



MX Games bring mud-slinging fun



The MX Games track makes for a good suspension test.

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Marcelin's MX Games have come a long way from the days when they were just some guys on quads splashing around in a big mud-pit in true small-town Saskatchewan style.

"The MX Games started as just a mud pit with quads and stuff like that," said organizer Craig Verbonac.

"That started dying down, but we came across a video with tough trucks and thought it would be pretty cool to do. So, we started doing that and have grown our track more and more every year. It turned from a mud pit to a racing pit."

Now in their 17th year, the MX Games have become the community's must-attend event. And thanks to the hard work of the Marcelin Events

Committee, they keep getting bigger and muddier every year, with Verbonac noting that this year's crowd of 676 people on Saturday, Aug. 15, was the largest on record.

Add in a rainfall the night prior that left the track in great condition, beautiful weather on the day of the Games, and a strong turnout of 12 tough trucks, more than 40 dirt bikes across nine classes, and even five lawn tractors, and you have a perfect recipe for a full day of mud-slinging fun.

"It brings everybody together," Verbonac said, noting that he also runs a motocross club with anywhere from 20 to 25 members each year in May and June. "It's a big thing for a little town. It puts us on the map, and I hope the motocross club keeps growing and growing."

For dirt bike riders, the MX games

are a standard race to the finish. Meanwhile, the tough trucks compete in a two-lap time trial, with the best time bringing home the prize pot.

For Verbonac, the real prize is seeing all the kids taking part and having fun.

"It means the world just to get the kids off the couch," Verbonac said. "It's nice to see them on bikes. It gets kids and the community out, and keeps us all together."

Despite all the work that's gone into the MX Games track over the years, Verbonac says he'd still like to continue building up the jumps so they're more friendly for the local motocross club rather than being designed for "some rednecks in trucks."

And as much as they're about bringing the community together, the MX Games are also about giving back to

the community. For Verbonac, the priority is supporting efforts to improve or build a new town hall.

"That's where our focus is, to either get a new hall or put some major renovations into it," he said. "In years previous, we have donated to other causes, but for the next couple years we're going to focus on our town hall and see if we can make that a go."

This year's MX Games winners were:
50cc/youth: Liam Erb
65cc: Chuck Kernohan
85cc: Parker McIntyre
Ladies dirt bike: Madisyn Verbonac
C Class: Clay Christopherson
B Class: Isaiah Lepage
A Class: Jordan Dent
Vet Class: Jordan Dent
Tough truck: Ian Tindall
Lawn Mower: Cole Carlson

More photos on page 8



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Community raises roof on Debden rink project

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

In small Saskatchewan communities, the local rink is often the lifeblood of the community. Even in a village like Debden, where the rink isn't necessarily as active as it once was, the facility continues to play a vital role in bringing people together during the winter months.

So, when unexpected issues arose with the roof at the Debden Skating Rink, which was built in the early to mid 1980s, Jennifer Lehouillier and the Debden Recreation Board knew they couldn't sit back and do nothing.

"We needed to have the roof redone. It was leaking water inside every time it rained. We want to keep our facility open so that it's here for the years to come," Lehouillier said. "We're not that busy... but it's still an important facility to have for Debden. Once it's not there, it's not there ever."

The trouble with maintaining recreation facilities in small communities like Debden, which has a population of just over 300 people, is that available resources are scarce, but the financial demands

are no less than in larger communities. With the Debden Skating Rink's roof needing full shingle removal and disposal, sheathing replacement as required, new synthetic underlayment, and new shingle installation, the repair project is slated to cost \$155,000. "It's a big project," Lehouillier said.

As luck would have it, Lisa Burns from Debden's Prosperity Credit Union branch was looking to host a fundraising event in the community, and eventually settled on the idea of a movie night as part of a "Raise the Roof" fundraiser for the Debden Skating Rink.

In keeping with this theme, Prosperity Credit Union began by selling popcorn kernels (in a similar fashion to Tele-miracle Helping Hands), raising an impressive \$5,000.

"If people are giving us money, we [thought we] should do something for them so that they can come out and see that we, as a rec board, are trying to do something as well," Lehouillier said.

Getting on board with the Raise the Roof initiative, the Debden Rec Board hosted a day of



Debden's Prosperity Credit Union threw its support behind the Debden Skating Rink roof project, making a \$10,000 donation to the cause.

cornhole and beach volleyball at the rink on Saturday, Aug. 8, leading into the credit union's movie night. The canteen and beer gardens were also open throughout the day. All told, 24 cornhole teams and six volleyball teams signed up to compete for bragging rights

and cash prizes, and somewhere between 100 and 125 people came out in total, making the day an unqualified success in Lehouillier's eyes. Adding a nice finishing touch to the fundraiser, Prosperity Credit Union made a \$10,000 donation to the roof project. And donations have continued

to pour in since, helping the Debden Recreation Board raise more than \$40,000 for the project (and counting). "It's huge. It's so nice to have that support," Lehouillier said. "It was more than what I ever expected from people already, and there are still people donating. We

thought we would be just trudging along to make the roof happen." Work on the roof project began on Aug. 10. Given the project's size and scope, Lehouillier couldn't provide a timeline for the work, but said that everything was sounding promising thus far.

Canwood clinic sees changes to service

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

As of Sept. 1, Canwood and area patients of nurse practitioner Nancy Tenkink will have to travel to Debden for appointments with her, after changes made by the Prince Albert Co-operative Health Centre (PAHC) and the Prince Albert Community Clinic (PACC) terminated her services at the Canwood Community Clinic. Though the clinic has provided primary health-care services in the community for the past 60 years, concerns arose earlier this year about the future of both Tenkink and the clinic.

Those concerns were enough for a town hall meeting to be convened at the end of May, giving the community a chance to ask questions and form a plan to advocate for the clinic to remain open and Tenkink to continue providing services in the community. While no one from the PAHC or PACC attended the meeting, the organization sent the following statement: "The PAHC and PACC remain fully committed to ensuring stable and co-ordinated patient care for Canwood. Services at the clinic will continue to be delivered through physicians, and/or PACH-employed nurse practitioners to support continuity and consistency of care for the community. "PAHC AND PACC remain open to dialogue with the Canwood board and community regarding future service delivery approaches, and welcomes continued collaboration as part of our shared commitment to meeting community needs."

Though the statement was intended to assuage fears about the Canwood Community Clinic's future, one resident who attended the meeting noted that no PACC doctors had stepped in to fill the service gap during a recent temporary absence by Tenkink. With Tenkink's relocation to Debden, the PAHC and PACC have since committed to sending a doctor to Canwood one day per week for the remainder of the summer. Starting in September, doctors will be in Canwood two days per week.

R.M. OF SPIRITWOOD NO. 496 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Public Notice is hereby given that the Council of the Rural Municipality of Spiritwood No. 496 intends to alter the Zoning Bylaw, referred to as Bylaw. No. 4/2015.

INTENT OF ZONING BYLAW ALTERATIONS

The changes are summarized below.

1. Section 11

Lakeshore Development District
- Subsection 11.4

Subdivision and Site Regulations
- Subsection 11.4 is amended by adding the following clause to the Minimum Front Yard
- "Where a front building line in a Lakeshore Development District has been established by existing buildings in a block, and is less the 6.0 metres from the front yard (roadside), new construction may conform to the previous established building line, provided that the required front yard is not reduced to less than 3.0 metres from the roadside. Existing buildings where legally built are conforming with respect to the established building."
2. Section 3

Administration and Interpretation
- Clause 3.4.2

Development Not Requiring a Permit
- Clause 3.4.2 is removed and replaced with following:
- "3.2 The erection of any fence or retaining wall."

AFFECTED LANDS

All lands within the corporate limits of the Rural Municipality of Spiritwood No. 496 may hereby be affected by the revisions. Please check the full version of the updated documents available for viewing at the RM municipal office.

REASON FOR ZONING BYLAW ALTERATIONS

The reason for the Zoning Bylaw amendments is to clarify regulations throughout the Zoning Bylaw to improve interpretation and implementation.

