

## Thickwood Hills celebrates 25 years of art



Thickwood Hills Studio Trail founder Rigmor Clarke returned for the 25th anniversary, showcasing the new encaustic work she's been dabbling in over the past year.

By **JORDAN TWISS**  
*Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter*

Sometimes, making art can be an isolated experience. But for the past 25 years creative spirits in Shell Lake and the surrounding area having been striving to build a community centred around art through the Thickwood Hills Studio Trail.

Held Aug. 9 and 10, the rural art tour offers art enthusiasts — and art novices — an opportunity to travel down rural Saskatchewan's back roads, take in the prairie vistas, and meet and interact with local artists in their creative spaces.

The idea for the tour was spawned

by Saskatchewan Order of Merit-winning artist Rigmor Clarke, who returned to the tour line-up to mark the quarter-century milestone, opening up her large but cozy Forest Raven Studio to guests.

Clarke says she got the idea for the Thickwood Hills Studio Trail while partaking in an art tour during a trip to Ottawa. At the time, she was teaching art at a community college and saw many students who possessed plenty of talent, but likely wouldn't have the opportunity to show their art anywhere.

"I was thinking about how they could get their art out so the community could see it," she said.

"The other thing that I thought would be really neat would be if rural and urban people could meet. This [tour] gives them a chance to see Saskatchewan and the people of Saskatchewan."

Those who took the scenic drive out to Clarke's studio quickly learned the 90-year-old still possesses the same creative spark she's had since childhood. What's more, she's even dabbling in new art forms, having taken up encaustic art in the past year (melted wax and pigment on a surface).

"It's something between a sculpture and a painting," Clarke said. "It's fascinating — challenging and fascinating."

Over the years, other artists have taken up Clarke's dream as their own, allowing the Thickwood Hills Studio Trail to thrive and attract guests from all over Saskatchewan.

In addition to Clarke's return, this year's tour featured a diverse mix of new and returning artists.

South of Mont Nebo, Carina Ong-Scutchings' Studio 701 showcased her functional and decorative ceramics once again, as well as the works of two newcomers to the tour.

At one time from the Spiritwood area, paddle and oar painter Nancy Carlson says she'd been looking for an opportunity to return to the area.

*Continued on page 8*



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# Amundson hits diamonds for Team Sask.

By JORDAN TWISS  
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Debden’s Rhyan Amundson was basically born and raised on the ball diamonds. Growing up watching her mom and sister play softball, it was only natural for her to pick up the sport, starting with softball when she was six or seven years old.

“I’ve always been interested,” she said. “I really like the challenge. That’s the [biggest] part of it: the odds are against me, and I want to beat those odds and get on base every time.”

Over the years, Amundson’s love of the game and strength as an outfielder have taken her far and wide across Canada. And whether it’s playing Provincial ball with the Prince Albert Aces, or going all the way to Nationals with the Moose Jaw Ice in 2023, or the Saskatoon Selects the past two ball seasons — and winning bronze at this year’s Nationals tournament — Amundson is accustomed to playing at the most competitive levels.

She’s also continued to play the sport in university, earning Western Collegiate Softball Association Rookie of the Year honours in her first season with the U of S softball team in 2024.

Now, she’s competing on an entirely new stage, suiting up for Team Saskatchewan to play left

field at the Canada Summer Games, which are currently taking place in St. John’s Newfoundland (one of the few corners of Canada she says she hadn’t been to before now).

Amundson’s journey to represent her home province began two years ago. Seeing the opportunity, and already knowing the coaches, she leapt at the chance to tackle a new challenge by fighting her way through three rounds of tryouts.

“We got feedback after every tryout,” she said, noting her approach was to take each tryout as it came.

“After the first tryout, they told me that some things to fix my swing and that I needed to throw a little harder and run faster. That was my next goal, and I just kept building on that.”

Though she was hopeful about her odds of making the team, Amundson says it was still exciting to learn she’d made the cut last summer.

But making the team was only the first part of journey. This year, she’s been focused on learning to play alongside her teammates. At the beginning of July, the team got a good warm up by competing in the Canada Cup in Surrey, B.C. Playing against more than 20 teams, including some top-tier international squads, the team played to a third place finish.

Based on this, Amundson is excited for her first

experience at the Canada Summer Games.

“I’m looking forward to spending more time with the team itself. I really enjoy all the girls,” she said. “We’re really excited, and I feel like we have a really good shot.”



Debden’s Rhyan Amundson is currently representing Saskatchewan in softball at the 2025 Canada Summer Games. Here, she’s pictured with her 2024 Rookie of the Year award from the Western Collegiate Softball Association.

## Philp gears up for Canada Summer Games

By JORDAN TWISS  
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Shellbrook’s Marcail Philp is no stranger to competing. And whether it’s in long distance running, cross-country skiing, or triathlon, she can always be counted on to compete to the best of her ability.

A couple years ago, Philp’s competitive drive took her to the Canada Winter Games, where she represented Team Saskatchewan in skiing. Over the next couple weeks, however, she’ll be representing her home province in road cycling in the Can-

ada Summer Games, which are currently being held in St. John’s Newfoundland.

Given that Philp has spent last year and this year competing in triathlon, which includes running, swimming, and cycling, she’s not truly a stranger to the sport. That said, she admits she had hoped to participate in triathlon at this year’s games, until the sport was removed from them.

Fortunately, she had found that she enjoyed the cycling part of triathlon. So, when Mike Horn, owner of Prince Albert’s Fresh Air Experience, suggested she

try out for road cycling instead, she decided to embrace the opportunity.

“It was just a fun opportunity to bike more and work on bike-specific skills that will help me in a triathlon as well,” she said.

“I didn’t really have many expectations for myself, because I’d never done just a cycling race before. I knew some of the girls who were going, and I knew they were good cyclists, but I [thought I] might be able to compete.”

The Team Saskatchewan tryout process spanned two days. On day one, Philp took part in a 15-kilometre time trial. Then, the next day, she had to complete an 88-kilometre road race.

At the end, with six

girls in the running and only three spots available, Philp managed to earn her place on Team Saskatchewan.

“It was really exciting,” she said. “I went a couple years ago for skiing, and it was just a great experience. It’s such a great competition, and the atmosphere is so much fun, too.”

During the Canada Summer Games, Philp will once again have to complete a 15-kilometre time trial, an 80-kilometre road race, and a 30-kilometre criterium (a multi-lap race on a closed circuit).

To prepare to put on all those kilometres, Philp says she’s been putting in more and more time on her bike, regularly cycling up to 120 kilometres at a

time to ensure she has the endurance to push hard for the full 80-kilometre race and then have enough left in the tank to race again a couple days later.

And with this being her first time competing specifically in cycling, she says she’s not putting too much pressure on herself.

“I don’t really have

much of a goal, considering this is my first year of actual racing on a bike and some of these girls have been doing it for 10 years now,” she said.

“I just want to learn and improve my skills on my bike — my drafting skills, and my cornering and climbing technique — and just do the best I can.”



Shellbrook’s Marcail Philp is currently representing Team Sask in road cycling at the 2025 Canada Summer Games.

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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
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LOT F-BLK/PAR 15-PLAN B03421 EXT 0	145083618	\$3,454.48	\$509.00	\$3,963.48
LOT 17-BLK/PAR 15-PLAN 101743523 EXT 3	151330272	\$1,038.16	\$294.06	\$1,332.22

\* Penalty is calculated to the date of the Notice and will continue to accrue as applicable.

Dated this 7<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2025

Monique Hare, Acting Administrator

Highway 55 Waste Management Corporation

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Highway 55 Waste Management Corporation is currently inviting applications for a permanent **Office Administrator** to provide support to the Operations Manager and Secretary/Treasurer in the management and operation of the regional landfill.

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- Processing accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll, payroll deduction submissions, receipting, updating public works and carrying out tasks as assigned by the Operations Manager and/or Secretary/Treasurer;
- Maintaining the website as well as advertising;
- Assisting with annual budget and audit preparations;
- Keeping records of daily work performed in the manner prescribed by the Secretary/Treasurer;
- Maintaining accurate inventory and equipment-costing records;
- Preparing reports and summaries for presentation to the Board.

**Qualifications:**

- Completion of Grade 12;
- Certificate in a business-related program from a recognized college or equivalent training and experience;
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office programs;
- Knowledge in basic accounting principles and practices;
- Excellent communication skills, both verbal and written;
- Ability to deal effectively with the public and to work independently.

