

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald

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www.shellbrookchronicle.com | www.spiritwoodherald.com

Bulls put on show in Spiritwood

By BEVRA FEE

Spiritwood Herald Reporter

The bulls were on a hot streak versus the cowboys at the SARCS Silver Buckle Bull Riding Competition over Thanksgiving weekend in Spiritwood.

Even so, Brazilian cowboy Gilmar Santana, who is sitting at the number two spot in the overall standings for the Professional Bull Riders (PBR) and in the top 10 of the Bull Riders Canada (BRC) standings, came out on top to take home the biggest pay-out on Saturday night.

Adding to his current yearly earnings — and his buckle collection — of \$71,160, the ambitious rider from Ouro Preto, Brazil, is fresh off a PBR run that you will have seen on television if you are paying attention to the standings as the season winds down.

In the Spiritwood event's long go, Santana outlasted "Jellybean" the bull with a score of 82. That ride moved him into the Championship Round, where he bested "Holy Moses" with a score of 83.

The final contest in the Championship Round saw Santana and Tristen Manning show the large crowd how it's done, with Manning pulling off a 76 atop "303."

Out of the 25 cowboys registered to ride in the long go, only nine were able to secure scores, with four of those riders pocketing change.

As the cowboys strive to gather points heading into the finals in Sylvan Lake, Alta., during the Nov. 6 weekend, they have only two more stops after Spiritwood.

The Spiritwood bull riding event signals the end of the outdoor sports season and the beginning of indoor/ice season. By Monday of Thanksgiving weekend, the process to install the skating ice in the arena has begun.

With the first hockey tournament scheduled for late October, and the curling season getting started at the same time, the hum of the ice plants will be the background playlist for the next five months.

But for the Thanksgiving weekend, locals and visitors packed the arena to cut loose on the cement (and dirt). Dancing to the music of Lane Ferster on the live stage took over as soon as the bulls were done with their throw-down, and more visiting ensued.



The bulls put the cowboys through their paces in Spiritwood, and largely came out on top.

Photo credit: Nelson & Cowboyz Media

SARCS offered another new trick this year with its 'Boot Scoot' contest. Like musical chairs, the Boot Scoot took place during the bull intermission and offered \$300 to the winner.

Out of the entrants, Michelle Cote managed to sit a chair for the prize change. As usual, the Mega 50/50 was drawn at the Silver Buckle event, with Aiden Beaulieu walking away with the pot of \$7,050.

All money from the annual major fundraiser goes to paying down the mortgage of Spiritwood's Rec Centre — just a few more Silver Buckles to go!

More photos on page 5



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Shellbrook Youth Travel club takes over recycling bins

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Once managed and maintained by the Shellbrook Kinsmen, a pair of community recycling donation bins are now being leveraged as a fundraising vehicle by the Shellbrook Youth Travel Club.

As Shellbrook Youth Travel Club leader Rhonda Berezowski explains, the takeover happened about a year ago and the club has been collecting recycling from the community ever since. Recently, however, the club the gave the bins a facelift, replacing the ageing wooden structures with more durable metal.

The makeover for the bins, which are located next to Shellbrook Bigway on Main Street and on Railway Avenue behind

Shellbrook Home Hardware, was completed by W.P. Sandin High School's senior practical and applied arts classes, with material paid for by the Shellbrook Youth Travel Club.

The Shellbrook Youth Travel Club travels every two years to a destination in Europe chosen based on the input and interests of the students involved. The club's next trip, to the Nordic countries of Norway, Sweden, and Denmark, is set to take place around Easter 2028.

"The opportunity to travel is a learning experience that cannot be found in the classroom. Travelling to different countries and seeing famous landmarks, churches, and countryside brings textbooks to life," Berezowski said.

Students can experience

the world in a very unique way. The best part is having W.P. Sandin students meet students from all over the world. It shows that we are much more alike than we are different."

Berezowski reminds anyone donating recycling to please remove all lids before placing the items in the bins.



The Shellbrook Youth Travel Club is now using community recycling bins to raise funds for its next adventure.

Muskeg Lake, Mistawasis reach child welfare deal

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The Muskeg Lake Cree Nation and Mistawasis Nēhiyawak are among the First Nations communities that will benefit from a new child welfare agreement between the Saskatoon Tribal Council and the Government of Canada.

Announced last week at Dakota Dunes Resort just outside Saskatoon, the seven-year deal between the feds and the Saskatoon Tribal Council will see the Council's seven member nations split a total of \$269 million to improve their control over how children are cared for.

"The outcomes and the results that these programs are showing for our families is undisputable," Tribal Chief Mark Arcand said during the announcement. "Government recognizes that."

Indigenous Services Canada, which was represented at the announcement by Indigenous Services Minister Mandy Gull-Masty, said the agreement marks the first regional pact in Canada outside Ontario, with funding covering the "full continuum of care."

This includes prevention and housing supports meant to deal with problems before a child is taken into care, services for families already involved in the child welfare system, money to build, buy, and repair facilities, and delivering supports for youth aging out of care and young adults who were formerly in care.

"I'm 55 years old. I can remember when my mom gave me to my great-grandparents at seven months old," Arcand said. "There was never a certificate on the wall to say you get approval from the government. It's how we do things in our communities."

Minister Gull-Masty said too many First Nations children are separated from their families and raised in systems that were not designed with Indigenous communities in mind.

She said the agreement's goal is to reduce the number of children entering care, and to shorten their stays in care in cases where intervention is needed. Ideally, though, the goal is to have no children in care at all.

"Children should never have to wait for a system to catch up to them," she said. "Children should be in community, supported and cared for by those that they love the most."

Looking ahead, Chief Arcand said the long-awaited agreement is a step toward full First Nations jurisdiction over child welfare under federal law, noting that Muskeg Lake Cree Nation is already on that path.

This end goal was reiterated by Muskeg Lake Cree Nation Chief Kelly Wolfe, who called it "another important step forward" in a community update posted on Facebook.

The funding, Chief Wolfe said, will give Muskeg Lake the resources to strengthen services today while continuing to build toward "exercising full jurisdiction over our own children and families."

"We have not changed our course, and we have not given up our goal of making our own decisions for our own children. This is a stepping stone on that path," Chief Wolfe said.

"Our children deserve services that reflect who they are, where they come from and the Nation they belong to. We know our children best, and ultimately Muskeg Lake must have the authority to make the decisions that affect them."



St. Therese Parish • Leoville

FALL SUPPER

SUNDAY, Oct. 25

Leoville Community Hall, 5 - 6:30 p.m.

Adults \$20 • 6-12 Yrs. \$10 • Preschool Free

Raffle, Chinese Auction,
Silent Auction,
Children's White Elephant,
BINGO, Quilt Raffle, 50/50

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF CANWOOD NO. 494

NOTICE OF CALL FOR FURTHER NOMINATIONS

Public notice is hereby given that nominations of candidates for the office of:

Councillor for Division No. 1 (By-election)

will be received by the undersigned at the municipal office during regular business hours until Wednesday, October 21, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. local time.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the municipal office located at 641 Main Street in Canwood or from the website at rmofcanwood.ca

Dated this 8th day of October, 2026.

Lorna Benson
Returning Officer

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Rural Municipality of Leask No. 464

ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

The R.M. of Leask No. 464 invites applications for an **Assistant Administrator**. This is a full-time position in the municipal office located in Leask, SK.

Please see the RM of Leask website, <https://rmleask.ca> for specific details, such as duties included and experience and qualifications preferred.

Interested applicants are invited to submit a cover letter along with their detailed resume, two work related references, anticipated availability date and wage expectations to:

R.M. of Leask No. 464
Assistant Administrator Position
PO Box 190, Leask, SK S0J 1M0
or
Email: rmleask.464@sasktel.net

Applications will be accepted until October 23, 2026. For further information contact the RM office at 306-466-2000.

Saskatoon Tribal Council leadership and federal government representatives reached a new agreement on child welfare.

PICK OF THE WEEK

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*Kms and price in thousands. Taxes not included in price.

Big River hosts Community Auction

By **MAISIE KRIENKE**
Submitted

The Big River & District Recreation Improvement Association (RIA) hosted its annual community auction fundraiser on Saturday, Oct. 3. It was not quite the usual crowd of people that bellowed into the Community Centre as a class reunion, a wedding, a golf tournament, and a birthday party drew away many of the traditional auction supporters.

Shauna Pickett opened the evening bar at 5 p.m., while Amanda Crashley and her family displayed a massive array of silent auction items and Carol Hildebrand attracted guests to the Chinese auction area where

nearly 50 items were displayed. Makayla and Gracie, two of the high school students, volunteered to man the ‘Toonie Boxes’ and did a great job of selling all the boxes.

All the while, forever volunteer May Fabish and her assistant Diana Darbyshire, who also brought along her sister, captured every passerby to sell them raffle and 50/50 tickets.

And finally, Marie Hutchison donated a one-of-a-kind, hand-crafted, king-size “Tree of Life” Afghan.

At the gate entry, Shauna had a display of the four most recent groups that the RIA has supported. Most recently, generous donations have been given to the Big River Fire Department

for a Rescue Quad, to Ski Timber Ridge for a new snowmaking machine, to the Health Centre for a CBC Analyzer, and to the Gun Club for shelter construction.