PUBLIC INSPECTION

Any person may inspect the bylaw at the RM of Spiritwood No. 496 office between 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. excluding statutory holidays. Copies are available at a cost.

PUBLIC HEARING

Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, September 8, 2026 at 11:00 am in the RM office located at 218 Main Street in the Town of Spiritwood to hear any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed bylaw amendment. Council will also consider written comments received by the undersigned by Thursday, September 3rd, 2026.

Issued this 17th day of August, 2026
Colette Bussiere, CAO

VILLAGE OF CANWOOD PROPERTY FOR SALE BY PUBLIC TENDER

The Village of Canwood offers for sale the following property:

ISC Parcel #133173851
Lot 4 Block 01 Plan Y3516
Located at 541 – Main Street within the Village of Canwood;

A tender must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked:

'Property Tender – Lot 4 Block 01 Plan Y3516'
Village of Canwood
Box 172
Canwood, SK S0J 0K0

Tenders must be postmarked by October 15, 2026.

A certified cheque to the municipality for 5% of the amount of the tender must accompany the tender.

Highest, or any tender, not necessarily accepted.

Successful bidder will have 30 days to provide the balance of payment to complete the purchase.

All legal costs, title transfer fees and applicable taxes are the responsibility of the purchaser and are in addition to the bid price.

The property is sold on an 'as-is' basis.

Dated the 27th day of August , 2026.

Heather Sten
Administrator, Village of Canwood



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Contact: Laura Lee Hatch

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Moe supports Canada’s response to US tariffs

By JORDAN TWISS
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

After the collapse of trade negotiations between Canada and the United States, Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe has spoken out in support of Prime minister Mark Carney’s decision to walk away from the bargaining table.

“Last minute changes by U.S. negotiators undermined the fairness and reliability of the deal,” Moe said in a statement, following a briefing between Carney and Canada’s premiers.

Canadian and American negotiating teams spent all of last week working to hammer out a deal before President Donald Trump’s initial deadline of Aug. 19 to impose 50 per cent tariffs on \$28 billion worth of Canadian goods.

With the two parties seem-

ingly nearing an agreement, President Trump granted a three-day extension to the tariff deadline and Prime Minister Carney asked provincial leaders to end a ban on U.S. liquor sales (Saskatchewan and Alberta were the only provinces without bans in place) as a show of good faith.

But the trade talks fell apart at the 11th hour, prompting Prime Minister Carney to instruct his team to suspend negotiations.

As promised, President Trump’s threatened 50 per cent tariffs came into effect and Prime Minister Carney announced that Canada would respond with dollar-for-dollar retaliatory tariffs, concentrated in sectors such as steel, dairy, appliances, agricultural equipment, pulp and paper, and electronics.

“While we believed, earlier

this week, that we were moving toward a mutually beneficial agreement, in recent days, the U.S. proposed new terms that were uneconomic, unfair, and undermined the net benefits to Canada, calling into question the reliability of any deal,” Prime Minister Carney said in a statement on Saturday, Aug. 22.

“In short, they asked too much and offered too little.”

Prime Minister Carney went on to explain that Canada’s negotiating team offered to drop remaining retaliatory tariffs on strategic sectors, such as steel, aluminum, and autos, if the U.S. substantially lowered their own tariffs to make it economic for Canadian companies to export to the U.S.

He noted, however, that Canada refused to budge on Canada’s sovereignty and ability to form other trade deals, and also refused to

sign on to a deal that would undermine key Canadian industries, the French language, and Canadian culture.

While acknowledging that the U.S. tariffs won’t be easy, Premier Moe said Prime Minister Carney made the right decision not to accept an “unfair and unreliable” deal.

“Saskatchewan has also been clear that any attempt by the United States to influence or place conditions on Canada’s trade relationships with other nations is a non-starter,” Premier Moe said in a statement, calling the tariffs a clear violation of CUSMA.

“Decisions about who Canada trades with must be made by Canada.”

Moe said he expected that conversations about possible countermeasures to the latest tariffs, and what the impacts will be in each province and territory, will be held with

the federal government this week.

Prime Minister Carney’s decision also received support from Conservative Party Leader Pierre Poilievre, who called for parliament to be reconvened immediately so that questions about the abandoned trade deal and the impact the tariffs and retaliatory measures will have on Canadians can be answered.

Meanwhile, tensions ramped up on Monday morning, with President Trump reiterating his claim that the U.S. doesn’t need Canada and threatening to impose 50 per cent tariffs on all Canadian cars, trucks, automotive parts, and steel on Jan. 1, 2027.

In response, Ontario Premier Doug Ford suggested Canada should be prepared to cut off electricity and critical minerals supplies to the U.S.

Woman dead in accident near Mont Nebo

By JORDAN TWISS
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

A 75-year-old woman is dead, following a collision between a car and an SUV near Mont Nebo on the evening of Friday, Aug. 14.

According to police, the Shellbrook RCMP Detachment received a report about a two-vehicle accident on Highway 3, about three kilometres west of Mont Nebo, at around 9:20 p.m. that night.

Officers responded along with local fire and EMS. The sole occupant of the car was declared deceased by EMS at the scene. She was later identified as a 75-year-old female from Walterboro, South Carolina, and police say her family has been notified.

The driver of the SUV was transported to hospital by EMS with injuries de-

scribed as serious in nature.

Shellbrook RCMP investigated the accident with the assistance of a Saskatchewan RCMP collision reconstructionist.

Police have provided no further updates about the cause of the accident, and haven’t said whether any charges will be laid in connection with the accident.

Fatal Petrofka Crash

A 63-year-old man died in a fatal single-vehicle collision on the Petrofka Bridge in the early morning hours of Wednesday, Aug. 19.

The Blaine Lake and Rosthern RCMP Detachments received a report about the incident on Highway 12, south of Blaine Lake, at about 3 a.m. that morning. Investigation determined a minivan collided with a roadside safety barrier and subsequently collided with a parked heavy equipment vehicle.

The driver and sole occupant of the minivan was declared deceased by EMS at the scene. He has since been identified as a 63-year-old male from the Prince Albert area, and police say his family has been notified.

The heavy equipment vehicle did not have any occupants at the time of the collision.

Highway #12 was temporarily closed.

Blaine Lake RCMP investigated with the assistance of a Saskatchewan RCMP collision reconstructionist.

As of Aug. 20, at 7:30 a.m., the Saskatchewan RCMP reports there have been 61 fatal collisions with 74 fatalities on roadways policed by the Saskatchewan RCMP in 2026.

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Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF BIG RIVER NO. 555

PUBLIC NOTICE

PROPOSED ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENT

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Rural Municipality of Big River No. 555 intends to consider a bylaw to amend Zoning Bylaw No. 23-01-02.

PURPOSE

The proposed amendment would allow a Community Storage Facility as a discretionary use in the LR1 Low Density Lakeshore Residential District. A Community Storage Facility would be a non-commercial, community-based facility for storing recreational vehicles, boats, trailers, ice fishing huts, snowmobiles and similar seasonal equipment for residents of a defined subdivision or neighbourhood.

REASON

The amendment is intended to permit a limited form of shared community storage in lakeshore residential areas while reducing potential land-use conflicts through discretionary-use review, minimum site requirements, fencing and screening, and controls on access, traffic, noise and operations.

AFFECTED AREA

The amendment is of general application to properties zoned LR1 Low Density Lakeshore Residential within the Rural Municipality of Big River No. 555.

PUBLIC INSPECTION

The proposed bylaw may be examined by any interested person at the Rural Municipality of Big River No. 555 municipal office, Monday to Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to noon and from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding statutory holidays. Copies of the proposed bylaw and this notice are available from the municipal office.

PUBLIC HEARING

Date: Tuesday, September 8, 2026
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Place: Big River Community Centre - Board Room, 606 1st Street North, Big River, Saskatchewan

Council will hear any person or group wishing to comment on the proposed bylaw. Interested persons may make a written submission to the municipal office before the hearing or make an oral representation at the hearing. Council may limit oral presentations to a reasonable time and may adjourn the hearing if required.