Highway 55 offers a competitive salary and benefit plan in accordance with qualifications and experience. Qualified individuals are invited to submit a resume and cover letter detailing how their qualifications match those listed above by **2:00 PM, Wednesday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025** to:

Highway 55 Waste Management Corporation  
Box 10, Canwood, SK S0J 0K0  
Phone: 306-468-2014  
Email: [admin@rmofcanwood.ca](mailto:admin@rmofcanwood.ca)

*Highway 55 Waste Management Corporation thanks all applicants; however, only candidates interviewed will be contacted.*



## Carney government needs to choose a lane

By now, after thousands of years of organizing societies under all sorts of governments, you'd think humans might have figured out what role they want governments to play in their lives.

To be certain, there are those who are fixed in their views, and will hold them until the bitter end, no matter what they're told.

For some, governments should be akin to a gentle hand on the rudder, playing as small a role as possible and adjusting the course of society only when troubled waters demand that they take action.

Conversely, others view governments as something more like a parent or guardian, whose role is to nurture and provide for as many people as possible, so that everyone has the opportunity to reach their true potential, and the most vulnerable are allowed to live with dignity.

Between these two ends of the spectrum, there's a whole universe of nuance.

Like the tide, the ebb and flow of history has seen us test nearly every permutation of government, going back and forth over and over again while coming no closer to any conclusion about which one is "best."

The adversarial nature of politics does little to help with this, turning those with opposing viewpoints into bitter enemies. Rather than building up and moving forward, we become hyperfixated on tearing down and starting over.

Under the Conservative government of former Prime Minister Stephen Harper, we experienced what a small government looks like.

Austerity is perhaps the word most readily associated with Mr. Harper's regime. Under his government's Deficit Reduction Action Plan, tens of thousands of public service jobs were eliminated – all fat trimmed from the government's bones.

The reduction of federal employees naturally has an impact on any-



JORDAN  
TWISS

~  
News Editor

one in need of government services. But, in truth, it seemed Mr. Harper's primary objective was to cut away as much regulatory red tape as possible and get government out of the way of big business.

That's why we saw departments like Fisheries & Oceans, Environment, Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Health, suffered particularly deep cuts, often targeted research scientists or those

responsible for inspections or enforcement.

When coupled with the elimination of the mandatory long-form Census and cuts to Statistics Canada, critics of his government claim Mr. Harper's government brought about the near-death of evidenced-based policy.

This contrasts starkly with the approach of Mr. Harper's successor, Justin Trudeau.

From the moment he became prime minister, Mr. Trudeau's philosophy about a government's role was crystal clear. He steadfastly believed there was no problem a government – his government, in particular – couldn't solve.

Between 2015 and 2024, Mr. Trudeau's government grew the ranks of the federal public service by 43 per cent – increasing it to 367,772 employees from 257,034 employees at the end of Mr. Harper's era – in the alleged pursuit of improving and expanding services to meet the needs of Canadians.

Instead of improving services, it turned the government into a bloated and lumbering leviathan. And by the end of Mr. Trudeau's political career, even his government seems to have recognized how unsustainable this had become.

This brings us to still-rookie Prime Minister Mark Carney, who ran to replace Mr. Trudeau on a promise of "caps not cuts" to the federal public service.

Already, Mr. Carney has made moves to reduce government red



tape by eliminating all remaining federal barriers to internal trade and labour mobility.

He's also pledged to work closely with provinces, territories, and Indigenous people to identify projects of national significance, and to reduce the time needed to approve a project from five years to two.

Perhaps most significantly of all, though, Mr. Carney has set goals to cut his government's operational spending by 7.5 per cent for the 2026-27 fiscal year, 10 per cent the following year and 15 per cent in 2028-29.

Mr. Carney has said his government can achieve this without making cuts to transfers to the provinces for things like health and social programs (including childcare, dental care, and pharmacare), and individual benefits such as pensions and Old Age Security payments, and programs.

At the same time, however, Mr. Carney's government has committed to increase Canada's military spending to 5 per cent of GDP, including spending an extra \$9 billion on defence by next April (one of many concessions made to appease U.S. President Donald Trump).

There's no denying Mr. Carney's ambition. But major questions remain about his government's ability

to achieve it, while keeping its promise of "caps not cuts" to the federal public service.

Mr. Carney's government says savings will be found by eliminating vacant positions or reallocating staff rather than giving employees the boot. There's also much talk of leveraging AI to find efficiencies in program delivery without compromising quality of service.

Even with these explanations, the unions representing public service workers are understandably sceptical about Mr. Carney's goals. And they aren't alone.

The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, for instance, suggests Mr. Carney's targets for operational spending reductions could result in the elimination of as many as 57,000 full-time jobs by 2028.

While only a projection, based on the limited information supplied by Mr. Carney's government to date, this seems more tethered to reality.

Whether it's for a business or a government, employee wages are large expenses. When significant savings need to be found, employers are likely to look there first.

Mr. Carney's government seems to want to be both a big and a small government all at once. If it's not careful, it will end up being the worst of both worlds.

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# RCMP seek stolen truck, firearm

By **JORDAN TWISS**  
*Shellbrook Chronicle*  
Reporter

The Ahtahkakoop-Shellbrook RCMP detachment is seeking the public's assistance in locating a truck that was stolen from Shellbrook with a firearm inside.

On Friday, Aug. 8, at approximately 1:48 p.m., the Shellbrook RCMP Detachment received a report of a vehicle theft outside a business on Main Street in Shellbrook.

The stolen truck is described as a red 2005 GMC Sierra 2500, with Saskatchewan license plate 297 MLE. It has a red slip tank on the flat bed. Investigation has determined that occupants of a grey Ford F150 truck may have information about this theft and police say they would like to speak with them.

Further investigation de-

termined an unsecured firearm was in the stolen red truck.

As police continued patrolling for the stolen truck, officers from the Ahtahkakoop RCMP Detachment located it the morning on Aug. 9 and attempted a traffic stop. The driver of the truck failed to stop, and took off northbound, towards the Debden area.

There was also a separate report made to the Ahtahkakoop Detachment about shots being fired on the Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation. The report indicated that a red truck was involved, and investigators believe this may be connected to the ongoing stolen red truck investigation.

Anyone who sees the vehicles matching the above descriptions is urged to not approach them. The occupant(s) of the red truck may be armed and are consid-

ered dangerous. Call police immediately.

Report all information about this incident to your local police at 310-RCMP (7267). Information can also be submitted anonymously by contacting Sas-

katchewan Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or [www.saskcrimestoppers.com](http://www.saskcrimestoppers.com).



Police are seeking a red truck that was stolen from Shellbrook on Aug. 8. They believe the drivers of the grey truck may have information about the incident.

## Homicides down in Sask. in 2025

By **JORDAN TWISS**  
*Shellbrook Chronicle*  
Reporter

With 2025 a little more than halfway in the history books, the Saskatchewan RCMP is sharing that homicides in the province are down compared to the same period last year.

From Jan. 1 to July 15, 2025, Saskatchewan RCMP reported 13 homicide files with 13 victims in its jurisdiction. This is down from 23 that were reported over the same period in 2024. Police say four of the 13 homicides that have occurred to date this year remain under investigation and the other nine have been solved.

Between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2024, Saskatchewan RCMP reported 39 homicide files with 41 victims, making it the highest year on record for homicide files in RCMP jurisdiction in the province. There were 26 per cent more homicide files and 32 per cent more homicide victims in 2024 than 2023.

Last year also marked the second-highest year on record for number of homicide victims in Saskatchewan RCMP jurisdiction.

Looking at the trends over the past five years, Saskatchewan RCMP

Major Crimes reported:

- 2020: 31 homicide files with 32 victims
- 2021: 31 homicide files with 35 victims
- 2022: 33 homicide files with 43 victims (including all victims of the mass casualty event on the James Smith Cree Nation)
- 2023: 31 homicide files with 31 victims
- 2024: 39 homicide files with 41 victims
- 2025 up to July 15: 13 homicide files with 13 victims

As of July 15, the Saskatchewan RCMP Major Crimes Branch has also assisted File Hills First Nations Police Service with investigating two homicides with a total of five victims. These homicides have been solved.

Police note that there are additional files the Saskatchewan RCMP Major Crimes Branch investigates as homicides, but are later classified as something else and are therefore not included in the above

statistics. Homicide investigations where the accused is determined to be non-culpable are also not included in the above statistics.

