



Summer ends with a party in Shellbrook

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Shellbrook's season of sunshine, outdoor play, and swimming ended with a big splash on Friday, Aug. 28, as the Shellbrook Swimming Pool and Kinsmen Park played host to the annual Party in the Park.

The afternoon was blessed with plenty of sun and warmth, making kids eager to dive right into the swimming pool and all the activities organized by the pool's lifeguards, including inflatables provided by Diskotek Entertainment, face painting, mini putt, and more.

With so much to do, the park and swimming pool were abuzz with activity from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. And as afternoon bled into evening, the Parkland Pool Project Committee kept everyone fed with a canteen and BBQ to raise vital funds for the Parkland Pool Project.

As of Monday, the total raised through the canteen and BBQ hadn't been finalized.

Despite the less-than-summery conditions that persisted through much of the summer, Town of Shellbrook CAO Sigourney O'Halligan says it was another strong season for the swimming pool and the town's S-CAPE Program.

"The S-CAPE Program had new leaders this year who brought some new ideas to the program, like field trip Fridays — something we had offered before, but looking to diversify the field trips," she said.

This summer, the S-CAPE Program hosted 262 kids over the course of eight weeks for an average of 32 kids per week.

Aimed at children aged 6 to 12, and made possible by Community Initiative Fund and Sask. Lotteries funding, the S-CAPE Program runs on weekly registrations.

Each week has a unique theme, with program leaders providing activities, games, and field trip opportunities related to the given theme.

Given the number of young families in the community, O'Halligan says it's a vital service, helping to fill in childcare gaps.

"The S-Cape Program provides children with a safe, structured, and active place to spend their summer while parents are working or managing busy schedules," she said.



Ella Skarpinsky looks on as her ball rolls for a hole-in-one.

"I feel it is more than just keeping kids busy; it creates opportunities for friendships and mental well-being, all while letting them experience what Shellbrook has to offer."

The Shellbrook Swimming Pool was no less busy over the summer, with 535 people registered for swimming lessons.

While obviously a positive for the

facility and the community, O'Halligan notes that the swimming pool did experience some challenges at the beginning of the season, due to its age.

"The area where the liner meets the pool deck will require attention, and we will have a qualified pool company assess the facility now that the season has ended so we can pro-

actively address any issues before next season," she said.

"Given the age of the facility, we need to balance necessary maintenance with the remaining lifespan of the pool while continuing to work with the Parkland Pool Committee toward the long-term goal of a new pool."

More photos on page 8



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Blaine Lake School welcomes outdoor basketball court

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

A dream three years in the making came to fruition just in time for the new school year to begin in Blaine Lake. Thanks to the efforts of Blaine Lake Composite School's School Community Council (SCC) and Playground Committee, and the support of the Prairie Spirit School Division and Town of Blaine Lake, the school celebrated the completion of a brand-new outdoor basketball court on Thursday, Aug. 27. The project, which has been in the works since the new Blaine Lake Composite School opened in 2023, cost about \$14,000. While a good share of this came from local fundraising efforts, the school also benefitted from the Ministry of Education's

New Playground and Equipment Grant. "We knew once we had a playground in, this would be the next step. The planning for this project really took off in late winter," said principal Jessica Barrington. "We want children and youth to have as many options as possible for outdoor play and learning. A tarmac with basketball hoops is not flashy, but it is classic and timeless." In addition to the efforts of the SCC and the Playground Committee, the basketball court project was made possible by the generosity of the contractors who worked on it. Hague-based Lyndell Concrete Supply donated 50 per cent of the concrete costs, while Saskatoon's MIR Construction, the concrete finishers, provided their services at cost.

Last, but certainly not least, local contractor Patrick Hupaelo (North Wind Contracting) oversaw the project's completion and donated 100 per cent of his time. "This basketball court will give students one more way to engage in outdoor play," Barrington said. "Whether they are shooting hoops or using the concrete pad in imaginative ways, we look forward to how it will benefit students, as well as the community, for many years to come."



Crews work on the frame for the concrete and set up the pools for the hoops.



Blaine Lake Composite School celebrated the completion of a new outdoor basketball court just in time for the new school year.

Panel warns SaskPower rate increase could be higher

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The Saskatchewan Rate Review Panel is warning SaskPower customers that their bills could increase by as much as 6.4 per cent on Feb. 1, 2027. The panel issued this warning on Friday, Aug. 28, when it approved the first of two planned 3.9 per cent SaskPower rate increases. But while the panel greenlit the first power rate increase, which took effect Feb. 1 of this year, it pressed paused on the second. "The panel is deferring its recommendation on the Feb. 1, 2027, increase until SaskPower provides updated financial information later this year, but is advising ratepayers to be prepared for the possibility that the final system-average increase could be approximately 1.5 to 2.5 percentage points higher than SaskPower's proposed 3.9 per cent," the rate review panel said in a statement. "The panel found that SaskPower is facing sig-

nificant financial and operating pressures, including an expanding capital program, increasing operating costs, higher fuel and purchased power costs, declining export revenue and uncertainty surrounding future carbon obligations." The panel says SaskPower's revised mid-application forecast for 2025-26 projected an operating loss of \$187 million, compared with the \$147 million loss forecast in the original application. SaskPower's debt ratio is also forecast to remain above its long-term target range, while its return on equity remains below its long-term target. Before it can render its final verdict on the next rate increase, the panel says it needs to see more current financial information from SaskPower. SaskPower is required to provide this information to the panel by no later than Nov. 2. In addition to financial statements and other materials, the panel also wants more information on projected revenues from Bell Canada's data centre project just outside of Regina. "The timing of revenue from the Bell data centre project is particularly important because SaskPower's improved 2026-27 financial forecast is driven in part by anticipated additional electricity sales to the project," the panel noted. "The panel's consultant concluded that the timing of those rev-

enues remains uncertain." The panel also made recommendations aimed at strengthening future SaskPower rate applications and protecting ratepayer interests. These include improved long-term resource and rate planning, greater control and reporting of operating costs, increased public disclosure of key planning information, development of a policy for artificial intelligence and other large data centre loads, and allowing sufficient time for future rate applications to be publicly reviewed before new rates take effect. "The Panel recognizes the affordability pressures facing Saskatchewan households, farms and businesses," said Panel Chair Albert Johnston. "At the same time, SaskPower must have sufficient revenue and financial capacity to maintain a safe and reliable electricity system." At the proposed 3.9 per cent, each SaskPower rate increase will add approximately \$5 per month to the bill of the average residential customer, and approximately \$11 per month to the average farm customer's bill.

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

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Fiddlers receive warm Grand Masters send-off in Canwood

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

A music-loving crowd of about 140 people came from near and far to enjoy an evening of music and merriment on Monday, Aug. 24, when the fifth annual Canadian Grand Masters Send-off Fiddle Show and Dry Dance was held at the Canwood Elks Community Hall.

Sponsored by the Canwood Public Library, this year's show was headlined by the familiar fiddling talents of Emily Dubois, Austin Castle, and Joseph Desjarlais, who were selected as Saskatchewan's representatives for the 2026 Canadian Grand Masters Fiddling Competition in High River, Alta., on Aug. 28 and 29.

Joining Dubois and Castle on the stage were James Steele, Lucas Welsh, Erik Weberg, and Canwood native Trent Bruner, who also served as house accompanist at the Canadian Grand Masters for the 27th time

this year. This year's show also brought something uniquely personal for Bruner, as it marked the first time his daughter, Hannah Moira Midtboe-Bruner, took part in the Canadian Grand Masters as a "Canadians abroad" representative.