At 5:30, the guests quickly lined up for a special supper. Wanda Neufeldt, along with her mom and aunts, prepared a special menu of homemade cabbage rolls, homemade perogies, beet salad, and ham, which was topped off with pumpkin pie.

By purchasing supper tickets in advance, guests’ names were entered into a draw for auction bucks, which could be used to spend at any of the stations. Winners of the auction bucks were Ben Flath, Arlene Gilbert, Heather Bradley, and Amanda

Crashley.

Once again, this year, we were privileged to have a special, talented auctioneer, Eric Schmalz, join us. Even with our small crowd, Eric was able to draw in over \$9,000 in bids.

Hal Bradley won \$390 with his 50/50 ticket, Larry Giesbrecht claimed the pizza oven, and Brody Swanson went home with the beautiful “Tree of Life” Afghan.

The online bidding closed at 11 p.m., so even those who were not able to attend did have a chance to be part of this great fundraising event by putting bids online.

Obviously, an event like this can only be successful by having volunteers, donors and

buyers, and all that was on offer. Thanks to the generous donations from the community, there were well over 300 items up for grabs.

In another show of volunteer spirit, a great group of supporters hung around at closing and quickly did the clean-up.

Raj Kuman and Love Riar, newcomers to the community, learned very quickly that if you are going to be a genuine Big Riverite, you’ll need to participate in community events. These two young fellows donated a special meal for eight to be hosted at their restaurant, Third & Main, and Eric managed to get a good bidding war on this donation.

We hope to see everyone back at next year’s auction.

Sask. delays involuntary treatment program rollout

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The Government of Saskatchewan has temporarily pressed the pause button on its planned involuntary treatment program until at least early 2027.

The government initially introduced the idea of the program in 2025, before passing it as *The Compassionate Intervention Act* in May.

The act is intended to support people with severe addictions who are not capable of seeking help despite serious health and safety risks. Mental Health and Addictions Minister Lori Carr said the original hope was to have the program up and running by the end of 2026.

“It’s a little bit later than I would have liked, but we really want to en-

sure that when the committee is set up and when the regulations come out, that we’re best poised to make sure that we have success out of the gate,” she said

A month after the *Compassionate Intervention Act* passed, The First Nations Health Ombudsperson Office said it found “systemic failures” in the legislation.

In particular, Dianne Lafond, the First Nation Health Ombudsperson, says the act was passed without independent review, while ignoring First Nations protocol processes and governance laws, and before the first planned treatment centre in North Battleford was even built.

Lafond also said the government ignored every amendment to the act that might have addressed serious concerns.

“First Nations people in Saskatchewan already experience the addiction and overdose crisis at dramatically higher rates than the general population, which is a direct consequence of colonialism, intergenerational trauma, systemic poverty, and a healthcare system that is not adequately equipped or resourced,” the Ombudsperson’s Office wrote in a statement.

“This legislation does not address any of those root causes; instead, it creates a new coercive system enforced by police and courts, the very institutions where First Nations people face the most entrenched racism and documented discrimination.”

While announcing the

delay of the program, Minister Carr said there was still work being done to develop the regulations for what the government is calling compassionate intervention. The committee that will decide whether someone is put into treatment is also still being formed.

Carr said the government is working with the ministries and First Nations partners to find legal and medical professionals, as well as members of the public.

“Most importantly, Indigenous representation within that, because whoever you’re sitting across from, it needs to be representative of who’s sitting across from you,” said Carr.

The government says

compassionate intervention includes strict criteria for entering someone into involuntary treatment.

Family members can request an assessment for treatment of a loved one through the court with a judge’s warrant.

Law enforcement can also intervene if a person’s substance use is putting their own life or the lives of others at serious risk.

Individuals may only be brought to a Compassionate Intervention As-

essment Centre for an assessment to determine if they require treatment by police or peace officer, referred by a prescribed medical professional, or through a judge’s warrant. Individuals subject to assessment or treatment will have access to free legal representation.

Once someone regains capacity, involuntary treatment will end, and may then continue to get support voluntarily, including through ongoing care and services, to help with recovery.

TAX ENFORCEMENT LIST

VILLAGE OF LEASK

PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

Notice is hereby given under *The Tax Enforcement Act* that unless the arrears and costs appearing opposite the land and title number described in the following list are fully paid before December 14, 2026, an interest based on a tax lien will be registered against the land.

Note: A sum for costs in an amount required by subsection 4(3) of *The Tax Enforcement Act* is included in the amount shown against each parcel.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY	Title No.	Total Arrears*	Costs	Total Arrears and Costs
Lot 4-Blk/Par 13-Plan C1985 Ext 0	155604854	\$480.20	\$504.00	\$984.20
Lot 1-Blk/Par 17-Plan CQ5157 Ext 0	153344088	\$2,024.19	\$440.00	\$2,464.19
Lot 2-Blk/Par 17-Plan CQ5157 Ext 6	153344099	\$541.51	\$440.00	\$981.51
Lot 3-Blk/Par 17-Plan CQ5157 Ext 0	153344101	\$549.83	\$440.00	\$989.83
Lot 15-Blk/Par 17-Plan 101536488 Ext 5	153344112			
Lot 10-Blk/Par 20-Plan CS1025 Ext 0	151983164			
Lot 15-Blk/Par 20-Plan 101536501 Ext 27	151983153	\$1,106.87	\$504.00	\$1,610.87

* On January 1, 2027 the 2026 taxes will become arrears and be added to the amount required to remove the property from tax enforcement proceedings. Penalty is calculated to the date of the Notice and will continue to accrue as applicable.

Dated this 7th day of October, 2026

Yvette Hamel, Administrator

VILLAGE OF LEOVILLE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to Section 207 of *Planning and Development Act*, a Public Hearing will be held on **Tuesday, November 10th at 6:30 PM at the Village Office located at 22 Main Street, Leoville, SK** concerning the proposed Zoning Amendment application for the property legally described as: Lot V 101743152 and Lot 6 Block 5 Plan 100614787. The street address for this property is 114 and 120 – 2nd Avenue, Leoville, SK S0J 1N0. See location map below:

The applicant proposes to rezone the property from Village Centre Commercial District (C1) to Industrial District (IND). If adopted, this amendment bylaw will allow the applicant to operate a salvage yard.

A copy of the proposed bylaw and relevant documents may be inspected at the Public Hearing or prior to the hearing until November 10th, 2026 at 4:30 PM at the Village of Leoville Office located at 22 Main Street. Please contact the Development Officer during office hours Tuesday to Friday (excluding public holidays) 8:30 AM-4:30 PM, closed during lunch hours 12:00-1:00 PM.

The Public Hearing for this bylaw will be chaired by Mayor Craswell or his alternate. All persons who consider their interest in their property to be affected by the proposed bylaw shall be afforded an opportunity to be heard in person or by written submission at the Public Hearing. Written submissions can also be prepared in advance of the Public Hearing and must be received at the Village of Leoville Office by 4:30 PM Tuesday, November 10th to ensure they are included in the public record.

Development Officer:
22 Main Street, Leoville, SK S0J 1N0
Phone: 306-984-2140
Email: leoville@sasktel.net



RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF SPIRITWOOD NO. 496

NOTICE OF CALL FOR FURTHER NOMINATIONS

Public notice is hereby given that nomination of candidates for the office of:

Councillor – RM of Spiritwood No. 496 – Division No. 1

will be received by the undersigned during regular business hours on October 9th, 2026 to October 20th, 2026 and from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm on October 21st, 2026 at the RM of Spiritwood No. 496 municipal office.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the municipal office located at 218 Main Street in Spiritwood, Saskatchewan.

Dated this 9th day of October, 2026.

Colette Bussiere
Returning Officer

RM OF SPIRITWOOD NO. 496

NOTICE OF ABANDONMENT OF POLL

The Rural Municipality of Spiritwood No. 496
2026 Municipal Election

Councillor – Division No. 2
Councillor – Division No. 4
Councillor – Division No. 6

Whereas, **Tess Hodgson**, nominated for the office of Div. 2 Councillor; **Steve Buban**, nominated for the office of Div. 4 Councillor; and **Mary-Jean Roth**, nominated for the office of Div. No. 6 Councillor are the only candidates, I hereby give notice that no voting will take place on November 9th, 2026 for the aforementioned offices.

Dated this 9th day of October, 2026.

Colette Bussiere
(Returning Officer)

Referendum, midterms promise global shake-up

As we get deeper into fall, we find ourselves in the middle of election season.

In what is typically a rarity in Shellbrook, residents just made the impossible decision to elect a new mayor from a pool of three highly-qualified candidates.

Meanwhile, Rural Municipalities across the province are either welcoming or hunting for new division councillors to fill out their municipal councils.

These acclamations and elections are important, and will shape the futures of our communities (hopefully for the better). And those who willingly step into roles in municipal government deserve our gratitude for the often difficult and thankless work they do.

But, of course, the minds of most people are on two other upcoming votes that are sure to be of even more consequence for all of Canada.

Though not an election, Monday's referendum in Alberta could have massive implications for the province and its place in the country.

Sure, the 10 questions – themed around hot topics like immigration and provincial autonomy – are non-binding, meaning Premier Danielle Smith's United Conservative Party (UCP) government can do whatever it likes, regardless of the outcome.

But the framing of the questions and the context the government provides make the outcome they're hoping for pretty obvious.

Immigration, in particular, is a difficult and nuanced subject – far too nuanced to be addressed by simple yes or no questions.