Suspicious death investigations are also in addition to these numbers (unless they have been determined to be a homicide, in which case they are included). Numbers from previous reporting periods may change as investigations evolve and new information comes to light.

Between January 2015 and July 2025, the Saskatchewan RCMP's clearance or solve rate for homicides in the province is 85 per cent. Comparatively, over the five most recent years for which the data is available (2020-2024), police services across Canada have had a 72 per cent clearance or solve rate for homicides.

"The Saskatchewan RCMP investigates homicides or suspected homicides using all resources, techniques and avenues available to them. Those cases that

aren't solved remain open and investigators continue to actively and diligently work on them," said Insp. Ashley St. Germaine, Senior Investigative Officer, Saskatchewan RCMP

Major Crimes Branch. "In some cases, the passage of time allows police to revisit a file with fresh eyes and apply new investigative techniques or perspectives, which can help

uncover new information and further an investigation. We never stop trying to solve these cases because the victims deserve justice and their loved ones deserve answers."

## Moe recognized for 50 years with SGI



Parkside's David Moe was recently honoured with a 50-year service plaque, in recognition of five decades as an SGI issuer (though, it will actually be 54 years, come September). Pictured: David Moe receives his plaque from SGI representative Sarah Olorenshaw (left) and Stephanie Nelson.

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# Crop Report: July 29 to Aug. 4

Crops have rapidly developed due to warm temperatures and dry conditions in many areas across the province over the past week. Early seeded crops are nearing maturity in many areas, and rain would likely not benefit these crops at this stage. Producers are still hoping for rain to help with grain fill in later-seeded crops.

Isolated thunderstorms brought significant rainfall to some areas last week, while many areas had negligible precipitation. The Old Wives area received the most rainfall in the province with 132 millimetres (mm), followed closely by the Vanguard area with 119 mm and the Cadillac area with 95 mm. The Dollard and Neidpath areas also received significant rainfall with 74 mm and 72 mm, respectively.

Despite significant rainfall in a few areas of the province, dry conditions were widespread this week which caused overall topsoil moisture levels to fall from last week. Provincial topsoil moisture levels for cropland areas are five per cent surplus, 54 per cent adequate, 33 per cent short and eight per cent very short. Hayland topsoil moisture is four per cent surplus, 48 per cent adequate, 37 per cent short and 11 per cent very short. Pasture topsoil moisture is four per cent surplus, 52 per cent adequate, 32 per cent short and 12 per cent very short.

Crop development varies across the province. Rapid crop development due to limited moisture has resulted in a higher percentage of crops being ahead of normal stages than two weeks ago. Crops in areas that have received sufficient rain so far this year are generally at normal stages while moisture-stressed crops are typically ahead of normal growth stages.

The dry conditions for much of the season in certain areas have led to some producers starting to harvest early seeded crops. Provincially, harvest is one per cent complete with most of this progress occurring in the southwest. Winter cereal crops are furthest ahead, with 13 per cent of winter wheat and seven per cent of fall rye harvested. Harvest has also started for pulse crops, and one per cent of lentils and peas have been combined so far. Although most producers in the province have not started harvesting, it is their primary focus as they are currently servicing equipment, hauling grain and cleaning bins to prepare.

Many pastures are in good to fair condition this year, but a notable portion are in poor condition due to limited precipitation in certain areas. Currently, six per cent of pastures are in excellent condition, 36 per cent are good, 32 per cent are fair, 19 per cent are poor and eight per cent are in very poor condition.

Last week, minor crop damage was reported in areas experiencing hot temperatures paired with dry conditions. There were also reports of grasshoppers, wind and wildlife causing minor crop damage in certain areas.

As producers are preparing for and beginning harvest, there will be increased farm equipment traffic on public roadways. Drivers are reminded to exercise patience and caution when encountering large equipment on the road. Additionally, farm equipment operating in dry fields can present a fire risk. Producers are encouraged to take safety precautions to mitigate fire risk and ensure harvest efforts are conducted safely.

**Northwestern Sask.**

It was a dry week in much of the northwest as crops are rapidly maturing and struggling to produce seed. Grain farmers are preparing equipment for harvest while livestock producers are busy moving cattle and hauling water.

The Rabbit Lake area got the most rain in the northwest with 20 millimetres (mm), followed by the Glaslyn area with 14 mm. The Hillmond and Loon Lake areas both got 11 mm while the Paradise Hill area got 10 mm. The rest of the region had minimal rain and remains dry.

The northwest remains the driest region in the province as soil moisture levels continue to decline. Cropland topsoil moisture is 23 per cent adequate, 58 per cent short and 19 per cent very short. Hayland topsoil moisture is a mere eight per cent adequate, 60 per cent short and 32 per cent very short. Finally, pasture topsoil moisture is 10 per cent adequate, 57 per cent short and 33 per cent very short.

The northwest has the highest portion of crops ahead of normal development stages in the province. Nearly all fall cereals are ahead of normal stages, along with large portions of other crop types. Despite how advanced many crops are, producers haven't started harvesting crops yet.

Most pastures in the northwest are currently in rough shape. Only five per cent are in good condition and 25 per cent are fair, while 45 per cent are poor and 25 per cent are in very poor condition. Unfortunately, the northwest has the poorest pasture conditions in the province this year.

Like other parts of the province, dry conditions paired with hot weather is causing varying levels of crop damage in the northwest which continues to hurt yield potential. There are a few reports of grasshoppers causing minor to moderate damage in certain areas as well.

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

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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**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 - 4:30pm; Wednesday 11:30am - 4:30pm; Thursday 11:30am - 4:30pm. Phone # 306-469-2152  
**CANWOOD:** Canwood Branch of Wapiti Regional Library Summer Hours (as of July 2): Tuesday 9:30am - 4pm; Wednesday 9:30am - 4pm; Phone: 306-468-2501  
**DEBDEN:** Wapiti Library hours: Tuesday 10am - 4pm; Wednesday 12pm - 6pm. Librarian: Aline Hannon  
**LEASK:** Wapiti Library & Legacy Gallery Hours - Tuesday 9am - 2pm; Wednesday 2pm - 8pm; Friday 9am - 12pm  
**MARCELIN:** Wapiti Library - Saturday 10am - 2pm; Thursday 2pm - 8pm. For information on all your library needs, please contact 306-226-2110.  
**SHELLBROOK:** Shellbrook Branch of the Wapiti Library located at 105 Railway Ave., West (Provincial building). Library Hours: Monday 2pm - 6pm; Tuesday 2pm - 8pm; Wednesday 2pm - 8pm; Thursday 12pm - 6pm; Friday 10 am - 5pm (Story Time 10:30am - 11:30am); Saturday 10am - 4pm.

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

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**SPIRITWOOD:** Spiritwood Horticulture Society Annual Show – Friday, August 15, 2025 @ Spiritwood Civic Centre. Doors open to the public @ 2pm; Awards Presentations @ 5:30pm. Canteen on site. \*Entries will be accepted on Thurs., Aug. 14 from 2pm - 7:30pm\* For more information call Megan Wasden @ 306-883-7202.

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*Thank you for your understanding.*

Shellbrook Chronicle  
& Spiritwood Herald



## Old ag tech fosters appreciation for past farmers

The annual Threshermen's Show & Seniors' Festival was held at the beginning of August in Yorkton, and once more the long-running event was fascinating.

While the audience for the show is not what it once was, it probably should in fact be larger today.

People always seem to be looking for a different experience in their travels these days, and that is what this event is, a different experience. It really is an opportunity to step back in time — 100 years or more — and get a very real sense of the agriculture tech-

niques that laid the foundation for the Canadian Prairies.

It is easy enough today, thanks to the internet, to find a reliable article on how farmers once used hand tools, sickles, and scythes to cut crop, and literally beat the seed from the plant head with a flail, but when such operations are carried out in front of you through demonstration it leaves a more lasting image in one's mind.

One is left fascinated that farmers, not so long ago in terms of overall history, did almost everything by hand — even a horse



CALVIN DANIELS

was a luxury many immigrants could not afford once reaching their plot of land a century-plus ago.

In fact, one of the most compelling demonstrations this reporter has ever seen goes back to the Threshermen's Show in my earliest years in

Yorkton. Women would gather and physically pull a plough to till the soil, harkening back to what was a reality for the earliest Doukhobor settlers in the communal colonies such as Veregin. They simply did not have horses at the time — they cost money — and the fields need to be made ready for seed.