Though Trent and his family live full-time in Norway, they've all had opportunities to visit Canwood. This, Trent says, is owed to a promise he made to his wife, Hilde, to never forget his country, his family, and his friends.

Growing up in Norway while remaining connected to her father's Canadian roots has allowed Hannah Moira to learn both the Norwegian and Canadian traditional fiddle styles. She picked up the latter starting at age 7, when three-time Canadian Grand Masters champion Patti Kusturok stayed with her family in Norway for a couple weeks.

After that, Hannah took Skype lessons with



The performers joined up for a number. From left to right: Hannah Moira Midtboe-Bruner, Joseph Desjarlais, James Steele, Emily Dubois, Austin Castle, Lucas Welsh, and Trent Bruner.

Kusturok for five or six years to deepen her understanding of traditional Canadian fiddle styles.

"I've always enjoyed playing more than one traditional folk music... and I wanted to see if I was at that level," Hannah Moira said of her reasons for auditioning.

"Just being able to play is a big deal. But I'm also pretty excited about hearing other people play. It will be [good] to dig a little bit deeper [into the regional styles]," she added, noting that it's one thing to play a tune

from Québec or Manitoba, and another thing to understand its context and history.

For Hannah Moira, then, the Canadian Grand Masters Send-off show in Canwood was a vital opportunity to practice her traditional Canadian fiddle repertoire, which she needed to showcase at the competition, as well as a chance to share traditional Norwegian folk music and Norway's national instrument: the hardanger fiddle.

For Trent, meanwhile,

the Canwood show is always an opportunity to come home, see old friends, make new acquaintances, and raise vital travel funds for Saskatchewan's Canadian Grand Masters representatives.

It's also a means of keeping the area's endur-

ing fiddle traditions alive.

"Canwood was the hub, years ago, for the Parkland Fiddlers when we had our annual contest from 1990 into the mid-2000s," he said. "That was where many, many fiddle fans met from different parts of western Canada."



Austin Castle and Emily Dubois perform at Canwood's Canadian Grand Masters Send-off show.



Joseph Desjarlais performs with backing from Lucas Welsh.



Erik Weberg opened the show with his blend of classic country tunes.



Hannah Moira Midtboe-Bruner performs on the Norwegian hardanger fiddle.

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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



Sask. Marshals fail to solve policing challenges

Crime is a problem in Saskatchewan.

Just ask a friend or neighbour, and odds are they know someone who's been a victim of a crime, or have been a victim themselves.

And the evidence is more than just anecdotal.

In its annual release of crime statistics for the province, the Saskatchewan RCMP found that 60 of 84 detachment areas in the province have Crime Severity Index (CSI) ratings

above the national average, with 11 of those detachment areas being more than 10 times higher than the national average.

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.

On a positive note, despite all the talk about crime in the news and the political sphere, Canada's CSI for 2025 was 75.01, down slightly from 77.9 in 2024. Similarly, though it's still almost double the national average, Saskatchewan's CSI dropped to 146.64 from 154.36 in 2025, putting it just a couple points above the CSI for 2020.

Looking at these statistics, it's easy to see how the Sask Party government arrived at the conclusion that a specialized provincial police force might address the crime problem.

Thus far, however, the Saskatchewan Marshals Service (SMS) are another example of the government refusing to listen to any feedback that doesn't fit with its plans.

First announced in the 2022 fall Throne Speech, the SMS is supposed



JORDAN
TWISS

~
News Editor

to be a 70-officer, \$20 million per year police force with a mandate to support other police agencies in fighting rural crime, gangs, and drugs.

From the outset, there were concerns and questions about the purpose of the SMS, and what it would actually accomplish.

Early on, about 90 municipalities from across the province (including the Town and Rural Municipality of Spiritwood as

well as the Villages of Medstead and Parkside) joined the National Police Federation and the Union of Safety and Justice Employees in calling on the province to immediately halt funding for the SMS, and prioritize investments in existing police forces instead.

One of the chief concerns was that the SMS would (accidentally or intentionally) poach officers from other police agencies, making it more of a reshuffling of the existing game pieces than an enhancement of personnel and resources.

The concern was certainly well-founded.

For years, the Saskatchewan RCMP has struggled to recruit and retain enough officers to adequately staff detachments.

According to data released in early 2026, its hard vacancy rate (meaning a position that had no officer to fill it) for 2025 was 14.6 per cent. And this figure doesn't include soft vacancies (positions unfilled due to sick leave or parental leave).

This is a staggering increase from 2017, when the vacancy rate was just below 4 per cent. And in this eight-year window, calls to service have increased exponentially, meaning officers are being asked to do more with fewer resources and supports.

The Sask. Party government had to be aware of this reality when it first announced the SMS. Yet, at every turn, it downplayed these concerns and swore that officers wouldn't primarily be taken from other police



agencies.

In late 2024, the SMS was forced to admit that this wasn't the case. And earlier this year, Minister of Community Safety Michael Weger confirmed in a budget estimate meeting that 25 of the 27 active marshals came from other police forces.

And with only 27 active officers, the SMS is far behind schedule in terms of recruitment. Indeed, Chief Marshal Rob Cameron said the force would have 50 officers by the end of 2025.

To make matters worse, this summer has proven that the Sask Party government has already lost control of its shiny new police agency.

In July, the SMS posted a bid request for equipment for a non-existent specialized response unit, including night vision goggles, sniper rifles and a multi-shot launcher.

When the government became aware of this (seemingly only because it was reported on), Mr. Weger ordered the SMS to hit the pause button.

"At my level, and as to my direction as the minister of community safety, there has been no direction for the marshals to proceed with a specialized response unit," he said at a news conference in late August.

Mr. Weger then quickly tried to downplay the government's loss of

oversight as a marshal being "overly ambitious."

"Again, I'll take overly ambitious over lazy any day of the week, but [they were] overly ambitious on starting the process of a specialized response unit when we're not ready for that yet," he said.

Mr. Weger also said Chief Marshal Cameron has assured him that the proper chain of command will be followed in the future.

Saskatchewanians can be forgiven for harbouring doubts.

The SMS has only been operational for a little over a year, and it's already gone rogue without the government's knowledge and only succeeded in poaching officers from other police forces.

On the one hand, we must have adequate policing resources to ensure dangerous criminals are caught, a court system that locks them away for the appropriate amount of time, and, where possible, a corrections system that rehabilitates them into productive members of society.

On the other hand, we desperately need to look beyond the criminal justice system to address mental health and addictions, poverty, and the myriad factors that lead individuals to engage in criminal behaviour.

On all fronts, the SMS simply isn't fitting the bill.

Shellbrook Chronicle

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

Spiritwood Herald

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

Publications Mail Registration #07621

Published Every Thursday Morning

P.O. Box 10, Shellbrook, Sask. S0J 2E0
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Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.;

Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.;

Advertising Deadline: Fridays at 4:00 p.m.

Websites: www.shellbrookchronicle.com
www.spiritwoodherald.com

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Big River hosts first Battle of the Businesses golf tourney

By **MAISIE KRIENKE**
Submitted

On Sunday, Aug. 23, the Big River Golf Club hosted Big River's first annual Big River Battle of the Businesses. The entire community stepped up,

resulting in 15 teams entered with others donating prizes. This was an all-day event where age didn't matter. Co-workers, employers, employees, and families all golfed together in Big River spirit. Special hats, shirts, and

signs were made to highlight some of the businesses. There were plenty of pokes, jabs, cheers and banter to keep the game enjoyable. With a score of 59, Twisted Toolbox will hold the 2026 title and town bragging rights.



