jobs that did not exist. The sole suspect in the case, Balvir Singh, pleaded guilty to counselling misrepresentation under Section 126 of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act.

Saskatoon Court of King’s Bench Justice T.J. Keene sentenced him to a conditional sentence of two years less a day, a \$10,000 fine, and 40 hours of community service for perpetrating the elaborate for-profit scheme, noting that it undermines confidence in Can-

ada’s immigration system. According to the Canada Border Services Agency, investigators in Regina began looking into the matter in 2018 after border services officers across Canada reported an unusually high volume of immigration applications linked to a Saskatoon-based non-profit. The court also reviewed a statement from Jasbir Singh, who said he paid Balvir Singh about \$40,000 for immigration sponsorship. On top of his conditional sentence, Balvir Singh was ordered to adhere to several conditions, including reporting to a supervisor, staying within Saskatchewan unless he has written permission, obeying a curfew for the first 12 months, having no contact with Jasbir Singh, and having no involvement in immigration-related matters.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SPIRITWOOD: Wapiti Regional Library - Tuesday 10am - 5pm; Wednesday 10am - 5pm; Thursday 1pm to 5pm; Friday 10am - 5pm
LEOVILLE: Wapiti Regional Library - Wednesday 10am - 4pm; Thursday 10am - 4pm
SHELL LAKE: Wapiti Regional Library - Tuesday 11am - 4pm; Wednesday 12 pm -5 pm

BLAINE LAKE: Wapiti Library - Wednesday 1pm - 6pm; Thursday 1pm - 6pm; Friday 1pm - 6pm; Saturday 10am - 3pm. Contact us for more info 306-497-3130, www.wapitilibrary.ca.
BIG RIVER: Wapiti Library - Tuesday 11:30am - 5:30pm; Wednesday 11:30am - 4:30pm; Thursday 11:30am - 4:30pm. Phone # 306-469-2152
CANWOOD: Canwood Branch of Wapiti Regional Library Hours: Tuesday 9:30am - 4pm; Wednesday 10:30am - 5pm; Phone: 306-468-2501
DEBDEN: Wapiti Library hours: Tuesday 10am - 4pm; Wednesday 12pm - 6pm. Librarian: Aline Hannon
LEASK: Wapiti Library & Legacy Gallery Hours - Tuesday 9am - 2pm; Wednesday 2pm - 8pm; Friday 9am - 12pm
MARCELIN: Wapiti Library - Saturday 10am - 2pm; Thursday 2pm - 8pm. For information on all your library needs, please contact 306-226-2110.
SHELLBROOK: Shellbrook Branch of the Wapiti Library located at 105 Railway Ave., West (Provincial building). Library Hours: Monday 2pm - 6pm; Tuesday 2pm - 8pm; Wednesday 2pm - 8pm; Thursday 12pm - 6pm; Friday 10 am - 5pm (Story Time 10:30am - 11:30am); Saturday 10am - 4pm.

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

BIG RIVER: Mark your calendar for the 20th Annual Northern Lights Bluegrass and Old Tyme Music Camp (Aug 10-14) and Festival (Aug 14-16) at beautiful Ness Creek. The Mainstage includes Virginia’s New Floyd County Ramblers and local favourite Jake Vaadeland, with daytime workshops, nightly dances and campfire jams. Get ready for a magical, musical ring-dang-do, we’ve got 20 years of bluegrass and old time to be celebrating this Summer... Learn more at *northernlights-bluegrass.com*.
SHELL LAKE AREA: Follow the Blue Moons to the Thickwood Hills Studio Trail Artisan Tour – Saturday, Aug. 8 & Sunday, Aug. 9, 10am to 5pm. Find your map at *www.thickwoodhillsstudiotrail.ca* or *facebook.com/thickwoodhillsstudiotrail*. Follow us on Facebook for chances to WIN Shopping Vouchers.
PARKSIDE: Walter Willoughby Horticultural Society 63rd Annual Show – Thursday, August 13, 2026, Parkside Heritage Centre. Doors open 2pm; Awards at 4pm. Bring exhibits Wed. 5-8pm or Thurs. 7:30-9am. Everyone welcome! Show books available - Call 306-747-3301. Admission \$3; Coffee/Dessert \$6; Silent Auction

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Research farm deal leaves much uncertainty

A recent press release from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) holds out some hope for farmers as important research capacity in Saskatchewan may be given new life.

The release notes that AAFC and the Province of Saskatchewan “are exploring potential approaches to support continuity of agriculture activities at the Indian Head and Scott Research Farms during their planned disposal.”

At face value, the idea of co-operatively finding a way to continue research is a great one. It’s frankly the sort of thing which should have happened had the federal government consulted on their planned closures before making the announcement.

A joint deal done before announcing changes would have allayed farm groups’ concerns about the loss of research capacity, avoided researcher concerns over their careers, and shown continued dedication to ag research. Of course, conversations obviously never took place beforehand.

Now the new announcement — made recently by the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, Honourable Heath MacDonald, jointly with the Honourable David Marit, Saskatchewan Minister of Agriculture — may reverse the earlier bad course of action.

I say “may” since the relationship between Premier Scott Moe’s government and the



CALVIN DANIELS

feds has been strained if not outright acrimonious, with Moe typically laying all the province’s woes at the feet of the federal government. So, expecting a joint deal on the research sites to come easily seems a bit of a stretch.