On the one hand, Alberta is a province that, much like Saskatchewan, is reliant on skilled immigrants to fill voids in healthcare and other vital sectors.

On the other, it's impossible to deny that Canada's immigration numbers got out of hand, growing provincial



JORDAN
TWISS
~
News Editor

populations too quickly for provinces to build the infrastructure to accommodate them.

Of particular note in the immigration-themed questions is Question 4, which asks whether temporary residents should be charged a fee (tuition/premium) to access public education or health care so long as their status remains temporary.

The question comes as the internet is flooded with

misinformation aimed at stoking resentment towards immigrants – the most egregious being that refugees receive \$82,000 in government benefits, compared to just \$63,000 for the average Canadian.

Moreover, what person isn't going to vote yes to having someone else foot the bill for their education or healthcare, without even giving consideration to the fact that temporary residents who stay in Canada and work for more than six months pay almost all the same taxes as Canadian citizens?

The next referendum question focuses on requiring proof of citizenship to vote in provincial elections.

Evidently, it's intended for those who ascribe to unfounded notions that illegal immigrants are voting in droves and shaping the outcome of elections.

Of course, it won't matter to these believers that it's already illegal for non-citizens to vote, or that there's zero evidence to support allegations of voter fraud.

What's more, Ms. Smith's government is already rolling out driver's licenses with citizenship markers, making its desired answer abundantly obvious.

So, why bother asking?

Naturally, though, the most important question on the referendum Albertans will face on Monday is Question 10, which asks if the Government of Alberta should begin the formal legal process to hold a binding provincial referendum on wheth-



er or not Alberta should separate from Canada.

While Ms. Smith didn't run on a platform of seceding from Canada, her decision to open the UCP tent to the separatist faction has forced her to walk a perilous political tightrope.

Back in May, when it appeared that the referendum question may not go the way they liked, leaders within the separatist camp threatened to oust Ms. Smith if she "betrayed" her base.

Despite this, Ms. Smith has made it clear that she wants to remain in Canada and continue the work of repairing Alberta's relationship with Ottawa.

Ms. Smith also shutdown Elon Musk's attempts to meddle in the referendum, and lambasted separatist leaders for offering up Alberta's water and resources to the U.S.

Unfortunately, Ms. Smith can't put the separation question back in the box. And beyond Mr. Musk's unsolicited musings, it's clear that there are vested interests working to stoke the fires of separatism.

Earlier this year, a CBC investigative team did a deep dive into faceless YouTube channels promoting Alberta's separatist movement.

The digital trail they followed led them to individuals in the Netherlands, who created job postings

for actors, then used their audition tapes as material for pro-separatist content and never paid them.

Almost certainly, U.S. President Donald Trump would love to see Alberta leave Canada, as it would destabilize the country in the midst of a tariff war and leave Alberta and Canada at his mercy.

It would also be a welcome distraction from November's midterm elections, which early predictions are suggesting could be disastrous for Mr. Trump's administration.

Mr. Trump is clearly worried, as he's accelerated his authoritarian backslide in recent weeks.

As the architect of conspiracy theories around voter fraud and stolen elections, Mr. Trump has focused his entire second term on making it harder for people to vote.

Mr. Trump has also mused about having armed federal agents at polling stations for the midterms, and refused to invite international election observers for the first time in more than two decades, putting the U.S. in the esteemed company of Russia and Belarus – two shining beacons of democracy.

Regardless of their outcomes, the Alberta referendum and the U.S. midterm elections are certain to shake up the world.

We can only hope it's in a good way.

Shellbrook Chronicle

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

Spiritwood Herald

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

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: In the interest of readers of this newspaper, we will publish opinions of our readers. Letters To The Editor are most welcome; however, they must be signed and include writer's contact information and will only be published with the writer's name on it. Letters should be limited in length and be typed or clearly written. We reserve the right to edit letters depending on available space.

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Bulls put on buckin' goo show in Spiritwood



The bulls put the cowboys through their paces in Spiritwood, and largely came out on top.

Photo credit: Nelson & Cowboyz Media



Bull Riders Canada all set up to announce the event and ride scores.



The evening's 25 riders line up ahead of bull riding the action.

Photo credit: Nelson & Cowboyz Media

FARM LAND FOR SALE

10 Quarters of farm land in the **RM of Round Hill**, some of the highest assessed land in the RM. This is an opportunity to increase your farming acres, purchase land that possibly works into your existing acres. Tenant currently farming the 2026 crop. This land is now looking for a new owner. Sellers will look at a complete package purchase or individual packages and quarters.

Section 13 must sell as one package due to access. NW-03 must sell with SE-10 for access.

9-2300 bus hopper bottom bins located on SW-14, power on site, 2 bins have some spoiled grain, 3 bins have air access but no fans. NW-03 has a 5000 bus bin with concrete floor.

MLS#SK049800
\$4,400,000

Presentation of offers in effect, all offers must be submitted to **Shawna Schira-Kroeker REMAX North Country** by **November 6, 2026 at 12:00pm.**

Land location	Assessed value	Cult. acres	Native Grass	not cultivated	Total Acres	2026 taxes
NW 03-48-13 W3	\$309,700.00	133		26.00	\$159.81	\$1,868.58
SW 04-48-13 W3	\$371,700.00	152		8.00	\$160.91	\$2,242.66
NE 10-48-13 W3	\$404,900.00	158		1.00	\$159.29	\$2,442.96
SE 10-48-13 W3	\$391,600.00	156		4.00	\$160.36	\$2,362.72
SW 14-48-13 W3	\$406,800.00	157		0.00	\$157.73	\$2,454.43
SW 16-48-13 W3	\$338,700.00	132		27.00	\$159.11	\$2,043.54
NE 13-48-14 W3	\$240,800.00	116		45.00	\$160.78	\$1,452.87
NW 13-48-14 W3	\$187,400.00	94		67.00	\$160.85	\$1,130.67
SE 13-48-14 W3	\$278,000.00	134		27.00	\$160.75	\$1,677.31
SW 13-48-14 W3	\$143,400.00	23	20	128.00	\$160.82	\$707.90
Total	\$3,073,000.00	1255	20	333.00	\$1,600.41	\$18,383.64

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Book your influenza and/or COVID-19 vaccine appointment at public health clinics and participating pharmacies.

To find a clinic near you or book online, visit 4flu.ca or call 1-833-727-5829.

Parents urged to be aware of sextortion scams

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The Saskatchewan Internet Child Exploitation Unit is cautioning parents and children to be aware of and familiarize themselves with online “sextortion” scams.

Sextortion is a form of blackmail, in which someone online threatens to send a sexual image or video of you to other people if you don’t pay them or provide more sexual content.

In September of 2026, the Saskatchewan Internet Child Exploitation Unit received more than 20 reports of Sextortion scams from child victims in the province.

However, Sextortion is considered an under reported crime, and police believe there are more incidents occurring than are being reported. Police also note that suspects in these cases are of-

ten overseas and can be difficult to identify and prosecute.

Most commonly, offenders engage teenage males through chat based social media platforms, often pretending to be a young girl of a similar age to those they are targeting.

Offenders establish a rapport with their victims, before coercing them into sending intimate images of themselves. Once the offender receives the images, they threaten to send the images to the young person’s family and friends. They will then extort the youth for money to stop this from occurring.

Police encourage parents and guardians to have age-appropriate conversations with their child around personal safety online and what to do if they find themselves in a situation that makes them feel uncomfortable.

According to data from the Canadian Centre for

Child Protection (CCCP) for 2024, it received an average of 6 Sextortion reports per day, or about 2,300 for the whole year.

For the majority of the incidents for which it was made aware of the platform used in the incidents, the CCCP says about 63 per cent used Instagram or Snapchat.

In cases where a gender was provided, 83 per cent of victims of Sextortion were male. Male victims were typically blackmailed for money, while female victims were blackmailed for more intimate photos.

To learn more about the prevention of child exploitation, as well as the available supports for those impacted by child exploitation, visit: cybertip.ca.

For Sextortion specific information, visit: cybertip.ca/en/online-harms/sextortion.

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YOUR TWO CENTS Refineries for us, or riches for them?

Dear editor,

What is truly wrong with Canada today?

As a person of Russian descent, I say this without personal favouritism toward my own heritage or nationality. I am simply looking at our country through the lens of common sense.

My favourite thinker was Vladimir Lenin, and I truly believe he would turn over in his grave if he knew that we still have a democracy today.

The reality is that our country is being run by a corporate system that is causing great havoc and widespread concern.

A friend of mine recently asked me why our system can’t be reasonable, or why we can’t shutdown a failing government. I tried to explain to him that the government is no longer fully in charge; it has become a puppet for corporate interests.

Through clever legal

transformations, the system allows major corporations to dictate whatever they please under the guise of law. Think about it. You have a steady job, a wife, children, go to church every Sunday, and pay your taxes honestly.

Yet when it comes to the child tax benefits or the cost of living, the system doesn’t truly support you. It might hand out slight raises or benefit increases, but the government simply prints and spends money while the corporations reap the real rewards.

This is the unfortunate reality of how wealth is shared today. Look at our resources as a prime example.

Canada could easily own and operate its own refineries. If we managed our gas and oil internally, we could be buying fuel at 50 cents per litre instead of the staggering \$2 we

are forced to pay at the pumps.

What do we do instead? We export our crude straight to other countries, liked the United States. We hand over our greatest wealth under a system entirely regulated by money-hungry corporate interests.