Organizer Rodger Hurtig (middle) presents the inaugural Big River Battle of the Businesses plaque to (from left to right): Rylan Starkell, Kohen Starkell, Kristen Gardipee and Josh Gardipee.

Shellbrook Library trivia night highlights

By **EDDIE HOEHN**
Branch Librarian

On Tuesday, Aug. 4, volunteer and local library board member Samuel Schafer presented the first Trivia Night for the month at the library. Participants played in two teams. They guessed the titles and authors of books based on 1, 3, and 6 word descriptions. Participants also identified countries by their silhouettes, named all 6 colours of a Rubik's cube, identified titles and

main characters of classic TV shows, determined whether a list of engine parts were real or made up, and named the title and artist of songs that debuted in movies. The team called "The Chronologically Advantaged," consisting of young adults, won the Trivia Night. On Wednesday, Aug. 19, volunteer and local library board member Samuel Schafer presented Trivia Night at the library. Participants collaborated as 1 team of 5 players.

During the literature round, they guessed book titles based on very short descriptions. Participants identified famous companies by their logos, listed the top 6 languages with the most native speakers, gave titles and actor/character names for movies based on books, determined which Ben & Jerry's ice cream flavours were real or fake from a list, and named the titles and artists for songs from the 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s, 2000s, and 2010s.



Winners of the library's first August trivia night. From left to right: Ana McBain, Tristin McBain (holding Grayson McBain), Jasmine Allen, and Elijah Allen.

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Moe announces retaliatory tariffs on U.S. booze

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

With Canada-U.S. trade tensions continuing to simmer, Premier Scott Moe has unveiled Saskatchewan’s strategy for fighting back against the American government’s tariffs.

At a press conference held last Wednesday, Aug. 26, the premier said that Saskatchewan will impose a 50 per cent reciprocal tariff on American alcohol.

Those tariffs will go into effect on Sept. 8, the same day Prime Minister Mark Carney plans to enact dollar-for-dollar retaliatory tariffs against the U.S., concentrated in sectors such as steel, dairy, appliances, agricultural equipment, pulp and paper, and electronics.

“It will be good for our Saskatchewan producers with domestic and local sales,” he told reporters Wednesday in Prince Albert.

The move comes after trade talks between Canada and the U.S. fell apart just before U.S. President Donald Trump’s threatened Aug. 22 deadline to impose 50 per cent tariffs on \$28 billion worth of Canadian goods.

While all other provinces except for Alberta have removed U.S. liquor from store shelves, Premier Moe says his government won’t follow suit and limit the public’s ability to choose.

“That is a very important core value for this government,” he said, noting that Saskatchewanians have been supporting Canadian products with

their wallets, resulting in a 40 per cent drop in American liquor sales.

“I think that actually sends a much stronger message than any government-ordered ban,” Moe said. “The sale of Saskatchewan-made products has increased at the very same time.”

Premier Moe says Saskatchewan’s Team Canada approach also includes awarding nearly all government contracts to Canadian companies, and enacting restrictions that would allow only Canadian companies to build data centres in the province.

While voicing support for Canada’s response to the U.S. tariffs, Premier Moe said his hope is that these actions will bring both parties back to the bargaining table.

Following the breakdown in trade talks,

Prime Minister Carney explained 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 Min-

ister 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,” he said in a statement, calling the tariffs a clear violation of CUSMA.

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

Premier Moe says the U.S. tariffs affect six per cent of Saskatchewan’s economy, while the remainder continues to have free access. Meanwhile, Canada’s countermeasures impact 11 per cent of the

province’s U.S. imports, or about \$1.6 billion in goods.

“We may see those (tariffs) escalate in the days ahead,” Moe said.

Premier Moe also reiterated his opposition to export taxes on oil and potash.

“That would be a tremendous economic hit to our province and to our nation,” he said. “First, Canadians would lose jobs. Second, farmers on both sides of the border would pay more for that crucial fertilizer.”

Instead, he suggested that the more beneficial move would be to enact policy changes and build more pipelines and shipping routes to allow Canada to diversify its trade portfolio.

Health card scam making the rounds

By **EHEALTH SASK.**
Submitted

eHealth Saskatchewan is warning residents about a scam regarding their health cards. Text messages and phone calls claiming to be from eHealth Saskatchewan indicate Saskatchewan health cards are expired, outdated or require immediate replacement. People are asked to click a link to update their information and may be asked to pay a fee or provide personal information to maintain access to health care services, update their records, or renew their health card.

There is no charge for a Saskatchewan health card. Any request for payment will indicate it is a scam. Do not click on any links or give out credit card information.

The warning comes as Saskatchewan is entering a health card renewal season with renewal stickers starting to appear in the mail mid-September through the end of October.

Here’s what residents need to know:

- Most Saskatchewan health cards expire at the end of December 2026.
- Health cards that do not expire December 2026 have an expiry date printed directly on the card.
- Renewal stickers will be automatically mailed to eligible households starting mid-September.
- eHealth will never contact res-

idents by text message or call about health card renewal.

- There is no charge to receive a health card or update your information.

How to spot a scam text or phone call

A message or call is likely a scam if it:

- Includes an unofficial web address, which may closely resemble *ehealthsask.ca*.
- Originates from an international or unusual phone number.
- Claims to be from a “Health Card Service Centre” or other organization (real or fake) that does not manage Saskatchewan health cards.
- Creates a sense of urgency by claiming you must act immediately to avoid losing health coverage.
- Asks you to take action to “renew” your health card – health card stickers are automatically mailed to you.
- Asks for payment, banking information or personal information over the phone or through a link.

eHealth Saskatchewan encourages residents to remain vigilant and avoid clicking links or sharing personal information if they receive a suspicious message or phone call.

Residents are encouraged to visit eHealth’s newly updated website to learn more about the scam and the health card renewal campaign at *ehealthsask.ca*.

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)

SHELLBROOK: Keith Alessi – Charitable Event – Tomatoes Tried To Kill Me But Banjos Saved My Life – September 30, 2026, Shellbrook Theatre, 7:30pm. Tickets: www.shellbrookartscouncil.ca Adult: \$40 | Senior (60+): \$35 | Student (6-25): \$15 | Children (5 & Under): Free. **All artist proceeds go to further renovations of the Shellbrook Theatre and connecting our community through arts and culture.*

SHELLBROOK: Shellbrook Boreas Pickleball – Come out and try the fun & social sport of Recreational Pickleball in Shellbrook! New Players: Free Play and 30 min. Introductory Lesson for the month of October! For more information or to register, phone/text: Rhonda Martin at (306)468-7770.

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Path to Canada-US deal remains uncertain

It seems U.S. president Donald Trump has taken part of his bullying playbook from Lucy in Peanuts. She's the one famous for putting down a football, and as Charlie Brown tries to kick it, she pulls it away.

Trump does the same trick with his rolling barrage of tariff threats, both real and imaginary.

One day it's "Do as I want or I'll impose 50 per cent tariffs."

The next, the threat is on hold leaving you with hope.

It's psychological warfare by Trump, and

while the man is deeply flawed, he has the mindset to threaten and bully with ease.