Legal Authority: This notice is issued in accordance with sections 207 to 210 of *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*, and with reference to section 128 of *The Municipalities Act* and Rural Municipality of Big River No. 555 Public Notice Bylaw No. 15/05.

Issued by the Rural Municipality of Big River No. 555
Dana Kennedy, CAO

Canada-US tariff tiff creates more uncertainty

One of the hardest parts of being a weekly newspaper is that the world doesn't stop moving just because you've gone to press.

When deadline day comes and the newspaper's sent off to be printed, the week's news is officially set in stone.

So, if a dangerous criminal was at large before deadline and apprehended afterward, the story in that week's newspaper will already be outdated before it even hits newsstands.

It doesn't happen too often – it mostly occurs with crime and missing persons reports. But it's frequent enough to make a journalist wary of writing about anything with a nebulous timeline (say, for instance, the latest round of revolving tariff threats from a certain world leader).

Last week's column discussed the difficulties of dealing with U.S. President Donald Trump and his erratic whims.

As luck would have it, a statement that perfectly encapsulates the mindset of Mr. Trump's administration came to my attention only after deadline.

Interestingly, though, the statement wasn't from Mr. Trump himself, but from trade representative Jamieson Greer.

Fielding questions from reporters ahead of last Wednesday's initial deadline for Mr. Trump to impose 50 per cent tariffs on up to \$28 billion worth of Canadian goods, Mr. Greer said, "If a country retaliates against us, we're not going to tolerate that. We'll take action."

The statement was interesting for a couple of reasons.

First, it might be the only time that someone in Trump's inner circle has admitted that it was the U.S. who started this whole unavoidable mess.

Since he began his global tariff tirade, Mr. Trump has often suggested that Canada has been mean and downright unfair to its closest trading partner, making the U.S. "subsidize" it to the tune of \$200 billion.



JORDAN
TWISS

~
News Editor

Of course, "subsidize" in this case just means that the U.S. runs a trade deficit with Canada (despite supposedly not needing anything Canada has to offer), and Mr. Trump doesn't like it.

This is where Mr. Greer's statement becomes interesting as an encapsulation of Mr. Trump's philosophy.

Though Mr. Greer went on to suggest that the U.S. will be happy if Canada benefits from a renewed trade pact,

so long as the U.S. benefits first and foremost, he still holds to the very Trumpian notion that the U.S. should simply be allowed to do whatever it likes with utter impunity.

Unlike Prime Minister Mark Carney, who argued that a strong Canada will only further strengthen the U.S., Mr. Trump doesn't see any nuance when it comes to winning and losing.

In Mr. Trump's world, there can only be one winner – him – and the only way to win is to make sure everyone else loses.

This attitude, more than anything, is what led us to last week's tariff deadline (and the subsequent three-day extension of that deadline).

But what was just as interesting to watch last week was how the tariff deadline drama unfolded among the many involved parties.

For his part, despite having a few conversations with Mr. Trump, Prime Minister Carney mostly played it cool in the public eye.

On Monday, he joined Newfoundland and Labrador Premier Tony Wakeham and Québec Premier Christine Fréchette to announce what's being billed as the largest clean energy investment in North American history.

Valued at \$70 billion – with \$10 billion in financing from Ottawa – the plan is to upgrade and expand the Churchill Falls generating station, develop the Gull Island hydroelectric project, build transmission lines, and implement a 2,000 MW onshore wind energy project in Labrador.

If completed, the projects will pro-



duce 14,000 megawatts of renewable power – enough to light, heat, and cool all the homes in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver combined.

Not a win on the trade front, of course (though, excess power could presumably be sold to the U.S.), but certainly a positive step for the modernization of Canada's power grid, which is key to the country's sovereignty.

Over on the official opposition's side, Conservative MPs seemed to be adopting a mentality of hoping for the best but assuming the worst.

Some, like Niagara West MP Dean Allison, got a head start on the negativity. Before last Wednesday's initial tariff deadline, he posted twice, in the span of 15 minutes, about how the media would spin Mr. Carney's failure to obtain a deal and blame Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre for it.

But most, Mr. Poilievre included, urged Mr. Carney not to accept a bad deal for Canada, while suggesting that the only good deal is one in which all tariffs on all Canadian exports are eliminated (technically a better deal than the existing CUSMA partnership).

Meanwhile, to no one's surprise, Mr. Trump began running victory laps before the renewed deal was finalized ahead of his second tariff deadline on Aug. 22.

"Our farmers are going to be thrilled; our manufacturers are going to be thrilled," he said. "And basically, we have no tariffs going into Canada anymore."

Mr. Trump's specific mention of farmers was no doubt a nod to his well-documented hatred for Canada's dairy supply management system, which he has falsely accused of levying tariffs of 250 to 300 per cent against American producers (the quota-based tariffs do exist, but have never been levied).

Most notably, Mr. Trump suggested the deal would result in the long-stalled Keystone XL pipeline being "awoken from the grave."

True or not, the point became moot, as trade talks fell apart at the 11th hour due to last-minute changes demanded by Mr. Trump's negotiating team.

In response, Mr. Carney announced that Canada would retaliate with dollar-for-dollar tariffs. And this went over as well as one might expect with Mr. Trump, who threatened to impose more 50 per cent tariffs starting on Jan. 1, 2027.

The rupture in the Canada-U.S. trade relationship assures that hard times are ahead for both countries.

But then, given the frequency with which Mr. Trump changes his mind, things could be completely different by the time you're reading this.

Shellbrook Chronicle

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Spiritwood Library activity highlights

By **HEATHER GATZKE**
Branch Librarian

The Spiritwood Public Library was thrilled to receive a SARCS Grant this summer. The SARCS grant is a community grant for sport, culture & recreation, funded by Saskatchewan Lotteries.

The library was looking to expand its options for the youngest patrons. It ordered a variety of play cubes

with several activities on each cube that would appeal to the toddlers and pre-school age children.

The library wanted to appeal to all groups of children, from town kids to farm kids and aboriginal kids. It received some large chunky wooden puzzles of animals, a wooden cube with a play mat and farm animals, a cube with animals and patterns & shapes, and another cube with bugs

and trees.

The library also purchased 100-piece magnetic tiles in shapes that can be used as building blocks. This way the kids will have discovery type activities to develop motor skills and logic, plus other literary skills.

The Spiritwood Pub-

lic Library hosted the SARCS Summer Camp kids for a fun morning of Lego. Their challenge was to create using a summer-fun theme. Kids built vehicles and gardens, swimming pools and a whole village. Each child got to take home a picture of their creation and

the Lego stayed in the library on display. Everyone had lots of fun creating!

On Friday, Aug. 7, the kids were creative in the afternoon using Wapiti Headquarters 3D Pens Kit. Similar to using a glue gun, the pens heat up plastic coloured filament. Then the kids were able to create a 3D whale, dragon, fish, flowers, butterflies, and a rocketship. Lots of great imagination!



New acquisitions are meant to appeal to the library's youngest patrons.



Kids are enjoying the play cubes acquired by the library with SARCS grant funding.



Kids got creative with 3D pens at the library.



SARCS Summer Camp kids had fun at the library with Lego.



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Spiritwood seniors news

By **ARMAND SMITH**
Submitted

The Spiritwood Seniors Hall has regular bingo and cribbage held every week. Kaiser is usually played every third Sunday of the month. In July, the club also decided to play Kaiser on Thursdays. The Seniors are always pleased to see players from Leoville and Shell Lake come

to enjoy an afternoon of fellowship.
June and July Cribbage winners were:
June 5: 1st Barb Lutz, 2nd Marene Iverson, 3rd Dot Gaboury, 1st 24 hand: Paulette Lafond, 50/50 Bernice Tiringer.
June 12: 1st Joyce Willick, 2nd Barb Lutz, 3rd Armand Smith, 50/50 Marene Iverson.