The effort of the women pulling a plough across a field all those decades ago resonates loudly in my mind even today regarding just how badly they wanted to carve out a place for their families and community.

It is equally fascinating to watch decades old steam engines, threshing machines, binders, and tractors still operating today.

The engineering in the old designs — created without computer assistance — is near unbelievable.

By contrast, I am equally in awe of a modern sprayer, tractor, and combine. The level of technology in each is massive, allowing the machines to do many operations autonomously, while gathering massive amounts of information for the farmer.

But, I am under no

illusion that any farm tractor or combine that rolls new off a machinery lot this fall will be operational in 2125, even though they will have cost near \$1 million each when purchased.

So if the Threshermen's Show were to exist in 100 years, one wonders what they would demo.

Alas that is a question for others to learn the answer to, while I will simply remain thankful I've been given an opportunity for years to better appreciate our agrarian roots thanks to the annual show.

## Op-ed: American farmers support supply management

By NATIONAL FAMILY FARM COALITION  
Submitted

As the U.S. and Canada navigate uncertainty, unilateral tariff provocations, and the official review of the USMCA trade agreement, the National Family Farm Coalition, supports our Canadian family farming allies in their work to keep Canada's supply management system intact. We are an alliance of 30 grassroots farmer- and advocate-led groups across the United States representing the rights and interests of over 100,000 independent family farmers, ranchers, and fishermen, and we are calling on our own government to address the U.S. dairy crisis through systemic policy reform and production management that respects and supports dairy farmers and working families on both sides of the border.

We trace our trade and dairy policy objectives back to the New Deal era, when public policy managed agricultural markets to ensure adequate food supplies as well as fair prices for U.S. producers through supply management, price floors, and parity pricing. Over the past five decades, these important market management policies have been largely dismantled. Their absence is contributing to a multi-generational crisis for family farmers. Prices fall below farmers' cost of production, leading to farm foreclosures and farmland consolidation, shifting production in the U.S. to a system that depends on global commodity trade, not food production, and certainly not local food production.

The U.S. dairy sector has been particularly hard hit by this policy approach - with fewer than 25,000 dairy farms remaining in the United States, a 95% loss of these farms since the 1970s when 648,000 family-scale dairies were in operation. Since 2017, the U.S. has seen

a 40% decline of dairy farms in just eight years. Since the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was passed in 1992, U.S. agribusiness has sold a false solution to U.S. dairy farmers, claiming that replacing a domestic price stabilization policy with more foreign trade would bring higher profits for family-scale operations. More than three decades of failed export-oriented agricultural trade policy reveals the agenda behind this narrative. As a leading voice for family-scale dairies in the U.S., NFFC and our members condemn efforts in the U.S. and in Canada to undermine supply management by placing corporate profits ahead of farmer livelihoods.

Rather than attempting to turn the relatively small Canadian market into an outlet for U.S. oversupply of dairy production, we in the U.S. should draw insight from the Canadian system, and more importantly revisit the U.S.'s own agricultural policy history, to once again manage agricultural markets to ensure fair compensation for producers, reasonable prices for consumers, fair wages and treatment for farm workers, and care for the animals and environment our farmers base their livelihoods upon. Toward this goal, NFFC has crafted the Milk from Family Dairies Act (MDFA) for reforming dairy policy in the U.S. toward supply management and fair price floors, and in-turn respecting Canada's dairy supply management system, in the spirit of supporting food sovereignty in both countries.

NFFC's farmer members believe communities have the right to determine how their food is grown and harvested; that everyone in the food system should receive fair prices or wages; that all producers should have equitable access to credit, land, seeds, water, markets, and other resources; and, that our food and agriculture policy must support farming, ranching, and fishing

practices that provide for the current generation without compromising future generations. Since our founding in 1986, we have been advocating for

fair trade policy in the U.S. and across North America, as well as for systemic reform of the dairy policy in the United States.

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**Shellbrook Chronicle  
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# Thickwood Hills celebrates 25 years of art

Continued from 1

Having previously been a barber, and a graphic designer for the Saskatchewan Health Authority, Carlson explains that she discovered the art of painting paddles when she sold one she'd purchased during a redesign of her house.

Stuck at home during the COVID-19 pandemic, she began acquiring as many paddles as she could and painting them.

"Even now, each one is a different type," she said. "You're using new skills and finding new schools."

Also joining Ong-Scutchings at Studio 701 was fellow potter Tabata Bagatim. Originally from Brazil and a biologist by background, Bagatim's work often marries her two passions, manifesting as statues of animals.

During day one of the tour, she was busy crafting a ceramic horse.

"For clay, specifically, I like how flexible it is. You can add and subtract, and if you change your mind you can put it back," she said. "It's a little bit more forgiving, until you fire. You can make anything out of clay."

Navigating the winding rural roads south from Studio 701, the Resort Village of Pebble Bay offered tour-goers a chance to visit six venues, including quilter Colleen Teague (Skipping Stone Studio), multimedia artist Annette Henbid (Northern Sky Studio), potters Elaine Gusta (Pebble Bay Pottery) and Theresa Fisher (Spirit Studio), soap maker Dawna Karlash (Pebble

Bay Soap Co.), painter Karen Harbaruk, and their many guest artists.

Henbid's studio space showcased the inspiration she draws from wild-life and landscapes, capturing them in traditional paintings as well as through pyrography (wood burning).

"I don't know what's in the wood grain – oils or something natural – but it resists water in certain spots," Henbid said of how she became interested in pyrography. "So, you get an iridescent look, and it was just really neat the way the watercolour took to it."

Having participated in the Thickwood Hills Studio Trail since 2014, Henbid says she still views it as an excellent opportunity to get together with fellow artists while also getting exposure for her work.

This sentiment is shared by Harbaruk, who has been involved with the tour for the past four years.

"It's important because it exposes the community to so many creative and talented people," she said. "There's no other place to see [these] things, other than museums and galleries."

A little ways south from Pebble Bay, in Michelle Plett's lakeside cabin, three artists were gathered under one roof, including guests Plett, Bev Brenna, and Blanche Johnston.

Plett had previously been on the tour numerous times as a guest and enjoyed the experience. So, when she was able to build a cabin in the area, she made it her goal to become a host venue and showcase her encaustic works.

Plett discovered the medium nearly a decade ago. When she asked for a piece by a Seattle artist she liked for Christmas, her husband bought her a



Guest artist Tabata Bagatim works on a new ceramic piece.

workshop with the artist instead.

"I went and spent a few days with her and learned how to do some of the basics of it and just adapted my own process after that," she said.

"It's really a versatile medium. Everybody who uses it has quite different outcomes."

For proof of the versatility of encaustic art, one needed only to peruse the works of guest artist Blanche Johnston, whose vibrant pieces contrasted with Plett's more subtle pastel works.

And for a taste of something different, guest artist and author Bev Brenna had her literary and artistic works on display.

A lifelong writer who discovered painting as an adult, Brenna says she loves meeting with and taking inspiration from other artists. Fittingly, one artist she draws the most inspiration from is Rigmor Clarke.

"She just gives me good advice and energy. I'll meet with her for two minutes and she'll say something and I'll think, 'I want to go home and work now and work harder,'" she said.

"You have a very good community here."



Bagatim's works marry her passion for biology and pottery.



Annette Henbid works on a new piece that combines painting and pyrography (wood burning).



Quilter Colleen Teague had a wide selection of quilts, despite having only taken up the craft in 2016.



Host artist Michelle Plett works on one of her encaustic pieces.

Offering almost too much to take-in during a one-day road trip, this year's Thickwood Hills Studio Trail also featured the diverse works of: Mae Bunday and guests, Yvonne and Darren Hrustak, Donna Muller, Nadine Jones, Lorna Boryski and guests, Ron Barsi, Nancy Grummet and guests, Roberta Holmes and guests, and Jim Longstaff.



Lorna Boryski's works on display included a now-complete piece (top) that is intended to be part of a series highlighting women from diverse backgrounds.



First-time tour participant Nancy Carlson showcased an array of painted paddles.



# Canwood Library celebrates creativity

By **DIANE JOHNSON**  
*Library Board*

This July and August, the Canwood Public Library is delighted to present its annual Storybook Summer Program—a joyful celebration of creativity, learning, and community for local children.

A standout feature of this year’s program is the participation of talented local artist Lucille Scott. A self-taught Indigenous artist raised in north-central Saskatchewan, Lucille draws deep inspiration from her Métis heritage. She is generously leading a series of engaging art workshops, blending storytelling with hands-on creative experiences.