They buy our raw product on the cheap, refine it, and leave everyday Canadians to pay the price.

History shows us what happens when systems lose sight of the people. Look at the Russian Revolution, which sparked when the old system grew so greedy that the Tsar officials would strip a poor peasant of his livestock, leaving him with next to nothing.

Out of that struggle came a different mindset for a time. A doctor or scientist’s food for simply a piece of toast, same as everyone else. They weren’t driven by luxury; they were purely

dedicated to their profession, much like Florence Nightingale.

Because of that collective dedication, they accomplished incredible things, like sending the first satellite, Sputnik, into space.

Compare that to what we have in Canada today. Many of our professionals have been swallowed up by the capitalistic machine and work primarily for money. Wealth has become the goal, rather than pure dedication to their professions.

We need to realize that a GDP isn’t the true measure of a society’s success. To build a better life, we must change the system.

Right now, too many people are content on their meagre pay cheques, living comfortably enough to never realize that there is a much better, fairer life to be had if we only demand it.

Daniel Pawlivsky,
Rabbit Lake, Sask.

NOTICE OF
ABANDONMENT OF POLL

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF SHELLBROOK No. 493
2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

Whereas a poll is not required pursuant to *The Local Government Election Act, 2015* for the offices of:

Councillor Division 4
Councillor Division 6

I hereby give public notice that no voting for the said offices will take place and that the following persons are elected by acclamation:

Councillor Division 4 – Jay Ferster
Councillor Division 6 – Ivan tenBos

Dated at Shellbrook, Saskatchewan this 9th day of October, 2026.
Alicia tenBos
Returning Officer

NOTICE OF POLL
AND ADVANCE POLL

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF SHELLBROOK No. 493
MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that voting will be held for the following office:

COUNCILLOR DIVISION 2
Phil Hamel
Levi Moore

ELECTION DAY VOTING
Voting will take place on Monday, November 9, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at:

- Seniors Citizen Centre, 101 Railway East, Shellbrook

ADVANCE POLL
Advance voting will take place on Thursday, October 29, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at:

- RM of Shellbrook No. 493 Office, 71 Main Street, Shellbrook

MAIL-IN BALLOTS
To vote by mail, voters must apply in person at the RM of Shellbrook No. 493 Office, 71 Main Street, Shellbrook. Applications will be accepted during regular office hours until 4:00 p.m. on Friday, October 23, 2026.

I will declare the voting results at the Municipal Office on Tuesday, November 10, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.
Dated at Shellbrook, Saskatchewan this 9th day of October, 2026.
Alicia tenBos
Returning Officer

NOTICE OF POLL
NOTICE OF ADVANCED POLL

The Rural Municipality of Big River, No. 555
Municipal Election 2026

Public Notice is hereby given that a vote will be held for Election of:

Division 2: Rural Municipality of Big River
Division 4: Rural Municipality of Big River

Advanced Poll will take place on:
Friday, October 30th, 2026 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at 606 1st Street North, Big River, SK (Big River Community Centre)

Election Day will take place on:
Monday, November 9th, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at 606 1st Street North, Big River, SK (Big River Community Centre)

I will declare the results of the election at the Rural Municipality of Big River Office on the 10th day of November, 2026.
Dated at Big River, Saskatchewan this 9th day of October, 2026.
Dana Kennedy
Returning Officer

NOTICE OF
ABANDONMENT OF POLLS

[Section 82 of *The Local Government Election Act, 2015*]

The Rural Municipality of Leask No. 464
Municipal Elections 2026

Public Notice is hereby given that:

Keith Desjardins was nominated for the office of Councillor for Division 2 and is the only candidate: therefore, no voting for the office will take place on November 9, 2026.

Joan Sanftleben was nominated for the office of Councillor for Division 4 and is the only candidate: therefore, no voting for the office will take place on November 9, 2026.

Dwayne Brad was nominated for the office of Councillor for Division 6 and is the only candidate: therefore, no voting for the office will take place on November 9, 2026.

Dated at Leask, Saskatchewan this 9th day of October, 2026.
Erin Robertson
Returning Officer

Ending U.S. reliance could help everyone

With the loose canon of international trade — U.S. president Donald ‘Tariff Tantrums’ Trump — still blustering away south of the border, Canada is looking for new possibilities for trade.

The new trade partners are out there, but it won’t necessarily be easy to forge new trade pacts.

There are deals in place in most cases, and while most countries are likely looking to ease reliance on anything American given the current uncertainty

surrounding the American president, Canada is still in a competitive field in terms of trade.

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney has announced a goal of doubling non-U.S. exports by 2035, according to Canada’s grain monitor and *producer.com*, where it is noted that Carney wants to double the trade of all commodities to non-U.S. destinations to \$600 billion from about \$300 billion today.

Those are big numbers. Although, potential partnerships, such



CALVIN DANIELS

as the EU suggesting ‘associate membership’ for Canada, are a step in the right direction if the details of such an arrangement are mutually beneficial.

But the real barrier to getting off too great

a reliance on the U.S., where its political system has been shown to be flawed in that it gives too great a power to one person with a penchant for penning executive orders by the dozen, comes down to world wealth distribution — at least in the case of agriculture.

There are many places in the world — entire countries in some cases — where hunger is all too real. It just should not be the case that there is such extreme wealth in the hands of a few, while many wonder

where their next meal might come from.

If the hungry had the money to put three meals a day in front of themselves, it would open huge new markets for what Canadian farmers’ produce.

One would hope that in the year 2026, humanity might have learned from the myriad of wars in our past that they accomplish little, but cost billions. And if we could stop building bombs and bullets, we might be able to address real issues of humanity, like

ensuring no one goes to bed hungry (or dies from starvation).

Too easily, do we seem sidetracked by issues conjured with little common sense attached rather than focusing on simply being good to each other — in caring for our neighbours. And on a global level, where better to start caring for our neighbours than feeding everyone?

We could literally eat our way out of a reliance on any one country by finding a way to better distribute wealth and care for all.

Crop Report: Sept. 29 to Oct. 5

By MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
Submitted

Harvest progress continued this week as producers made good use of available field time, despite the humidity and dew reducing the number of harvesting hours each day. Provincially, 82 per cent of crops have been harvested, with many producers finishing last week. Harvest remains behind the five-year average of 97 per cent and slightly behind the 10-year average of 88 per cent.

Harvest is furthest ahead in the southwest and west-central regions with 92 per cent of crops harvested in each. This is followed by the northwest region with 80 per cent of crops off. Harvest progress sits at 77 per cent complete in the southeast, while harvest is 74 per cent complete in the east-central and northeast regions.

All winter cereals and most of the pulse crops have been harvested except for chickpeas. Spring cereals made significant progress this week.

Current crop yields are similar or slightly better than reported last month, and average provincial yields remain at or above historical averages for most crop types. However, yields vary throughout the province due to regional rainfall levels and agronomic challenges during the growing season.

With most hard red spring wheat crops now harvested, crop reporters are sharing their grades. Quality varies throughout the province largely due to variable rainfall levels, wet conditions and pest activity during the growing season. Average quality this year appears lower than historical averages.

There was minimal to no rainfall throughout the province last week. The most rain fell in the North Battleford and Rabbit Lake areas with five millimetres (mm). The Hudson Bay, Annaheim, Speers and Maidstone areas each received three mm, with a few areas receiving trace amounts.

Despite limited rainfall last week, topsoil moisture levels continue to remain mostly adequate;

however, some areas are beginning to become short.

There is less crop damage being reported as more crops are harvested. For the crops remaining in the field, reporters noted that wind continues to blow swaths around, wildlife is feeding on crops, and freezing temperatures are impacting some crops. Damage observed last week is mostly minor to moderate.

As producers finish harvest, they are starting fall field work which includes spraying for weeds, harrowing, applying fertilizer and moving livestock. With conditions remaining dry in much of the province, we would like to remind producers to have fire mitigation resources ready, blow off their combines regularly and take precautions when working around powerlines. The public is also reminded to exercise caution when encountering machinery and equipment travelling on roadways.

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

Shellbrook Royal Purple celebrates winners



Jody Lanovaz of Shellbrook was the lucky winner of the Saskatchewan Royal Purple Association’s annual Golf Getaway raffle. Proceeds from the raffle help bring prevention and awareness to brain injuries. Pictured: Royal Purple Members Brenda Ahenakew (left) and Pat Radchuk present to Jody.
By ELAINE PERKINS, Shellbrook Royal Purple



Debden School student Lena Chambers entered the annual Brain Injury Awareness poster contest at the local level (Shellbrook Royal Purple Lodge). She then went on to the provincial level and the national level, winning 1st at all levels. Pictured: Royal Purple members Pat Radchuk (left) and Grace Diehl with Lena Chambers.

Shell Lake Legion celebrates centennial

By CAROLYN LALONDE
Shell Lake Legion

This year marks the centennial of the Royal Canadian Legion, and Legion organizations world-wide.

The Shell Lake Legion is also 100 this year, and to

mark the occasion Legion members from a few branches crocheted poppies. A couple of branch #15 members joined the effort. They crocheted enough poppies to decorate a car for Shell Lake's Hey Days parade, in July.

But that effort didn't end

the celebrations!

On Oct. 3, the branch invited the community to join them for lunch. The hall was



Legion member Don Weiers speaks on his 63 years of Legion membership.

filled to capacity, and those who attended were treated to a lunch of soup, sandwiches, strawberry shortcake, and a selection of drinks.

