

Orange Shirt Day draws large crowd in Spiritwood



Several hundred students from four local schools came together to acknowledge and honour residential school harms.

By **BEVRA FEE**
Spiritwood Herald Reporter

Since 2021, Sept. 30 has been a federal statutory holiday in Canada, marking National Truth and Reconciliation Day.

Symbolically slated for the time of year when children would be taken from their homes and placed in residential schools, the day was honoured in Spiritwood with an awareness walk on Sept. 29.

Holding the commemoration on a school day each year, Witchehan Lake First Nation's Kisikohk School invited the three schools from Spiritwood to walk with them on a blue-sky day.

Several hundred people — the most ever to attend the walk to date — gathered at Spiritwood's Memorial Park to don their orange shirts, listen to words from Witchehan Lake

First Nation Chief Raymon Harris, and then commence walking toward Main Street.

Led by RCMP Sgt. Carlin Thiesen, with the sounds of Cree drummers serving as the soundtrack, the impressive sight delivered profound impact to onlookers.

Traditional Cree dancers — JR Witchehan, Leland Starblanket, and Francis Cardinal — heightened the symbolism as they joined the masses.

A strong symbol of culture, spirituality, and history to the Cree Nation, traditional dancers help represent the healing of a people whose culture was suppressed and denied to them while they were forced into church-run residential schools.

Stopping at the RCMP detachment, Kisikohk School's Principal, Mr. Ralph Morin, relayed a poignant message to the many children from Hartley Clark Elementary School,

Rivier Elementary School, and Spiritwood High School on his personal experience of being taken from his family.

"We are doing this to remember the history and also to remember the children that never made it home and the children who grew up having no connection to their family. I was one of those children."

Mr. Morin also spoke about his memory.

"I was 11 years old. There were five of us in a government vehicle and we were being taken far away to Beardy's Residential School. I was there for four months and all I heard was children crying in the bunk beds. For a long time, I felt like something was missing in my heart. It was about my language, my culture, my stories — those are the things that were missing."

While the sky overhead was the

clearest blue, Mr. Morin's address was interrupted by several of the Kisikohk students pointing at an eagle circling overhead, and while "Eagle! Eagle!" was being murmured, Mr. Morin said, "It is a kiihiw (the Cree term for eagle) and it comes to visit us."

Carrying on with his recollection, Mr. Morin said, "Not everything about that experience turned out bad. I also learned how to strive and persevere — I went on to university and earned two degrees. I have been an educator for 35 years and have worked in eight communities. It is uncomfortable to talk about residential schools, but it is important to tell the stories and talk about the history so our children can move forward in a good way."

While the walk was stopped at the RCMP detachment, Cst. Killam was invited to speak.

Continued on page 8



SPIRITWOOD PHARMACY GROCERY

*Down on the corner...
First & Main*

Alessi inspires with Shellbrook show

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

Keith Alessi was recovering from esophageal cancer when his doctor suggested that he should tell his story.

Ten years, six countries, and three continents later, he's done so more than 500 times with his show *Tomatoes Tried to Kill Me but Banjos Saved My Life*, which made a stop at the Shellbrook Theatre on Wednesday, Sept. 30, to kick off the Shellbrook Arts Council's 2026-2027 Performing Arts Series.

Born and raised by first-generation Italian parents in the Windsor-Detroit area, Alessi admits he wasn't necessarily musically inclined as a child, despite being exposed to the piano by his mother.

"I had a brother who could pick up any instrument and master it in a week," he said. "I always liked music, but I wasn't musical per se. It was something that always fascinated me and I was interested in, but it wasn't something I was any good at."

Despite his lack of natural musical talent, Alessi developed an early fascination with the banjo thanks to the Beverly Hillbillies' theme song, "The Ballad of Jed Clampett."

And that fascination soon became a collection of banjos.

"I was going to learn to play some day," he said. "I kept col-



Keith Alessi performs *Tomatoes Tried to Kill Me but Banjos Saved My Life* at the Shellbrook Theatre.

lecting banjos, but I couldn't play a single one of them. You know, life gets in the way."

Far from becoming the next Earl Scruggs of Béla Fleck, Alessi ended up pursuing a career as an accountant, and spent decades of his professional life leading companies from the brink of ruin to fiscal success. At one point, he was even the CEO of a prominent mining company with a large presence in Regina and Estevan.

But when he turned 61, Alessi left his corporate life behind and decided he was finally going to

figure out how to play the banjos he'd spent most of his life collecting.

"Two weeks later, I was told I had a year to live," he said.

Alessi was diagnosed with esophageal cancer in 2015. But after months of treatment and a life-saving surgery in 2016, he beat the odds he'd been given.

"That sent me on a journey of throwing myself into trying to learn the banjo as part of my healing and a distraction from what I was going through."

Though he was the farthest thing from an actor, Alessi's

background as a CEO and university professor had taught him how to tell a story.

So, when his doctor told him that he should tell his own story, he saw it as a way to share an important message and pay it forward by inspiring others to pursue their passions.

His first performance of *Tomatoes Tried to Kill Me but Banjos Saved My Life* was staged at the Toronto Fringe Festival in 2018. At the time, Alessi only expected to perform the show five times.

Instead, it's become his life

these past eight years.

"It's been the most rewarding career path I could have possibly picked," he said.

"When I was in business, if I did well people made money. With this thing, every night, people are coming out of the audience with a tear in their eye and a story to tell. It's been highly rewarding — a very interesting, unusual, and unexpected second chapter in life."

To this day, Alessi considers himself an "intermediate banjo player on a good day," and admits that he still doesn't read music. But this, he says, is the whole point of his show.

"You don't have to be great at something to do it. Just do it because you enjoy it," he said. "Don't wait until you get a death sentence to do something you really want to do."

In keeping with the idea of paying it forward, Alessi has never taken a performer's fee for *Tomatoes Tried to Kill Me but Banjos Saved My Life*.

Instead, 100 per cent of ticket sales go to charity. And over the past eight years Alessi has raised more than \$1.5 million.

This was the case for last Wednesday's show in Shellbrook, the proceeds of which will go right back into the Shellbrook Theatre to support ongoing renovation efforts.

Shellbrook Arts Council member Tracy Azevedo says the show brought in roughly \$5,000.

Shellbrook works to clarify zoning bylaw

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

With Town Council working on amendments to modernize the Zoning Bylaw and Official Community Plan (OCP), the Town of Shellbrook sought to clarify the municipal legislation at a drop-in open house held at the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre on

Wednesday, Sept. 30.

The OCP serves as the town's long-term roadmap for the growth and development of the community. Meanwhile, the Zoning Bylaw is the mechanism by which the OCP is enforced, setting out rules and conditions for what can be built and where it can be built (i.e.: no building industrial factories next to homes).

Both pieces of legislation were adopted by the Town of Shellbrook in 2013, and have been adapted and revised multiple times as provincial regulations have changed — such as when cannabis retail outlets were legalized.

Rather than shaking up the existing OCP and Zoning Bylaw, the changes being reviewed by Town Council are about modernizing the documents and

making them easier for ratepayers and builders to understand, and simpler for municipal employees to enforce with consistency and fairness.

Proposed updates to the OCP and Zoning Bylaw focus on short-term rentals, such as Airbnb and VRBO, and boarding houses. Both would become discretionary uses, meaning each individual case would be reviewed and decided upon

by Council.

At the same time, the amendments would ease restrictions around secondary suites, removing them from the discretionary use list on single detached lots (except for garden suites and garage suites).

