



Thickwood Hills Studio Trail celebrates 26 years



A young visitor creates her own custom totem with help from Mom and Dad at Spirit Studio.

By **BEVRA FEE**
Spiritwood Herald Reporter

All gravel roads led to an art studio throughout portions of three rural municipalities on the weekend of Aug. 8 and 9.

Located in the area known as Thickwood Hills, the popular self-guided art tour offered a full slate of nearly 20 stops on the map. The two-day trail saw near-perfect weather conditions for ambling around the countryside, with clear skies and moderate temperatures.

The idyllic scenery of the grid roads and narrow lanes was an artful backdrop for the trail, with groupings of studios making the miles rewarding

upon arrival at any and all of the studios.

Much of the natural beauty of the Thickwood Hills area was reflected in the various artwork and artisanal creations, with paintings inspired by the local vistas and soaps containing spruce tips gathered from the land.

Clustered in the Pebble Baye community at Iroquois Lake were Studios 2, 4, 6, 9 and 10. Number 2, Skipping Stone Studio, offered a vast array of quilted items of all sizes and patterns.

Situated on the shore of the lake, Colleen Teague's exhibit of award-winning quilts filled more than one room and spilled outside to the deck. An added delight at Skip-

ping Stone Studio was the gourmet cookie dippers for sale as a fundraiser for a high school travel club.

Northern Sky Studio was stop number four on the trail. Hosted by Annette Henbig, Northern Sky presented works in watercolour, oil, acrylic, ink, and charcoal. The vibrant prairie landscape depictions were complimented by the hand-knit shawls and practical felted wool mittens, socks and slippers.

Still at Pebble Baye and down the lane at Spirit Studio, unique ceramics by Theresa Fisher provided a hands-on experience for visitors to create their own "spirit totem." From the tables under tents to the deck of the lake home, Fisher arranged

her many decorative and functional pieces around the trickling waterfall of a peaceful fountain for a peaceful studio experience true to her artistic vibe.

Pebble Baye is a hub for artisans, and the mother-daughter duo of Dawna Karalash and Anna Tataryn added an exquisite stop in studio number 9, Pebble Baye Soap Co. Softly fragrant soaps, foot combo scrub & balm, bath salts with uplifting scents — all taken from nature and inspired by their lake surroundings. The cold-pressed soaps provide a vegan-friendly and bio-degradable product and are noted for being gentle and free of chemicals.

Continued on page 8



SPIRITWOOD

PHARMACY GROCERY

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

Parkland Wildcats compete at U15 Nationals

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The Shell Lake area’s U15 Parkland Wildcats were one of two teams representing Saskatchewan at the 2026 U15 Men’s Canadian Championship in Surrey, B.C, from Aug. 5 to 9.

This year marked the team’s debut on the Nationals stage, and Dillan Simonar, one of the Parkland Provincial Softball programs founders, was hoping to see the team put in seven good innings of ball in every game, and match their tough opponents from Ontario, Newfoundland,

and Québec in pitching and hitting.

As the Wildcats hit the diamonds on day one of the tournament, they lived up to these hopes, topping Ontario’s Tara Twins and Elmira Heat by scores of 6-5 and 7-6, respectively, to end the day with a 2-0 record.

The competition heated up on day two, as the Wildcats were pitted against eventual tournament winners Équipe Québec and fell by a score of 8-1. Their next game saw them face off against their Saskatchewan rivals, the Prince Albert Astros.

Following a Provincials tourna-

ment that saw the Wildcats claim silver while the Astros won gold, Simonar said the Astros just “had our number” all season. Unfortunately, this held true at Nationals, as the Astros soared to a 4-1 win.

With a 2-2 record going into day three, the Wildcats hit another wall in eventual silver medallists, Team Newfoundland, and were downed 12-2. Facing Ontario’s top-seeded Napanee Express later in the day, the Wildcats saw a resurgence at the plate, but fell just short by a score of 5-4.

Sitting at 2-4 as the playoffs got

under way on day four, the Wildcats needed a win to stay alive. To do so, however, they had to overcome the Prince Albert Astros. In the end, the Astros had the Wildcats’ number again, winning by a score of 4-1.