Lucille has illustrated several acclaimed children’s books — *Ride, Gabe, Ride, From This Window, No Ordinary Camping Trip*, and the upcoming *Stinky Sock Jam*. Her il-

lustrations not only captivate young readers but also highlight meaningful aspects of Métis culture and tradition.

Under Lucille’s warm guidance, children are exploring different artistic styles and techniques while connecting with the stories being read.

During one session, children enjoyed *No Ordinary Camping Trip* by Bertha Landrie, a touching tale set in 1965 about a young boy helping his family pick rocks for farmers. The children were fascinated by this

glimpse into the past and reflected on how life has changed.

After the reading, Lucille revealed a fun secret—each of her illustrated books features a hidden animal or insect on every page. In *No Ordinary Camping Trip*, it’s a butterfly. Inspired, the children created their own colourful butterfly drawings, bringing their imaginations to life.

In another memorable session, the young artists painted scenes of lakes, trees, and wildlife on “Wooden Rounds”, expressing their personal reflections on nature.

During the “Express Yourself with Stone Art” session, children learned how facial expressions can convey a

wide range of emotions and brought stones to life with painted, expressive faces.

We’re incredibly proud of the creativity and enthusiasm these young participants have shown. The program continues to be a space where children can express themselves, connect with culture, and have fun through the arts.

The Storybook Summer Program is made possible by sponsors, including SIGA, Affinity Credit Union, and Access Communications, as well as all the children and families who have participated so far.

We can’t wait to see what the rest of the summer holds.



Storybook Summer Program attendees enjoy a book reading.



An “Express Yourself with Stone Art” session helped kids be creative.



Lucille Scott has been participating in this year’s Storybook Summer Program, encouraging kids to explore their creativity.

## Controlling algae in ponds

By **PATRICIA HANBIDGE**  
*Orchid Horticulure*

Water in a landscape makes the ordinary – extraordinary! Somehow water finishes off the lovely ambiance we have in our outdoor living spaces. It attracts birds, butterflies and all sorts of other critters as well. However, this time of year the crystal clear ponds are often more like a rendition of pea soup! Read on to learn more about controlling algae in your ponds.

Algae are very primitive plants that do not have the regular plant parts like leaves, stems or roots. They reproduce by spores, cell division and fragmentation and just like land plants they need light, water, nutrients, carbon dioxide and oxygen in order to live. Knowing this is key to controlling algae as it is usually light and nutrients that will limit the growth.

The simplest method to control algae is to limit light and nutrients. Having plants cover a good part of the surface of the pond will aid in reducing algae growth. Limiting the amount of nutrients in the water will also help. Avoid using fertilizer around the pond as it is a great source of nutrients for the algae. It is important to have a balance between the size of the pond, the plant material and the number of fish. Do not overfeed fish as this is one of the fastest ways to increase algae growth. Rain, pollen and falling foliage will also create a surplus of nutrients that is ideal for increasing algae growth.

There are a number of forms of algae you may experience. Suspended or planktonic algae are very common and can quickly turn your clear pond into pea soup. Algae feed on the nutrients in the water and reproduce rapidly. When the nu-

trient level decreases, so will the algae population and the water will clear. When large amounts of algae die, it depletes the oxygen supply in the water which can also potentially kill fish or other animal life in the pond. It is also this anaerobic (without oxygen) water which can be rather foul smelling.

Bacteria play an important role in keeping your pond in balance. They actually feed on nutrients that are in the water caused by decomposing leaves and leftover fish food. They will also help to decrease the sediment often found in the bottom of the pond and will also help to eliminate odours.

As in most aspects of life – just a little balance is the answer. Ensure that floating plants like duckweed or hyacinths cover 50 to 70% of the pond surface. Submerged plants or oxygenators will help keep the water smelling fresh. These plants will also help remove dissolved nutrients giving the algae less available food. If you have fish in your pond and you feed those fish, it is sometimes as simple as limiting the amount of food you feed as this is a great additive for algae.

I have a large pond which has a waterfall and a pool skimmer to help ensure any debris is removed from the water prior to rotting thus reducing the amount of “food” for algae. However, when there is a lot of vegetative material, the pond quickly takes on a green hue. Unfortunately, the only place in my landscape where I could dig in a large pond is beneath a very beautiful and very old but self-pruning willow tree. Needless to say in spring, when it flowers, the pollen and catkins are instant algae food, thus requiring extra care when my tree is shedding!

As always there are a number of chemical solutions on the market that state your pond will be-

come pristine if you purchase and use their product, but keep in mind that any of these “quick fixes” are not long-term solutions. Ensure you read the labels carefully and follow the manufacturer directions.

Once you have an algae bloom, it takes a couple of weeks to get that ecosystem back in balance. Patience is required in order to achieve a good natural balance.

*Hanbidge is the Lead Horticulturist with Orchid Horticulure. Find us at [www.orchidhort.com](http://www.orchidhort.com); by email at [growyourfuture@gmail.com](mailto:growyourfuture@gmail.com) on facebook @orchidhort and on instagram at #orchidhort.*





# Minutes of an R.M. of Blaine Lake meeting

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

The minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council of the Rural Municipality of Blaine Lake #434 which was held in the RM's Municipal Office on Tuesday, June 17, 2025.

Present Council Members and Administration attended as follows: Glenn Lamontagne — Reeve, Michael Chudskov — Division 1, Lee Dolezal — Division 2, Courtney Swystun — Division 3, Alan Lavoie — Division 4, John Priestley — Division 5, Lionel Casavant — Division 6, Administrator Linda Klimm, and Assistant Administrator Alan Tanchak.

The meeting was called to order by Reeve Glenn Lamontagne at 7 a.m.

Assistant Administrator Alan Tanchak arrived at 7:03 a.m.

Chudskov: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approves the agenda for the Regular Meeting of Council held on June 17, 2025, with the following additions:

- Town of Blaine Lake added as a delegation.
- Gord Androsoff added as a delegation
- AgriTeam Invoice #INVH32292
- Dennis Osachoff AR Invoices #2019-00049 & 2019-00064. Carried

Priestley: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approves the May 21, 2025, Special Meeting minutes as presented. Carried

Priestley: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approves the June 6, 2025, Special Meeting minutes as presented. Carried

Dolezal: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 accept the May 2025 Statement of Financial Activities, Income Statement, Budgetary Control, Chequing Account Statement and Bank Reconciliation as presented. Carried

Swystun: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approves the List of Accounts for Approval for May 2025, including cheques #7363 to #7392 with the total payable amount being \$68,427.09. Carried

Casavant: That the Council of the

RM of Blaine Lake #434 approves invoice #INVH32292 received from AgriTeam Services Inc. for 400 pounds of grass seed in the amount of \$2,360. Carried

Chudskov: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approves the presented Council indemnity totaling \$4,983.72. Carried

Councillor Alan Lavoie arrived at 7:12 a.m.

Mark Curry presented his lead hand report to Council from 7:18 to 7:47 a.m.

Alan Tanchak left the meeting at 7:25 a.m. and returned at 7:26 a.m.

Councillor Courtney Swystun declared a Conflict of Interest and left the meeting at 7:40 a.m.

Casavant: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 hire a worker of Courtney Swystun's to seed grass. Carried

Councillor Courtney Swystun returned to Council Chambers at 7:41 a.m.

Mayor Amund Otterson from the Town of Shellbrook addressed Council from 8 a.m. to 8:24 a.m. to discuss recreation spending with regard to three facilities.

Councillor Michael Chudskov declared a Conflict of Interest at 8:48 a.m. and left the meeting.

Councillor Lee Dolezal declared a Conflict of Interest at 8:48 a.m. and left the meeting.

Casavant: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 agree that all costs incurred be the responsibility of the applicant or landowner of SE 09-43-06 W3 prior to the maintenance of the road, as laid out in the servicing agreement, and that Administration be directed to prepare a servicing agreement with respect to the subdivision of SE 09-43-06 W3. Carried

At 8:50 a.m., Councillors Michael Chudskov and Lee Dolezal returned to the meeting.

Lamontagne: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 buy 106 spec crushed gravel from Darrell Fehr at \$14 per yard based on 10,000 crushed yards, and that a vote be recorded. Carried (6 for, 1 against)

Swystun: That the Council of the

RM of Blaine Lake #434 direct Administration to send a letter to Cynthia Popoff that she is to notify RM before setting up residence or building anything, and that she requires development permit and/or building permit. Carried

Mark Curry presented an update on grader #618 and the repairs needed from 9:33 to 9:39 a.m.