Following lunch, president Christine Wollms summarized the branch's hundred years. Don Weiers took the stage next, and told guests

about his 63-years of continuous membership.

Lastly, Comrade Jack Klassen read the names of the branch's many deceased members. President Christine lit a candle for each one of them.

A time of fellowship ended the afternoon.



At a community lunch, candles were lit in remembrance of the Shell Lake Legion's deceased members.



Shell Lake Legion members crocheted poppies to decorate the branch's Hey Days vehicle.

Shellbrook Library September highlights

By EDDIE HOEHN
Branch Librarian

September was an educational month for the library. Volunteer and local library board member Samuel Schafer ran both the Layered Liquids and Sweet Treat Rainbow Programs on Thursday, Sept. 10.

Participants watched a demonstration for the Layered Liquids Program where Samuel poured honey, corn syrup, maple syrup, milk, dish soap, water, cooking oil, rubbing alcohol, baby oil, and more rubbing alcohol into a cut off bottle to show the density of each liquid. The kids took turns adding random items to see which liquid layer they would float on.

Samuel presented a demonstration for the kids at the Sweet Treat Rainbow Program by putting some

Skittles on a foam plate and adding water. Participants watched the coloured coating on the Skittles dissolve in the water and connect to look like a rainbow.

On Thursday, Sept. 24, Samuel presented the Dis-

appearing Dye Program. He mixed baking soda and water, lemon juice and water, and turmeric and rubbing alcohol in different containers to prepare. Participants used two methods to write with in-

visible ink and then make it visible.

For the first method, participants painted cardstock with the lemon juice and water mix and let the paintings dry. Samuel ran a hot iron over the pictures

to make the paintings visible. For the second method, participants painted cardstock with the baking soda and water mix. After the cardstock dried, they painted the entire area with the turmeric and rubbing alcohol mix to make their paintings visible.

On Saturday, Sept. 26, local library board member Naomi Klumpenhower gave a Nutrition for Moms and Kids presentation at the library.

Naomi is a mom and a registered holistic nutrition practitioner. She talked about the importance of electrolytes for postpartum mothers, how to balance blood sugar levels because postpartum mothers are more sensitive to changes in blood sugar, why fibre is important and tips for getting more fibre in kids' diets, and symptoms of too much sugar and how to reduce sugar consumption.

She also listed different foods and supplements that can help boost the immune system and gave tips on making sure picky eaters are getting the nutrients they need and how to encourage them to eat a variety of food.

Participants had fun having a pretend picnic at Picnic Storytime in September. They were handed plastic toy fruit which they put on pretend plates when their item was called. One participant made a bubble wand from pipe cleaners and beads at Bubbles Storytime. At train Storytime, one participant made a pretend train from toilet paper rolls, yarn, straws, packaging tape, and stick-ers.

Participants enjoyed exercising their creativity at Lego Club in September. They created a fall scene, a maze, a musical instrument, a dessert, and bowling with bowling pins.



Samuel Schafer and participants at the Layered Liquids Program.



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SCAN ME

NOTICE OF
ADVANCED POLL

The Rural Municipality of Medstead No. 497
Municipal Election 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that:

A vote will be held for the election of Division 4 Councillor.

Advanced voting will take place on Wednesday, the 4th day of November, 2026, 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at:

Medstead Municipal Office
Council Chambers
209 Second Street, Medstead, Sask.

I will declare the voting results at the Medstead Municipal Office on Tuesday, the 10th day of November, 2026, at the hour of 9:00 a.m.

Dated at Medstead, this 9th day of October, 2026.

Christin Egeland
Returning Officer

NOTICE OF POLL

The Rural Municipality of Medstead No. 497
Municipal Election 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that:

A vote will be held for the election of Division 4 Councillor.

Voting will take place on Monday, the 9th day of November, 2026, 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at:

Medstead Municipal Office
Council Chambers
209 Second Street, Medstead, Sask.

I will declare the voting results at the Medstead Municipal Office on Tuesday, the 10th day of November, 2026, at the hour of 9:00 a.m.

Dated at Medstead, this 9th day of October, 2026.

Christin Egeland
Returning Officer

Aardvarks down Panthers under the lights

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The Friday Night Lights lit up a day early in Shellbrook, as the W.P. Sandin High School Aardvarks welcomed the Hague Panthers to the community for an evening game on Thursday, Oct. 8.



Aardvarks defenders Cashian Sandry (left) and Arland Anderson (right) team up to bring down Hague's Ryder Weins.

The short football season has been just as strong as the Aardvarks and Coach Devon Thorpe hoped for. Despite some injuries along the way, the team boasted an unblemished 4-0 record going into the game and was already guaranteed the top spot in its conference.

Meanwhile, the Pan-

thers have had a difficult season, due mostly to having a small roster (only 10 players were present at Thursday night's game), and sat at the bottom of the standings with an 0-4 record.

As the action got underway on Thursday night, the Aardvarks wasted no time demonstrating why they've gone undefeated, when Taiden Wrench raced down the field for a touchdown on the team's opening drive.

Following a big defensive stop by the Aardvarks' defence, the offence struck again, this time on an outside rush by Will Kasner that put them up 14-0.

Both teams seemed to acquire some belated first quarter jitters after this, exchanging three consecutive fumbles.

When the last Uno reverse gave the ball back to the Aardvarks, quarterback Dalen Thiel called



Aardvarks running back Reagan Collins fights through a tackle.

his own number and rushed into the endzone to put the Aardvarks up 22-0 to end the quarter.

The Aardvarks kept their foot on the gas through the second quarter, stymying the Panthers with solid defensive play and allowing Taiden Wrench to barrel into the endzone for his second

touchdown of the game.

Though the Aardvarks nearly had a late touchdown negated by an off-side penalty, they refused to be denied, scoring on a quarterback keeper by Thiel on the final play of the half to claim a commanding 34-0 lead.

Down but evidently not out, the Panthers roared to life to start the second half by returning the opening kickoff for a touchdown.

And when the Panthers' defense shutdown the Aardvarks, the Panthers employed some trickery on a fake field goal to run for another touchdown and close the gap to 34-14.

The Aardvarks quickly rallied and responded with a short touchdown pass from Thiel to Wrench to go up 42-14. But the Panthers, undaunted,

kept charging forward with their passing game to close the gap to 42-20.

Making the most of another Aardvarks fumble, the Panthers quickly returned to the endzone with another aerial assault, tightening the score to 42-28.

Once again, however, the Aardvarks rallied and restored their lead, going up 50-28 on a quarterback keeper by Thiel.

Too little too late, the Panthers struck through the air one last time, leaving the Aardvarks to claim a 50-36 victory.

With the win, the Aardvarks remain perfect on the season at 5-0.

This Friday (Oct. 15) they close out the regular season by hosting the Ros-thern Longhorns under the Friday Night Lights.

Kickoff is at 7 p.m.

Spiritwood Library activity highlights

By **HEATHER GATZKE**
Branch Librarian

Spiritwood Public Library celebrated SaskCulture Days from Sept. 18 to Oct. 4.

The library wanted to promote various Textiles in Art. Several items were on display from various artists in Spiritwood. Different mediums such as embroidery, crocheting, quilting and sewing are all used widely in everyday items, but using different techniques, colours and patterns, they create art.

Items displayed were a quilt made by Bonnie Cadieu, a crocheted Barbie Wedding Dress and a pillow by Rober-



Kids take part in activities hosted by Meadow Lake's Mobile Early Learning program.



A Barbie wedding dress, a pillow, and quilts were on display at the library for SaskCulture Days.

ta Wasden, plus embroidered pillowcases.

Cheryl Smith had two framed counted cross stitch depicting anemones and asters, Roseanne Smith had assorted doll clothes sewn, Susan Siegel had a quilted applique runner and a wall hanging, and Norma Loewen created an intricate quilted runner that has woven strips.

The library was a busy hub of activity for little tots on Friday, Oct. 2.

Lisa Lavallee and Jenny came from Meadow Lake with their Mobile Early Learning program for ages 0 to 5.

Lisa read a story, then there were different activity stations to explore and learn, from sensory bins to magnetic wands and chips, plus painting. Everyone had lots of fun!

The library invited the Grades 5 & 6 Classes from Rivier & Hartley Clark Elementary Schools to partake in Fire Safety Prevention Week on Thursday, Oct. 8, with a presentation on lithium-ion batteries from the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency's (SPSA) Anara Arcand.

The students listened to the presentation, then had a question-and-answer time. Some of the things they learned is that those batteries often emit a smell of cotton candy before they catch on fire and also you can't use water to put them out.

After, students got to give high fives to Sparky the Fire Dog mascot and take some activity sheets home.



Anara Arcand of the SPSA gives a presentation on fire safety with lithium-ion batteries.

NOTICE OF
ABANDONMENT OF POLL

The Rural Municipality of Medstead No. 497
2026 Municipal Elections

Whereas the following, being nominated for the office of Councillor, are the only candidates for those offices, I hereby give notice that no voting will take place on November 9th, 2026.

Councillor, Division 6: DAN PAIN

Dated this 9th day of October, 2026.