The discretionary use approach would also apply to cannabis retail outlets and cannabis production facilities. But the amendments open the door to craft food and beverage producers in the downtown commercial, highway commercial, and industrial zoning districts.

Council is also reviewing administrative changes to the OCP and Zoning By-

law, with an eye to making the bylaw easier to use and more friendly for residents to navigate.

Other potential amendments include the formalization of existing lot drainage processes for new development, and streamlined regulations for parking and landscaping; home based businesses; accessory uses; and administrative processes.

As Council continues to review the proposed amendments and feedback received from ratepayers, further input can still be provided to the consultant leading the consultants hired to updated the OCP and Zoning Bylaw at: planning@ahconsulting.ca.

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.

NOTICE OF CALL FOR NOMINATIONS BY-ELECTION

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF SHELLBROOK NO. 493

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

COUNCILLOR – DIVISION 1
COUNCILLOR – DIVISION 5

will be received by the undersigned at the RM office Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 4:00pm until Wednesday, October 21, 2026.

Nomination forms may be obtained at the Municipal Office, 71 Main Street, Shellbrook, or by emailing admin.493@sasktel.net.

Dated this 25th day of September, 2026.

Alicia tenBos
Returning Officer

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Vote for
☒ **Jason Good**

October 14th, 2026

In age of AI, newspapers matter more than ever

Even before I became a journalist, I often heard pundits and prognosticators predict that the days of physical newspapers were numbered.

Such claims are hardly original. They've been made time and time again over the years – kind of like claims about Iran being days, hours, or even minutes away from acquiring nuclear weapons for the past three decades.

As far back as the 1830s, when the electric telegraph was invented, people believed that the inexorable advancement of technology would usher in the end of the age of newsprint.

And similar declarations were made with the arrival of commercial radio, broadcast television, and the internet.

To varying degrees, the predictions of newspaper doomsayers have been both right and wrong.

As the internet and social media have come to dominate nearly every aspect of our daily lives and altered the way we consume and interact with content and each other, the newspaper industry has been among those hit the hardest.

Indeed, according to the independent advocacy group Friends of Canadian Media, 603 local news outlets closed in 388 communities across Canada between 2008 and October of 2025.

The shifting media landscape has often left independent community newspapers vulnerable to buyouts by larger corporations, which have no qualms about walking away from those communities when there isn't enough profit – as Glacier Media did in Estevan and Carlyle last year.

Despite this, the data still shows that people value newspapers.

Over the past 13 years, News Media Canada's Newspapers 24/7 survey has tracked how Canadians connect with newspaper brands across print and digital platforms.

In the first year, 85 per cent of sur-



**JORDAN
TWISS**
~
News Editor

vey respondents reported reading a newspaper (in print or online) each week.

This year, that number remained virtually unchanged, with 83 per cent of respondents saying they still read a newspaper on a weekly basis.

More importantly, given that physical newspapers are dependent upon advertising revenue from local businesses, News Media Canada's research suggest that newspapers – especially printed ones – continue to be among the best way for advertisers to reach customers.

Readers of physical media had significantly better brand recall than those who consume digital media, and also had a stronger understanding of the material.

"Unlike rapid scrolling, print creates a relaxed state of mind, resulting in attention, trust and emotional connection," News Media Canada notes.

"Print does not just deliver an impression. Its tactility, credibility and slower reading mode can make brand experiences feel more personal, memorable and emotionally resonant."

What's more, a majority of Canadians (56 per cent) believe it's important to buy from companies that advertise in their local newspaper. This number is even higher among frequent newspaper readers (78 per cent), pointing to the clear benefits of local businesses supporting their local newspaper.

Additionally, while a mere 20 per cent of Canadians say they trust editorial content they see on Facebook and Instagram – a number that is certain to drop even lower with the proliferation of AI – nearly 70 per cent continue to trust their local newspapers.

This trust bleeds over to businesses who advertise in their local newspapers, with only 22 per cent of Canadians expressing trust in Facebook or Instagram ads compared to



nearly 60 per cent trusting them in newspapers.

Reach. Trust. Local Relevance. These are the benefits of advertising in your local newspaper.

Even with their millions of users, social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram simply can't compete – not when 76 per cent of Canadians report being more concerned about fake news and disinformation than they were three years ago.

What's true for Canadians more generally is just as true in a small town like Shellbrook.

Whether it be Shellbrook or Spiritwood, Big River or Blaine Lake, the communities served by the *Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald* all share a key commonality: they're small, close-knit communities with aging populations, who are best reached through their local newspaper.

Sure, putting an ad or flyer in the *Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald* costs money, but it's guaranteed to place your business, event, or items for sale in front of the thousands of people who read it, in print and online, each week.

The same can't be said for social media, where you get what you pay for (or in this case, don't pay for).

Although a Facebook post or ad might save you a few bucks in the

short term, there's no guarantee the almighty algorithm will show it to anyone you know, or that it will stand out to anyone in the burgeoning sea of identical looking AI-generated content.

What's more, the "positive impact" of your social media ad begins and ends on social media. The Mark Zuckerbergs and Elon Musks of the world have no interest in supporting your bake sale or your kid's minor hockey team.

Not unlike those bake sales and hockey teams, community newspapers depend upon the support of their communities to stay alive.

A world without community newspapers like the *Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald* is a world in which municipal, provincial, and federal government get to operate in darkness, with even less oversight than they have now.

It's a world in which AI "journalists" and "news outlets" write and rewrite the truth and only serve it up to us if the algorithm allows it.

It's a world in which businesses lose the ability to connect with customers on a platform that is safe, reliable, trusted, and valued.

Now more than ever, during National Newspapers Week and every day, it's up to each and every one of us to keep the presses running.

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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Truth & Reconciliation Day unites communities

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

Students from Shellbrook and Canwood united with the community on Wednesday, Sept. 30, for the fourth annual Truth & Reconciliation Walk organized by Evergreen Oasis Counselling and Consulting.

The team at Evergreen Oasis brought the first Honour Walk to Shellbrook based off a suggestion by team member Kelsey Gerow, who provides counselling services at Chief John Keenatch High School on the Big River First Nation.

Though the first walk came together at the last minute, it was well received by the schools and the broader community. And so, Evergreen Oasis CEO Nicole Erb felt it only made sense to make it an annual event.

Each year, she says, the day has only gotten better, bringing more of the community together in the spirit of truth and reconciliation.

“There has been a huge number of changes [in the conversation around truth and reconciliation], as children are talking about what truth and reconciliation is and they are learning about the historical impacts,” she said.

“Within the community, we are seeing more understanding and a genuine desire to learn more about truth and reconciliation. We are seeing more involvement with community members as well as community organizations.”

This year’s gathering for the National Day for Truth & Reconciliation (also known as Orange Shirt Day) began at the W.P. Sandin High School gymnasium, where students, long-term care residents from Parkland Integrated Health Centre, and community members gathered to listen to an opening prayer and two songs from Elder Hume Mirasty from the Little Red River Reserve.

Following Mirasty’s sharing of wisdom and the significance of the day, all in attendance organized for the walk, led by an RCMP escort,

flooding Shellbrook’s Main Street with orange shirts and banners.

“Each year we bring more knowledge, teachings, and awareness to our community,” Erb said.

“This event isn’t just about one day; it is about bridging relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous individuals. It is a day to learn, reflect, and remember the ones who did not make it home to their families, and the ones who were stripped of their culture and language.”

Following the walk, students from all schools returned to W.P. Sandin to participate in several games and activities centered around the day’s themes.