June 19: 1st Rosanne Smith, 2nd Louis Marion, 3rd Cheryl Smith, 50/50 Shirley Turgeon.
June 26: 1st Barb Lutz, 2nd Armand Smith, 3rd Cheryl Smith, 1st 24 hand: Gerald Lafond, 50/50 Dot Gaboury.
July 3: 1st Armand Smith, 2nd Paulette Lafond, 3rd Marene Iverson, 1st 24 hand: Armand Smith, 50/50 Eleanor Pallo.
July 10: 1st Cheryl Smith, 2nd Shirley Turgeon, 3rd Joyce Willick, 50/50 Shirley Turgeon.
July 17: 1st Joyce Willick, 2nd Barb Lutz, 3rd Paulette Lafond, 1st 24 hand Joyce Willick, 50/50 Joyce Willick.
July 24: 1st Helen Mack, 2nd Rosanne Smith, 3rd Armand Smith, 50/50 Vi Anderson.
July 31: 1st Paulette Lafond, 2nd Pat Lutz, 3rd Cheryl Smith, 50/50 Barb Lutz.

June and July Kaiser winners were:
June 21: Men 1st Roberta Wasden, 2nd Joyce Willick; Ladies 1st Vi Anderson, 2nd Dianne Wingerter, 50/50 Vi Anderson.
July 2: Men 1st Armand Smith, 2nd Maurice Bourassa; Ladies 1st Marene Iverson, 2nd Paulette Lafond, 50/50 Shirley Turgeon.
July 9: Men 1st Rosanne Smith, 2nd Joyce Willick; Ladies 1st Helen Mack, 2nd Sandra Lang, 50/50 Eleanor Pallo.

July 16: Men 1st Rosanne Smith, 2nd Armand Smith; Ladies 1st Cheryl Smith, 2nd Vi Anderson, 50/50 Barb Lutz.
July 19: Men 1st Gerald Lafond, 2nd Armand Smith; Ladies 1st Mona Chalifour, 2nd Barb Lutz, 50/50 Doreen Christopherson.
July 23: Men 1st Roberta Wasden, 2nd Pat Lutz; Ladies 1st Cheryl Smith, 2nd Barb Lutz, 50/50 Rosanne Smith.
On July 15, those members celebrating June and July birthdays and anniversaries were treated to a tasty angel food cake along with ice cream.



Celebrating 164 years combined. Back row, left to right: Armand Smith, Murray Mack, and Louis Marion. Front row: Rosanne Smith, Helen Mack, and Irene Marion.



Birthday celebrants for June and July. Back row, left to right: Gilles Ouelette, and Louis Marion. Front row: Vi Anderson, Betty Hall, Betty Duhaime, and Barb Szasz.

Patients First Health Care Plan

Right Care, Right Place, Right Time

Since announcing our ambitious Patients First Health Care Plan in March 2026, significant progress has been made across our health care system.

Our government is committed to supporting initiatives that deliver high quality care to patients at the right place and the right time.

Read the complete plan

saskatchewan.ca/patientsfirst

Saskatchewan

Trump's latest tariffs deliver maximum chaos

For Canadian farmers, and for broader Canadian export business in general, it has to feel a bit like they are in the middle of a minefield and blindfolded right now.

The minefield is of course trade with the huge United States market, and American president Donald Trump is quite obviously the mine-layer.

To be fair, one supposes it is Trump in a nutshell to lob grenades hither and yon in a fashion that seems to have a singular goal of creating chaos and uncertainty, for some goal he imagines has some benefit for himself or his rich American supporters.

When it comes to negotiating something that will ultimately replace

the Canadian United States Mexico Agreement (CUSMA), the U.S. under Trump seemingly has only two negotiation tactics: threat and intimidation.

The latest big threat was a sweeping 50 per cent tariff on Canadian products, which should have had the general population south of the 49th shuddering as much as businesses here.

Slap that level of tariff on products headed south — and let's not forget how much Canadian product (the U.S.'s second biggest trade partner) heads south — and it is going to hit consumers there in the pocketbook.

The American consumer is already seeing huge cost increases in terms of gasoline and



CALVIN DANIELS

food, and tariffs would only make matters worse (although whether Trump holds much empathy for the situation of regular Americans is a matter of conjecture).

Coupled with the ridiculous idea of a random 50 per cent tariff based on a Trump whim, was the accompanying threat from U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer that Canada best not think of retaliatory

action.

While the U.S. has long held a rather lofty self-image in terms of where it sits in the broader world, under Trump it has escalated, as he clearly sees the country as being above everyone else.

That level of arrogance has been seen repeatedly, from the invasion of Venezuela, to the blockade of Cuba, to action in Iran and the threat to unilaterally name the Strait of Hormuz an American protectorate, to covetous remarks regarding Greenland and Canada.

And therein lies the problem looming over the current trade negotiations. It will not matter what comes out of the talks; with Trump in the oval office the deal will mean nothing.

On a whim, or in response to a perceived slight, or simply to stir

the pot to hide other government actions, Trump will unilaterally change things. With him, the rules change from hockey to basketball to water polo, like most presidents would change

shirts.

It's trade negotiation in which no one believes the deal is real, and that goes for everything Trump touches, leaving the world in flux based on one man's whims.

Crop Report: Aug. 11 to 17

By MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
Submitted

Harvest progress remained slow last week, reaching four per cent complete as scattered rain showers and thunderstorms moved across the province. While the moisture was welcome in some regions, early-morning humidity shortened harvest windows and created poor desiccation conditions. Producers noted that warmer temperatures are needed to help advance crop maturity.

Rainfall was variable across the province last week. Some areas reported receiving significant precipitation from scattered showers and thunderstorms, while others recorded trace or no rainfall, resulting in uneven moisture conditions across crop districts.

The highest rainfall was reported in the Browning area, with 115 millimetres (mm) of rain, followed by the Enniskillen area with 106 mm and the Coalfields area with 102 mm. The Reciprocity and Meadow Lake areas reported 73 mm.

Localized showers resulted in slight improvements to topsoil moisture conditions across the province.

Cool weather, rainfall and humidity slowed crop development and harvest operations last week. While harvest has begun in some areas, mainly on early seeded pulse crops, spring and winter cereals, most crops are still developing and not yet ready to combine.

Harvest completion remains significantly below the five-year average of 15 per cent and the 10-year average of 12 per cent, but ahead of last year at this time, when three per cent of the crop had been harvested. The south-

west leads in harvest progress at nine per cent complete, followed by the southeast at four per cent, west-central at two per cent, and east-central at one per cent.

Provincially, 81 per cent of reporters indicated no water shortages are occurring or are anticipated for livestock producers. Moderate shortages were reported by nine per cent of respondents, while nine per cent indicated shortages are expected within the next one to two months, and one per cent reported severe shortages. Most livestock producers are not currently concerned about water quality. If producers have questions or concerns about water quality or testing, they can contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.

Crop damage over the past week was mainly attributed to dry conditions, disease pressure and insect pest activity prompting spraying in parts of the central and northern regions. Along with minor crop lodging and damage from heat and wind, gopher activity continued to cause localized field damage in some areas.

Harvest is a busy and demanding time and producers are reminded to take appropriate safety precautions during harvest operations. This includes having fire suppression equipment readily available and exercising caution when working around powerlines.

The Farm Stress Line is available to provide confidential support to producers, toll-free at 1 800 667-4442. The public is also reminded to use caution when encountering farm machinery and equipment travelling on roadways.

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

TOWN OF SHELLBROOK



NOTICE OF CALL FOR NOMINATIONS MUNICIPAL BY-ELECTION

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that nominations of candidates for the office(s) of:

Mayor: Town of Shellbrook

Number to be elected: 1

will be received by the undersigned Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 4:00pm from the 9th day of September, 2026 until the 23rd day of September, 2026 at the Shellbrook Municipal Office.