Again, from the AAFC release, “under the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the two levels of government will explore possible

interim arrangements that allow the two research farms to remain productive assets for the agriculture sector. This supports the ongoing stewardship of the properties while the federal government advances the established disposal process in accordance with Treasury Board requirements.”

So, therein lies another concern over what is being touted as an important co-operative endeavour. It doesn’t sound like the two sides are seeking a long-term way to maintain the sites, but rather some interim arrangement pending the feds over-loading the facilities that could still put the kibosh on research moving forward. That’s hardly a win for farm-

ers.

AAFC will continue to invest in science and strengthen collaborations with industry, governments, academia, and other key stakeholders in Canada and internationally. These efforts advance shared science priorities through activities at its centres and through regional and national initiatives to support the agriculture and agri-food sector.

In the release David Marit, Saskatchewan Minister of Agriculture states, “the Indian Head and Scott Research Farms supported important agricultural research for many years and are an important part of a research network that keeps Saskatchewan ag-

riculture competitive. This MOU will see the Governments of Saskatchewan and Canada work together to ensure agricultural activities continue at these sites while longer-term processes advance benefiting Saskatchewan producers.”

Again, the language is well-coached to perhaps mean long term preservation of the sites, but an eventual full closure and divestment of the facilities is just as likely.

At its best the co-operative effort could be important to long term ag research in the province, but it may also prove little more than an effort to placate concerned producers if the asset is permanently lost.

Crop Report: July 14 to 20

By MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

Submitted

Most areas in the province experienced warmer, drier conditions this week, which improved crop development and allowed haying to proceed. However, localized thunderstorms caused damage to crops and property in some regions. The combination of warm temperatures and high humidity created favourable conditions for disease development. As a result, many producers are applying fungicides to suppress existing disease pressure and proactively spraying to reduce the risk of further disease development.

The rainfall received this week caused some localized flooding and brought hail and wind to parts of the province. The Bienfait area reported the most rain this week with 126 millimetres (mm), followed by the Meadow Lake area with 73 mm and the Lampman area with 48 mm. Many areas reported rainfall from 25 mm to 45

mm.

Topsoil moisture remains adequate for most of the province, despite many regions reporting reduced moisture this week.

Warmer weather helped crop development, bringing some crops closer to normal stages for this time of year. Fall cereals have the largest percentage of acres near normal stages of development while oilseeds, spring cereals and annual forages remain the largest percentages of crops that are behind.

Weather conditions allowed producers to move forward with haying operations this week. Half of the province’s hay is cut with 43 per cent standing, 29 per cent cut and 28 per cent baled or put up as silage. Hay quality is rated as 24 per cent excellent, 65 per cent good, 10 per cent fair and one per cent poor.

Producers report minor to severe damage to crops from flooding, heat, wind and hail this week. Gophers and cabbage seedpod weevil

caused minor to moderate damage to crops with some areas seeing higher damage depending on pest populations. Localized storms and strong winds led to cereal crops lodging across many regions. In areas that remained wet most of the season, root rots and other diseases are causing minor to moderate damage.

Over the upcoming weeks, producers will be busy finishing fungicide spraying, haying and getting equipment ready for harvest. Producers are reminded to keep safety top of mind while working in the field and moving equipment.

For any crop or livestock questions, producers are encouraged to call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre toll free at 1-866-457-2377.

This can be a stressful time of year for producers as weather conditions can be unpredictable. The Farm Stress Line can help by providing support for producers toll free at 1-800-667-4442.

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

Sask. calls for more federal infrastructure funding

By MINISTRY OF GOV’T RELATIONS

Submitted

The Government of Saskatchewan is calling on the federal government to strengthen its partnership with the province by investing in three major infrastructure projects that will help meet the needs of growing communities, create new economic opportunities and deliver long-term benefits for the regions they serve.

In a letter to the Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada (HICC) Minister

Gregor Robertson, Premier Scott Moe formally endorsed three major regional infrastructure projects seeking funding through the federal government’s Build Communities Strong Fund (BCSF) – Direct Delivery Stream:

- Downtown Event and Entertainment District (DEED) in Saskatoon
- Prince Albert Convention and Cultural Event Centre
- Battlefords Arena and Event Centre in North Battleford

As part of its commitment to these projects, the Govern-

ment of Saskatchewan has informed these cities and the federal government that it is prepared to cost-match federal contributions, up to a maximum of one-third of eligible project costs, should the projects receive funding approval.

Although provincial participation is not required under the BCSF Direct Delivery Stream, Saskatchewan is stepping up with a funding commitment and endorsement of these projects, reflecting the province’s confidence in the role they can play in supporting regional economic activity and community development.

“These infrastructure projects reflect shared priorities between Saskatchewan and Canada, including economic growth and community resilience,” Premier Moe said. “We encourage the federal government to work with Saskatchewan and these municipalities to bring these transformational investments to life.”

The proposed projects will deliver significant regional and provincial benefits that strengthen economic development, expand housing and tourism opportunities, and provide space to support emergency efforts during nat-

ural disasters and other emergencies.

Saskatchewan continues to advocate for strong federal-provincial infrastructure partnerships, which are essential to advancing projects of this scale and significance.