They also sampled baked and fried Bannock prepared by W.P. Sandin students, took part in a story walk featuring Phyllis Webstad’s With our Orange Hearts, and ended the gathering with sage teachings around an open fire.



Students from W.P. Sandin make their way down Main Street.

Meanwhile, Evergreen Oasis played host to a community BBQ, with proceeds from donations going to the Legacy of Hope Foundation, a national Indigenous charitable organization with the mandate to educate, create awareness and understanding about the Residential School system and the Sixties Scoop.

The BBQ brought in \$2,439.



Shellbrook CSO Bradley Pechawis enjoys a conversation with a student during the truth and reconciliation walk.



Students from Canwood Public School formed a truth & reconciliation conga line.

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Fri, Oct 23, 2026 7 pm Canwood Legion	Sat, Oct 24, 2026 7 pm Shellbrook Legion <i>Cash bar</i>	Sun, Oct 25, 2026 2 pm Parkland Integrated Health Care Centre
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For more information:
306-747-3769 or FB Shellbrook Legion Branch 111.

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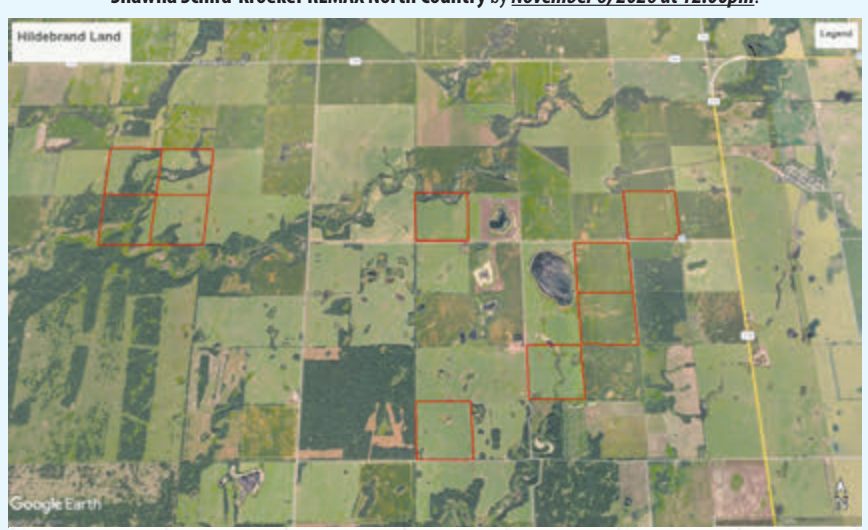
Section 13 must sell as one package due to access. NW-03 must sell with SE-10 for access.

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.

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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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Op-ed: Real journalists matter in an AI world

By **PAUL DEEGAN**
CEO, News Media Canada

An algorithm can decide what you see, but it doesn't report the news. Nunatsiaq News, an award-winning newspaper in Nunavut, recently reported that a so-called "news" website was posting AI-generated articles about the North by stealing real news stories produced by real journalists. The articles were supposedly written by Nunavut correspondent Leah Qammaniq – a fake journalist, with a fake photo, and a fake bio. The Right Honourable Louise Arbour warned us of fake news in her installation speech as Governor General. She said, "We must continue to protect the public space in which our national debates take place: from schools and universities to the media, political parties, unions and civil society organizations...With instant access to vast amounts of information, it

is very tempting to pay little attention to the reliability of sources. The lines between knowledge and belief, between truth and falsehood, between facts and assumptions, are increasingly blurred. AI could be threatening not only the way we live and work, but also the control we exercise over our own destiny." The Government of Canada has recognized the problem as well. Its recent discussion paper, Enhancing trust in artificial intelligence through increased transparency, stated, "Canadians encounter news reporting, product reviews, and audio-visual content across the internet, often without any indication of whether it was written by a person, generated by an AI system, or produced through some combination of both...A particular concern within this broader landscape is that generative AI greatly enables the creation and dissemination of deceptive or misleading content."

Yet, the federal government hasn't taken any action when it comes to the brazen theft of news content by AI companies. Indeed, its highly anticipated Canada's National Artificial Intelligence Strategy: AI for All didn't mention the word "copyright" – not even once. At the same time, according to a survey conducted for News Media Canada, 78 per cent of Canadians say they are concerned about fake news and disinformation, underscoring the growing value of credible, professionally produced journalism. In the face of misinformation and disinformation and threats to Canadian sovereignty, identity, and unity, there is an urgent need to protect and control Canadian trusted, verified IP and to keep its value in Canada for Canadians. Fact-based, fact-checked trusted journalistic content is vital to a healthy democracy, and there are concrete steps that can be taken to safeguard this pillar of our democracy. First, clearly and unequivocally state that there will be no text and data-mining exception. Second, use the power of the federal procurement purse to ensure these companies stop stealing creator content through robust supplier commitments. Third, align with the UK competition authority's approach, which gives publishers an opt-out to control how news content is surfaced in Google's AI answers. Fourth, have the Minister of Indus-

try direct the Competition Bureau to conduct a market study into Google's AI/search crawler. Fifth, introduce and pass bad bot legislation similar to the Stealth Bot Prohibition Act, which is currently before the U.S. Congress. National Newspaper Week 2026 celebrates the people behind the news and reminds Canadians that trusted journalism is produced by real journalists, who report, investigate, verify, and write it. This year's program introduces "AI Gorithm", a fictional character that highlights an increasingly important distinction: an algorithm can decide what you see, but it doesn't sit through a council meeting, interview a local business owner, cover a championship game or hold decision-makers accountable. With the industrial scale theft of copyright-protected news content by AI companies and threats to our cultural and digital sovereignty from the U.S., our federal government can help sustain real journalism by real journalists by maintaining the On-line News Act (which is seeing \$100 million flowing annually from Google to news businesses), maintaining the Canadian Journalism Labour Tax Credit at 35 per cent, maintaining the Local Journalism Initiative, and earmarking 25 per cent of federal advertising spending to trusted news outlets. Digital and cultural sovereignty matter. Canadian stories matter. Facts matter. Real journalists matter.

SHOP LOCAL. SAVE LOCAL

Support the local businesses that support your local newspaper.

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Learn more at **henryslaw.ca**.

Canada makes moves to circumvent Trump

U.S. president Donald Trump has been nothing but disruptive in terms of Canada's relationship with its closest neighbour.

And his tariff tantrums have sown similar chaos in trade around the world.

But in all the disruption Trump sends a message — not one he probably realizes — that the U.S. system puts too much power in the hands of one person. And when that person is prone to tantrums and worse if things do not go their way, relationships can become strained, if not damaged for de-

cadec.

So, the lesson Canada is learning is that you can't trust that any trade relationship is forever, so you better have diverse trade partners to buffer when someone like Trump rises to power.

And while details are short in some of the talks taking place, it appears Canada is taking the lesson to heart.

Recently, of course, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen raised the possibility of Canada obtaining associate membership in the European Union.



CALVIN DANIELS

What exactly an associate membership would look like remains unknown, but Canada has to be at the table to find out.

The same thinking about diversifying trade also has two of the world's largest trading blocs — the European

Union (EU) and a 12-nation Indo-Pacific trade group — cautiously eyeing closer ties to circumvent Trump's tariffs, with Canada spearheading the discussions.

The new grouping would potentially bring the Trans-Pacific Partnership [CPTPP] and the European Union together in a unified trading bloc of 1.5 billion people.