Of course, one must wonder, if a new trade deal is hammered out between Canada and the U.S., what will it mean?

Sadly, as long as the erratic Trump is in office — and you don't need to be too great a conspiracy theorist to fear he will entrench himself in the White House past the end of the current term, no matter what the vote or the laws in the U.S. say — deals don't seem worth the paper he signs



CALVIN DANIELS

his name to.

Trump changes his mind on things based on whims and tantrums, and it seems highly unlikely a trade deal will be safe from the mood swings. What Trump wants one day, is lost as he veers off on

a new tangent the next, and uncertainty and upheaval lie in his wake.

And of course, depending on the details of any trade deal done, and those could take weeks if not longer to come fully to light, one wonders what it may actually mean for Canadians.

Of course, we covet freer access to the huge U.S. market because we easily produce more of everything than we can domestically consume, so we must export. That's good for Canadian business, and frankly good for Ameri-

can consumers in terms of competition holding prices in check.

That would seem to be reciprocal in terms of being good for Canadian consumers.

However, one might want to slap a caveat of warning on the positive side for Canadian consumers. The current Trump administration has been making significant changes to how systems work in the U.S., and that includes areas of good science, inspection services and even worker regulations.

From afar, it has taken

on a bit of a "wild west" feel, where businesses are operating with fewer checks and balances. And that seems to be creating food safety issues, with recalls on the upswing.

Is that a situation where Canadian consumers will feel safe if greater access to this market is part of a trade deal? Yes or no, that is the most likely scenario.

Canada needs a deal with the U.S. But whether one that is anything but a mirage can happen with Trump in office seems sadly unlikely.

Crop Report: August 18 to 24

By **MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**
Submitted

It was a relatively warm week in Saskatchewan, with higher daytime temperatures and cooler evenings. Harvest progress is at 11 per cent, significantly behind the five- and 10-year averages of 25 per cent and 21 per cent, respectively. There were reports of rain and strong winds in some regions, while high humidity stalled operations in others. Overall, crops are beginning to turn and harvest of later-seeded crops is expected to begin very soon.

Many parts of the province were dry last week, which advanced crop maturity and harvest efforts.

The strong winds observed in parts of the province brought significant rain to some regions, including the Round Hill area, which had the most rainfall at 81 millimetres (mm), followed by the Emerald and Meeting Lake areas with 76 mm and 68 mm, respectively.

Despite the prevailing warm conditions reported across Saskatchewan, provincial topsoil moisture levels were relatively stable last week.

Harvest continued this week as producers focused on combining winter cereals, pulse crops and other early-seeded crops. Rainfall delayed on-farm operations in some regions, but crop maturity advanced across the province.

Harvested winter crop quality varies throughout the province due to variable rainfall and growing conditions during the season. A complete breakdown of regional crop grades is available in the full Crop Report.

Pasture conditions have improved across many areas of the province in recent weeks, thanks to sufficient rainfall. Provincially, three per cent of pastures are rated excellent, 39 per cent good, 42 per cent fair, 14 per cent poor and two per cent very poor.

Dry conditions were reported as the primary cause of crop damage this week, although overall damage was limited. Minor crop damage was also attributed to strong winds, sclerotinia stem rot and bertha ar-

myworms in canola in some areas. Localized crop damage from aphids and gophers was also reported.

With harvest operations underway across Saskatchewan, increased farm equipment traffic is expected on public roadways. Drivers are reminded to use caution when approaching and passing large equipment. Producers are also encouraged to take necessary fire prevention measures when operating in dry field conditions to ensure harvest activities are conducted safely.

The Farm Stress Line is available to provide confidential support to producers, toll-free at 1-800-667-4442.

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

RCMP seeks three wanted men in area

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The Big River RCMP is seeking the public's assistance in locating two men who are wanted on warrants.

Up first, 23-year-old Brent Keenatch is wanted for charges including assault, and assault while choking.



Brent Keenatch.

Keenatch is described as 5'8" and 181 lbs., with brown eyes and black hair. He is known to travel to the Big River First Nation, the Moosomin First Nation, and Round Hill.

Second is 32-year-old Darius Bear, who is wanted for charges including assault, assault with a weapon, and forcible confinement.

Bear is described as 5'9"



Darius Bear.

and 165 lbs., with brown eyes and brown hair. He is known to travel to the Big River First Nation.

The whereabouts of both Keenatch and Bear are currently unknown.

Big River RCMP continue to investigate.

Anyone who sees Keenatch or Bear should not approach them. Instead, report all sightings and information to your local police at 310-RCMP (7267). Information can also be submitted anonymously by contacting Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or www.sask-crimestoppers.com.

RCMP's Most Wanted

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

This list is not a complete list of all persons wanted by the Saskatchewan RCMP. Offenders appearing on this list are determined by a data-driven scoring system using the Crime Severity Index, a Statistics Canada measurement that looks at both the number and the relative severity of crimes. Factors such



Jonathan Bear.

as age, gender, race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, religion, sexuality or disability are not considered in the scoring process.

The RCMP's updated list for August includes just one wanted individual with known connections to the area.

Jonathan Bear (aliases: Jonathon Bear, Jonathan Whitefish, John Bear), is wanted for assault (x2), break and enter, possession of prohibited weapon, pointing firearm, careless use of firearm, disguise with intent (x2), possession of weapon, and forcible confinement.

Bear is 32 years old and described as 6'2" and 174 lbs., with black hair and brown eyes. Police believe he could be in Big River First Nation, Debden, Pelican Lake, Sandy Bay, or Yorkton.

Summer ends with a party in Shellbrook



A fiercely competitive game of balloon basketball in the pool kept a group of kids busy.



Lifeguards Kayla (front) and Brooklyn Klaassen took a shift at the face painting table.



Kids capped off their summer by diving into the Shellbrook Swimming Pool during the Party in the Park.



The Shellbrook Swimming Pool was buzzing with activity through the afternoon.

Spiritwood Library activity highlights

By **HEATHER GATZKE**
Branch Librarian

The Spiritwood Public Library was a hub of activity on Tuesday, Aug. 11, with balloon powered racing cars zooming all over the library! Each child coloured their car, then assembled it. Once they were all ready, the races could begin.

On Wednesday, Aug. 19, everyone was concentrating hard to create their masterpiece of art in plastic beads that were then melted together. We had a dragon, a cat, basket balls, flowers and a turtle to name a few.

August's Dessert of the Month winner was Stacey Gaboury. Her treat was a classic dark chocolate cake made by Librarian, Heather Gatzke.



Kids show off their bead crafts.



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**SCAN ME**

**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



Stacey Gaboury was the winner of the library's August Dessert of the Month Draw.

EK Classic celebrates 26 years of fun

By **MAISIE KRIENKE**
Submitted

For 26 years, many people have enjoyed the fun of the EK Classic Golf tournament. Many of these golfers have been participating since the beginning and love the social event as well as golfing. This year, 176 participated in the golfing, with many others joined in for the social event.

Family and friends began arriving a few days ahead of start time to assist with the preparation. With great golfing weather in the forecast, things were quickly set up and people were raring to get this special event under way. The EK Classic is an annual event sponsored by family and friends to pay tribute to Eddie Krienke, who passed away in 2000.

Friday morning, all golfers registered for their first round of play and enjoyed a coffee and muffin, thanks to Leah Scriven, while Karen Fey-Hill got all the golfers registered and assigned to their tee-



Best duo costume winners were Madison Krienke and Hayley Becker (1st), and Josh Krienke and Matt Neufeld (2nd).

off holes.