Christin Egeland
Returning Officer

FORM L
[Section 78 of the Act]

NOTICE OF CALL FOR
FURTHER NOMINATIONS

Councillor: Rural Municipality of Medstead No. 497
- Division No. 2

The returning officer or nomination officer will receive nominations of candidates for the above office(s):

(a) During normal office hours from October 9th, 2026 until October 20th, 2026 at Municipal Office. (4:00 p.m. on the second Wed. following the close of the withdrawal period)

(b) On the 21st day of October, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the Municipal Office.

Nomination forms may be obtained at the following location:

Municipal Office

Dated at Medstead, SK, this 9th day of October, 2026.

Christin Egeland
Returning Officer

Minutes of a Village of Canwood meeting

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

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council for the Village of Canwood, held at the Village Office at 571 Main Street on Aug. 18.

Mayor Lorne Benson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., with a quorum being present.

Present: Mayor Lorne Benson, Councillors Kaytlyn Mitchell, Ryan Demers, and Greg Edeen, and Administrator Heather Sten.

Edeen: That the agenda be accepted as presented. Carried

Delegation: Kevin Madden - SUMAssure: Explained insurance options for 2027.

Benson: That the minutes of the July 21 Regular Meeting be approved as presented. Carried

Moar: That the Bank Reconciliations for the month of July 2026 be accepted as presented. Carried

Demers: That the financial statements for the month of July 2026 be accepted as presented. Carried

Mitchell: That the employee attendance sheets for July 2026 be accepted as presented. Carried

Edeen: That the council Indemnity for August 2026 be accepted as presented. Carried

Mitchell: That the Employee Payroll for the month of July, 2026, including Pay Periods 14 and 15 totaling \$18,597.40 and the Council Renumeration of \$450 be accepted as presented. Carried

Demers: That the list of accounts payable from Batch 2026-00050 to Batch 2026-00053, which includes all cheques, online payments and EFTs for a total of \$44,670.55 be accepted as presented. Carried

Mitchell: That the Water Treatment Plant reports for the month of July 2026 and ALS Lab Water reports from July 22, 2026, and Aug. 6, 2026, be accepted as presented. Carried

Moar: That the verbal reports by Mayor Benson regarding Highway 55 Waste Management, Deputy Mayor Moar regarding the Fire Committee, and Administrator Sten regarding Public Works, be accepted as presented. Carried

Demers: That the Village of Canwood Abate the property taxes for

Tax Title Property Roll 32, Lot 18, Block 02, Plan Y3516. Carried

Edeen: That the Village of Canwood Abate the property taxes for Tax Title Property Roll 21, Lot 6, Block 02, Plan Y3516 to July 31, 2026. Carried

Mitchell: That the Village of Canwood Abate the property taxes for Tax Title Property Roll 22, Lot 7, Block 02, Plan Y3516. Carried

Moar: That the Village of Canwood Abate the property taxes for Tax Title Property Roll 34, Lot 20-23, Block 02, Plan Y3516. Carried

Moar: That council approve the application submitted by property owner to consolidate properties: Roll 8 - Lot 12, Block 01, Plan Y3516, and Roll 9 - Lot 13, Block 01, Plan Y3516. Carried

Edeen: That a letter regarding landfill fees for the disposal of derelict municipally owned buildings be sent to Highway 55 Waste Management Corporation. Carried

Edeen: That the Bylaw 2026-06, being a bylaw to fix water and sewer rates for the Village of Canwood, be introduced and read a first time. Carried (*Editor's note: the bylaw was unanimously read three times and approved at the meeting.*)

Benson: That the following correspondence be filed: ISC Statement, Letter - Ministry of Government Relations, Resident Letter to Council. Carried

Benson: That we move to in-camera at 8:34 p.m. citing The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, section 15(1)(b)(ii) and section 23(1)(b) "personal information." Carried

Benson: That we move out of in-camera at 9:10 p.m. and note that all members of Council and Administration are in attendance. Carried

Moar: That Council accept the recommendation of Human Resources to appoint Braydon Nelson to the position of Full-Time Assistant Foreman, effective Aug. 31, 2026, subject to a 90-day probationary period. Carried

Edeen: That Council approve the rental of the tax title property described as Lots 6-7, Block 03, Plan Y3516, for a term of eight (8) months at a rate of \$200 per month, with the lessee responsible for all applicable utilities. Carried

Benson: That Council acknowledge receipt of the letter appealing the fines issued to resident Edward Bather pursuant to Animal Control Bylaw No. 2024-08; And That Council deny the appeal, and that the fines issued under Animal Control Bylaw No. 2024-08 remain due and payable. Carried

Demers: That Council acknowledge receipt of the appeal submitted by a resident regarding the Order to Remedy issued to properties: Lot 8-9, Block 03, Plan Y3516 Lot 3, Block F, Plan 69PA15189; And That Council deny the appeal, and that the Order to Remedy remain in full force and effect. Carried

Mitchell: That the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

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 11 am - 4 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 10am - 1pm

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: The November Project – An Act of Remembrance. Journey through the Second World War via a Canadian soldier's love letters home paired with wartime songs. Lyrics provided – sing along if you wish. Free Admission – Donations welcome. Fri., October 23, 7pm @ Canwood Legion; Sat., October 24, 7pm @ Shellbrook Legion (Cash bar); Sun., October 25, 2pm @ Parkland Integrated Health Centre. Doors open 30 minutes before each performance. For more info: 306-747-3769 or FB Shellbrook Legion Branch 111. *Sponsored by Beau "Lac" Funeral Home & Crematorium*

LEOVILLE: St. Therese Parish – Fall Supper – Sunday, October 25, Leoville Community Hall, 5 to 6:30 pm. Adults \$20; 6-12 yrs. \$10; Preschool Free. Raffle, Chinese Auction, Silent Auction, Children's White Elephant, BINGO, Quilt Raffle, 50/50

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Sask. NDP commits to repealing Bill 137

By SASK NDP
Submitted

Sask. NDP Leader Carla Beck has re-affirmed her commitment to Saskatchewan people to protect vulnerable youth, making it clear she will repeal the harmful Bill 137 within 100 days of forming government.

"Repealing Bill 137 in our first 100 days will send a clear message about the kind of government we intend to lead," said Beck. "A government that listens to people and listens to evidence, that respects human rights, supports parents and educators and, above all, protects kids instead of using them for political gain."

Beck points to the work that 2SLGBTQ+ Shadow Minister Nathaniel Teed and the rest of her team have done to advocate for 2SLGBTQ+ youth and how that commitment will be turned into real action once forming government.

"Saskatchewan people have waited long enough for a government focused on bringing people together, supporting them and making their lives better," added Beck. "The Sask. Party's days of dividing people are coming to an end. Clearly, they've been in power far too long and it's time for change."

In 2023, the Sask. Party government pushed Bill 137 through an emergency

sitting and used the notwithstanding clause to shield it from Charter scrutiny and ensure it passed — a deliberate choice that stripped vulnerable Saskatchewan youth of important legal protections.

"Even despite the calls from advocates, experts, teachers, parents and students to put an end to this bill, the Sask. Party government made the very dangerous decision to push forward," said Teed. "To use vulnerable youth as political scapegoats is deplorable, and so much work needs to be done to rebuild the trust that has been broken by this government."

"For those who have been hurt by this bill: I want you to know that you are valued and you belong.

"We will continue fighting for you, and know, that change is on the way."

Education Shadow Minister Matt Love commended the work teachers and school staff do every day to support children.

"We've got your backs and we know you give so much to students and their education," Love said. "I can't wait to be part of a Carla Beck government that brings people together and takes our education system back to first place."

"We will support kids. We want them to build a future right here in Saskatchewan. Change is coming, friends."

It's been a rocky road for Colorado Rockies

The New York Jets have been terrible in the National Football League over the last 10 years.

The Chicago Blackhawks have sullied the team's long-term reputation with putrid National Hockey League play over the same stretch.

But no team has been as bad for so long as Major League Baseball's Colorado Rockies.

Professional sports leagues traditionally do what they can to make sure a team doesn't suffer in the doldrums for too long, thanks to draft rules which benefit the downtrodden.

But the Rockies, who have had a top 10 pick in each of the last seven seasons, have somehow failed to pick a superstar or two who might form a nucleus around which to build at least a mediocre team.

Colorado hasn't had a winning record since 2018, when they finished second in the National League West with 91 wins.

Since then, fans at Coors Field in Denver

have seen nothing but a succession of depressing seasons — 71 wins and fourth in the NL West in 2019; fourth in the COVID-19 year of 2020; fourth in 2021; last in 2022, with 94 losses; last in 2023 with 103 losses; last in 2024 with 101 losses; an embarrassing last in 2025 with 119 losses; and another last-place finish this year, with 104 losses.

No MLB team has suffered through four consecutive 100-plus-loss seasons since the 'Can't Anybody Here Play this Game' New York Mets of 1962-65. The Mets at least had an excuse; they were an expansion team in 1962. Within seven years of existence, though, they won the National League East.

The Rockies' hitting in 2026 was bad, and their pitching was worse. The highest team earned-run average (5.59). The most runs allowed (944). The fewest shutouts (one). The highest batting average allowed (.288, 16 points higher than the



BRUCE
PENTON

~

runner-up Athletics).

The Rockies have a couple of decent players. Catcher Hunter Goodman belted 41 home runs. First baseman T.J. Runfield posted a .300 batting average to lead the team.

The bad personnel news? Kris Bryant, who was signed to a \$182 million contract in 2022, has been a bust.