The EU and CPTPP are apparently already starting talks this year to strike an agreement to intertwine the supply chains of members like Canada, Mexico, Japan, Vietnam, Australia, and

others with Europe, in a move that is certainly rooted in a realization that a Trump-led US is not a secure trade partner.

It's this realization, one feels, that is also a big part of Canadian potash company Canpotex announcing an investment of \$500 million for the Neptune Bulk Terminals in the Port of Vancouver.

Canpotex, which is owned by Mosaic and Nutrien, manages rail cars, port terminals, and ships, and is centred around potash exports.

With Trump threaten-

ing to look to Communist Belarus for potash rather than neighbour Canada, another message was sent that things have changed. A port upgrade is an important first step to seeking new markets for Canadian potash.

How all the new deals and alliances will ultimately look is a question for the future.

But simply looking beyond the U.S. should create more diversity in Canada's trade future, and for that we will need to thank Trump for giving us the impetus to seek out more reliable alliances.

Crop Report: Sept. 22 to 28

By MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
Submitted

Warm, dry weather meant excellent combining conditions that allowed producers across Saskatchewan to make substantial harvest progress this week. An estimated 63 per cent of the provincial crop has now been harvested, up 22 per cent from last week. Harvest progress remains behind the five-year average of 91 per cent and the 10-year average of 82 per cent. This continues to trail historical levels due to a delayed start in some areas.

Rainfall was limited this week, with the highest amounts reported in the Mount Pleasant area at 15 millimeters (mm) and the Martin region at 12 mm. Dry conditions meant a marginal decrease was reported in topsoil moisture reserves.

Harvest progress is relatively consistent across all regions of the province. The southwest region leads with 84 per cent complete, followed by the

west-central and southeast regions at 69 and 57 per cent complete, respectively. The northwest region has reached 53 per cent completion, the east-central region has 52 per cent, while the northeast is 49 per cent harvested. Producers across Saskatchewan continue to take advantage of the warm, dry conditions as harvest advances steadily toward completion.

Winter cereals, pulse crops and spring-seeded cereals continue to account for most of the harvest progress across Saskatchewan. Winter cereal harvest is now essentially complete. Producers have made substantial gains on pulse and spring cereal crops as warm, dry conditions have supported uninterrupted harvesting operations.

Livestock water availability remains favourable across Saskatchewan, with 93 per cent of producers reporting no current or expected shortages. Six per cent reported moderate shortages and one per cent anticipated future shortages. Concerns regarding water quality were limited, with eight

per cent of respondents citing issues, primarily due to algae in some water sources. Producers also reported that adequate rainfall has supported water supplies by keeping dugouts full.

This week, most of the crop damage was caused by high winds. Some producers reported winds strong enough to blow swaths away. The other minor reports of crop damage were caused by some localized flooding, frost, waterfowl and wildlife.

As warm, dry conditions persist across the province, the risk of machinery fires remains elevated. Producers are reminded to take appropriate fire prevention measures, including carrying fire suppression equipment, regularly cleaning combines and other machinery, and exercising caution when working around powerlines. Motorists are also encouraged to remain alert and use caution when sharing roadways with agricultural equipment during harvest operations.

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

Sask. transfers mineral rights to First Nations

By MINISTRY OF GOV'T RELATIONS
Submitted

The Government of Saskatchewan has approved the transfer of additional Crown mineral rights to the Government of Canada in support of Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) agreements with Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation, Carry the Kettle Nakoda Nation and Pasqua First Nation.

"These mineral rights transfers support the Treaty Land Entitlement process and the creation of reserve land," Minister Responsible for First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs Eric Schmalz said. "Saskatchewan will continue working with First Nations and Canada to advance these agreements and support the reserve creation process."

The approval includes approximately 194.25 hectares (480 acres) of Crown mineral rights associated with Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation's TLE settlement agreement. As the first mineral rights transfer under the nation's 2022 agreement, the approval marks an early step in moving eligible lands through the reserve creation process.

Carry the Kettle Nakoda Nation will receive an additional 65.15 hectares (161 acres) of Crown mineral rights through the transfer. This brings the total Crown mineral rights approved for transfer under the nation's TLE agreement to approximately 13,440 hectares (33,210 acres).

An additional 64.75 hectares (160 acres) of Crown mineral rights has also been approved in connection with Pasqua First Nation's TLE agreement. This brings the total Crown

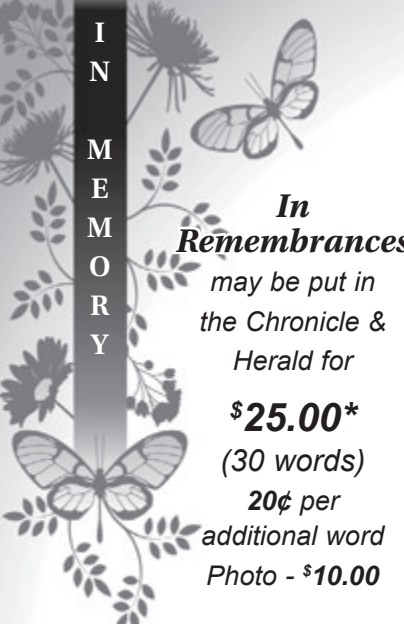
mineral rights approved for transfer under the agreement to approximately 1,841 hectares (4,549 acres).

The TLE process involves Saskatchewan, Canada and Entitlement First Nations that did not receive all the reserve land they were entitled to under Treaty. Through TLE agreements, First Nations can acquire land that may then be transferred to reserve status through the reserve creation process. Saskatchewan works with First Nations and Canada to support this process in accordance with the agreements.

As of September 2026, approximately 900,970 acres of land has transferred to reserve in Saskatchewan under TLE agreements.

To learn more about Treaty Land Entitlement in Saskatchewan, visit: saskatchewan.ca.

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Orange Shirt Day draws large crowd in Spiritwood

Continued from 1

“On behalf of the RCMP, we wish to thank everyone for being here, we are amazed at the turnout,” he said. “We feel it is important to be here and to be with the children and to remem-

ber those that made it home from residential schools and the ones that didn’t.”

Moving along the route of the walk, another stop was made outside the Sacred Heart Catholic Church to

hear a testimonial from Christina Gamble.

Ms. Gamble’s former husband is a residential school survivor and she spoke about the impact his experience had on their lives and that of their family.

Jeanine Sakebow, one of the Kisikohk School employees, spoke about lifestyle choices and about breaking the cycle begun by residential schools.

Upon arrival back at the Memorial Park, the RCMP invited everyone to join in the barbecue hosted by the Detachment and local peacekeepers.

Under the watchful eye of Elders Barney Tipewan and Jane Tipewan, signs of communi-

ty healing were mixed in with the carefree chatter of hundreds of school

children mingling and visiting before heading back to their respective

schools and, ultimately, home to their families at the end of the day.



Cst. Dalton Bill of the Spiritwood RCMP detachment serves up another round of hot dogs for the walk participants.



Students and staff from Kisikohk School at Witchehan Lake First Nation show off their Every Child Matters shirts.

Terry Fox Walks honour a legacy

By JORDAN TWISS
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Students from W.P. Sandin High School and Shellbrook Elementary School gathered on Sept. 21 to celebrate 46 years of the legacy left by Terry Fox and his Marathon of Hope.

While in past years the schools have opted not to do any fundraising and instead focused on education, this year they asked students to donate “Toonies for Terry.” This initiative allowed the schools to donate \$500 to the Canadian Cancer Society.