Despite the early end to their season, the Wildcats didn’t come home empty-handed. First-year pitcher Jaron Ens was named the All-Star Pitcher of the tournament, having recorded 31 strikeouts and a 3.86 ERA (earned run average) in his plate appearances (these figures didn’t include the 12 strikeouts he added in the team’s final game against the Astros).



The U15 Parkland Wildcats competed at U15 Nationals in Surrey, B.C., from Aug. 5 to 9.



First-year pitcher Jaron Ens was named All-Star Pitcher of the tournament at U15 Nationals.

Shellbrook golf tournament raises \$7,500 for Lung Sask.

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

A golf tournament hosted at the Hidden Hills of Shellbrook Golf Course continues to help Saskatchewanians breathe a little easier.

After being diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis in 2016, and receiving a life-saving double lung transplant in 2020, Shellbrook’s Ralph Harris very quickly decided that he would use his brand-new lease on life to find ways to help others who may be living through a similar experience to him.

This mission led him to become an ambassador for Lung Saskatchewan, a charitable organization that promotes lung health, funds lung health research, and provides financial supports to people like him who need lung transplants.

And soon after, with the hard work of Harris and his family, the Hidden Hills of

Shellbrook Golf Course hosted its first golf tournament for Lung Saskatchewan.

“I wanted to give back to the community, and this golf tournament is one way we can do that while showing our support for others facing lung dis-

ease,” Harris said. “Lung Saskatchewan and Caring Breaths were there for my family when we needed them most, and I want to help give others that same chance.”

Now in its fourth year, the tournament has raised

\$34,000. This includes the \$7,500 raised at this year’s rendition, which saw 22 teams of four putt and drive their way through 18 holes.

The tournament is played in a simple four-person best ball format, with prizes for the

team with the lowest score and the highest score.

Harris says this format ensures the tournament is open to players of all skill levels, and keeps the emphasis on having a good time.

In addition to the day of golf, this year’s tournament included a live and silent auction and a 50/50 draw. Though they went unclaimed, there were also two hole-in-one prizes: \$10,000 in cash and a quad.

“Ralph’s commitment means so much to Lung Saskatchewan,” said Dave Parkalub, Community Engagement Manager at Lung Saskatchewan.

“He has transformed his own lung health journey into hope for others. Through this tournament, Ralph has inspired a community to come together in support of people living with lung disease, helping us continue our mission to improve lung health, one breath at a time.”



This year’s Lung Sask. Golf Tournament raised \$7,500. Pictured, left to right: Adam Harris, Ralph Harris, and Lung Sask.’s Erica England and Dave Parkalub.



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FRI., AUGUST 14TH, 2026
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Awards Ceremony @ 5:30 p.m.
(Canteen on site)
Entries will be accepted on Thursday, August 13th, 2026 from 2 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
For more information call **Megan Wasden @ 306-883-7202**

Shellbrook Martial Arts
(Tae Kwon Do & Kickboxing)
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Sat., August 29, 2026 – 7 PM
Shellbrook Legion Hall (102 2nd Ave East)
Registration Fee:
\$15 per person
Contact: Laura Lee Hatch
(306) 747-5976



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Three arrested in SLFN robbery

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

Police arrested three people in connection with a robbery on the Sturgeon Lake First Nation (SLFN).

On Tuesday, Aug. 4, at around 4:30 p.m., the Prince Albert RCMP Detachment received a report about the incident and officers were dispatched. Initial investigation determined that a male approached two individuals, threatened them with a firearm and stole their truck.

The victims did not report physical injuries to police.

Officers began patrolling for the suspect and located the stolen truck on Highway #355. They attempted a traffic stop. The stolen truck did not stop and continued on at a high rate of speed into oncoming traffic, forcing other motorists and the responding officers to take evasive action.

Officers set up a tire deflation device, which the stolen truck drove over. It continued on for several minutes, despite having damaged tires, until it came to a stop on Sturgeon Lake Road.

The male driver, who was holding a firearm, fled on foot. He discharged the firearm into the air as he fled.

There were two female passengers in the stolen truck. One of them got into the driver's seat and attempted fleeing. The truck came to a stop at a nearby beach. The females attempted to flee by swimming away from police. The officers got in the water and arrested them.

Saskatchewan RCMP's Critical Incident Response Team, Police Dog Services and Remotely Piloted Aircraft System were engaged to contain the area help search for the male.

He was located hiding in a swamp. A sawed-off firearm was also located and seized nearby.