Nominations forms may be obtained in the following ways:

- From our website – www.townofshellbrook.ca
- In person @ 71 Main Street

A Criminal record check **must** accompany all nomination forms dated no earlier than August 27th, 2026.

Dated this 27th day of August, 2026

Sigourney O'Halligan, Returning Officer

MX Games bring mud-slinging fun



Burnout trucks provided entertainment between races.



Tough Truck winner Ian Tindall (left) accepts his plaque from Craig Verbonac.



A tough truck driver kicks up dirt while trying to score the best two-lap time.



With more than 40 entrants, dirt bike races made up the largest share of the day's action.



A lawn mower race made for a fun entry on the day.



Ladies dirt bike winners, from left to right: Madisyn Verbonac (1st), Blaire Verbonac (2nd), and Ava Chmil (3rd).



Lawn mower winner Cole Carlson (right) accepts his champion's plaque.



65cc winners, from left to right: Chuck Kernohan (1st), Emery Olson (2nd), and Hudson Johnson (3rd).

VILLAGE OF LEASK

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice is hereby given that the Village of Leask intends to adopt a bylaw under *The Planning and Development Act 2007*, to amend Zoning Bylaw No. 03/12, known as the Zoning Bylaw of the Village of Leask.

INTENT: The purpose of the amendment is to allow Commercial Development consistent with the Highway Commercial District, rezone Residential District (R1) to Highway Commercial District (C2).

AFFECTED LAND:
Lot 10, Block 17, Plan CQ 5157 – Lot 11, Block 17, Plan CQ 5157 – Lot 9, Block 18, Plan CQ 5157 – Lot 10, Block 18, Plan CQ 5157 – Lot 11, Block 18, Plan CQ 5157 – Parcel A, Plan 101599016, Extension 14

PUBLIC INSPECTION: Any person may inspect the bylaw at the Village of Leask office between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm on Monday through Thursday. Copies are available at cost.

PUBLIC HEARING: Council will hold a public hearing on September 16th, 2026 at 5:30 pm at the Leask Community Hall. Alternatively, any person or group that would like to comment on the proposed bylaw is encouraged to submit written comments prior to the meeting. Written submissions may be sent by email to admin@leask.ca, by Canada Post PO Box 40 Leask, SK S0J 1M0, or dropped off at the office during regular office hours. Council will consider all submissions before making a decision.

Issued at the Village of Leask this 21st day of August, 2026.

Yvette Hamel, Village of Leask Administrator

Shellbrook seniors welcome new roof

Over the summer, “Our Place” — the Shellbrook Senior Centre — received a much-needed roof repair. Following the installation of new shingles, the eavestroughing was replaced. Now, the building no longer has a patchwork roof with empty spaces due to the strong winds that wreak havoc on the roofs in Shellbrook. The project was made possible with financial support from Farm Credit Canada (FCC), which contributed over 50 per cent of the funding needed.

By LORRAINE THIBEAULT, Shellbrook Senior’s Association

Spiritwood Horticulture show crowns winners

By BEVRA FEE
Spiritwood Herald Reporter

The Spiritwood Horticulture Society celebrated excellence in all things garden & yard, crafts, baking, and photography during its Aug. 14 exhibit and awards presentation.

At 309 entries from 26 exhibitors — with three Junior exhibitors — the

show's number of entries was down marginally over last year. But encouragingly, this year's show had five first-time participants.

Among the Grand Aggregate winners, Eleanor Pallo received accolades for her Best Decorative Arrangement and Best Cut Flower entries. Taking the Adult Craft Grand Aggregate ribbon was

Roberta Wasden, while the Junior Grand Aggregate winner was Huntley Wasden.

The Novice Horticulture Grand Aggregate winners were Armand and Rosanne Smith.

Betty Mykietiak needed a wagon to haul home all her awards, winning Best Urban Garden, Best Urban Grounds, Best Senior Garden, and Rose in a Wine Glass. Mykietiak was also a key factor in Beau "Lac" Funeral Home taking second place in Best Commercial Frontage, in a close contest with Marion's Burger Bar.

While visiting her award-winning garden and yard, Mykietiak confessed that she simply does it for the love of gardening. With a whimsical gnome garden in her expansive lawn, Mykietiak has fun while starting all her flowers from seed in her back-yard green house.

"My neighbours must hate to see me coming, because I always load



Betty Mykietiak offers a tour of her award-winning urban garden and grounds.

them up with zucchini," she said.

Her zucchini patch, which consists of only four plants, indeed covers enough square footage to ensure plenty of produce.

Out in the country, the apple didn't fall far from the tree (insert mild chuckling) as Mykietiak's daughter, Jennifer Bu-

chan, won the rural categories in league with her mother. Best Advanced Rural Grounds, Best Rural Garden, and Best Gladiola brought Buchan to the prize circle.

At the craft tables, the Best Junior Craft was entered by Sawyer Henderson, as six new Junior Home Craft categories

were added to the show this year. The stunner of the home craft entries was Connie Heisler's elaborate quilt, garnering her the Most Outstanding Home Craft trophy.

Judges for the show's entries this year were Anita Weiers, Susan Siegel, and Christine Wollms.



Lion Gilles Ouellette presents the award to Grand Aggregate winner Eleanor Pallo.



Committee member Carol-Lynn McElheran presents the Junior Aggregate plaque to Huntley Wasden.



Committee member Carol-Lynn McElheran presents the Novice Horticulture Grand Aggregate plaque to Armand and Roseanne Smith.



Lyla Millar (right) presents the Adult Craft Grand Aggregate to Roberta Wasden.

Sask. government marks 150 years of Treaty 6

By MINISTRY OF
GOV'T RELATIONS
Submitted

The Government of Saskatchewan joined Treaty 6 First Nations, the Office of the Treaty Commissioner, Pêmiska Tourism, and community members at Fort Carlton Provincial Historic Park to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the signing of Treaty 6.

The four-day gathering, held from Aug. 20 to 23, included ceremonies, Treaty forums, cultural programming, and opportunities to learn about the history and continuing significance of Treaty 6, as well as the announcement of a permanent monument in the park to commemorate the signing of Treaty.

"This anniversary is an opportunity to honour the First Nations leaders who made Treaty and renew our commitment to advancing reconciliation in the province of Saskatchewan

through understanding, partnership and action," Premier Scott Moe said in a statement.

Beardy's and Okemasis' Cree Nation will lead the creation and installation of an approximately 50-foot-tall steel tipi monument at Fort Carlton on behalf of Treaty 6 First Nations, with funding contributions from the Government of Saskatchewan and other partners.

The Government of Saskatchewan is contributing \$140,000 toward the project. The Ministry of Parks, Culture, and Sport is also supporting the project through site planning and preparation, park operations and the required heritage resource assessment.

The monument will build on Saskatchewan's Treaty education and awareness initiatives, including Treaty boundary signs on provincial highways, mandatory Treaty education in provincial schools and Treaties Rec-

ognition Week.

Fourteen plaques recognizing the Chiefs who signed Treaty 6 at Fort Carlton in August 1876 will surround the monument. A provincial marker will also recognize the Government of Saskatchewan's contribution and the importance of the Treaty relationship.

"As Chief of Beardy's and Okemasis' Cree Nation, I am honoured to recognize the foresight and vision of the Chiefs who negotiated and signed Treaty 6 on our behalf," Beardy's and Okemasis' Cree Nation Chief Edwin Ananas said in a statement.

"Their wisdom and commitment helped secure a future for our people and this monument will stand as a lasting tribute to their enduring legacy. It reflects our deep respect and gratitude for their leadership and serves as a reminder to future generations of the sacrifices they made and the path they set before us."

Installation of the monument will

proceed once the required heritage resource assessment, permits and site preparation are complete.

"This monument will stand as a lasting reminder of the leadership and vision of the Chiefs who signed Treaty 6 and the responsibilities we continue to share today," Minister Responsible for First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs Eric Schmalz said in a statement.