Meanwhile, in Canwood, teacher Kylie Hauta and the Grade 12 class turned the Terry Fox Walk into an event, including a meal prepared by Dyan Nordquist and the Grade 12s.

With the support of pledges and donors, as well as sponsors like Neighbourhood Caterers, J&R Meats, Eddie’s Twisted Grill, Tait Insurance, Woodland Pharmacy, Lake Country Co-op, Cargill, and Affinity Credit Union, the day raised \$2,070.56 for the Terry Fox Foundation.

In the Spiritwood area, Leoville Central School hosted an impressive Terry Fox fundraiser on Sept. 22, raising \$5,012 for the Terry Fox Foundation. This total was bolstered by a \$1,000 donation from former



Shellbrook Elementary School and W.P. Sandin High School did they Terry Fox Walk together.

principal Mr. Yves Cote.

Spiritwood’s elementary schools — Hartley Clark and Rivier — also had successful Terry Fox Walks on Sept. 28, raising \$3,740 for the Terry Fox

Foundation with support from Prosperity Credit Union. At Rivier, the top fundraiser was Grade 3 student Brayden, who brought in \$420 and will now get to serve as the school’s

principal for a day.

Terry Fox began his Cross-Canada Marathon of Hope in April of 1980, starting from St. John’s, Nfld. His initial goal was to raise \$1 million, but the support he received from Canadians caused him to set a more optimistic goal of \$24 million (at the time, \$1 from every Canadian).

Fox was forced to quit his run outside of Thunder Bay, Ont., and he succumbed to lung cancer nine months later. But by the following April, he had nearly reached his \$24 million goal.

Apart from raising funds and awareness, Fox also inspired others, like Canadian Rick Hansen, to take up his mantle, allowing his legacy to live on.

Since it was founded in 1988, the Terry Fox Foundation has raised more than \$1 billion for cancer research, thanks in no small part to the annual Terry Fox runs held by schools across Canada.



Leoville’s students had an RCMP escort during their Terry Fox Walk.



Hartley Clark Students celebrate during the school’s Terry Fox Walk.



Rivier Students pause for a photo during their Terry Fox Walk.

Blaine Lake murals given new life

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

A piece of Blaine Lake’s history and identity received new life in recent weeks, as the Town of Blaine Lake

undertook a project to restore murals painted on buildings throughout the community. The murals were originally painted in 2004 as part of the Blaine Lake Centennial Project. They were designed

by a group of local and area artists, including Doreen Kalmakoff, Mike Raymer, Marg Pool, Lynne Fahlman, and Rosemarie Banda.

“The Town decided to restore the murals as part of the Strategic Plan of growth and attraction for Blaine Lake,” said Town of Blaine Lake CAO Louanne Roschuk.

“Council wanted to refresh the murals in honour of the residents who took time and volunteer hours to paint the murals representing images for the ‘Gateway to the Lakes.’”

To return the 22-year-old murals to their former vibrant colour, the Town of Blaine Lake commissioned Alberta-based mural artist Robert Murray to undertake the restoration efforts.

Murray restored three murals in total: two on the grocery store and one at 1st Avenue East.

Roschuk says the town plans to bring him back in the spring to continue the restoration project.

A lover of art since the age of five, Murray says he was fortunate to have parents who encouraged him to pursue it as a career path.

Over the past 25 years, he says his painting was constantly evolving, until he painted his first mural for his mother at a local senior’s centre and “caught the bug.”

“I’ve painted more than 2,000 murals in the last seven years and I still get excited, because each one’s a new project, a new opportunity, and a new scene. I don’t like repeating myself.”

Originally from Nova Scotia, Murray says he moved to Alberta and immediately fell in love with its wilderness.

This love is reflected in his artwork, which often features the province’s mountains, lakes, and rivers.

With family roots in Saskatchewan as well, Murray says taking on the Blaine Lake restoration project was somewhat of a homecoming.

“It was an honour for

me to add my touch to the work; not to reinvent it, but just to enhance what was already created,” he said.

“The restoration process is quite unique because you have a

template on the wall. It makes my job a lot easier, just following the pattern, creating the colours, bringing out the richness of these murals, and making them look as real as possible.”



Mural artist Robert Murray recently renewed murals in Blaine Lake.



Rosemarie Banda, Marg Pool and Darleen Kalmakoff work on the original mural outside what was then the Rosemarie’s Fashion building in 2004.

Leask Legion donates to Wheatland Lodge

By **VALERIE PRIESTLEY**
Leask Legion

The Leask Legion #79 hosted a 100th Anniversary Celebration on July 17th. A supper sponsored by the Legion, as well as entertainment by Larry Krause was enjoyed by all who attended.

A draw was also made for our Legion 50/50 lottery for \$1,000. The lucky winner was Edna Toth. Congratulations, Edna.

Proceeds from supper tickets were donated to the activity department at Wheatland Lodge. A cheque for \$455 was presented to Melissa Skwark on Sept. 16.



The Leask Legion recently donated \$455 to Wheatland Lodge. From left to right: Bev Toth, Hubert Smith, Melissa Skwark, Valerie Priestley, Sue Nelson, Derek Derman, and Alice Smith.

Spiritwood Library activity highlights



Spiritwood Public Library had a busy afternoon on Wednesday, September 23. First was the Early Dismissal Balloon Hovercraft program. The hovercraft was decorated, then assembled using a balloon to replicate how a hovercraft works. Following that was Lego Club, with the challenge of creating different kinds of vehicles. Fun was had by all.

By **HEATHER GATZKE**, Branch Librarian

Sask. bets big on nuclear power

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

Premier Scott Moe has laid out his ambitious vision for nuclear power to become a key component of Saskatchewan’s power grid.

During a press conference at the University of Saskatchewan last week, Premier Moe unveiled his government’s new plan for long-term energy security and economic growth, titled Delivering Energy Security Through Nuclear Power.

The new plan builds upon the government’s Saskatchewan First Energy Security Strategy and Supply Plan and establishes a nuclear power production goal of at least 2,600 megawatts by 2050.

For context, recent daily averages peg SaskPower’s daily sys-

tem demand at 2,981 megawatts. The record for most power use was 3,910 megawatts, set on Dec. 30, 2021.

“We’re charting a path forward for one of the largest energy and economic development opportunities in our province’s history,” Premier Moe said during the news conference.

“Six-hundred megawatts can power the equivalent of Saskatchewan’s two largest cities, Regina and Saskatoon; 2,600 megawatts could power the equivalent of 2.6 million homes.”

The government’s plan focuses on four priorities for nuclear development:

1. Building the electricity capacity for long-term growth.
2. Incorporating large nuclear reactors into electricity supply planning.

3. Continuing nuclear development in Estevan.
4. Building on nuclear capabilities already established.

In addition to continuing to explore construction of two 300-megawatt small modular reactors — at the government’s recent selection of the Rafferty site near Estevan as the location for further study — the government’s new strategy includes plans for two large-scale nuclear reactors, with a goal of having the first one coming online by 2042.

While locations for the large-scale reactors have yet to be chosen, it’s been suggested that they will be placed in the northwest of the province and Premier Moe has said they could be in locations along the North Saskatche-

wan River.

Premier Moe has yet to comment on the cost of the plan, noting only that the cost to build nuclear reactors has dropped as they become more commonplace, and that funding could come through private sector investment.

“Reliable, affordable power is essential for Saskatchewan families to thrive and for busi-

nesses and communities to grow,” Premier Moe said in a statement.