Provincial support for these projects will not affect other Saskatchewan municipal project submissions under the BCSF-Provincial and Territorial Stream. Negotiations are currently underway between the provincial and federal governments for funding to be made available under this program.

Fire safety heroes visit Canwood Library

By BEV WYATT
Canwood Library Board

Smokey the Bear and Sparky the Fire Dog visited the Canwood Public Library on July 22.

They taught local children how to stay safe from fires. The fun event was led by Anara Arcand from the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency (SPSA). Kids learned about smoke alarms, fire safety tips, fire drills, and what to do in an emergency.

The children loved meeting the mascots and doing hands-on safety activities. At the end of the event every child took home a plastic fire hat and ruler.

The library's intent is for the kids to share these important lessons with their families.

Another fun summer activity at the library!



Local children enjoyed learning about fire safety from Smokey the Bear and Sparky the Fire Dog at the Canwood Library.

Walkathon brings in books, funds A gardener's guide to apples: Part 3

By SYLVIA JENSEN
Submitted

Brad Darbyshire, who owns the Lakeside Carwash, and the campers who joined him from Solitude Ridge hosted the first annual Rubber Boot Walkathon on Saturday, July 11, to collect books for Shell Lake's Little Wonders Clubhouse Preschool and funds for the Shell Lake Public Library.

As its name implies, a rubber boot walkathon is like a traditional walkathon, except participants wear rubber boots for fun.

Through generous donations, 50 books were collected for Little Wonders, and \$1,500 was raised to be donated to the Shell Lake Library. The funds will be used for library supplies, craft supplies, and books.



Brad Darbyshire presents a \$1,500 cheque to Shell Lake Library treasurer Donna Prafke from the first Rubber Boot Walkathon.

By PATRICIA HANBIDGE
Orchid Horticulture

Worldwide, there are over 2,500 different types of apples that are grown. Although we may not be able to produce all of the 2,500 different types of apples, we can certainly hold our own and produce enough variety to keep any palate happy.

However, how you decide what apple to grow is sometimes difficult! Please read on and tempt your tastebuds to grow your own apples. The following are some of the more popular cultivars of prairie-hardy apples. By definition an apple tree that produces fruit that is 5 cm or larger in diameter is considered a true apple. Fruit that is 3.5 to 5.0 cm in diameter is classified an apple-crab, and fruit smaller than 3.5 cm is a crabapple.

Early Season Apples – harvest in August

'Heyer 12' is a very hardy selection made from a seedling of a Russian apple by Mr. Adolph Heyer, an amateur fruit breeder from Neville, Saskatchewan. Due to its extreme hardiness, and its high degree of fire blight resistance, it has remained a reliable apple for prairie conditions since its introduction in 1940. Fruit is 5–6 cm, round, yellow-green with no red colour. Flesh is creamy white, coarse, and mildly acid. The fruit breaks down very quickly and will not store for more than a couple days.

'Norland' is a good quality, medium sized, (6–7 cm) apple suitable for fresh eating or cooking. Fruit shape is oblong conic, slightly ribbed; skin has greenish yellow base colour and a 50–60% washed and striped dark red over colour. Flesh is cream coloured with a slight greenish tint and coarse in texture. It has good flavour with



moderate acid. Fruit ripens in mid- late August and stores very well especially if picked slightly before full maturity. Trees are semi-dwarf, upright spreading and annually productive. Trees are considered hardy to zone 2a but somewhat susceptible to fire blight.

'Westland' is a large (7–8 cm) apple with fair quality for eating and good quality for cooking. Fruit shape is round conic with slight ribbing. Skin is yellowish, with 10–20% washed and striped light red. Flesh is creamy white tinged red; flavour is moderate acid and sweet. Fruit ripens in mid- to late August and stores moderately well (up to 8 weeks). Trees are semi-vigorous with wide angled crotches and are annually productive. They are hardy to zone 1b if provided some protection. 'Westland' is suggested as a replacement for 'Heyer 12' as a hardy cooking apple.

Mid-Season Apples - harvest in late August to late September

'Adanac' has fruit that is 6 cm in diameter, with green skin with red stripes. The flesh is greenish-white, slightly coarse, slightly acid and good for fresh eat-

ing cooking and juice. It forms round-headed, semi-dwarf trees with good branching habits. It is resistant to fire blight and hardy to 2a.

'Battleford' has fruit of 7 cm in diameter with greenish-yellow skin mottled and streaked with red. The flesh is yellowish-white, somewhat coarse, and slightly acidic. It stores for one month and can be eaten fresh, used for cooking or juicing. It has limited resistance to fire blight, and is of reliable hardiness only to zone 2a.

'Breakey' produces 6–7 cm diameter apples that are round with amber coloured skin that is striped with red. It matures in September. The flesh is white, fine textured, flavourful and juicy. It is excellent for fresh eating, cooking and juice and stores well for eight weeks. It requires a protected site in zones 3 and 2b and is susceptible to fire blight.

Hanbridge is the Lead Horticulturist with Orchid Horticulture. Find us at www.orchidhort.com; by email at growyourfuture@gmail.com on facebook @orchidhort and on instagram at #orchidhort.