Councillor Jack Androsoff from the Town of Blaine Lake addressed Council from 9:39 – 9:55 a.m.

Swystun: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 authorize the application of 400 meters of calcium chloride at SW 31-42-07 W3 along Grid #781, and that the cost be the responsibility of Delta. Carried

Lavoie: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 authorize the application of 600 meters of calcium chloride for 3 residences along the haul route in the RM of Redberry. Carried

Casavant: That Bylaw 06-2025 being A Bylaw for the Encroaching of Roads, be read a first time. Carried (Editor's note: the bylaw was unanimously given three readings and adopted at the meeting.)

Casavant: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 direct Administration to send letters to local MLA and SaskTel concerning the poor cell service and that the service is unacceptable and improvements need to be made for safety reasons. Carried

Swystun: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 acknowledge receipt of the Withdrawal Listing received from SMHI, that Council approves all the withdrawals as per the withdrawal listing and that the Reeve and the Administrator sign the SMHI withdrawal listing on behalf of the municipality. Carried

Dolezal: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 acknowledge the letter received from the Canadian Postmasters and Assistants Association-Saskatchewan Branch, and that Administration be directed to send a letter to our local MP. Carried

Chudskov: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 authorizes

a payment to Wade Fiala for monthly mowing of \$125 a month payable starting in April 2025. Carried

Dolezal: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 acknowledge receipt of the statement of account received from Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board, and that a payment for the first instalment of \$6,561.61 be issued. Carried

Priestley: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 authorize payment of the final instalment of the 2025 grant for the Wapiti Regional Library in the amount of \$3,133.41. Carried

Swystun: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 authorize payment of our grad advertisement for the 2025 Grad Edition on July 17, 2025, for the Shellbrook Chronicle in the amount of \$30 plus GST. Carried

Chudskov: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 authorize payment to Les Derkachenko for 60 beaver tails in the amount of \$1,800. Carried

Lavoie: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 direct Administration to order pest control supplies as per quoted amount of \$3,684.36 plus applicable taxes. Carried

Lavoie: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 authorize a donation of \$200 to STARS. Carried

Swystun: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approve the closure of the municipal building and the shop on Monday, June 30, in place of July 1, 2025. Carried

Dolezal: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approve the closure of the municipal building on Monday, July 7, for MuniSoft upgrade. Carried

Chudskov: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approve the payment for cleaning up trees to Brian Verbonac in the amount of \$150 plus applicable taxes. Carried

Swystun: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 confirm receipt of the signed road maintenance agreement from the RM of Redberry No. 435. Carried

Chudskov: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 adjourn, the time being 11:12 a.m.

What happens when you don't advertise?

Very little.



# Tennis pro Pospisil calls it a career

Vasek Pospisil wasn't the biggest name taking part in this year's National Bank Open in Toronto, but he was likely the best player to retire at the end of the competition.

Pospisil, a 35-year-old from Vernon, B.C., has been the only Western Canadian on the world tennis circuit in recent years. Our country's best male players — Felix Auger-Aliassime, Denis Shapovalov and Milos Raonic — are all Easterners. Once ranked in men's singles as high as 25th in the world, Pospisil's on-court heroics were often surpassed by the three aforementioned Eastern Canada players, and the resulting media coverage was, to say the least, lacking.

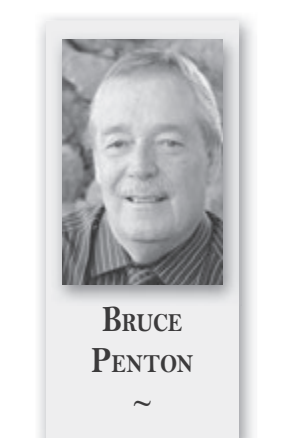
But Pospisil did have some great moments. He paired with American Jack Sock to win the Wimbledon doubles crown in 2014. In 2017, at the semi-major Indian Wells tournaments in California, he scored a second-round victory over Britain's Andy

Murray who, at the time, was ranked No. 1 in the world. He made the final in three ATP tournaments in his career, and was a doubles' winner seven times. Pospisil also helped Canada win its first Davis Cup in 2022 and represented Canada twice at the Olympics.

A feature story on Pospisil in the *Globe and Mail* said the tennis pro "made his mark as an advocate for players' rights, joining Novak Djokovic in founding the first-ever Professional Tennis Players Association in 2019."

Pospisil didn't make much of a splash at the National Bank Open, falling to Argentina's Bagnis Facundo, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 in the first round. He has battled numerous injuries in the last three years. "It's a really, really tough sport, physically and mentally, and at some point you burn out. At least I did," Pospisil said in a *Globe and Mail* story following his elimination.

Now that he has retired from the pro game,



BRUCE  
PENTON

said the *Globe* story, he's "keen to help with any Davis Cup duties, should Tennis Canada ask him."

Helping to develop future Canadian tennis stars will also be high on Pospisil's post-retirement agenda.

"Nothing would make me happier than to help young juniors in less privileged positions," he told the *Globe and Mail*. "I learned through years of trial and error, so if I can help expedite the learning curve for somebody who is a good person, or two or three or more players, then I would find that fulfilling."

Meanwhile, Canada's

national open had a shadow cast over it before it began when the three biggest names in the game — world No. 1 Yannik Sinner of Italy, No 2 Carlos Alcaraz of Spain and 25-Grand-Slam winner Novak Djokovic of Serbia — all announced they were withdrawing from the event. That left the competition wide open, with spotlight on the best Canadians. Unfortunately, Auger-Aliassime and Shapovalov were both eliminated in the round of 64.

But while the ATP tour carries on, Pospisil, whose family came to this country from Czechoslovakia just before Vasek was born, stays behind. He's a proud Canadian who had a decent career on the world stage.

• Another fark.com offering: "Hertz is sponsoring a car in a NASCAR race. Thankfully, it's not somebody named Simpson."

• Hall of Fame football coach Don Shula: "Sure, luck means a lot in football. Not having a

good quarterback is bad luck."

• Cathal Kelly of the *Globe and Mail*, after the Blue Jays were dominant in taking three of four from the Tigers in Detroit: "It was like watching a bouncer slap around an overserved customer."

• Kelly again, on disappointing free-agent signee Anthony Santander, who signed a \$93.5 million contract with the Jays: "He was so terrible that when he got injured, the team got better."

• Janice Hough of leftcoastsportsbabe.com, after an MLB game in which Colorado fell behind 9-0 in the first inning and later won 17-16 over Pittsburgh: "I remember Little League games like this. Especially in tournaments when teams run out of pitching."

• Headline at fark.com: "Pirates put up nine runs in the first inning against the worst team in baseball. Add seven 'insurance' runs. Lose."

• The late Bob Uecker,

Mr. Baseball: "The biggest thrill a ballplayer can have is when your son takes after you. That happened when my Bobby was in his championship Little League game. He really showed me something. Struck out three times. Made an error that lost the game. Parents were throwing things at our car and swearing at us as we drove off. Gosh, I was proud."

• RJ Currie of sports-deke.com: "Note to Felix Auger-Aliassime, who is trying to plan his September wedding. You're a guy, Felix — wedding plans take care of themselves."

• Headline at theonline.com: "Mavericks GM Trades Away All Of Team's Basketballs"

• Steve Simmons of the *Toronto Sun*: "With a name like Seranthony Dominguez, shouldn't he be playing for the Royals? Can you just see him on British television — up next, Sir Anthony, he's a Royal."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

## Bursaries awarded to youth curlers

By BEVRA FEE

*Spiritwood Herald Reporter*

A total of 10 young curlers were the beneficiaries of this year's Derryk Franson Bursary. Funds for the bursaries are generated each year at a Funspiel in memory of Derryk Franson.

The intention of the bursary program is to encourage young curlers from the Spiritwood area to attend curling events that will further their

skills and develop their curling. The amount awarded from this year's fundraiser totalled \$9,580 among the 10 recipients.

Among the curlers receiving funds was the Allchurch rink from Spiritwood.

The 2025/26 season's team consists of Skip Jessie Allchurch, Alea Beaulac, Avarie Conacher, and Hannah Lundell of St. Walburg. Team Allchurch will be attending the Kevin Martin curling camp in Edmonton, while

the remaining recipients will attend the Alberta Rocks Summer Camp.