“With our world-class uranium resources, skilled workforce and growing nuclear expertise, Saskatchewan has everything we need to be a global leader in nuclear energy. This ambitious plan turns that potential into action - strengthening our energy security, attract-

ing investment, and building a strong nuclear future right here at home.”

According to its own timeline, SaskPower is expected to make its final decision on the location for the Hitachi BWRX-300 small modular reactors by the end of the year. The first of the two planned units is supposed to come online by the mid-2030s.

Good News

O DEATH; WHERE IS YOUR STING!?

By **JORDAN CLARK**
Shellbrook Pentecostal Assembly

We are all going to die. Did you know that?

Our little town was reminded of this looming truth in the last few weeks with the devastating reality of death when a young life was cut too short by a car accident.

I had the privilege of officiating my first funeral as the pastor of Shellbrook Pentecostal Assembly when my father-in-law passed away at the end of August. A full life lived, and a life cut too short, one died of cancer, another died of a reckless car accident. We are all going to die.

“But when this corruptible puts on the incorruptible, and this mortal puts on immortality, then will come about the word that is written, ‘Death is swallowed up in victory. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!’” (1 Corinthians 15:54, 57 LSB)

Paul is talking about the second coming of Christ and reminding the church in Corinth that all of humanity will live eternally after this life. Death exists because sin entered the world through Adam and Eve. We are all imperfect, we all struggle with sin, we all (at times) fear death and think about “the next life.” There is a wonderful answer to this reality, His name is Jesus.

Paul reinstates those who believe in Jesus, those who have faith in Jesus, will have victory over death through Christ. They will live eternally in vic-

tory through the perfect life, the horrific death, and the amazing miracle of Christ’s resurrection—those who are with Christ will follow Him in victory.

Those who are not in Christ will live in darkness, eternal hell. This is the choice we all must make; do we repent and turn to Christ, accepting His love, His truth, His grace? He is offering a gift of salvation, a gift of eternal glory, eternal life with Him and a gift (an answer) to the horrific nature of death. Christ died in our place so that we have life abundantly.

“Death is swallowed up in victory, but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ—Death where is your sting?”

In Christ, we don’t fear death, In Christ, we don’t mourn like the world. When my father-in-law passed away, I was sad, I miss him, my children no longer have a grandpa, but I also celebrated because one day I will see him again.

Why? Because he believed in Jesus, because I believe in Jesus, and he is now with Jesus. We are saved through our Faith in Christ Alone.

If you need help, if you have questions, if you need prayer (regardless of if you believe or not) please know that you can reach out to me and I would love to meet you, to pray with you — there is hope in this hopeless world and His name is Jesus.

“Jesus *said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father but through Me.’” (John 14:6, LSB)

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*

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Blue Jays' season disappoints fans

The Toronto Blue Jays' 2026 season was as forgetful as the 2025 campaign was memorable.

What went wrong?

The Jays went to an extra inning in Game 7 of the 2025 World Series before falling to Los Angeles Dodgers, leaving their fans in despair but expecting nothing but another run toward the championship in 2026.

But then the 2026 season started and if you were to ask for a definition of mediocrity, the Jays would be front and centre. On May 1, they were two games under .500, at 15-17.

By Aug. 1, they were seven games under .500 (52-59) but amazingly still alive in the chase for one of the three American League wildcard positions.

Basically, however, the Jays treaded water for most of the second half of the season, coming close to that wildcard spot, but eventually falling short.

So who or what was to blame?

Certainly not rookie Kazuma Okamoto, the

sensational Japanese third baseman who led the Jays in home runs with 33 (but struck out every third at-bat).

Certainly not pitcher Dylan Cease, a strong contender for the A.L. Cy Young Award who won 11 games, posted an earned-run average among the league leaders, struck out almost 13 per nine innings and gave the Jays a chance to win every time he took the mound.

Certainly not reliever Louis Varland, the team's solid closer. Certainly not young hitters who blossomed in 2026, Nathan Lukes, Bret Bateman and Ernie Clement.

A large chunk of the blame must fall on the \$500 million man, Vladimir Guerrero, Jr., who had a sensational post-season last year and had fans salivating about a huge, huge, huge 2026.

Instead, Vladdy's season popped like a balloon meeting a needle. He didn't hit a home run in Toronto until mid-September, finishing with nine overall, a far cry from the combined 52 he



BRUCE
PENTON

hit during the previous two seasons.

Addison Barger, who hit 21 homers as a rookie in 2025, had only 22 at-bats in 2026 while dealing with a series of injuries. Slugger Anthony Santander missed the whole year.

Bo Bichette's departure didn't help either. The infielder, who signed with the Mets, batted .311 with an .840 OPS in 2025.

Cease and Jose Soriano, who was acquired at the trade deadline, were the only dependable Jays' starters.

Injuries played a big role, sidelining Trey Yessavage, Patrick Corbin, Cody Ponce, Shane Bieber

and Max Scherzer for all or parts of the season. Overall, Schneider used 39 pitchers (not counting position players thrown to the wolves during blowouts) and Jays' fans covered their eyes when most of them trekked to the mound.

Things have to be better in 2027. Guerrero, Jr., can't possibly be as anemic at the plate as he was in 2026.

Barger will be back, but George Springer may be lost to free agency. Soriano and Cease give the Jays a strong starting pitching core.

Jays' fans hope 'memorable' is the adjective describing 2027.

Steve Simmons of the Toronto Sun: "The Blue Jays have finished first in the American League East seven times in 50 seasons. The Atlanta Braves have finished first in the National League East seven times since Alex Anthopoulos went there from Toronto in 2018."

Super 70s Sports: "Remember when Edwin Moses was a sweet hurdling star? He won

122 races in a row, jumping over barriers while looking like a founding member of Earth, Wind & Fire."

Another one from Super 70s Sports: "Robert Wadlow, the world's tallest man, was sadly born 40 years too soon to achieve his true destiny of averaging three points a game off the bench for the Clippers."

Late manager Earl Weaver of the Baltimore Orioles: "The key to winning baseball games is pitching, fundamentals, and three-run homers."

Cathal Kelly of the Globe and Mail, on players like Connor Hellebuyck 'whining their way out of' Winnipeg: "Maybe they could entice recruits by offering winter hardship bonuses. (Kevin) Cheveldayoff can swing by every morning and clear the snow off the players' cars."

Janice Hough of leftcoastsportsbabe.com: "Los Angeles Dodgers starting pitcher Tarik Skubal's yearly salary: \$32 million. The entire combined salaries (if they were on the roster

all year) of the SF Giants starting lineup, including their starting pitcher? \$7.5 million."

Janice Hough again: "Watching Congressional Women's Softball Game, now 12-7 in the 5th. This feels too much like watching the SF Giants bullpen."

Cathal Kelly again, on Vladimir Guerrero, Jr.'s horrendous 2026 season: "He's transformed in the space of a year from Babe Ruth to Mario Mendoza."

Headline at theonion.com: "Desperate Taylor Swift Asking Everyone In Parking Lot For Spare Ticket To Chiefs Game"

fark.com headline: "Team with the second highest payroll in baseball clinches last place in the NL East. Way to go Mets."

Steve Simmons again "Why are the Mets the Mets? They traded a 19-year-old (Pete) Crow-Armstrong (NL MVP favourite) to the Cubs at the deadline in 2021 and got next to nothing for him."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

U18 Elks drop two games to start season

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

The U18 AA Parkland Elks kicked off their 2026-2027 regular season with a busy weekend of hockey at the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre, hosting the Prince Albert Timberwolves on Friday, Oct. 2, and the Saskatoon Sabercats on Sunday, Oct. 4.