Parkside Derby still a hit at 43

Continued from 1

Then, with the crowd adequately warmed up, it was time for the cars to start hitting. In the three preliminary heats, Marty Coverchuk, Robert Peterson (Charity Car), and Rocky Penner emerged victorious to advance straight to the finals. Placing second in those heats and also advancing were local veterans Cody Sommerfeld, Jesse Nyberg, and Brendan Aug.

Meanwhile, a battle of attrition in the preliminary truck heat ended in the derby's first-ever draw between Pat Dequier and Dakota Theroux.

Following a brief break, it was on to the consolation heats for the cars. Shane Heppner and Joey Peters emerged as the qualifiers from the first consolation heat, while Logan Donohue managed to survive a head-on collision that broke his and Darrel Gatzke's steering columns to qualify alongside Lance Steele in the second consolation round.

Over in the truck final, Dakota Theroux, who made the trip from Bonnyville, Alta., still had enough left in the tank to outlast Ben Beam and hoist the trophy.

Then, in a thrilling car finale, Shane Heppner, Joey Peters (broken axle), and Lance Steele were the first to pull their flags as the heat got off to a blistering start.

Next, Marty Coverchuk's hard-hitting afternoon caught up with him, and Jesse Nyberg was forced to bow out, leaving a top three of Brendan Aug, Rocky Penner, and the Charity Car (driven by substitute driver Derek Olson).

Despite being rammed up onto the concrete barricade late in the heat, Olson managed to keep his vehicle running and outbash Aug and Penner to claim the derby trophy. This marked the first time that the Charity Car has won the derby.

"There's a long line of board members who came before us to get the derby to 43 years. It's pretty cool being a part of that," Jory Segberg said, attributing the derby's success to the volunteers, sponsors, and drivers who continue to support it year after year.

"You talk to some of the drivers, and some of them have been coming back to the derby for ten years or more. It's awesome."



Bonnyville, Alta.'s Dakota Theroux (right) went the distance to claim the truck trophy, presented by Jory Segberg.



Playing up the Jurassic Park theme of the charity car, a trio of rogue dinosaurs decided to try out the barrel races.



The Park Valley team were the winners of this year's mixed slo-pitch tournament.



Jesse Nyberg smashes into Robert Peterson in the charity car.



Logan Donohue and Darrel Gatzke collide in the second consolation heat. Both drivers broke their steering columns in the process.



Brendan Aug had the fastest time in this year's barrel races.



Pat Dequier lands a big hit in the opening truck heat.



Levi Quist and Jaden Schutte provided musical entertainment between the barrel races and derby.



Marty Coverchuk lands a huge hit on Jack Gosselin in action from the first heat.

Minutes of an RM of Canwood meeting

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

A regular meeting of the Council of the Rural Municipality of Canwood No. 494 was held in the Municipal Council Chambers, at 641 Main Street, Canwood, Sask., on June 16, 2026, commencing at 9 a.m.

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

Delegations:
9:30 a.m. Dwight Diehl, Public Works Supervisor, Municipal Operations Update

10 a.m. Glenn Nordby, Employee Concern

Jensen: That the minutes of the May 12, 2026, Regular Council Meeting be approved as presented. Carried

Jensen: That the Statement of Financial Activities for the month of April 2026 for the R.M. General Account be approved as presented. Carried

Stene: That the Statement of Financial Activities for the month of May 2026 for the R.M. General Account be approved as presented. Carried

Public Works Supervisor Dwight Diehl attended the meeting at 9:25 a.m.

Stene: That we approve the payments as listed on the attached account listing for a total of \$339,169.75 Council Direct Deposits for June and Payroll Direct Deposits for 2026 Pay Period 10, 11 & 12. Carried

Lockhart: That we adopt the safety manual as present-

ed. Carried
Muller: That we hire Beatrice Hansen, Mont Nebo, Sask., to maintain the Hawkeye Cemetery for the 2026 season at a cost of \$1,000. Carried

Schutte: That we hire Kim Lajeunesse, Canwood, Sask., to maintain the South Cemetery for the 2026 season at a cost of \$250 per cut. Further to this, trimming around the graves with a trimmer as well as cleaning off the graves is a requirement of the mowing caretaker. Carried

Boisvert: That we hire Raymond Boutin, Prince Albert, Sask., to maintain the designated areas at Goldridge Enterprises Inc. for the 2026 season at a rate of \$130 per cut. Carried

Schutte: That we acknowledge the Occupational Health Committee Meeting Minutes of June 9, 2026. Carried

Muller: That the regular meeting of Council be suspended at 10:30 a.m. for an in-camera session to discuss legal matters. Carried

Jensen: That the regular meeting of Council reconvene at 10:40 a.m. Carried

Boisvert: That in the matter of the Ahtahkakoop TLE File 838.030.02, Council offers the following comments:

The original road allowance on the south side of the SE-14-52-08 W3 is undeveloped. The Rural Municipality of Canwood wishes to retain the road allowance.

The original road allowance on the north side of the NE-14-52-08 W3 is undeveloped. The Rural Municipality of Canwood wishes to retain the road allowance. Carried

Boisvert: That in the matter of the Ahtahkakoop TLE File 838.025.02, Council of-

fers the following comments:

The original road allowance on the south side of the NE-14-52-08 W3 is undeveloped and has no adjoining road allowance access. The Rural Municipality of Canwood wishes to retain the road allowance. Carried

Lockhart: That in the matter of the Ahtahkakoop TLE File 838.026.02, Council offers the following comments:

The original road allowance on the west side of the NW-14-52-08 W3 is undeveloped. The Rural Municipality of Canwood wishes to retain the road allowance.