He eats up 23 per cent of the Rockies' payroll, and injuries kept him out of the lineup altogether in 2026.

A couple of other decent players who recently wore Rockies' uniforms, Nolan Arenado (traded in 2021) and Trevor Storey (left in free agency in 2022)

could perhaps have kept the team from the disaster it has become.

But it's not totally gloom and doom in Denver. Several signs point to better days ahead.

Three or four young players with bright futures will continue to improve.

The Rockies' team batting average was fourth best in the NL this year. And how about this? They led the majors in runs scored in the eighth and ninth innings.

Now, if they could just manufacture some of that magic through the first seven innings, pennants could be flying sooner rather than later over Coors Field.

Cathal Kelly of the Globe and Mail, on the Kawhi Leonard 'payment under the table' scandal: "Everyone knows Leonard did wrong. If not legally, then ethically. On Wednesday, Leonard received his punishment — a two-year, US\$115 million extension with the Toronto Raptors."

Kitty Kowalski on bluesky.com: "I'm old enough to remember when professional athlete Pete Rose destroyed his career over sports betting. And now they're using sports figures to promote gambling?"

Super 70s Sports: "I'm watching playoff baseball with gambling lines on my screen and the announcers are talking about wagers. But Pete Rose is still a (pariah), right?"

Headline at theonion.com: "New Orleans Pelicans Can't Help But Notice They're Not On NBA Schedule This Year"

Cathal Kelly again: "Once five minutes from a World Series win, the Jays (spent the next) 11 months turning into a blue-and-white pumpkin."

Mark Lazerus, on Bluesky: "White Sox fans: Please consider my formal application to the bandwagon. In Northwest Indiana, we generally like to think of ourselves as part of the extended South Side. And I grew up

hating the Cubs, so that's gotta count for something, right?"

Wilbur72, on Bluesky: "A coach finds a phone on the field and hands it to the head referee. Ref: 'How did you know it was my phone?'"

Super 70s Sports: "Imagine going to remove Bob Gibson from a playoff game in the fifth inning. They'd have to roll you back to the dugout in a coffin."

fark.com headline: "Tony Romo takes his 249th career sack from CBS."

Steve Simmons of the Toronto Sun: "Is the signing of Anthony Santander the worst free-agent deal in Jays history? B.J. Ryan used to hold that belt, but at least he had two decent save seasons before it all blew up for him."

Another fark.com headline: "Is there tension in the Patriots locker room between coach and quarterback? Maybe be."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

U18 Elks conquered by Riverkings

By JORDAN TWISS

Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The U18 AA Parkland Elks continued their stint of home-ice hockey to start the 2026-2027 regular season, hosting the Saskatoon Riverkings at the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre on Friday, Oct. 9, in search of their first win.

Always contenders in SAAHL, the Saskatoon Riverkings proved they'll be no easy opponent to beat once again this season. Though both teams displayed some start-of-season jitters and played to a 0-0 draw in the early going, the Riverkings got the better of the action through the first half of the opening period.

The Riverkings channeled this initial momentum into a late, unassisted goal from Brayden Thomas, who left Elks netminder Liam Bergen scratching his head with a shot that just managed to sneak past him.

Unable to get any offence of their own going, the Elks held on for the remainder of the period, finishing it down by a score of 1-0.

The Elks came out with more energy to start the second period, but the Riverkings matched their tempo and quickly went up 2-0 on a top-shelf

sniper shot from Jake Christison. And only a few minutes later, the Riverkings pinned the Elks in their own and gradually wore them down to take a 3-0 lead on a screen shot from Wyatt Korpan.

The Elks were granted a brief reprieve from the pressure courtesy of a power play opportunity, but failed to make anything of the man advantage. With the teams back at even strength, the Riverkings dialled the pressure back up with their aggres-

sive forecheck, going up 4-0 on a goal from Logan Wilkinson.

Down but not out, the Elks managed to pounce on a defensive turnover by the Riverkings, allowing Maxim Rudenko to score and make it 4-1 on an assist from Carson Nor-din.

But a late penalty for the Elks proved to be their undoing, kicking off a chain of three Riverkings goals in just over a minute to push the score to 7-1. Christison, Thomas, and

Luke Urmson netted the goals.

As the action got under way in the third period, penalties once again proved costly for the Elks, as the Riverkings netted back-to-back power play goals from Nixon Koscielski and Wyatt Korpan to surge ahead 9-1. An unassisted goal from Nolan McArthur just a couple minutes later put the Elks down 10-1.

Irrespective of the score, the Elks continued to compete and finally got on the board again near the midway point of the third period, thanks to a goal from Logan Fisher, assisted by Can-den Olsen.

Though a goal from the Riverkings' Gabe Stretch quickly restored his team's lead to nine goals, it was the Elks who had the last word in the game on a late goal from Davin Hart, assisted by Burke Florence and Gabe Wadham.

With the 11-3 loss to the Riverkings, the Elks fall to 0-3 on the season.

This Saturday, Oct. 17, the team welcomes the Saskatoon Sabercats back to Shellbrook for their second meeting of the season (the Cats won the first game, played on Oct. 4, by a score of 4-1).

Puck drop is scheduled for 8 p.m.



Riverkings forward Logan Wilkinson tries to corral a loose rebound in front of the Elks net.

Unusual trees surviving on the prairies

By **BERNADETTE VAN GOOL**
Sask. Perennial Society

In 2002 my daughter and I were on a bus trip to Manitoba. We were both relatively new to the perennial gardening scene, and were amazed at the diversity of plant material available in Manitoba nurseries, from trees to shrubs as well as perennials. One of the trees we came across at a Morden Nursery was the Catalpa tree; the Northern or Western Catalpa (*Catalpa speciosa*) which survives in sheltered microclimates in Manitoba.

Not to be scared away from a mere hardiness label, my daughter decided to order a tree and planted it on the boulevard in front of her tiny home in the Exhibition area. Many years later, she has since moved, but the tree still survives on the boulevard.

Northern Catalpa is native to a relatively small area where the Mississippi and Ohio rivers meet in western Kentucky and western Tennessee. It has been cultivated in Ohio for two hundred years, where it was used by farmers to make fence posts, furniture and as trim boards in building. Northern Catalpa it is now naturalized in the mid-western United States. A fast-growing tree in its native range it is much slower growing in the north. You can view the Catalpa in Patterson Gardens or in the boulevard on the corner of Hilliard Street and McPherson Avenue in Saskatoon.

The leaves come out late spring and are still small and yellowish while many other trees have dark foliage. Leaves grow quite large on long stalks on opposite sides of twigs. Leaves can be 15cm in width (5 to 6 inches), are heart shaped at the top but come down in a triangle to a very narrow pointy tip. The Catalpa flowers in July, and has clusters of large bell-like white flowers with

purple spots in the centre. The seed pods resemble narrow but very long beans which persist through winter, hence its other name 'cigar tree'. In fall the leaves will yellow and drop off, or some years they will all fall to the ground after a hard frost. In northern climates like ours it probably will only attain a height of around 15 metres, compared to its usual height of 30 metres.

Another oddity in the landscape at the Saskatoon Forestry Farm park is the white mulberry tree (*Morus alba*). Probably a left over from the



Catalpa tree in early autumn.

days when the Forestry Farm was the Sutherland Forest Nursery Station. This tree is quite small and is in a stand of trees between the wedding garden and the Kinsmen Playground, it faces the lawn. The white mulberry has varied leaves some oval and smooth edged and others are lobed. The flowers are catkins in spring. Its edible fruit ranges from whitish to pink but turns almost black when ripe, resembling an elongated blackberry.

A native to China and India, it was cultivated to feed silkworms employed in the commercial production of silk. It was introduced to Canada in the 1800's as a fruit tree and

is now widely naturalized in warmer zones and a concern in regions like Ontario where it is considered an invasive species and will outcompete the endangered red mulberry.

Another plant I have encountered at the Forestry Farm and have not seen elsewhere is Oregon Grape (*Berberis aquifolium*). This shrub is native to the Pacific North West from Oregon to British Columbia. It is a zone 5 plant which has been surviving at the Robin Smith Meditation Garden since it was opened around 1998. I do not know if it was planted then or was a holdover from the nursery days.

In its native habitat Oregon Grape will flower in spring with yellow clusters of flowers and will later in summer bear fruit clusters. At the Meditation Garden I have never seen it flower, nor bear fruit. It has beautiful shiny leaves resembling English holly. This year with the copious rain, it has really flourished, but only as a ground cover, not really a shrub. The leaves are evergreen, sometimes getting a purplish sheen in winter.

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

The Sask. Traveller: A lazy Saturday ride to Moose Jaw

By **TRUDY & DALE BUXTON**
Publishers, Biggar Independent

Such a nice day for a motorcycle run! We have explored Riverhurst and taken a nice ferry ride. Next stop, Central Butte.

Central Butte was named for a hill, specifically the middle of three hills that was used back in the day by local ranchers as a meeting place. These hills are called buttes, and most of the gatherings were at the middle

one, which eventually became a community or the central butte.

Established in 1905, the main economic industry of the community is agriculture, but it's also known for its unique ranching history. The population has maintained a steady 400 people, and it's a full-service community with a hospital, sports complex, and many stores, and is close to Lake Diefenbaker and many recreational activities. The old 1930 Masonic Lodge is now the host of the Central

Butte Museum.