Elks (4) vs Wolves (7)

After a smoke and light show introduced this year's Elks roster, the team quickly got down to business and settled into the game's fast-paced rhythm, eventually drawing first blood on a goal from Jaxson Boyer, assisted by Owen Hansen.

The Wolves quickly fired back with two goals to take the lead. But a late Elks goal from Hansen, assisted by Merek Tait and Boyer saw the period end with the score tied 2-2.

The second period began with a goalless stretch of nearly 8 minutes, until the Elks got themselves into penalty trouble and the Wolves made them pay by scoring back-to-back

goals less than 20 seconds apart.

The Wolves added another goal late in the period to surge ahead 5-2, but the Elks closed out the frame with two goals to make it a game again. Hansen scored the first goal, un-

assisted, while Gabe Wadham scored the second goal on the power play with assists from Davin Hart.

Much like the second period, the third frame saw the teams play to a draw in the opening minutes, until an Elks penal-

ty allowed the Wolves to get on the board and extend their lead to 6-4.

With time winding down in the game, the Elks pulled their goalie on a power play in hopes of closing the gap. Instead, a shorthanded empty

net goal sealed a 7-4 win for the Wolves.

Elks (1) vs. Cats (4)

Returning to the ice to face off against the Saskatoon Sabercats on Sunday afternoon, the Elks were flat through the first period, allowing the Sabercats to score the only goal of the period.

With the benefit of a power play near the midway point of the second period, the Elks tied the score up at 1-1 on a goal from Jaxson Boyer, assisted by Gabe Wadham and Logan Fisher. But the Sabercats had the last laugh in the period, scoring late to take a 2-1 lead into the third period.

The Elks remained flat throughout the third, firing just seven shots on goal.

Meanwhile, the Sabercats blasted 16 pucks at Elks netminder Liam Bergen, adding two more goals to their tally to take a 4-1 victory.

This Friday, Oct. 9, the Elks will look for their first win of the season as they host the Saskatoon Riverkings. Puck drop for the game is at 7:30 p.m.



Elks players Burke Florence (left), Owen Hansen (middle) and Jaxson Boyer celebrate the team's first goal of the season.

OBITUARY

Brooklyn Lee Anderson A.K.A Brookie



Born March 24th, 2010, to Sean and Brandee Anderson in Estevan, SK. Brooklyn completed their family after two older brothers Dylan and Brody. Her name was chosen by her oldest brother Dylan, and her mother while watching T.V. one night, a “Brooklyn Lee” rolled in the credits and Dylan said that’s what her name was going to be.

Brookie was a beautiful Spit-Fire of a child with the most piercing blue eyes. From the time she could vocalize she would growl at

people, which became her signature trademark. This later evolved into her many interesting and creative facial expressions that she shared with everybody.

Brookie started out in dance, hockey, ball, and gymnastics in Estevan. After moving to Shellbrook, she continued to dance, play hockey and play ball. Once she started high school, she picked up volleyball, badminton and track. The thrill of the most aggressive sports stole her heart. In the third or fourth grade, a horse showed up at Grandma and Grandpa Andersons farm, so she decided to take horseback riding lessons. As she got more into hockey, she decided to play with the boys, because the girls hockey was too boring. She mainly played goalie because she really didn’t like skating and she became a very good goalie. In the spring, she would play ball. When she

was little, she played back-catcher, pitcher, and first base. This year she played ball with the U17A aces and she loved it. She pitched and played first base for them. She was already signed up and excited to play again with them next year.

When Brooklyn was ten, one of her favourite shows was Heartland. Grandma Anderson and Auntie Becky took her on a trip to Alberta. While on a trail ride, Brooklyn looked down into the canyon and identified the film set from her Heartland. She was able to pick out all the buildings and even got photos with some of the buildings they filmed in.

At only ten years old, Brooklyn discovered the art of baking and wasn’t afraid to try any recipe. She even made knotted garlic pretzel bread. Her dad would tell her to clean her room or make bread. She always chose the

bread. At 12, Brooklyn took on the immense job of baking the cupcakes for her aunty’s wedding. She happily took on this challenge and created a beautiful table of cupcakes. She was a bit sassy and often liked to tell her Home Ec. teacher that they were “doing it wrong”.

At the end of the eighth grade, she was injured to the point of almost not being able to walk. She had to be on crutches and then used a cane. During this time, she was essentially home-schooled as she brought all her work home and only went to the school when necessary (her mom is not a teacher). She did this to reduce her movement helping her heal faster. Unfortunately, that was the end of her hockey career. She was unable to do any sports for around eight months which did not make her happy. Due to her injury, she missed a ball season which didn’t impress her. When she did finally go back to ball, she could no longer back catch.

Patience was not her virtue, so when it came time for her to get her learners license having a spring birthday created some problems. She turned 15 in the spring but couldn’t take drivers ed until the fall. So, she challenged the exam and got her learners. She practiced driving a lot, so when her 16th birthday finally came, she passed her drivers exam on the first try. She would not wait for dad to help her do things. If she wanted something done and he

didn’t do it right away, she’d rip it apart herself. Once, Brooklyn asked her dad to help her remove her loft bed and he agreed to do when he got home. When he returned home from work, it was already sitting out on the lawn.

Brooklyn’s love of animals was enormous. She always had dogs and cats. She even temporarily had a horse. When the time came and the horse had to be returned to its rightful owner, she was devastated.

She had a kind soul and brought happiness to many. She had a wide circle of friends, which she would do anything for. She volunteered at the nursing home. She loved the residents and they loved her.

In June of the ninth grade, she started working at Bigway. At the time both her brothers also worked there. She was a staff and a customer favourite. Never intimidated, she wasn’t afraid to roll her eyes and give sarcastic comments to the staff, and they always joined in with her.

She already had her sights set on nursing when she was done with school. A role she would have been amazing at with all her compassion and caring nature.

She went on the school travel club trip to Greece and Italy and filled her summer with friends, work, the lake, family time, golfing, fishing, camping, and was constantly planning her schedule around Brody’s hockey schedule. She was planning Brody’s home

opener game around the freshie party.

She was so excited to be going into grade 11 and already planning when we could go grad dress shopping for next year.

Our precious Brooklyn was robbed of so many special things in her life like graduation, marriage, nursing school, a career, and starting her own family. She had even saved her American Doll collection for when she had children.

Tragically, her life was cut short way too soon on September 12th, 2026, by an impaired driver.

We will forever miss her! We love you always Brookie!

Celebration of Life was held for Brooklyn at 2:00PM on Friday, September 18, 2026, at Shellbrook Community Hall, Shellbrook, SK. Interment followed in the Shellbrook Cemetery, Shellbrook, SK. The Celebration of Life has a video link available on the Beau “Lac” Funeral Home Website.

In lieu of tributes, memorial donations may be made in memory of Brooklyn to the Prince Albert SPCA (Box 1832 Prince Albert, SK, S6V 6J9 or <https://www.princealbertspca.ca>).

Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit www.beaulacfuneralhome.com. Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau “Lac” Funeral Home and Crematorium, Tammy Smart Funeral Director, Shellbrook, SK 306-747-2828.

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CARD OF THANKS

The family of the late Bob Barkway wish to extend our appreciation and thankfulness for all the expressions of sympathy and support after his passing.

Thank you to all who attended the Celebration of Life service and for all the memorial donations and for the goodies and flowers brought to the house.