"The Government of Saskatchewan is proud to support this important project and work alongside Treaty 6 First Nations and our partners to advance Treaty education, understanding and reconciliation across the province."

Treaty 6 was first signed at Fort Carlton on Aug. 23, 1876, followed by an additional signing on Aug. 28 and the signing at Fort Pitt on Sept. 9, and later several adhesions.

There are 29 Treaty 6 First Nations in Saskatchewan.

Minutes of an RM of Spiritwood meeting

(The following is part two of Council's June 9 Regular Meeting. Where necessary, the following minutes may have been edited for brevity or clarity.)

Buban: The discretionary use application for a proposed 2,900 animal unit Beef ILO conforms

to the RM of Spiritwood's Official Community Plan in that the development promotes agricultural activities in ways compatible with the environment and adjacent land uses. Intensive agriculture operations & manure spreading are legitimate operations and shall adhere to environmental protection measures and manure storage plans as per legislation.

Public Notice was provided and there were no written or verbal objections to the proposed development.

The proposal does not comply with the minimum separation distance of 1,600 metres from the area of confinement to a residential dwelling. The RM may grant a reduc-

tion of the separation distance with signed written agreements from the landowners affected by the reduction; and

The proposed parcel does not currently have legal access.

Therefore, Council will grant approval for the proposed ILO upon the following conditions being satisfied:

- The ILO shall receive approval from the Ministry of Agriculture; and
- Signed agreements from property owners affected by the reduction in separation distance shall be provided to the Municipality; and
- That Parcel No. 203919059, being Blk/Par A Plan 86B03145 Ext 1 be tied with Parcel No. 203918980, being NE 31-53-11-W3 to accommodate legal and physical access under common ownership; and
- Planning and development fees have been remitted. Carried

Warkentin: The dis-

cretionary use application for a vacation farm is in conformance with the Official Community Plan and RM of Spiritwood Zoning Bylaw. The proposal is ancillary to an agriculture operation, has legal and physical access and there are no lands in the vicinity that are incompatible with the intended use.

Public Notice was provided and there were no written or verbal objections to the proposed development.

Therefore, the discretionary use application for a vacation farm located on NW 35-50-08-W3 be approved. Carried

Buban: That we authorize the Administrator to proceed with the process of amending the zoning bylaw to accommodate new construction in areas where setback distances of existing buildings in a block have been established by previous bylaws. Carried

Warkentin: That we enter into an agreement with the property owners for the purpose of aggregate exploration

and potential development and operation of a gravel pit on SE 09-50-11-W3 and SW 09-50-11-W3. Carried

Warkentin: That we enter into an agreement with the property owners for the purpose of aggregate exploration and potential development and operation of a gravel pit on NE 34-49-12-W3 and NW 34-49-12-W3. Carried

Wingerter: That we renew the Material Storage Agreement with SaskPower for the storage of containers, transformers, poles and related supplies and equipment on PT NE 03-50-08-W3, being Parcel No. 152393957 under the condition that the storage of the aforementioned chattels are located at the back of the parcel behind the RM shop. Carried

Buban: That we renew the land lease agreement with Access Communications Inc. at \$1,200 per year for the rental of space for the Access Communications Building located on Lot 16 Blk 09 Plan AP518 behind the RM office. Carried

Warkentin: That we renew the lease agreement with Szasz Income Tax Services for the rental of office space in the RM building under the same terms & conditions. Carried

Wingerter: That the rental fee for the board room located in the municipal office be set at \$100/day. Carried

Warkentin: That the

RM of Spiritwood No. 496 be the lead partner for the NorthWest Community Safety Services Partnership and authorize the Administrator to submit an application to the TSS Initiative for training & certification of two (2) Community Safety Officers to strengthen protective services, enhance community-based safety and provide bylaw enforcement services. Carried

Buban: That we send a letter to the property owner of Lot 18 Blk in Green Jewel Estates requesting that the property be cleaned up and left in a tidy respectable state. Carried

Buban: Whereas Tolko Industries has advised they will be donating \$1,000 to a charity of choice of the RM of Spiritwood No. 496; and That the request from the Spiritwood High School to donate the use of RM equipment to revitalize the running track located behind the high school cannot be accommodated.

Therefore, Council has requested that the funds be donated to the Spiritwood High School for the track revitalization project. Carried

Warkentin: That we submit a letter of support for the Canadian Northern Corridor Project which aims to establish a multi-model infrastructure corridor connecting the Pacific coast in British Columbia to the Port of Churchill in Manitoba.

Carried

Wingerter: That the following hail withdrawal application has been considered by the RM of Spiritwood No. 496 and have been approved for withdrawal:

- NW 20-50-08-W3
- SW 20-50-08-W3
- NW 24-50-08-W3
- SE 29-50-08-W3
- NW 15-50-09-W3.

Carried
Buban: That Keith Barkman be appointed to the Spiritwood Fire Dept. Carried

Warkentin: That we accept the resignation of Shannon Beaulac from the Meeting Lake Regional Park Authority and that we appoint Dave Cohen as a representative of the RM of Spiritwood No. 496 to the Meeting Lake Regional Park Authority. Carried

Council: That the council meeting be closed to the public at 3:44 p.m. 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 3:44 p.m.

Colette Bussiere returned to council chambers at 3:48 p.m.

The regular meeting of council was out of camera and resumed at 3:48 p.m.

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

Buban: That the meeting be adjourned.

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)

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What happens when you don't advertise?

Very little.

Lucky to be a fan in the Ohtani era

Baseball fans alive during the Shohei Ohtani era — and that's you — should consider themselves among the luckiest fans of all time.

Getting to watch and appreciate the extra special talents of the Los Angeles Dodgers' two-way star is an opportunity unmatched through decades of Major League Baseball.

What has Ohtani not done on a baseball field?

So far, he has yet to pitch a perfect game, let alone a no-hitter. As a hitter, he has yet to have a four home-run game. He has not pulled a rabbit out of his ball cap, nor a quarter from behind his ear.

He has not motioned for his teammates to stay in the dugout while he goes to the mound to pitch, nor has he pointed to centre field, a la Babe Ruth in the 1932 World Series, telling everyone in the stands and watching on TV that he planned to deposit the next pitch into the bleacher seats.

The 31-year-old Japanese baseball sensation

has done almost everything else, though. He has dominated opposing batters on the mound, striking out more than one an inning, winning most of his starts (8-2 at last glance) and sporting a top five MLB earned-run average.

He gives up roughly two hits for every three innings and strikes out more than one batter per inning. Hitters' batting average against Ohtani is in the pathetic .170 range.

At the plate, Ohtani is among the best hitters in the game. He leads the Dodgers in batting average.

He is top five in MLB on-base percentage and top three in OPS (on-base plus slugging percentage). In other words, he has few peers at the plate.

His WAR number is the majors' best. (WAR is a comprehensive statistic that estimates how many more wins a player contributes to their team over a season compared to a hypothetical 'replacement-level' player.)



BRUCE
PENTON

Simply put, he is the greatest player in the history of the game.

Baseball has never seen such a unicorn. Babe Ruth was mythically a pitcher and a slugger, but he gave up pitching in 1919 and concentrated on playing the outfield and swatting baseballs into oblivion.

The Dodgers have given no indication they plan to turn Ohtani into a one-dimensional player, although they have reduced his pitching days and left him to concentrate on hitting leadoff as the team's designated hitter.

He recently passed the 300 career home run mark and has 765

pitched strikeouts. No one else is even close.

"Like we all know, he wants to win that Cy Young, and he wants to help us win games, and he wants to be a really productive offensive player," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said in an Associated Press story. "At this point, he's doing all of the above."

Ohtani has won four Most Valuable Player awards (two in each league). All of them came via unanimous votes. One more MVP award and he will tie Barry Bonds for No. 1 all-time.

And today's fans are the fortunate ones to be alive and see this generational player perform.

• Eamon Lynch of Golfweek, on dealing with one of the many problems facing LIV Golf CEO Scott O'Neil: "He needs to cultivate a genuine fan base that isn't defined by loud, terminally online gobshites who can't simultaneously type and pick their noses."