Did you know that in Central Butte there is one building that is quite nice to look at with murals painted on its sides? This building started as residence, then became a restaurant, and after that various commercial ventures, then became a bus station, and finally a pharmacy! It's one of a kind!

Recently, in 2025, Central Butte started drilling for natural clean energy hydrogen gas which is a first in Canada. The gas

was discovered about 2,200 metres underground. Natural hydrogen serves as a primary zero carbon fuel source for the industrial sector.

Next up down Highway 42 is the community of Eyebrow, population of around 150 people. Originally a community that was several kilometres south called Eskbank, it moved so it would be in line with the connecting highways of 42 and 367.

The name Eyebrow comes from the nearby hills. If you look at these hills the right way, they resemble an

eyebrow.

Eyebrow and Eyebrow Lake are somewhat of a bird watching hotspot. The marshland is an important area for hundreds of species of birds, many that reside year-round. One of the most interesting of the species is the large gathering of the yellow-headed blackbirds, which gather in the thousands.

Despite the small size of the community, there is a certain charm that comes with the community. The town sign certainly shows it as a quiet agriculture town with a town slogan as "Perfect little town on

the Prairies."

Next up is Tuxford, population around 100 people.

Tuxford is on an intersection that has three highways that locals call an intersection overkill with Highways 2, 42 and 202 all coming to the same spot.

Tuxford was named after war hero, Brigadier-General George Tuxford, a First World War brigade commander who traded his cattle boots for commanding troops.

One of the local attractions is watching all the traffic on this busy intersection, and one of the town slogans was "Come build a house in Tuxford, because Moose Jaw is just down the road."

You would think that when the community was first started back in 1905, the first building would be a store. But no, it was an insurance business with many more stores coming later.

We are close to Moose Jaw — we will discover some history next week in this fantastic city! Stay tuned!



This old building in Central Butte has a long story to tell.



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CARD OF THANKS

On behalf of Sean, Dylan, Brody, myself and all of our extended family we want to thank everyone for their amazing support during this tragic and unexpected loss we are facing. It is every parents worst nightmare and the way that the town and surrounding communities have come together for us means so much. Also to our friends from over the years who have reached out and shown up, thank you. We know how much we love Brookie, but seeing how much she impacted others has meant the world to us, so from the bottom of our hearts, from the cards, to the calls, texts, flowers, monetary donations, the meal train, visits, and the wonderful tributes, thank you, thank you, we wouldn’t be able to get through this without everyone’s support.

– Brandee, Sean, Dylan, and Brody Anderson, Sofia & Gigi.

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137-2nd St. W.
Spiritwood
Worship 10:00 a.m.
Rev. Sarah Urano

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

CATHOLIC SATURDAY
Medstead – 6:00 p.m.
Shell Lake – 8:00 p.m.

SUNDAY
Spiritwood – 9:00 a.m.
Leoville – 11:00 a.m.
Chitek Lake – 1:00 p.m.
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Fr. Phinh Do

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

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

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

MENNONITE BRETHREN
Glenbush
10:00 am - Sunday School
Worship 10:50 am

Gideons International of Canada
Battlefords Camp
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(306) 389-4633

PARTNERS IN WORSHIP
Shell Lake
Worship Services
Sunday 10:00 a.m.
306-883-8885

LAKELAND COMMUNITY CHURCH
(Corner of 1st Ave. and
4th St., Spiritwood)
Sun., 11 am - Worship
Service & Sunday School
Pastor Michael Kluthe
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Minutes of an RM of Blaine Lake Council meeting

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

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Council of the Rural Municipality of Blaine Lake #434 which was held in the RM Municipal Office, on Tuesday, Aug. 18.

Present at the meeting were the following Council Members and Administration: Reeve Glenn Lamontagne, Division 1 — Michael Chudskov, Division 2 — Lee Dolezal, Division 3 — Courtney Swystun, Division 4 — Alan Lavoie, Division 5 — John Priestley, Division 6 — Lionel Casavant, Acting Administrator — Jodi Gerick, and Assistant Administrator — Alan Tanchak.

The meeting was called to order by Reeve Lamontagne at 8 a.m.

Priestley: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approves the Aug. 18, 2026, agenda. Carried

Swystun: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approves the July 21, 2026, Regular Meeting minutes as presented. Carried

Dolezal: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 accept the July Statement of Financial Activities, Income Statement, Budgetary Control, Chequing Account Statement and Bank Reconciliation as presented. Carried

Alan Tanchak arrived in Council Chambers at 8:06 a.m.

Dolezal: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approves the List of Accounts for Approval for July 2026, including cheques 8006 to 8046 with the total payable amount being \$119,701.27. Carried

Dolezal: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approves the Additional Accounts for payments as presented by Administration in the amount of \$13,056.94 to Lake Country Co-op. Carried

Chudskov: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 move in camera to discuss Personnel Matters compliant with s. 120(2) of The Municipalities Act, and on the basis that the discussions that take place during the meeting apply to s. 16(1) (b) and (d) of The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the time being 8:08 a.m. Carried

Dolezal: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 move out of camera, the time being 8:34 a.m. Carried

Swystun: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake No. 434 approves and directs Administration to contact Kenneth Klassen to offer him the Seasonal position of Maintenance at the rate of \$31.00/hr. Carried

Chudskov: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approves the presented Council Indemnity totaling \$1,909.44. Carried

Chudskov: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approve in principle the Building Permit on PT NE 02-44-07 W3 and must adhere to Bylaw 06-2023 Respecting Buildings; and must abide by the following provisions: be minimum 150ft from the center of the road; and be moved to its permanent position within it two years; or be dismantled. Carried

Mark Curry arrived in Council Chambers to discuss the Lead Hand Report.

Lavoie: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approve to allow each division an allowance of Strychnine for use on Municipal Roads to control gopher population. Carried

Swystun: That Bylaw No. 05-2026 being a Road Allowance Lease Agreement be read a third time, signed, sealed and adopted and that it forms a part of these minutes. Carried

Dolezal: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approves to enter into an agreement with WSP Canada Inc to obtain engineering services for the Blind Line Road No. 1 at N. NE. 27 and N. 26 and N. pt NW 25-44-06 W3.

As well as No. 2; N. pt. NW 29-44-05 W3, N. pt NE 29-44-05 W3 to meet requirements for the RIRG Grant. Carried

Casavant: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 agrees to pay for damage caused to fence due to fallen trees in the amount of \$705.00 and that it be a recorded vote. Carried (5 for, 2 opposed)

Lamontagne: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 table the discussion regarding the review of Bylaw No. 95/2005, that being the Nuisance Bylaw. Carried

Lavoie: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approve the building permit application in principle for A-10201138 and that building is compliant with Bylaw No. 06-2023 that being a Bylaw Respecting Buildings. Carried

Chudskov: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake No. 434 draft a Bylaw to Establish a Speed Zone to reduce the speed to 60km/hr on the first 300m of TWP 430 off HWY 12 and that it be a recorded vote. Defeated (2 for, 5 opposed)

Casavant: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake No. 434 sets the bounty for beavers under the Beaver Control Program to \$30 per adult beaver and a max of 20 beavers per licensed fur trapper for the 2026/27 season. You must provide Administration with a copy of your Valid Fur License and hand in the Trapper Verification Form by Feb. 15, 2027. Carried

Chudskov: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake No. 434 adjourn, time being 11:15 a.m.

GOOD NEWS

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A WHOLEHEARTED FAITH

By DEB ANDERSON
Submitted

We see “wholeheartedness” exhibited in many ways in our everyday lives. In an exciting sporting event, in a tie game, towards the end, we notice players giving their all, their very best, playing hard, aiming to win.

Consider a newly-wed couple beginning their lives together, endlessly talking of dreams for the future. They can't seem to get enough of each other, being together, always holding hands and gazing into each-others' eyes. That seems wholehearted to me.

Think about the student who embraces an assignment wholeheartedly. He or she would research and

rewrite a paper until all is done to satisfaction.

An employer is happy to have wholehearted workers who show up early and do a good job all day, rarely missing a day of work, fully committed to all things running well, even if it means a little overtime on occasion.

Wholeheartedness is a picture of energy, determination, successful completion. A willing body engages with a good attitude and vision. Not only does the job get done, but the extra mile as well. The car is not just rinsed off; it is waxed, vacuumed, dusted, windows cleaned, wheels polished. There are many pictures of wholeheartedness — an all-out effort.

Way back in the time of Moses, Caleb was rewarded with renewed youth for being a wholehearted man of God.

We read of his declaration upon entering the Promised Land: “I was forty years old when Moses... sent me... to spy out the land, and I brought him word again as it was in my heart...I am this day eighty-five years old. I am still as strong today as I was in the day that Moses sent me; my strength now is as my strength was then, for war and for going and coming. So now give me this mountain...” (Joshua 14: 7-12).

Around 600 B.C., the prophet Jeremiah spoke about one's search in

connecting with God. These were his inspired words: “You will seek Me and you will find Me, when you seek with all your heart” (Jer 29:13).

But what can this mean? Surely God is everywhere. He cares for His creation daily. Surely, He knows all things. Why would any exertion on my part make any difference?

A connection needs to be made and nurtured. Free-will cannot be violated. “Seek and you shall find” is a teaching of Christ that implies some sort of pursuit.

The Lord looks at the heart. He desires to be of primary importance in a person's life: “Love the Lord your God with your whole heart...” (Matthew 22:22:37). There it is again.

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