The original road allowance on the west side of the SW-14-52-08 W3 is undeveloped. The Rural Municipality of Canwood wishes to retain the road allowance.

The original road allowance on the south side of the SW-14-52-08 W3 is undeveloped. The Rural Municipality of Canwood wishes to retain the road allowance. Carried

Jensen: That Bylaw No. 2026-05 attached hereto and forming part of these Minutes, being a Bylaw of the Rural Municipality of Canwood No. 494 to provide for transitioning negotiable debenture to non-negotiable debenture, now be read the first time. Carried (*Editor's note: the bylaw was unanimously given three readings and adopted at the meeting.*)

Schutte: That we authorize the Chief Administrative Officer and the First Nations Committee to enter and execute the Climate-Ready Plans and Processes Partnership Agreement with Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation. Carried

Muller: That in the mat-

ter of tax enforcement proceedings against Blk A Plan 101528603 Ext 155 (SE 17-53-05 W3), we authorize Veritas Law to serve final notice pursuant to The Tax Enforcement Act. Carried

Lockhart: That we authorize disposal of the following documents in accordance with the Records Retention and Disposal Schedule of Bylaw No. 2025-08:

- 1.17 Tax Roll and Assessment Roll
- 1995, 2004, 2009 Tax Roll
- Hail Roll – 1994, 1995. Carried

Muller: That we approve the 2025 draft audited financial statements as presented and that no subsequent events have occurred that would affect those statements, and no unrecorded contingencies or commitments have been identified. Carried

Boisvert: That we acknowledge the Petition to Amend Bylaw 2026-01. Carried

Stene: That we advise the Community Planning Branch of the Ministry of Government Relations that we recommend approval of the Application to Subdivide Land of Rick and Sherry-Lynn Jensen, for the purpose of subdividing Parcel D from the NW 15-52-04 W3, as the site has physical and legal access and exceeds the minimum site area requirements of Section 5 of the Municipal Zoning Bylaw 2003-7. Further to this, the municipal reserve requirement is met with the dedication of 1.39 acres. Carried

Jensen: That we acknowledge the Permit Extension Application of Eddy Knoppers to complete the de-

tached garage by May 31, 2027. Carried

Muller: That we acknowledge the Permit Extension Application of Melissa and Rob Bewer to complete the garage by April 30, 2027. Carried

Stene: That we acknowledge the Building Permit Application of Bradley and Lorna Benson for a deck extension, pursuant to Section 5.1.1(1)(c) of the Municipal Zoning Bylaw 2003-7. Carried

Jensen: That we approve the Discretionary Use Application of Brett Couture, Debden, Sask., for a second dwelling, pursuant to Section 5.2.1(2)(b) of the Municipal Zoning Bylaw 2003-7. Carried

Olson: That we approve the Discretionary Use Application of Donovan and Laura Dionne, Canwood, Sask., for a second dwelling, pursuant to Section 5.2.1(2)(b) of the Municipal Zoning Bylaw 2003-7. Carried

Lockhart: That we now file the correspondence. Carried

Lockhart: That we approve the Council's Indemnity as presented. Carried

Lockhart: That we hire Infinity Core as the Regional Coordinator for the Parkland Emergency Measures Organization. Further to this, each municipality type will pay the 2026 contract fee as follows:

- Rural Municipality \$5,108.76
- Town \$2,430.87
- Village \$632.72. Carried

Jensen: That we acknowledge the resignation of Division One Councillor Kenneth Stene. Carried

Lockhart: That we now adjourn at 1:30 p.m.

GOOD NEWS



A DEMONSTRATION OF POWER

By **DEB ANDERSON**
Submitted

As 2 Kings (20: 1-11) tells us, when King Hezekiah (741-687 B.C.) was sick and near death, Isaiah the prophet went to him and said, “Thus says the Lord: ‘Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live.’”

Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed to the Lord, and said, “Remember now, O Lord, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done what is good in Your sight.” And Hezekiah wept bitterly.

And it happened, before Isaiah had gone out into the middle court, that the word of the Lord came to him,

saying, “Return and tell Hezekiah...I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will heal you... and I will add to your days fifteen years...”

Isaiah said, “This is the sign to you from the Lord, that the Lord will do the thing which He has spoken: shall the shadow go forward ten degrees or go backward ten degrees?”

And Hezekiah answered, “It is an easy thing for the shadow to go down ten degrees; no, but let the shadow go backward ten degrees.”

So, Isaiah the prophet cried out to the Lord, and He brought the shadow ten degrees backward, by which it had gone down on the sundial.

What a remarkable event this

was! A man’s heartfelt prayer and tears changed the heart of God and brought forth a God-sized response. The sign that the king would live an extra fifteen years was incredible.

Speaking through the prophet, the Lord offered to change the sun’s shadow. Hezekiah thought he was making things challenging by requesting the shadow not follow its regular path, but go backward ten degrees. That made no difference to His Creator, who had just decided to extend his life fifteen years.