As a result of continued investigation, 21-year-old Thoren Daniels from SLFN is charged with: one count each of robbery, pointing a firearm, dangerous operation of a motor vehicle, flight from a peace officer, resisting a peace officer, failure to stop after an accident, possession of a firearm in a motor vehicle, unauthorized possession of a firearm, unsafe storage of a firearm, carrying a concealed weapon, possession of a firearm while knowing its possession is unauthorized, and possession of a prohibited weapon and ammunition without license or registration.

Daniels was also charged with two counts of possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose, and six counts of possession of a weapon contrary to order.

He was also arrested on an outstanding warrant from the Prince Albert RCMP.

Elsewhere, 29-year-old Keanna Knife from Prince Albert and 21-year-old Savanna Mickelson from Saskatoon are both charged with: two counts of possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose, and one count each of robbery, resisting a peace officer, possession of a prohibited weapon and ammunition without license or registration, possession of a firearm in a motor vehicle, and unauthorized possession of a firearm.

Knife faces additional charges of failing to comply with an undertaking and flight from a peace officer, and was also arrested on an outstanding warrant from the Prince Albert RCMP.

All three accused were scheduled to appear in Prince Albert Provincial Court on Thursday, Aug. 6.

Ahtahkakoop Homicide

Saskatchewan's Homicide Investigation Unit (HIU) is investigating human remains

discovered after a house fire on the Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation.

The residential fire was reported to the Ahtahkakoop RCMP the morning of Sunday, July 26, and the remains were located by the fire scene investigator after the fire was extinguished.

Subsequent investigation, in coordination with the Saskatchewan Coroners Service, determined the death was suspicious in nature. Investigators continue to work with the Saskatchewan Coroners Service to confirm the identity of the deceased.

Investigators are asking anyone with information about this incident to report it to police by calling 310-RCMP. Information can also be submitted anonymously by contacting Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or www.saskcrimestoppers.com.

Police are unable to provide additional information about this investigation at this time. Updates will be provided when available. If an imminent risk to public safety is identified, police will notify the public.

Scam targets trucking companies

The Saskatchewan RCMP's Central District General Investigation Section (GIS) is warning the public, specifically the heavy-duty trucking and transportation sector, of a large-scale fraud where fraudsters purchase truck tires and other items with fraudulent credit cards over the phone.

In March 2026, the GIS launched an investigation into a series of fraud-related occurrences throughout the province. The businesses that are impacted are generally operating in the supply of heavy-duty trucking and transportation services – including, but not limited to, automotive suppliers, tire shops, and fuel distributors.

Investigation determined that these businesses received phone calls from individuals interested in purchasing tires, engine oil, and/or trailer parts.

The caller would provide credit card information over the phone, with the transaction showing to be approved and pending. Businesses would then ship the materials by a courier. After the items were shipped, the credit card would be declined, and no payment would be received.

Investigators have determined that 12 local businesses within Saskatchewan's heavy-duty trucking and transportation sector have been impacted by this fraud.

No charges have been laid in connection with this investigation yet.

The investigation extends across provincial borders, with other related incidents having been identified throughout Western Canada. The GIS continues its investigation

and is collaborating with other police jurisdictions to advance the investigation.

Anyone who believes they are a victim of a crime of this nature is asked to report it to their local RCMP detachment by calling 310-RCMP (7267), if residing in Saskatchewan, or their local police service immediately. Information can also be submitted anonymously by contacting

Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or www.saskcrimestoppers.com.

Although victims identified in this fraud are primarily from the heavy-duty trucking and transportation sector, businesses in other sectors may also be targeted and should familiarize themselves with the characteristics of this type of fraudulent activity.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

RM OF SHELLBROOK NO. 493
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The RM of Shellbrook No. 493 is seeking a **Part-Time Administrative Assistant**. Hours and start date are negotiable. Wage based on experience. Benefits and employer matched pension included.

Duties: Customer Service; Correspondence; Filing; Data Entry; AP/AR; Bank Recs; Deposits; Payroll; Remittances; Permits; Assessment Roll Updates; Registries; Council Package Prep; Minute Taking; Website Updates; Records Management; Other duties as assigned.

Qualifications: Strong communication and organization; Microsoft 365 proficiency; Attention to detail; Ability to meet deadlines; Municipal experience an asset; Bondable; Able to pass a criminal record check; Professionalism and confidentiality.