Those attending the latter camp include Danica Laventure, Daxon Christopherson, and Team Booth. Team Booth for the 2025/26 season consists of Skip Rory Booth, Liam Simonar, Van Slater, and Rylan Shutra.

The date for the 2026 Derryk Franson Memorial Funspiel is set for Jan. 23 and 24 at the Spiritwood Curling Rink.



Danica Laventure with her bursary cheque from the Derryk Franson Memorial Funspiel.



Team Allchurch with fundraising organizer Sue Kahl (centre). From left to right: Alea Beaulac, Avarie Conacher, Sue Kahl, Jessie Allchurch, and Hanna Lundell.



Daxon Christopherson receives a bursary from Sue Kahl.



Team Booth is off to curling camp with their bursary from the Derryk Franson Memorial Funspiel. From left to right: Van Slater, Rory Booth, and Liam Simonar.



OBITUARIES

Raymonde Bouchard



Our beloved Mother, Grandma, Auntie, sister and friend Raymonde slipped peacefully away to her Heavenly Home on July 22, 2025. She was born in the family home in the St. Denis/Vonda area of Saskatchewan on June 14th, 1931, the 2nd child of Laurette and Louis Denis. The first 5 children were girls, so Raymonde, being the tomboy, helped her Dad with outdoor farm chores, which she

thoroughly enjoyed. She left home at the age of 15, and was hired to do household jobs in Marcelin, Debden and at the Leoville hotel.

On October 11, 1950, Raymonde married Albert Bouchard, and for 5 years they made their home on a farm in Pascal, Sask. While living there, they became parents to son Bob and daughter Linda. In 1955, they moved to Port Alberni, B.C., where Albert found work in the pulp mill. It was while living there that Denis was born in 1961. The love of home and the desire to be closer to family, prompted them to return to Saskatchewan; and after 14 years in B.C., Albert transferred to the pulp mill in Prince Albert. One year later they purchased the Crossland

bus line and moved to Chitek Lake for a short period; then permanently relocated to Leoville, where they operated a bus transportation route to Prince Albert for 23 years.

On Feb 22, 1970, Raymonde and Albert experienced the most tragic and heartbreaking day of their lives, when their daughter Linda passed away from cancer at the young age of 15.

In 1971, Raymonde went to work at the local hardware store, the famous Marshall Wells, owned by Clarence Charbonneau, where she worked for 17 years. She thoroughly enjoyed her time working there.

Raymonde was truly a kind, positive and happy person; a great friend who was always ready to help anyone in need. She found joy

in gardening; her flowerbeds and pots were always full of pansies and petunias. She enjoyed knitting, crocheting, jigsaw puzzles, watching soap operas, playing bingo and having coffee with friends and family. Raymonde and Albert found great pleasure and relaxation in camping, and they ventured out as often as they could. They also loved to dance and were exceptional at old time dancing.

Raymonde is lovingly remembered by her siblings: Simone Chase, Anne Marie Compagna, Paul (Lorraine) Denis, Ernest (Doris) Denis, Claude (Sue) Denis, Celine Doucette, Cecile (Sid) Klics, Charles (Deanna) Denis. Her sisters in law: Alison Denis, Clemence Poirier, Bella

(Joe) Marziliano, her brother-in-law Armand (Bonnie) Bouchard and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Raymonde was predeceased by her husband Albert, her daughter Linda, her parents Louis and Laurette Denis. Her siblings: Eva (Albert) Crossland, Rolande (Leo) Poulin, Lillian (Roland) Girard, Armand (Yvette) Denis, Gilbert Denis. Her siblings in law: Murray Chase, Real Compagna, Wilfred Doucette, Glenda Denis. Her foster brothers: Gerald Watson and Mervin Watson. Her parents in law Victor and Claire Bouchard, and her brother-in-law O'Neil Poirier.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated

on July 31, 2025, 11:00 am at Ste Therese Roman Catholic Church, Leoville Sask. with Father Ramel Macapala as celebrant. Raymonde's final resting place is the Leoville cemetery with her husband Albert and daughter Linda.

Memorial donations may be made to Evergreen Health Centre - Activities or to Leoville Seniors Golden Ring Centre as tokens of remembrance.

Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit <http://www.beaulacfuneralhome.com>. Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home and Crematorium, R. Mark Muir, Funeral Director, Spiritwood, SK (306) 883-3500.

Claire Alice Chalifour



Claire Alice Chalifour  
August 17, 1937 – June 17, 2025

With deep love and heartfelt gratitude for a life well lived, the family of Claire Alice Chalifour announces her peaceful passing on June 17, 2025, at the age of 87.

Born on August 17, 1937, in Edam, Saskatchewan, Claire was the beloved daughter of Gertrude and Ernie Thibault. She was raised in Fairholme, where her early years laid the foundation for a lifelong passion for learning. A bright student and always at the top of her class, Claire attended elementary school in Fairholme before continuing her education in North Battleford. She later completed Teachers College, embarking on a career that reflect-

ed her passion for education.

In 1959, Claire married Robert (Bob) Chalifour and together, they built a rich and fulfilling life, raising five children. During her married life, Claire worked on the farm in the Leoville area, operated a hotel in Biggar and taught in both Leoville and Saskatoon.

Claire loved traveling and she and Bob took their family on countless road trips across North America, creating cherished memories along the way. Later in life, they spent their winters in sunny Arizona and their summers at their cabin at Chitek Lake. During the 27 years spent in Arizona, Claire took part in pattern dancing, walking, playing cards and spending time with friends. At Chitek Lake, she enjoyed reading, gardening, walking and entertaining.

Devoted to her community, Claire volunteered with Read Saskatoon and helped newcomers to Canada learn English, reflecting her enduring passion for education and helping others. She devoted countless hours to the swimming program and

playground at Chitek Lake. Her generosity of spirit touched many lives.

Their 62-year marriage was filled with love, laughter and teamwork as they built a beautiful life together, raising their five children. Claire was the proud grandmother of fourteen grandchildren and the delighted great-grandmother of six.

Family was Claire's greatest joy. Her wit, warmth, and infectious laughter created a welcoming home where everyone felt loved. She treasured the visits of her grandchildren, and her deep love and devotion for her family remained steadfast until her final days.

Claire is lovingly remembered by her children Paul (Jim Scavone), Denis (Pat Shier), Colette (Michael Hall), Adèle (John Scott), and Gisèle (Adrian Poirier); grandchildren Eric, Evan, Alex, Danièle, Nicole, Fred, Éric, Véronique, Jocelyne, Mikaël, Danika, Christian, Lévi, and Amélie; and great-grandchildren Jade, Briana, Liam, Lincoln, Valkyrie and Evelyn;

her brother Harvey Thibault, her in-laws Carol Thibault, Rita Hudon, and Aline and Phil Marion; and numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Robert Chalifour; her parents Ernest Thibault, Gertrude and Phil Lafrance; her sisters Yvette Schmaltz and Adrienne Johnson; her nephew Larry Schmaltz; her great-niece Nicole Rempel; her great-nephew Zachary Johnson; her parents-in-law Gédéon and Eva Chalifour; and her in-laws: Simone Chalifour, Léa Trépanier, Roy Johnson, Roger Hudon, and Alphonse Trépanier, and numerous extended family and friends.

A Funeral Mass celebrating Claire's life was held on Tuesday, July 29, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at Sainte-Thérèse-de-l'Enfant-Jésus Catholic Church in Leoville, Saskatchewan with Fr. Ramel Macapala officiating. Interment took place following mass.

Those wishing to view Claire's Funeral Mass can do so by following this link <https://youtu.be/Jg-fKytSJO9M?si=pQf9v->

*Vfl-wN47L3P.*

Claire's legacy of kindness, wisdom, and love will continue to inspire all who knew her. She will be profoundly missed and forever remembered.

The family wishes to express their heartfelt thanks to the incredibly caring staff and residents at Debden Heritage Manor, where Claire resided for the past two and a half years, and to the Parkland Integrated Health Centre in Shellbrook for their compassionate

palliative care. Special appreciation is also extended to Beau "Lac" Funeral Home for their thoughtful and supportive service. In lieu of flowers, donations in Claire's memory may be made to Debden Heritage Manor.

Condolences may be shared at [www.beaulacfuneralhome.com](http://www.beaulacfuneralhome.com). Arrangements have been entrusted to Beau "Lac" Funeral Home and Crematorium, R. Mark Muir, Funeral Director, Spiritwood, SK – (306) 883-3500.