Just what would it take to move a shadow backward ten degrees on a sundial? We come to love our Lord through pondering these deep things that have been documented for us.

This is a big encouragement to pray and believe for things we cannot solve.

Who can know the mind of God? Hope in His mercy. Faith pleases God. Hezekiah was not defeated upon hearing of his pending death, he leaned not to his own understanding, but looked to Him who could make a difference.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh, and strength to your bones.” (Proverbs 3: 5-8).

PGA Tour getting a new look

The ever-evolving Professional Golfers Association tour is undergoing another major change.

The tour in the past 19 years has featured the best golfers in the world competing for the FedEx Cup, taking part in an autumn playoff system and, more recently, playing in big-money, no-cut 'signature' events, but is now entering a new phase that officials hope will streamline and improve the professional game.

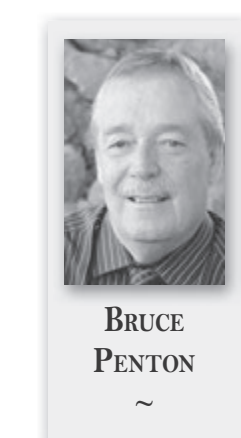
New PGA Tour commissioner Brian Rolapp announced in mid-June the establishment of two distinct tours — or 'tracks' as he called them. Track 1 is the Championship Series where 130 of the world's elite golfers will compete in 20 or so events with each tournament offering prize money of at least \$20 million. Track 2 will be the PGA Tour's secondary series, or 'Challenger,' where more than 20 tournaments each year will be played for purses in the \$4 million range.

The Challenger series will be open to around 200 of the world's best golfers who aren't quite good enough for the Championship Series. Its tournaments will have fields of around 144 players and the top 20 point-getters each year will move up to the Championship Series for the next season.

Additional avenues of elevation to the Track 1 tour also exist: Win twice on the Challenger tour or win a major championship and a golfer will immediately move up.

The new system is being referred to by the PGA Tour as a true meritocracy. Perform well and a golfer stays. Perform poorly and a golfer is relegated to the Challenger Tour. Only the best 90 point-getters on the big tour (out of about 130 golfers) will maintain their status annually on the Championship Tour.

The playoffs and Tour Championship for the FedEx Cup are also undergoing changes. A number of methods for the Tour Championship



BRUCE
PENTON

have been used in the past (starting strokes, etc.), but beginning in 2028, the season's champion will be determined by match play after preliminary playoff events in some of America's major cities such as New York, Boston, Philadelphia and San Francisco. Precise details on that have yet to be announced.

The meritocracy angle will be solidified by the announcement that sponsor's exemptions will no longer be allowed. There will also be no alternate lists. Some fields may be the full 120 (out of 130 eligible for Track 1 events) and some may be short. But with \$20 million at

stake for all Championship /Series events, it's unlikely fields will fall short of the 120 max.

Feeder tours such as Korn Ferry, PGA Tour university and the PGA Tour Americas (Canadian Tour and the Latino-America Tour) will continue to operate, providing stepping-stone opportunities for aspiring professional golfers.

The new system will eliminate some deadwood — fan-favourite players whose games are no longer elite but still get into tournaments due to ticket-selling 'star power' (Rickie Fowler, Tony Finau and Jordan Spieth are three that come to mind) — but golf's best show on earth should emerge even stronger and better than it has ever been.

Shane Ryan of Golf Digest, on British fans responding favourably to Bryson DeChambeau after the major rules controversy in Round 2 of the Open Championship: "If this had happened on Long Island, Bryson would

have been hog-tied and roasting over a spit with a big red apple in his mouth by the fifth hole."

• Super 70s Sports: "Upon snapping a 16-match losing streak to Jimmy Connors in 1980, Vitas Gerulaitis observed 'Nobody beats Vitas Gerulaitis 17 times in a row.'"

• A quote from the late football coach Lou Holtz: "On this team, we're all united in a common goal: To keep my job."

• Headline at fark.com: "What's the difference between a Fenway Frank and a Yankee Stadium hot dog? You can still buy a Yankee Stadium hotdog in October."

• Headline at the-onion.com: "LeBron James Realizes He Left Brand-New Stick Of Deodorant In Lakers Locker"

• Another headline at fark.com: "MLB says the first games to be cancelled by lockout will be scheduled for March. 24."

• Steve Simmons of the Toronto Sun: "The

NBA is not releasing its schedule for next season until LeBron James has signed somewhere, so they know who to put on television on Christmas Day."

• Mike Bianchi of the Orlando Sentinel: "I guess we should have expected France to surrender without much of a fight at the World Cup."

• Another one from Bianchi: "New Orlando Magic coach Sean Sweeney revealed that his interview with the Orlando Magic lasted nine and a half hours. The Magic didn't hire a coach, they conducted a Congressional hearing."

• Janice Hough of leftcoastsportsbabe.com: "Lebron James says he is not ready to reveal next team, but it will be 'fun.' Just beginning to think that King James is a Drama Queen."

• Another onion.com headline: "World Cup Reinvigorates Nation's Interest In Kicking Things"

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

NDP urges premiers to commit to public healthcare

By SASK NDP
Submitted

As Canada's Premiers gathered for a summer meeting in Prince Edward Island last week, Carla Beck's team called out Scott Moe and Danielle Smith for vouching to privatize healthcare, and called on other Premiers to take a stand for public healthcare.