Submit cover letter, resume, two references, anticipated start date, and wage expectations **by August 27th** to:
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Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald

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Ugly U.S. politics have no place in Canada

Being a journalist in the digital age often means spending an inordinate amount of time scouring social media for news leads.

As with everything else on the internet, social media platforms like Facebook thrive on the currency that is our personal data. They then use the data we've willingly (or sometimes unwittingly) surrendered to generate personalized algorithms aimed at keeping us coming back for more content.

While these algorithms reveal much about us – our likes and dislikes, and even our personal beliefs and values – there are also clear patterns to discern in the algorithms themselves. This is especially true when it comes to political commentary.

Over the past year or so, for instance, Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre and his team have ramped up their Facebook presence considerably, and fallen into a rather predictable pattern of choosing a weekly issue and blasting it as loud and as often as possible.

Often, it's difficult to tell where the torrent of posts begins. But the flood becomes impossible to ignore when one sees post upon post from multiple MPs with almost the exact same wording.

One exception to this general pattern occurred near the end of July. Instead of beginning the campaign of the week on Facebook, Bowmanville-Oshawa North MP Jamil Jivani leveraged his long-standing ties with the *National Post* to pen an op-ed titled "Does Mark Carney want to lead the U.S. Democratic Party?"

Mr. Jivani's thesis was simple: Mr. Carney's meetings with American Democratic politicians amid a strained relationship with U.S. President Donald Trump are proof that he's "playing American politics" and not putting the interests of Canadians first.

In the op-ed, Mr. Jivani criticized



JORDAN
TWISS

~
News Editor

Mr. Carney's decisions to sign a trade deal with China and antagonize Mr. Trump, as he did during his Davos speech in January, and raised a valid question about the hiring of an American to the newly created role of COO of the Prime Minister's Office.

Mr. Jivani then went on to frame Mr. Carney's meetings with Democrats negatively through the lens of a *Politico* headline: "The 2028 Dems' shadow Mark Carney primary heats up."

"Canadians should naturally wonder, how do any of these decisions help our country?" Mr. Jivani posited.

Certainly, Canadians should want answers to this question. And Mr. Jivani could have provided them, if he'd bothered to cite the article, rather than just the headline.

For instance, one of the meetings Mr. Jivani criticized occurred at a Canada-U.S. Summit hosted in Toronto and was with sitting Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro.

As Mr. Shapiro explained, Canada and Pennsylvania do about \$14 billion in trade each year, and the state had recently signed an MOU with Ontario. Fittingly, their discussion focused on "the relationship between Pennsylvania and Canada, which includes high levels of collaboration in various sectors, including energy infrastructure, critical minerals, manufacturing, and life sciences."

"I thought his middle powers speech really was important, and while I know Canada is looking to work around Donald Trump and his administration, we did discuss ways that we could partner together to strengthen the economy of both Canada and Pennsylvania," Mr. Shapiro said.

This contrasts starkly with the tone of Mr. Jivani's trip to Washington to visit his long-time friend, Vice President J.D. Vance, earlier this year, which concluded with him accusing Canadians of throwing an



"anti-American hissy fit" over Mr. Trump's threats to Canada's economy and sovereignty.

Blind to their own hypocrisy, Mr. Jivani's fellow Conservatives took up his claim that Mr. Carney is "playing American politics" and parroted it ad nauseum on social media.

It's all quite rich, coming from a party with a leader that has been criticized by some Conservatives for sounding "too Trumpy."

At the Calgary Stampede in July, Mr. Poilievre even plagiarized U.S. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth, calling for Canada's military to be instilled with a "warrior culture" rather than a "woke culture."

And like Mr. Trump, Mr. Poilievre has mastered the art of giving his supporters someone to hate and blame for their misfortunes.

Sometimes it's so-called Liberal Elites or something "woke" or "DEI."

At other times it's "big city gatekeepers" or the "bought and paid for Liberal mainstream media."

And whether it's affordable housing, jobs, or healthcare, immigrants can almost always be blamed in some way.

Last year, Mr. Poilievre railed against temporary foreign workers, accusing them of "stealing jobs" from young Canadians (even as research suggested that young Canadians

don't want the jobs these workers are taking).