As the golfers registered, they were presented with a logoed divot repair tool, a real favorite of everyone. Daytime around the community centre was pretty quiet. However, it only took until evening to liven things up, as everyone returned to get their bison dog, which was again donated by Sandy and Faye Ingram, and then proceeded to participate in the Calcutta event — the highlight of the evening.

Everyone took time to

visit May Fabish, Karen Fey-Hill, and Wendy Greenhough at the raffle table, then throw a bid on an item or two at the silent auction table. In the meantime, most everyone stopped by the “Putt for Nick” challenge, which Ray and Kelly Krienke kept them flowing through.

Who would win the “Putt for Nick” bar fridge and its contents?

Every two hours, Eve and Stella Krienke, and their friends, made their rounds selling tickets on the Bucket List.

The bar crew was super busy preparing pizza and dogs for those hungry

folks. It’s never a challenge for folks like Dale Richie, April Johnson, Jordanna Johnson, Danny Scriven, and Demi Lamothe, plus a few others. These people all have lots of experience volunteering and always do a great job.

The evening wound up with a full slate of bidders, who now had to wait to see if their team could come in with that great score on Saturday.

Once again, for the 26th year, Rally Motorsports set up a ‘Hole-in-One’ award. This year golfers had an opportunity to sink that ball on both rounds. Unfortunately, the quad and trailer were

returned to Rally, as Darren Young insisted on waiting until Sunday to make his hole-in-one.

On the Saturday, all golfers aimed to get the Closest to Pin on #9 for a chance to win cash awards provided by TR Petroleum, Travis and Emma Gould, and LN-LDT. Winning \$500 each were: Larry Nelson, Eryn Krienke, Isaiah Vigoren and a tie for Jr Girls, Jillian Krienke & Brynn Arcand.

Isaiah Vigoren had great drives on #8 and #9, as he was only 4 inches away from the Hole-in-One award.

Everyone slipped in after or before their second round to enjoy the noon luncheon sponsored by George and Arlene Ritchie. All final rounds were completed by 6 p.m., just in time to get back to the hub to enjoy an awesome supper sponsored by Neil and Rhoda Marshall and prepared by Doug Veenstra and his crew. All reports say Doug is the best chef ever.

As scores came in, everyone was anxious to see if their team’s score was going to get them some cash.

John Germs nabbed the Closest to Line prize, while Carson Gautier, Madison Krienke, Lincoln Miller, Jillian Krienke, and Brynn Arcand picked up the Longest Drives.

Everyone paraded across the stage showing off their duo costumes. Winners were: Madison Krienke and Hayley Becker (1st), and Josh Krienke and Matt Neufeld (2nd). Following these presentations, all golfers got to visit the prize table to pick their favourite. The list of donors of so many of these awesome prizes is much too long to list!

Raffle prizes were drawn. Winners were: Memorial Bag — Kristine Gardipee, Nick’s Fridge — Jayson Watier, Bucket List — Karen Fey-Hill and Lindsey Butterfield, 50/50 — Karen Fey-Hill, Speaker Lantern — Joel Sobchyshyn.

The 2026 Champions were Dawson Bender and Colton Lamping.

This event was once again the season’s highlight, showcasing all the things Eddie loved: golfing, gambling, eating, drinking, and hanging out with his friends.



EK Classic Champions Dawson Bender and Colton Lamping accept the plaque from Eddie Krienke’s sons, Leslie Krienke (left) and Randy Krienke (right).



Kristen Gardipee (left) was the winner of Memorial Golf Bag.



Randy Krienke presents the “Putt for Nick” fridge and contents to Jayson Watier.

Muskeg Lake FN, Feds reach ag benefits settlement

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The Muskeg Lake Cree Nation is one of two First Nations to reach a settlement for historic agricultural benefits claims tied to Treaties 4 and 6.

Attended by Crown-Indigenous Relations Minister Rebecca Alty, Secretary of State for Rural Development Buckley Belanger and band leadership, the agreement will see the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation (Treaty 6) receive \$121,077,713, while The Key First Nation (Treaty 4) will receive \$88,440,000.

The settlement announcement was made on the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation

on Aug. 22, during the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the signing of Treaty 6.

The claims relate to Canada’s failure to provide some of the farming support promised under Treaties 4 and 6, including ploughs, seeds, cows, bulls, and other supplies and equipment needed to aid First Nations in transitioning to farming and other economic activities.

“The resolution of these claims marks an important milestone in Canada’s relationships with The Key First Nation, and Muskeg Lake Cree Nation,” Alty said.

“These settlements recognize the agricultural benefits promised to these

communities under Treaties 4 and 6 and acknowledge the lasting impacts of Canada’s historic failure to fulfill those commitments.”

Muskeg Lake Cree Nation Chief Kelly Wolfe said the settlement acknowledges Canada’s failure to uphold its treaty commitments and the lasting impacts on the First Nation.

“This settlement is a testament to the resilience of our people and represents an important step toward reconciliation, as Canada acknowledges its failure to uphold its treaty commitments and the lasting impacts this has had on our Nation,” Chief Wolfe said.

“For Muskeg Lake Cree Nation, this settlement marks a significant mile-

stone and reinforces our responsibility to invest in our Nation, advance our priorities, and create opportunities for future generations. As we look ahead, we remain committed to honouring the spirit and intent of Treaty 6, strengthening our Nation, and ensuring that the rights, promises, and responsibilities enshrined in the Treaty continue to be recognized, respected, and upheld for generations to come.”

Belanger said the settlements address “a historic wrong.”

“By addressing the mistakes of the past, we can move forward together with First Nations as they invest in their people and build a more self-sufficient future,” he said.

PGA Tour's Player of the Year will be . . . ?

It was virtually owned by Tiger Woods for years and a Scottie Scheffler foregone conclusion for the past couple of seasons, but this year, there might not be a clearcut favourite for the PGA Tour's Player of the Year award.

It could indeed be Scheffler, the No. 1 ranked player in the world and the Tour's leading money winner.

But the 2026 knock against the 30-year-old Texan is that he won only one tournament during the regular season — and that was back in January at the American Express championship.

He was a Top 10 machine, and finally won his second event of 2026 when he romped to an eight-stroke victory in the first playoff event, but his lack of regular-season dominance has opened the door for a few other players to be considered for POY.

Four other names are solidly in the mix. Wyndham Clark is a three-time winner, including the U.S. Open and a playoff win, while Matt

Fitzpatrick and Chris Gotterup also won three times.

Fitzpatrick's most memorable win came at the RBC Heritage at Hilton Head when he defeated Scheffler in a playoff.

Gotterup, meanwhile, has been the Tour's breakout player of the year, winning at the Sony Open in Hawaii, the Phoenix Open and the John Deere Classic, after finishing 28th on the Tour's money list in 2025.

Rory McIlroy is almost always a contender and 2026 is no different, although he would be considered a long shot for the award.

He won the Masters for the second year in a row and was sixth on the money list despite playing only 11 events.

The only other possibility would be Cameron Young, whose win at the Players was one of his two titles. He also finished second in money winnings during the regular season.

So who will win?

Ho hum, it will probably be Scheffler. Despite



BRUCE
PENTON

winning only twice, he had 12 top-10 finishes in 18 starts, missed only one cut all year and was the tour's leading money winner.