Health Shadow Minister Meara Conway led the call Monday, while holding a news conference with Doddsland resident Meagan Johnson, who shared her experience of leaving Canada and paying approximately \$15,000 out of pocket for medically necessary spinal surgery after being told she would wait another 12 to 18 months for treatment in Saskatchewan.

Johnson spent months navigating Saskatchewan's healthcare system, including diagnostic imaging, specialist appointments and injections, before learning she

faced another lengthy delay despite living with severe, worsening nerve pain.

"As premiers gather to discuss Canada's future, Scott Moe should be standing up for public healthcare — not standing with a premier who is trying to undermine it," Conway said. "Meagan's story is what happens when patients lose faith that they can access timely care in the public system. When someone feels they have no choice but to leave the country and empty their savings account and go into debt to receive medically necessary surgery, our government has broken the promise of universal, public healthcare."

Johnson said the decision to leave Saskatchewan was one of desperation, not preference.

"I did everything I was told to do. I followed every step, trusted the system and waited patiently," she said. "But after months of appointments, I was told I would still have to wait another 12

to 18 months while living in constant pain. I couldn't wait any longer."

Johnson said she is speaking publicly because too many Saskatchewan patients do not have the financial means to do what she did.

Conway said Johnson's experience is not an isolated case but part of a broader pattern of patients waiting too long for essential care.

"Healthcare workers are doing everything they can, but this government has allowed our public healthcare system to deteriorate to the point where some patients believe paying privately or leaving Canada is their only option," Conway said.

Earlier this month, Carla Beck and Conway wrote to Prime Minister Mark Carney urging the federal government to defend the principles of universal public healthcare, warning of legislation imposed by Alberta Premier Danielle Smith to allow privately paid surgeries to be performed in publicly fund-

ed hospitals. The legislation has been vouched for on at least two separate occasions by Scott Moe and he has openly mused about bringing the same to Saskatchewan.

Carla Beck's team has consulted with thousands of people about the future of Saskatchewan healthcare through the Your Care, Your Say project and not one is vouching for more privatization.

"Canadians built a healthcare system based on need, not the ability to pay," Conway said. "The answer to stories like Meagan's is not to normalize paying for private healthcare, but to bring forward big, bold change to fix public healthcare."

When asked what the Sask. NDP would do differently, Conway said that one of the guiding themes of their interim report is the need to build up a public system and end what she describes as the Sask. Party's "pay to play" approach in healthcare.

"These lucrative contracts have not improved wait-times but have seen tens of thousands of donations go to the Sask. Party coffers.

"Let's start by investing in our public system here at home. Stop sending millions to a province that has declared open war on medicare. That would be a good start."

Conway also pointed to the need to finalize a fair contract with healthcare workers who have gone over four years without a pay raise.

"For a government that seems to say, 'we've tried everything and we're all out of solutions,' this would be another no-brainer."

Saskatchewan people are welcome to offer their ideas and feedback at YourCareYourSay.ca.

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OBITUARIES



Philip “Phil” Marion



Together they built a home where family was always the heart of everything.

He was a proud and loving father and a cherished grandfather and great-grandfather. He took immense pride in watching his family grow and treasured every opportunity to spend time with them, playing cards or board games, doing puzzles, fishing, watching sports, and sharing stories, laughter, and traditions that will continue for generations.

Phil always had a love for learning and teaching. Until a few years ago he was constantly looking up and sharing information/facts or reading for pleasure or learning. He was always willing to teach others about music, another of his passions, and started quite a few of his children and grandchildren on their musical path. His primary and secondary education journey included: Regent School in Laventure, SK, Spiritwood Separate School in Spiritwood, SK, and Notre Dame College in Prince Albert, SK. He then attended the University of Saskatchewan where he obtained a Bachelor of Arts Degree through St. Thomas More College and a Di-

ploma in Education from the College of Education.

After Phil and Aline got married on August 1, 1970, they lived in Prince Albert, SK where Phil taught at Arthur Pechey School for one year. In 1971 they moved to Inuvik, N.W.T. where Phil continued to teach for two more years.

In 1973, Phil and Aline moved onto the family farm near Spiritwood, SK, where Phil began and would continue farming until 2009. During their time on the farm, Phil's love of learning led him to obtain his pilot's license which allowed him to own and fly a couple of different airplanes both for pleasure and sometimes to get a job done. He was an active member of the Spiritwood Knights of Columbus and a Fourth Degree Knight, holding numerous positions during his many years as a Knight. Phil was also very involved with the Laventure 4-H club, with coaching minor hockey, and he did some casual work for Fast Genetics and Beaulac Funeral Home.

In 2009, Phil and Aline moved to Chitek Lake, SK, where Phil enjoyed spending time with family and friends, fishing, and continued to help Dan on the farm.

In 2022, Phil and Aline

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Hugh Otterson



care professionals. Our family would especially like to thank the incredible staff in the palliative care unit at St. Paul's Hospital. Their kindness, compassion, and exceptional care brought us comfort, and for the first time in months, we truly felt that Dad was in the best possible hands.