Thank you to the ladies of the O.O.R.P. for the lunch following the service.

Thank you to the staff at the Park-land Integrated Healthcare Facility for their care.

Thank you to Delores Beaulac and the entire staff of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home.
- Betty Barkway, Gordon, Shawn, Terry, Michelle and families

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Sunday School,
Worship Sunday, 9 a.m.
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St. John's - Shellbrook
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Worship Sunday, 11 a.m.
(in-person and online
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Rev. Emmanuel Aristide

PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

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

PRESBYTERIAN

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

UNITED CHURCH

Big River
Sundays
11 a.m. - Worship
at Anglican Church
Rev. Dave Whalley
306-747-2804
ANGLICAN CHURCH
Leask - All Saint's
Sunday Service - 9 am MP
St. Andrew's - Shellbrook
Sunday Service - 11 am MP
June 21, 10:30 a.m. at
St. Luke's Mont Nebo,
H.C. & Deconsecration
w/ Bishop Rick Reed
Potluck lunch to follow
Minister's Warden:
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EVANGELICAL FREE

Big River
10:00 a.m. - Worship
Bible Classes resume
in the fall
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Youth Nite:
Fridays at 7 p.m.
Mont Nebo
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Sun. Mass - 9:30 a.m.
Fr. Mariusz Zajac
Big River - Sacred Heart
Sun., 11:30 a.m. - Mass
Whitefish
Sun., 2:30 p.m. - Mass.
Victoire
Sat., 7:30 p.m. - Mass.
Fr. Mariusz Zajac
St. Agatha's - Shellbrook
Mass - Sunday 9 a.m.
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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.
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BETHEL

Medstead
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Worship
Pastor David Jensen
4th Sunday, 10 am - Worship
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Glenbush
10:00 am - Sunday School
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OBITUARY



Stuart Busse, KC September 15, 1947 - July 15, 2026

Born in Gull Lake and raised near Eastend, Stuart and his wife Teri, raised daughters Susan and Leah in Biggar. He practised law there for 54 years, but was equally at home farming, fixing machinery, building businesses and inventing things. Full obituary at gereinfuneralservice.com.

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Minutes of an RM of Spiritwood meeting

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

The Regular Meeting of the Council of the Rural Municipality of Spiritwood No. 496 was held on Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2026, in Council Chambers located at 218 Main Street in Spiritwood, Sask.

Present: Reeve — Shirley Dauvin, Division 2 — Dale Wasden, Division 3 — Terry Wingerter, Division 4 — Steve Buban, Division 5 — Heather Warkentin, CAO — Colette Bussiere, and Foreman — Darcy Laventure.

Absent: Division 1— Vacant and Division 6 — Dennis Laventure

A quorum being present the meeting was called to order at 8:10 a.m. by Reeve, Shirley Dauvin.

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

Wasden: That the minutes of the July 14, 2026, Regular Meeting of Council be approved as presented. Carried

Warkentin: Whereas, there is a SaskTel utility line located within proposed area of subdivision, Council directs administration to access a copy of the construction drawing from SaskTel for the utility line. Carried

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

Warkentin: That the following protective service reports having been read now be filed: Spiritwood RCMP Quarterly Report - April to June 2026; Fire Truck Repair Update - July 16, 2026; and Fire Truck Repair Update – Aug. 3, 2026. Carried

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

Warkentin: That the bank reconciliation for the month ending July 31, 2026 be accepted as presented. Carried

Buban: That the “List of Accounts” as listed on the attached Schedule “A” forming part of these minutes be passed for payment.

- Cheque No. 15596-15617 (\$94,858.82)
- EFT No. 2025-0111 - 2025-0127 (\$167,038.25)
- Payroll File No. 0071, 0072 & 0073 (\$58,106.34). Carried

Warkentin: That the Statement of Financial Activities for the month ending July 31, 2026, be approved as presented. Carried

Councillor Dale Wasden acknowledged a conflict of interest and removed himself from the council meeting at 10:13 a.m.

Buban: That the application to purchase lease land described as NE 17-49-09-W3 be reserved until the RM can have the lands explored as a potential aggregate resource. Following the completion of the exploration activities, council will reconsider the application to purchase NE 17-49-09-W3. Carried

Councillor Dale Wasden returned to the council meeting at 10:14 a.m.

Wingerter: That the application to purchase lease lands described as SE 33-49-08-W3 & SW 33-49-08-W3 be reserved until the RM can have the lands explored as a potential aggregate resource. Following the completion of the exploration activities, council will reconsider the application to purchase SE 33-49-08-W3 & SW 33-49-08-W3. Carried

Buban: Public notice was provided and council received two written objections and one verbal objection to the proposed single parcel subdivision regarding the overdevelopment of Memorial Lake.

Whereas, the Village of Shell Lake and the Memorial Lake Regional Park have both declined partnering with the RM to fund an environmental carrying capacity

study on Memorial Lake; and

The subdivision application conforms with the District Plan as well as the RM of Spiritwood’s Zoning Bylaw; and

There are no incompatible uses in the vicinity that are incompatible for the intended use.

Be it resolved, that Council recommends approval of the single residential parcel described as Lot 12 Blk A, located on PT SW 01-50-08-W3 adjacent to Memorial Lake. Carried

Wingerter: That Council partner with Pelican Lake First Nations to address drainage issues in the area, however, it is the lessee’s responsibility for undertaking road upgrades required to provide access to their lease lands. Carried

Warkentin: Council consent is not required for this application, however, Council for the RM of Spiritwood No. 496 supports Water Security Agency’s (WSA) consideration of this application should the applicant agree to place the sand well back from the water, above the top of bank behind a berm, retaining wall, vegetated buffer or enough land to ensure it cannot wash/erode into the waterbody as creation of private beaches or the addition of sand along the shore of a waterbody is generally not permitted by WSA. Carried

Wasden: That the aquatic habitat protection permit application for the creation of walking paths within the Environmental Reserve (ER3) within South Shore Ridge adjacent to Meeting Lake be tabled until further information can be obtained. Carried

Dauvin: That the Employee Benefits Policy be revised to allow existing employees whom receive approval for Long Term Disability Benefits or an approved leave of absence to have the option to continue participating in the Health & Dental Ben-

efit Program subject to the following conditions:

- the employee is responsible for 100% of the Health & Dental premium; and
- the employee enters into a pre-authorized debit agreement for payment of the premiums. Carried

Wingerter: That we authorize payment of \$15,000 to the Northern Lakes Economic Development Corporation and that we allocate \$100,000 for recreational grant funding as follows:

- Town of Spiritwood - \$75,000
- Village of Leoville - \$12,500
- Village of Shell Lake - \$12,500. Carried

Wasden: That we grant a tax abatement in the amount of \$1,045.49 for Roll 238 000 for an administrative error relating to the legislated 293 land exemption. Carried

Wasden: That Shelbi Gierein be appointed to the Meeting Lake Regional Park Authority for the remainder of 2026 calendar year replacing Rick Doell whom has resigned his seat. Carried

Council: That the council meeting be closed to the public at 11:09 a.m. under the authority of Part III of The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, to go in camera to discuss Human Resources. Carried

CAO Colette Bussiere removed herself from council chambers at 11:20 a.m.

Colette Bussiere returned to council chambers at 11:36 a.m. The regular meeting of council was out of camera and resumed at 11:36 a.m.

Wasden: That the following correspondence having been read now be filed: SARM Rural Sheaf and SARM Rural Dart. Carried

Wingerter: That the meeting be adjourned.



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