Should he go on to win the Tour Championship and the FedEx Cup, his crowning would be a slam dunk.

Meanwhile, the presence of Canadian golfers on the No. 1 tour in the world continues to grow.

A couple of newbies — Sudarshan Yellamaraju, who spent much of his youth in Winnipeg, and Coquitlam's A.J. Ewart — made significant inroads, with Yellamaraju finishing 56th on the tour money list with \$2.5 million, thanks

primarily to his fifth-place finish at the Players, worth \$925,000 in prize money.

Ewart shocked the golf world last December by finishing first at the Tour's Qualifying School, which offered full playing privileges on the Tour to the top five finishers. Ewart went on to bank \$1,036,000 during the regular season and place 111th overall.

Canada's other Tour players — Corey Conners, Nick Taylor, Mackenzie Hughes, Taylor Pendrith, Adam Hadwiin, Adam Svensson and Ben Silverman — all had varying levels of success, but only Conners and Taylor joined Yellamaraju in the FedEx Cup playoffs.

• Jack Finarelli on his sportscurmudgeon.com site: "Quarterback Bobby Layne of Detroit Lions was traded to the Steelers in 1957 and Layne said the Lions would not win another championship for the next 50 years as a result of that decision. That streak is now entering its 68th NFL season."

• Headline at the on-ion.com: "Manager Calls Bullpen Just To Say Hi"

• Mike Bianchi of the Orlando Sentinel: "Tampa Bay Rays just became the second East Coast team in major league history to go 9-0 on a West Coast trip. Tampa politicians will likely celebrate by delaying a vote on the Rays' proposed new stadium by another few months."

• Headline at TheBeaver-ton.com: "Nation's sports franchises mark Pride Month with the annual closing of the comment section"

• Brendon Elliott, PGA of America professional: "LIV Golf entered the world with a trumpet blast. The version we were sold appears to be leaving through a side door."

• Mike Bianchi again: "The Heisman Trophy will add fan voting to its selection process in 2026. What a great idea! After all, everybody knows that college football fans are famously calm, objective people."

• Steve Simmons

of the Toronto Sun: "Watching Serena and Venus Williams play tennis now is like listening to Paul McCartney sing these days. You know they were once great. You know they aren't any longer."

• Another one from Bianchi: "LIV Golf has cancelled its last tournament of the season, where its championship was supposed to be determined. The good news is, their fans took it well. Both of them."

• Janice Hough of leftcoastsportsbabe.com: "Los Angeles Dodgers just put closer Edwin Diaz on injured list because of inflammation in the right side of his neck. Probably caused by Diaz turning around so often to see where the balls hit off him were going."

• Greg Cote of the Miami Herald: "Watching the Dodgers of all teams land Tarik Skubal was like finding out the winner of last night's Powerball lottery was Amazon owner Jeff Bezos."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Canwood, Leask join rural recruitment program

By **MINISTRY
OF HEALTH**
Submitted

Saskatchewan is expanding the Rural and Remote Recruitment Incentive (RRRI) program to include 12 additional communities, further strengthening efforts to recruit and retain health care professionals in areas facing ongoing staffing pressures.

Canwood, Cudworth, Eston, Hafford, Langenburg, Leask, Loon Lake, Norquay, Sandy Bay, Stoughton, Strassbourg and Whitewood are now eligible to offer incentive packages of up to \$50,000 for a three-year return-in-service commitment in designated high-priority occupations. With this addition, 94 communities across Saskatchewan now participate in the program.

"Building a stronger, more stable health care workforce is essential to putting patients first and ensuring the right care is available, in the right place, and at the right time,"

Health Minister Jeremy Cockrill said. "The expansion of the Rural and Remote Recruitment Incentive program will continue to deliver real results by attracting more health professionals to communities that need them most."

"We appreciate the Government of Saskatchewan's continued support for rural communities through the expansion of the Rural and Remote Recruitment Incentive program," Stoughton Mayor Stefan Clark said. "Together with our partners at the RM of Tecumseh, this opportunity will support efforts to recruit a nurse practitioner and improve access to timely health care closer to home for residents of Stoughton and the surrounding area. It will help reduce travel for care and allow more seniors and families to remain in their community."

Since 2022, the RRRI program has helped reduce vacancies by 44 per cent across eligible communities with more than 650 hard-to-recruit

positions having been filled, contributing to improved service stability in rural and northern Saskatchewan.

The RRRI program was supported by an \$8.7 million investment in the 2026-27 Provincial Budget to maintain and expand the program.

Incentives are available to new, permanent full-time employees in nine high-priority health care occupations, including Registered Nurses and Registered Psychiatric Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, Licensed Practical Nurses, Continuing Care Assistants, Medical Laboratory Technologists, Medical Laboratory Assistants, Medical Radiation Technologists, Combined Lab and X-Ray Technicians.

The RRRI program is a key component of Saskatchewan's Health Human Resources Action Plan, which has supported the recruitment of more than 7,500 health care professionals since 2023. The plan focuses on expanding training, strengthening retention, stabilizing rural and northern

services and building a workforce that meets the needs of a growing province.

The eligibility for the additional 12 communities was effective Sept. 1.

A complete list of the 94 participating communities, including eligibility criteria and application information,

is available at Saskatchewan Rural and Remote Recruitment Incentive.

Information on health care career opportunities, available recruitment and retention initiatives and Saskatchewan's Health Human Resources (HHR) Action Plan is available at saskatchewan.ca/HHR.

**When social
media blocks your
access to the
news, turn to your
local newspaper.**

OBITUARIES

Gordon Andrews



Gordon Don Andrews was born on October 26th, 1947, in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan to Gabriel and Hazel Andrews. He had one brother, Gary, and a sister, Marlene. As a child he had two other siblings that passed away. Gordon and Linda married at the Canwood Pentecostal Church on August 17th, 1968. They have five children, Jody, An-

thony, Paul, Naomi and Heidi. They have twelve grandchildren, Thomas, Hannah, Ostyn, Tanya, Korbin, Kade, Kelsi, Jasmine, Violet, Poppy, Olive and James. Gordie worked at many jobs in his life but retired after working for twenty-three years for the Canwood RM. He might not remember your name, but he knew where you lived! All through his years at the RM he also had a farm. Gordie, in his retirement, enjoyed wood

working in his shop and had beautiful flower beds. He enjoyed the outdoors. Gordie and Linda are members of Shellbrook Pentecostal Church. They enjoyed attending Sunday services, going to bible study and he loved men’s coffee. He enjoyed visiting with people. Gordon passed away at home on the farm surrounded by loved ones on the evening of August 22nd, 2026. He took comfort in knowing he was going to meet his

heavenly father where he would feel no more pain. He looked forward to this day when he would be with Jesus and see others who went before him. His funeral and celebration of life was held on Saturday, August 29th, 2026 @ 1:00pm at the Shellbrook Pentecostal Assembly, Shellbrook, SK, followed by a lunch. Interment was at the Canwood North Cemetery, Canwood, SK following lunch. In lieu of tributes, me-

morial donations may be made in memory of Gordon to the Shellbrook and District Ministerial Association or Canwood Legion. Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit www.beaulacfuneralhome.com. Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau “Lac” Funeral Home and Crematorium, Lynn Anderson, Funeral Director, Shellbrook, SK 306-747-2828.