Hugh is survived by his wife Wendy Otterson; son Scott (Jennifer) Otterson; son Brady (Veronica) Otterson and grandson Marcel; siblings Amund Otterson, Shirley (George) Snead, Jean Weild, Rita (Dale) Suderman, and Earl (Roxanne) Otterson; sisters-in-law Sandra Otterson, Linda Mason and Sharon Korody (Ralph); brother-in-law Keith Mason (Pauline); and numerous nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

He was predeceased by his parents Margaret and Elmer Otterson; brother Murray Otterson; brother-in-law Greg Weild; sister-in-law

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Ronald Joseph Reves



and grandchildren participate in their activities brought him great joy. More than anything he enjoyed the company of friends who came for coffee or cards.

He will be deeply missed by Margaret, his wife of 57 years; two daughters Brenda (Emily and Ethan) and Rhonda (Steven Peterson, Rhea and Leland); as well as by many friends.

There was a Celebration of his Life held for Ron on Wednesday, July 8, 2026, at 11:00AM at St. Jean Baptiste Roman Catholic Church in Debden with Fr. Phinh Do officiating.

Memorial donations can be made to the Debden Heritage Manor (Box 608 Debden, SK SoJ oSo).

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, Tammy Smart, Funeral Director, Shellbrook, SK 306-747-2828.

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Sunday School,
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Rev. Emmanuel Aristide

PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

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

PRESBYTERIAN

Mistawasis
Sunday worship 11 a.m.
Rev. Stewart Folster

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Big River
Sundays
11 a.m.. - Worship
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ANGLICAN CHURCH
Leask - All Saint's
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St. Andrew's - Shellbrook
Sunday Service - 11 am MP
June 21, 10:30 a.m. at
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Big River - Sacred Heart
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Sat., 7:30 p.m. - Mass.
Fr. Mariusz Zajac
St. Agatha's - Shellbrook
Mass - Sunday 9 a.m.
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EVENING LIGHT TABERNACLE

Ahtakakoop FN
Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
Communion 1st Wed.
of month
Pastor Burton Ahenakew
306-468-7537

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 10:00 a.m.
Rev. Sarah Urano

UNITED /ANGLICAN

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

CATHOLIC SATURDAY

Medstead - 6:00 p.m.
Shell Lake - 8:00 p.m.
SUNDAY
Spiritwood - 9:00 a.m.
Leoville - 11:00 a.m.
Chitek Lake - 1:00 p.m.
Everyone Welcome
Fr. Phinh Do

COWBOY CHURCH

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

FIELDS OF HOPE (HOFFNUNGSFELDER) MENNONITE CHURCH

Glenbush (May thru Sept)
10:00 am Worship
Rabbit Lake Mennonite
Church (June thru Sept)
2nd Sunday - 10 am Worship

BETHEL

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

MENNONITE 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 10:00 a.m.
306-883-8885

LAKELAND

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

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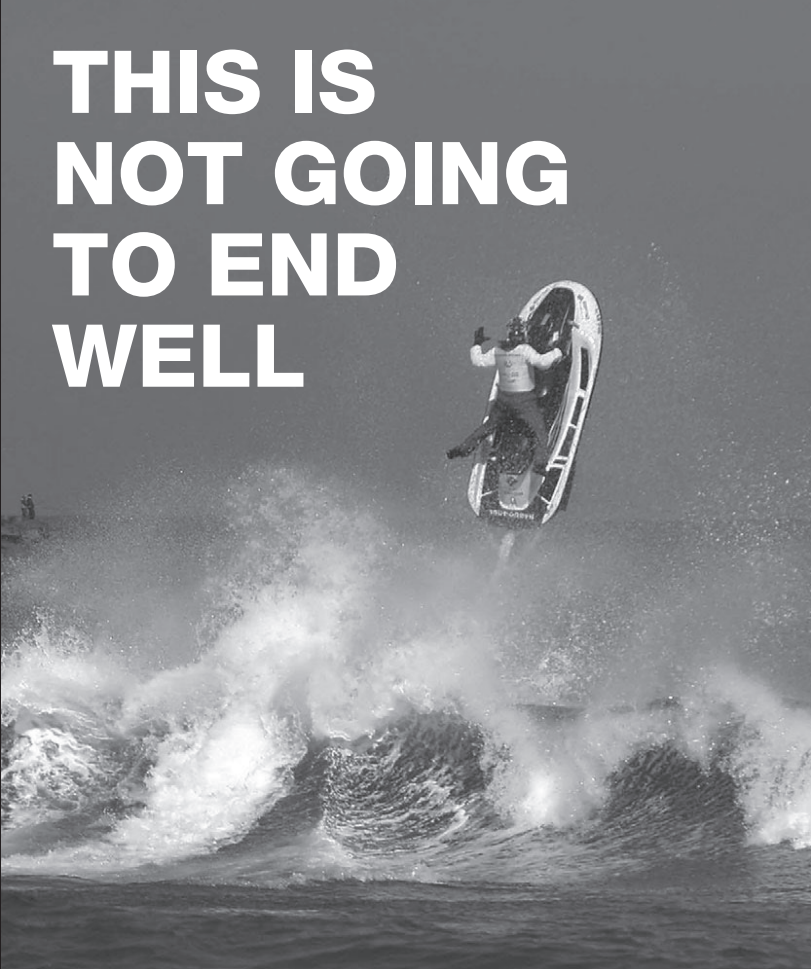
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