• Ian Power, on Bluesky: "If anyone ever says 'Give me a ballpark fig-

ure,' say 41,649. That's the capacity of Wrigley Field, home of the Chicago Cubs. You're welcome."

• Mike Bianchi of the Orlando Sentinel: "I just saw where MLS has named a new commissioner. His first order of business will be to do whatever Lionel Messi tells him to do!"

• Cathal Kelly of the Globe and Mail: "What have the Jays done well this year? If you take Dylan Cease out of it, nothing. If you include him, almost nothing."

• Another one from Kelly, on the recent winning surge by the Blue Jays: "They've stopped playing like the travelling recruitment department for a clown college."

• Super 70s Sports: "I'm not telling you what to do but my personal theory is never get on any midway ride that was assembled eight hours ago in a parking lot by a team of felons with knuckle tattoos."

• Another one from Super 70s Sports: "Someone needs to ex-

plain to me what Jordan was better at than LeBron." "Offence and defence. I hope that clears it up."

• Mike Bianchi again: "Former Heisman Trophy winner Jayden Daniels is upset that LSU is letting another player wear his No. 5 jersey. Who knew that NIL now stands for Name, Image and Legendary ego."

• Yankees former owner George Steinbrenner, after Lou Piniella complained about being forced to follow team rules regarding long hair and saying long hair worked for Jesus: "When you can walk across that swimming pool, you can play with long hair."

• One more from Bianchi: "Tony Romo's future as an NFL analyst at CBS is in doubt due to a recent arrest on DUI charges. Apparently, Romo can predict a blitz before the ball is snapped, but he can't predict when an Uber is the right play call."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Op-ed: Saskatchewanians can't afford Carney's gas tax hike

By GAGE HAUBRICH
CTF Prairie Director

Driving in Saskatchewan isn't a luxury, it's a necessity. And Prime Minister Mark Carney is going to make that necessity more expensive on Sept. 8.

Carney cut the federal fuel tax in April, saving drivers 10 cents per litre of gasoline and four cents per litre of diesel at the pump.

Cutting the fuel tax "is a responsible measure that will reduce operating costs for truckers and businesses in the food, agriculture, housing, construction, and delivery sectors," said the prime minister's office in the spring.

That's the other key benefit of fuel tax cuts. Drivers save directly at the pump from low fuel prices, but you also save at the grocery store because it's now cheaper to get products from the farm, factory or processing plant to store shelves.

But Carney's gas tax cut has an expiry date. He's scheduled to hike the gas tax back up on Sep. 8. That means filling up your minivan will cost about \$7

more and filling up a pick-up truck will cost you about \$10 extra.

The price of gasoline in Saskatchewan is about \$1.65 per litre. That's an increase of about 43 cents per litre since March 1.

Carney originally cut the gas tax because Canadians' budgets were buckling under the weight of sky-rocketing fuel prices due to the conflict in the Middle East.

Current fuel prices are not meaningfully lower than the prices that Saskatchewanians were facing at the pump when Carney cut the gas tax in the first place.

And Canadians don't want the tax tacked back on. Leger polling shows that 63 per cent of Canadians oppose the federal government hiking the fuel tax back up. Among those with an opinion, 71 per cent of Canadians want the government to keep the tax off at the pump.

Opposition is strongest in the Prairies. Among those with an opinion, 76 per cent of people in Manitoba and Saskatchewan want to keep the tax cut

around.

Carney needs to look at this poll, realize that Saskatchewanians won't tolerate a gas tax hike and cancel it before September.

But the provincial government isn't off the hook when it comes to fuel affordability either. That's because Saskatchewanians typically pay four different taxes when they head to the pump.

There's the federal gas tax that's currently suspended, a hidden carbon tax embedded in fuel regulations that costs seven cents per litre, GST that costs about 7.7 cents per litre and the provincial gas tax that costs 15 cents per litre.

The Saskatchewan government is responsible for about half of the tax that Saskatchewanians are paying at the pump. The provincial gas tax increases the cost of a fill-up by about \$10 for a sedan, \$11 for a minivan or \$15 for a pick-up truck.

Premier Scott Moe can help Saskatchewanians weather the storm of high gas prices by cutting his own gas

tax. Or at the very least, demand that Carney cancel his planned September gas tax hike.

Ontario Premier Doug Ford penned a letter to Carney urging him to cancel his planned gas tax hike. "I am urging you to extend the suspension of the federal fuel excise tax on gasoline and diesel until at least Jan. 1, 2027," Ford said.

Moe stood against the federally imposed consumer carbon tax because it made life more expensive. He should apply the same logic to gas taxes that continue to make every trip to the pump more expensive.

Almost half of Saskatchewanians are reporting that they are worse off financially today than they were a year ago. They can't afford to pay extra at the pumps.

Saskatchewan drivers are paying near-record prices at the pump and Moe can give them relief today by cutting the gas tax.

Carney can keep providing relief by scrapping his plans to jack the federal fuel tax back up in September.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE IS — FRIDAY 4:00 P.M.

OBITUARIES

Amy Patricia (Patsy) Dougan



Amy Patricia (Patsy) Dougan formerly of Chitek Lake, SK passed away peacefully at Evergreen Health Center, Leoville, SK on August 6, 2026 at the age of 94.

Patsy was born in Saskatoon, attended early grade school there until moving to Wood Hill with her family. They

then moved to Chitek Lake. Patsy went to school in Chitek until grade 8 before leaving to help raise her younger siblings.

In 1949, Patsy married William (Buck) Dougan. They were married for 61 years, together raised 3 children.

Patsy was a homemaker but also worked various small jobs around town. She loved to watch rodeo & game shows, loved to bake and made the best bread. She was a seasoned bingo player, loved casino outings and VLTs. Some of her best times were spent travelling with her nieces, camping with family and playing cards. Patsy was well known for her sense of humour, quick

wit and hospitality.

She will be remembered by her 3 children, Charles (Beverly), Craig (Sharon) & Laurie Murfin. Her grandchildren, Cory (Chasity) Dougan, Stacey (Darcey) Patoine, Randy (Nicole) Dougan, Jordan (Shayla) Dougan, Tyler (Kaeli) Dougan, Jason (Sharleen) Murfin, Ashley (Tyler) Murfin. Her great grandchildren, Arianna (Ethan), Bohdi (Makayla), Tobin, Kali (Chase), Harley, Nixon, Hanna (Jack), Ava, Karter, Jax, Ainsley, Emery, Kash, John and Mathew. And her sister-in-law, Sheila LaFleur.

Patsy was predeceased by her husband William (Buck) Dougan, infant son Cory, son-in-law Bill

Murfin, her parents and siblings of the Vandale family.

Memorial donations can be made to: Resident Family Council c/o Evergreen Health-care Center, Leoville, SK.

Funeral Service was held at Chitek Lake Community Hall, Saturday, August 15th, 2026, at 2pm.

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 & Crematorium, R. Mark Muir, Funeral Director, Spiritwood, SK, 306-883-3500.

William "Bill" Herbert Olaf Reed



Bill was born December 22, 1935, the only son of William Reed and Asta Hotvedt. He was born in Prince Albert and raised on the farm at Shell Lake. He attended his school years in Shell Lake which held many happy memories, he never did take school too seriously. In his senior years he made both the baseball and curling teams.

After graduation, he became a full-time farmer working with his Dad's land with his brother-in-law Henry Hotvedt. In 1958 he rented Henry's farmland and in 1965 he purchased it. During his farming career he saw many changes. He wasn't fond of farming with horses. As he would say "I didn't appreciate looking those horses in the ass everyday". Haying could be a nightmare especially if they raked up a hornet's nest.

He picked many a rock by hand, first with horses and a stone boat, then a

tractor and stone boat, and finally with a rock picker. The transition to more modern machinery made farming much less labour intensive.

We met at Donald and Cathy Lutz's wedding dance in 1964 in Shell Lake. We were married in 1966 and celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary in June.