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# THE CLASSIFIEDS

14 Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald

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August 14, 2025

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4½ Quarters (722 ac.) of G-VG Quality  
Farmland *Plus* yard site with older  
1.5 storey house

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Listed at **\$1,925,000**

*Tenders close August 29, 2025*

  
**Gerald Muller**  
FARMLAND SPECIALIST  
**306-570-7743**  
**C&C Realty**

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A big thank you  
to the Seniors Club  
of Shellbrook for  
helping celebrate  
my 91st birthday!

Special thanks  
to Bruce for the  
speech, to Ruth for  
making the cake,  
and to all who set  
up, cut the cake and  
washed dishes.  
That made my  
day.  
- Ray Peterson

Thank you from  
the family of  
Clarence Johnson  
– We would like  
to give thanks to  
all the family and  
friends who came  
to help us celebrate  
Clarence's life.  
Those who came  
from near and far,  
helped with the  
arrangements and  
gathering. Who  
took the time to  
share a story or  
laugh to help us  
remember that  
Clarence was a  
wonderful member  
of the community  
and was loved by  
all. The list is long  
of all the friends  
and family that  
stepped up to help  
when Clarence was  
ill and then to help  
us with his last  
wishes. He will be  
greatly missed by  
his family, friends,  
neighbours, dance  
partners and  
all whose life he  
touched. Thank you  
again for making  
Clarence a part of  
your lives.  
We will love you  
always Clarence.



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Zion - Canwood  
Sunday School,  
Worship Sunday, 11 a.m.  
(in-person only)  
St. John's - Shellbrook  
Sunday School,  
Worship Sunday, 9 a.m.  
(in-person and online  
via Facebook live)  
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  
Summer: 10 a.m. - Worship  
Pastor Bob Wrench  
306-468-2138  
Leask Gospel Tabernacle  
Sunday 11 a.m.  
Pastor Josh  
1-780-690-2100

#### 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 a.m.  
St. Andrew's - Shellbrook  
Sunday Service - 11 a.m.  
Joint H.C. Service  
June 29 - 11am - St. Andrew's  
Archdeacon Andrew Hoskin  
Minister's Warden:  
306-922-5159

#### EVANGELICAL FREE

Big River  
10:00 a.m. - Worship  
Bible Classes resume  
in the fall  
306-469-2258  
Youth Nite:  
Fridays at 7 p.m.  
Mont Nebo  
Sun. Worship - 11:00 a.m.  
(10:30 a.m. June – August)  
306-468-2525

#### IMMANUEL LUTHERAN

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(in-person and online  
via Facebook Live)  
10 a.m. - Sunday School

#### PRESBYTERIAN

Mistawasis  
Sunday worship  
11:00 a.m.  
Rev. Stewart Folster

#### CATHOLIC CHURCH

Debden  
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.  
St. Henry's - Leask  
Mass - Sunday 11 a.m.  
Mistawasis  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays 1:30 p.m.  
Fr. Tuan Doan

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306-747-3398

## PRAISE & WORSHIP

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Spiritwood  
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Rev. Sarah Urano

#### UNITED /ANGLICAN

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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. Ramel Macapala

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Spiritwood  
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Spiritwood Legion Hall  
Pastor Rick Martin

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Glenbush (May thru Sept)  
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Rabbit Lake Mennonite  
Church (June thru Sept)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday - 10 am Worship

#### BETHEL

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

#### MENNONITE BRETHREN

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

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#### PARTNERS IN WORSHIP

Shell Lake  
Worship Services  
Sunday 11:00 a.m.  
Pastor Sarah Urano  
306-841-7333

#### LAKELAND

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

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# Shellbrook Library activity highlights

By **EDDIE HOEHN**  
*Branch Librarian*

July was a busy month for the library. Participants enjoyed attending the Virtual Reality Program on Monday July 7. They explored polar areas, deserts, tundra areas, rain forests, evergreen forests, oceans/underwater, the Great Barrier Reef, grasslands, and the Milky Way galaxy. Raelyn Vezeau from Wapiti Regional Office in Prince Albert brought virtual reality headsets to the library and ran the program. She talked about celestial objects like stars, moons, comets, galaxy, and underwater like salt and fresh water and creatures as well as caves.

On Monday July 21, participants had fun at the 3D Pens Program. The kids used 3D printing pens to make 3D projects and drawings on paper. They built boxes and towers and created paintings and different objects. Raelyn Vezeau from Wapiti Regional Office brought the pens to the library and ran the program. Participants had lots of fun at the Ozobots Program on Monday, July 28. Raelyn Vezeau from Wapiti Regional Office brought the robots to the library and ran the program. The kids drew paths and mazes on paper with different coloured markers. Raelyn had a list of colour codes to make the robots do different things.

The robots moved along the paths and read the colour — the light on the robot changed to the colour that the robot was on in the path. The kids were excited to participate in some geographic creations at Lego Club in July. They created a map of the world or a map of choice as well as miniature versions of Malbork Castle, the largest castle in the world by land area. Other creations included a beach scene or item of choice. Volunteer Marlene Fellows and volunteer and local library board member Samuel Schafer helped run Lego Club. In July, participants enjoyed attending Possum, Author Margy Reid, Travel Around

the World, and Canada Storytimes. Volunteer Marj Bradley presented Margy Reid Storytime, while Raelyn Vezeau presented Travel and Canada Storytimes. The kids were excited to make a picture of a crazy day or a picture of themselves in Magic clothes on cardstock for Margy Reid Storytime. They were pleased to participate in a scavenger hunt to find pictures of animals and Canadian objects like hockey sticks for Canada Storytime, as well as play “Pilot Says”, similar to “Simon Says” for Travel Storytime.

The library hosted a Guess the Book Contest for the month of July, where participants needed to guess the correct book from a quote in order to win. Raelynn Klumpenhower won the contest with the correct book being “Oh, the Places You’ll Go” by Dr. Seuss. Raelynn won a \$10.00 gift certificate donated by Prairie Homestyle Bakery and a prize of choice from the library. The library is participating in regular weekly draws at the local level for TD Summer Reading Club winners. Dawson Naber, Wyatt Naber, Wesley Naber, Elijah Klumpenhower, and Drohnen Schafer won the draws.



Dawson works with Ozobots.

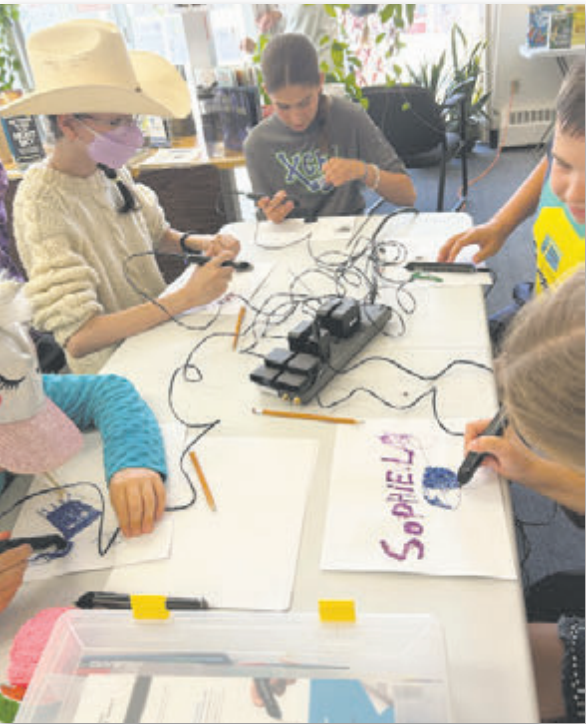


Mindy Cobb tries out the VR headsets with Tristan and Layne (in back) and Shayla.



Ember and Drohnen show off their Northern Lights pictures from Canada Storytime.

## Spiritwood Library activity highlights



The Spiritwood Public Library was lucky to have Lindsay Baker from Wapiti Headquarters provide a program for the Kids. She brought with her two sets of 3-D pens. The chairs were all full and the kids were so quiet, concentrating on their creations. Fun for all and there were very interesting designs, some of which were dinosaurs, winged dinosaurs, a Star Wars Lightsaber, an orange melon, and a rose. Definitely a program to have again soon.

By **HEATHER GATZKE**, *Branch Librarian*



Tiree shows off his custom build from Lego Club.