Robert “Bob” Lloyd Barkway



brook, SK. Bob grew up on the family farm in the Rich Valley district north of Shellbrook and attended the one-room Rich Valley School. In 1956, Reginald, Lily, and family moved into Shellbrook. In that same year, Bob began working at Agnew Motors while boarding at Mrs. Stead’s with his friend Arnold Holmes, who worked across the street at Chamber’s Massey Harris dealership. During this time Bob attended Kelsey Institute in Saskatoon and apprenticed to become a journeymen automotive mechanic. Bob married Elizabeth “Betty” Fuller in July 1962

and together they raised two sons. Bob and Betty celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary this year. Bob spent more than 20 years with Agnew Motors, first full-time and later part-time, balancing winters in the garage with summers on the farm. Bob farmed in the Rich Valley district with his father for several years before taking over the farm after Reginald passed away. Over the years, he worked closely with Larry Mumm. They helped each other grow their respective farms; Bob the mechanic and Larry the carpenter. Bob retired from farming at age 71 after the 2009

harvest, but he continued to stay busy with projects and daily trips to the farm shop. Bob was active in the community through the Kinsmen, coaching minor hockey, and, together with Betty, supporting initiatives such as the Parkland Integrated Health Center. He will be remembered for his steady hands, practical skill, and quiet willingness to help where he could. Bob’s favourite summer activities were camping and fishing in northern Saskatchewan with Betty, the kids, and, as time went on, the grandkids, especially at Nemeiben Lake. The grandkids all learned to fish and waterski in Grandpa’s boat, creating memories that will remain part of the family’s story.

Lasting memories remain with his wife Betty; children Gordon (Shawn) Barkway and Terry (Michelle) Barkway; grandchildren Gregory Barkway, James (Kaitlyn) Barkway, Samantha (Evan) McPhail, Graeme Barkway, and Rebecca (Sean Lockerbie) Barkway; three great-grandchildren; sisters Gladys Halayka and Lois Prosser; sister-in-law Sharon Fuller; and many nieces and nephews. Bob was predeceased by his parents; sisters Mavis Dewan and Elizabeth “Betty” Jones; brothers-in-law Al Dewan, Delbert Jones, Tom Schapansky, Gerald Halayka, William Fuller, and Stanley Prosser; sister-in-law Mary Jean Schapansky; niece Lana Schapansky;

and great-nephew David Wooley. A Celebration of Life will be held on September 12, 2026, at 2:00pm in the Shellbrook Community Hall, Shellbrook, SK. In lieu of other tributes, donations in memory of Bob may be directed to the Shellbrook and District Health Services Foundation (Box 33, Shellbrook, SK S0J 2E0) or Saint Andrews Anglican Church in Shellbrook, SK. Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit www.beaulacfuneralhome.com. Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau “Lac” Funeral Home and Crematorium, Lynn Anderson, Funeral Director, Shellbrook, SK 306-747-2828.

Alan Bell-Chambers



Alan, the eldest of the three children, leaves behind “Brother Ron” (Ontario) and “Sister Deb” (British Columbia). A self-proclaimed “Air Force brat”, young Alan lived a storied childhood. Born in Edinburgh, Scotland, he enjoyed his early years in France, Germany, Canada, Germany again, and eventually Gimli, Manitoba. There he finished high school and later continued his education at Cariboo College, in Kamloops. Always up for an adventure and no stranger to geographic maneuverings, Alan pursued and accepted positions as a Weather Observer, and later as a journalist across the country. These included years in Lansdowne House (Ont.), Cree Lake (SK), and a few in B.C. Along the way, he met and fell in love with a nurse named Julie, whom he would later marry. Together, after exploring much of Europe on mo-

peds, they decided to finally settle down. They chose Saskatoon and built their life, careers and family. The street they picked was filled with neighbours that would become as close as family. Soon enough, they had a daughter and a son. Alan had landed a job in town with the local broadcaster QC8, CFQC-TV, BBS, CTV, or whatever they’ve decided to call themselves this year. He may have even appeared on your television screens at home (hopefully this didn’t make you want to change the channel!) His career took him across this beautiful province and eventually into the News Directors’ chair. He never forgot the many stories, communities and wonderful people he met along the way. Later, as the door to his newsroom career closed, only a short time passed before the perfect job for him became available: Granddad. A fresh new audience yet to hear of his countless adventures? Marvelous! Three new children who haven’t heard the jokes he loved to tell? Absolutely

splendid! Children about to be captivated by the vivid storytelling of a man who had lived so much. Oh, how wonderful! Alan poured his efforts into his new position. He and Julie instantly became an outstanding grandparent team. Sadly, the story of Alan ends there. On a high note, grandpa Alan spent his last day at Ness Creek celebrating his love of music, his love of nature, being with family, and cracking jokes until the end. A day sweetened by the joy of watching his eldest grandchild grace the stage and perform. Shortly thereafter, he was in the care of first responders and a great medical team in Shellbrook, SK. Much like his early days in journalism, Alan has made one last trip back from the alluring North and was brought home. Julie, his daughter Cassandra, son Christopher, and three grandchildren thank you all for remembering him with us. Signing off for the last time, “This is Alan Bell-Chambers with CFQC-TV, Goodnight”

Lyla Lillian Levandoski



her husband: Norman, her parents: William and Lillian Seppala (née Anderson), her brothers: Leo, Charlie, and Jack, her brother-in-law: Garnet McNab and her sisters-in-law: Glenna and Alice. A funeral mass was held on Tuesday, August 18, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at Ste. Thérèse Roman Catholic Church in Leoville, Saskatchewan. Lyla was laid to rest in Peaceful Pines Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made in Lyla’s memory to Resident Family Council, c/o Evergreen Health Centre, Leoville, SK. Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit <http://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.

Another great man has died. If he were here to edit my work, my father would strongly suggest using a different starting line. Sadly, Alan Bell-Chambers left this world peacefully on July 18th. Alan was born on July 7th, 1953, to Moira (Bridge of Weir, Scotland) and Alan (Buckinghamshire, England). His father was forever proud that during WW2, each and every working age man and woman in the family took positions to contribute to the war efforts in England.

In Loving Memory of Lyla Lillian Levandoski Lyla was born on June 27, 1934, in Spiritwood District, SK to William and Lillian Seppala. Lyla passed away August 7, 2026, in Leoville, SK at the age of 92 years. Lyla is lovingly remembered by; her sister Cherie Seppala of Kitimat, BC her sister-in-law: Maureen Seppala, her brothers-in-law: Richard Chenot, Art Emmerson and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives, and friends. Lyla is predeceased by:

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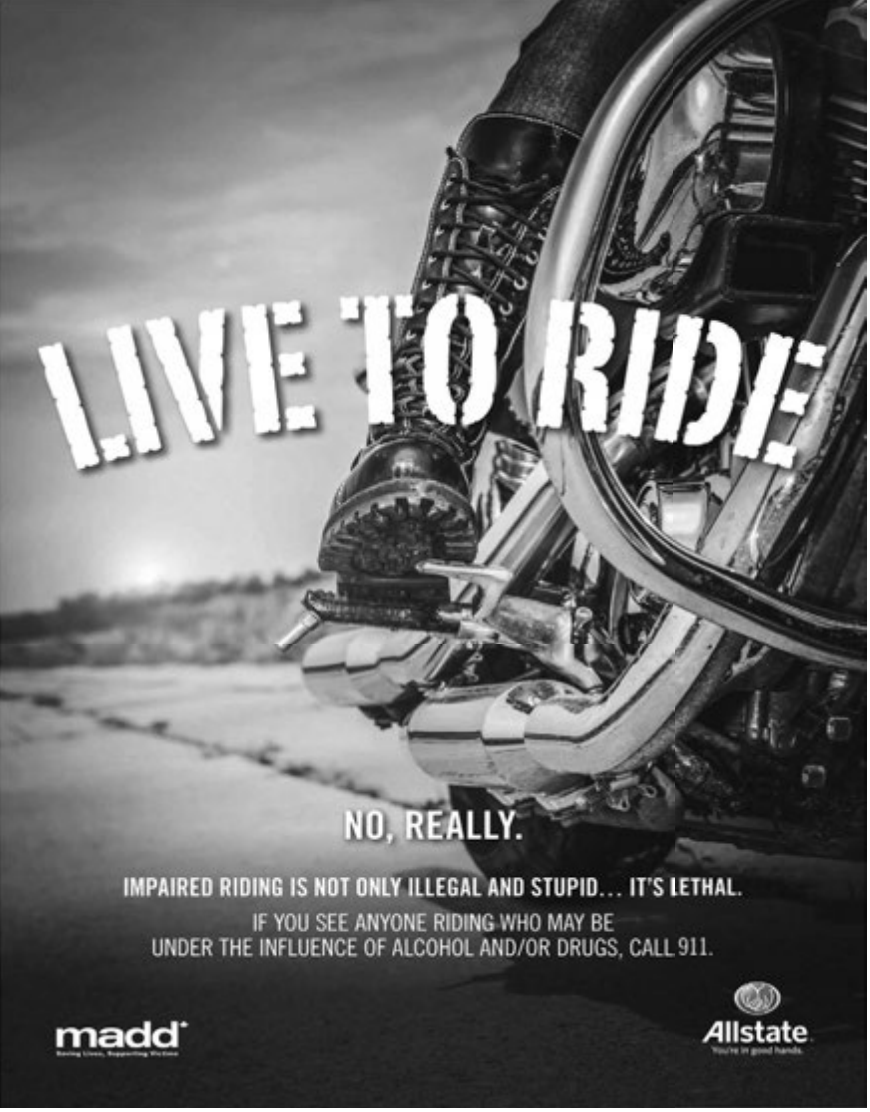
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The Veggie Garden: Part 1

By **PATRICIA HANBIDGE**
Orchid Horticulture

I hope that your garden is still providing lots of wonderful food for your table. It is so very satisfying to produce healthy food that we can share with family and friends. Nothing tastes as good as what you harvest from your garden.

I do not grow everything in my garden as much of my outdoor space is not conducive to producing a lot of produce. However, I do love growing fruit so cherries, apples, and even some plums and pears are always on my list of what to grow. Out of all of these fruits, it is the cherries which seems to be the leader.

Some years, there are lots, but if

we get a year where the spring is too cool or too windy, our harvest is less! I generally pit as many as possible and freeze them whole. The rest always go into juice which is wonderful just as it is or made into a delectable wine that is ready for consumption about five years later.

My asparagus crop provides us with fresh asparagus for about six weeks. This is one vegetable that I truly love for its versatility but perhaps when my girls were younger, we perhaps had a bit more asparagus than they would have preferred. Today, they love it grilled, spiced and seasoned, but for me and my youngest – a traditional steamed asparagus is still a lovely treat. The ends of the shoots are literally chopped and tossed into the freezer

to make cream of asparagus soup at a later date.

The peas are unfortunately finished, as are the beans. The peas are a welcome snack in the garden, as now, I do not grow the amount I used to in spite of them being the best steamed vegetable in the winter. I no longer have our big sheller and I do not have the room to grow this veggie in large amounts. Beans as well have fallen by the wayside and although I always grow some, it is not enough to fill the freezer for winter.

Sadly, this is also true of corn. These three crops seem to have fallen off the list of “must grows” as the sheer number of people to feed in the household decreases. Corn and beans would be simply blanched and frozen, but we never had a freezer big enough to justify freezing corn on the cob. Thus, we would freeze the niblets only.

As time passed, I stopped blanching the entire cob and simply cut the niblets off raw and into a large saucepan with some butter and a tiny bit of water. Simply bringing it to a boil was enough to stop the changing of sugars to starch and the corn would come out of the freezer tasting just as good as the corn that was freshly harvested. I always look forward to purchasing

local corn and enjoying it steamed, roasted, smoked and even done in the microwave right on the cob.

As for the squashes and pumpkins, they too have hit the only grow a bit list. Some of the patty pan squash are still a favourite as they can be somewhat contained. While the buttercup and other squashes of the past are not generally a preferred crop. Occasionally a small pumpkin or two might be grown but these are all available for reasonable prices by those that still have the room to grow them.

Zucchini is one summer squash that I cannot do without. The traditional green zucchini is always grown as now that includes a yellow one as well. However, my favourite zucchini to grow is now the round ones as they seem to stay smaller and more edible if you miss picking for a day or two. There are many cultivars and varieties to choose from. For us, the favourite way to enjoy zucchini is sliced and done under the broiler and sprinkled with asiago, parmesan or other hard grated cheese.

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.



NDP calls for Sask. to impose US liquor ban

By **SASK NDP**
Submitted

The Saskatchewan NDP is demanding Scott Moe stop pandering to Donald Trump while he hammers the Canadian economy and join other premiers across the country by immediately pulling American liquor from Saskatchewan store shelves.

On Saturday, Aug. 22, Trump imposed new 50 per cent tariffs on billions of dollars’ worth of Canadian exports, including Canadian alcoholic beverages. Prime Minister Mark Carney has suspended negotiations and recalled Canada’s negotiating team, saying the United States, “asked too much and offered too little.”

“This is the time to fight back — starting with immediately removing American alcohol from Saskatchewan shelves,” Beck said. “It was both a mistake and act of cowardice to re-shelve it in the first place as Scott Moe did last year.

“At every turn this Premier has been the

first and fastest to cave into Trump’s demands — that’s gotten us nowhere.”

Only Saskatchewan and Alberta have put American liquor back on store shelves.

“Donald Trump has made his choice. Now Scott Moe needs to make his,” said Kim Breckner, Shadow Minister for Trade & Export Development. “Is he going to keep standing on the sidelines while Canadian workers and businesses get attacked, or is he finally going to stand up for his country and join Team Canada?”

Don McBean, Shadow Minister for the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority, said the Premier can act immediately by directing SLGA to stop purchasing and distributing American alcohol.

“Canadian wineries, breweries and distilleries are being hit with a 50 per cent tariff, and Scott Moe is still helping American producers sell their products here in Saskatchewan,” McBean said. “How does that make any sense?”

“We have incredible Saskatchewan and Canadian producers making world-class beer, wine and spirits. Instead of sending Saskatchewan dollars south while Trump attacks our producers, let’s put Canadian products front and centre and support Canadian jobs.”

Beck said Saskatchewan must stand united with other provinces and the federal government as Canada enters a new phase of the trade dispute.

“This isn’t about left or right — it’s about Canada,” Beck said. “When another country targets Canadian workers, Canadian businesses and Canadian products, premiers have a responsibility to stand together.”

“Scott Moe has spent too much of this trade war looking for reasons to break ranks with Team Canada. The 50 per cent tariff on Canadian alcohol should remove any remaining doubt. Pull the American booze. Buy Canadian. Stand up for Saskatchewan and stand up for Canada.”

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