He loved the outdoors, did a lot of hunting and fishing. His early years of hunting were a labour of love. He would go up north, camp for a couple of weeks, walk for hours, most days not even seeing a track, or following a track all day with no results. Not to mention getting lost and camping out all night with the wolves howling.

He enjoyed camping and fishing. We would pack up after I was done work and had a couple of days off, and head up to Delaronde. We had lots of good fishing and fun times. Later we travelled to Nemeiben Lake, a place he really liked. Apparently, the trout were supposed to bite early in the morning so we would be up bright and early. Make the 20-mile trek up the lake in search for trout. We caught our fair share of burbot.

Bill has had a good long life, something he was very thankful for. He will be missed but never forgotten.

Bill is lovingly remembered by; his wife:

Colleen, his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren: Kurt (Noreen) and family: Bryce (Rachelle), Taylor, Lane (Tara) – Remi and Kaisen, Dylan; Janet (David) Clark and family: Clayton (Taliah) – Emerson and Ellie, Lowen (Demyra) – Myles and Mason, Jodie (Daniel) Carrier, Jennifer, Daniel. His sister: Fay Brewer. Numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

Bill was predeceased by: his parents: William and Asta Reed (née Hotvedt), his maternal grandparents: Olaf and Helene Hotvedt (née Jakobsen), his paternal grandparents: Arthur and Kate Reed (née Ingram), his sisters and his brothers-in-law: Alice (Clifford)

Burrows, Katie (Henry) Berg, Mabel (Henry) Hotved, his brothers-in-law: Lloyd Brewer, Robert Prafke, Calvin Prafke, his sisters-in-law: Marie Argue, Linda Scobie, his parents-in-law: Keith and Paulina Prafke.

Donations may be made in Bill's memory to the Idylwild Lodge Auxiliary.

A graveside service was held at 1:00 PM on Thursday, August 20, 2026, at Shell Lake Cemetery.

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, R. Mark Muir Funeral Director, Spiritwood, SK (306) 883-3500.

Anthony "Tony" Rekve



With great sadness, we lost our son, brother, and uncle. Tony will always be remembered and missed by all.

He is predeceased by Ingvold Rekve, Irene Rekve, Grant Rekve, Gerald Rekve, and John Rekve.

He is remembered by brothers Ivor Rekve, Knute Rekve, Olie Rekve, sisters Joanne, Jackie, Donna, Marie, Karen, and Sonja, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Rest in Peace,
Love all your family.

GOOD NEWS

IF YOU BELIEVED, YOU WOULD SEE THE GLORY OF GOD

By DEB ANDERSON
Submitted

Jesus' friend Lazarus was sick. When this news came to Jesus, He said: "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." (John 11:4).

Jesus lingered for days before going to the scene. Lazarus' sisters—Mary and Martha—both said the same thing to Jesus when He arrived: "If You had been here our brother would not have died."

They had faith in Jesus' power to heal. They had seen many people healed—all who came to Him. However, at this time, all looked hopeless. Lazarus had been in the tomb for days.

Martha had faith. She declared, "I know that even now God will give You whatever You ask...I believe You are the Christ, the Son of God who was come into the world." Some of the Jews said, "Could not He who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Faith's strength was tested when Jesus told them to take the stone away from the tomb's entrance. "But Lord," said Martha, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days."

Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"

So they took away the stone. Jesus called in a loud voice: "Lazarus, come out!" and "he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with grave-clothes and his face was bound about with a napkin; Jesus said to them, 'Loose him and let him go.'" (John 11:44).

This miracle infuriated those trying to discredit Jesus. The following chapter records that: "The chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well." (John 12:9). Lazarus walking about was clear evidence of Jesus being who He said He was.

From "death to life" is a theme in Jesus' preaching and ministry. Here it is shown physically. In the Parable of the Prodigal Son, the theme is shown spiritually.

After the Prodigal Son returned home, his father explained to his brother that it was fitting to celebrate for, "your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found." (Luke 15:32). Here the "death" was living a life of sin, and the coming to "life" was through turning from that lifestyle and being reconciled to the Father.

The multitude of healings and casting out of evil spirits in Jesus' ministry dramatically changed lives. In this event of Lazarus being raised Jesus taught: "I am the resurrection and the life."

Truer words have never been spoken.

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Planning for spring

By **PATRICIA HANBIDGE**
Orchid Horticulture

As summer moves closer to fall, the focus changes from the endless days of summer into action that is forward thinking. I find myself planning for the next great event that comes to the garden – which is the first colour in the spring. Not that harvest falters, nor the endless watering, the weed pulling and the other daily chores, but there is momentum building for what autumn brings. The kids are both excited about school and dreading the early morning rising. In the garden, we again begin to think about when we will get the “killing frost”. As the evenings and overnight temperatures become cooler, we begin to enjoy the crisp air, the lack of bugs and the evolving new colours of the foliage.

There is a small part of me that starts to become a bit melancholy about the impending

winter, but that is easily pushed aside by the planning that goes into preparing for a spectacular spring! Spring flowering bulbs must be planted in the fall to allow the bulb to develop a good root system prior to winter. These bulbs also need a stratification or cold period (winter) in order to allow their flowers to fully develop. For best results plant them well before our ground freezes. September is the best time to plant spring flowering bulbs on the prairies.

Bulbs are available in all the garden centres and all of the big box stores. There is also a huge selection that is available from mail order bulb houses. When purchasing bulbs, it is important to remember that this is one instance when you truly get what you pay for. The larger bulbs of each flower type will without fail give you a better product. Take time to examine the flesh of the bulb as it should be

smooth and free of any blemishes. If you are like me and you like to touch and see what you are purchasing, your favourite garden centre should have plenty of stock that will ensure you can enjoy the latest bulbs of your dreams come spring.

Bulbs should be planted in an area that is well-drained. The soil should be free of weeds and dug to a depth of about 12 inches (30cm). If your soil is a heavy clay soil, incorporate equal portions of coarse sand and a suitable organic matter like compost. Always add the organic matter prior to the sand. It is a good rule of thumb to incorporate a good 4 to 6 inches (10 to 20 cm) of organic matter prior to the soil prior to planting. Apply a standard bulb booster fertilizer (9-9-6) or bone meal at planting time to encourage a vigorous and healthy root system.

The planting depth will vary for each type of bulb, but a good rule

of thumb is to plant the bulb to a depth of 3 – 4 times the width of the bulb. Therefore, if you are planting a tulip bulb that is 2 inches (5 cm) wide, it should be planted 8 inches (20 cm) deep. After planting, water the soil thoroughly and mulch the surface with leaves or grass clippings to a depth of 2 inches (5 cm).

When planting spring bulbs, you will get the best impact if you group the same type of bulb together. The bigger the grouping the larger the impact will be. Most spring flowering bulbs are low in stature. What that means from a design perspective is that they should be planted at the front of the border but also somewhere

that enables you to enjoy the show on a regular basis. Spend a bit of your fall in the garden planning for spring, plant some spring flowering bulbs and enjoy the grand show in the spring!

The following bulbs will help you in this process:

Scilla siberica (Squill) – deep blue or white in colour, 4 – 6 inches (10 – 15 cm) in height

Crocus chrysanthus (snow crocus) – available in all the traditional colours, 3 – 4 inches (8 – 10cm) in height

Tulipa tarda (tarda tulip) – yellow flowers with white tips, 3 – 6 inches (7 – 15cm)

Fritillaria pallidiflora (Siberian fritillary) – larger pale green-

ish-yellow blooms with a bluish leaf, 12 – 16 inches (30 – 40cm) in height

Tulipa spp. (hybrid tulips) – huge selection of colours, heights and flowering time. The Darwin or cottage type tulips are the most reliable on the prairies.

Narcissi spp. (daffodils) – many selections to choose from, like ‘King Alfred’ – the tall, traditional, yellow trumpet daffodil that truly means spring

Hanbidge 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.



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