And late last week, when it was announced that the federal government had restored temporary healthcare coverage for refugees and asylum claimants waiting to be accepted on provincial health plans, Conservatives decried it as "luxury benefits for bogus asylum claimants."

There's nothing wrong with wanting the healthcare needs of Canadians to be prioritized. But suggesting that the only way to do so is to cut supports for vulnerable people (for paltry savings of \$1 billion per year) is disingenuous at best.

These aren't just isolated incidents or coincidences. At almost every opportunity, Mr. Poilievre and his party choose to echo Mr. Trump's rhetoric or policies.

And there are more examples still to come, such as Niagara West MP Dean Allison's "Allison Inquiry" – an attempt to relitigate the COVID-19 pandemic that will likely become a partisan airing of grievances rather than a legitimate effort to improve future pandemic responses.

In all this, however, Conservatives are right about one thing: Canada shouldn't be importing or playing American politics.

Perhaps they should begin by cleaning out their own house.

Shellbrook Chronicle

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Spiritwood Herald

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Shell Lake Mud Bogs draws huge fan base

By **BEVRA FEE**
Spiritwood Herald
Reporter

This story could also be titled “I’m Red-necker Than You,” or “Things I Would Never do to my 1969 Chevy,” or perhaps “Say, Can I Borrow Your Tide Stick.”

The relatively new Shell Lake Mud Bogs event has been picking up speed (pun intended) over the past several years and shows no signs of powering out (another pun intended). The Mud Bog competition is hosted by the Reed family on their property wedged between Highway 12 and Highway 3, just a little bit south of Shell Lake on Saturday, Aug. 8.

The mud bog itself is a low-down bowl that is surrounded by hills.

The hills provide a natural viewpoint for the more than 1,000 spectators of all ages. While kids dig for money in the sand pile and run around with grandparents or parents, sun-parched throngs line up at the lemonade stand hosted by three youth of the Reed family.

Remi Reed, the lemonade stand spokesperson, declared that the kiosk was nearly out of ice cubes as of 2 p.m., and she fully expected to achieve a lemonade sell-out before the last mud was flung from the bog. When asked how many lemonades had crossed the counter, Reed gave the official tally at “lots.”

Face painting was also a popular draw for the kiddies, helping to keep the younger set entertained during the

intermissions and the “rescue” delays. But when the mudders were spinning and roaring into and through and across the boggy track, all eyes were cast upon the action.

Over a sea of Harley Davidson tee shirts and cowboy hats, one could see a fine display of redneck power rattling against the playlist of AC/DC and KISS blaring from the sound booth. Baby boomers cringed and Gen Xers stared at the melee expressionless (but amused) as the rowdy Millennials put their hopped-up trucks through absolute abuse in their attempts to traverse the mud track in the best timed run their spinning, oversized tires could provide.

While sharing ditch stories from the 80s,



Not sure what it is, but it was built to go through mud fast.

Cal Robinson acknowledged that while he values his toys too much to register any of them in the senseless adventure, “We were these kids at one time.”

This reporter noted that every Millennial offspring of the Robinson clan was on hand, as were the Robinson clan grandkids (I wonder what their generation will be called when they are floating their trucks into the mud in a decade or so).

Now, what do you think all those Harley Davidson tee shirt-clad rednecks would want to see almost as much as the sky-high mud flinging? Yes, they want to see burnouts. Much to the joy of Blaine Lake Tire’s owner, Wade Fiala (who also claimed to work too hard for his toys to be entered in the mudding), there was a handy little concrete pad to which red-

neck Millennials could anchor their truck and then commence flooring the machine until the tires eventually peeled off amidst an impressive display of burning-rubber-smoke.

To his credit, Fiala was a major sponsor.

Can girls be rednecks too? They sure can, so a Ladies Division is available for them to enter the mud bogging for one run. Don’t

start with the gender preaching — the ladies can also run trucks in the main event if they choose.

For those ladies without a truck, fear not — there was still a chance to win. Jewellery was buried in the mud for the annual jewellery dive!

Honestly, there is not enough Tide Stick in the world to make this make sense.



Taylor Reed shows what not to do to with a ‘69 Chevy.



Digging for cash drew its own crowd.



Sunny weather requires lemonade.



Zevan Cross gets the cue to enter the track.



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Op-ed: Canada Post shouldn’t compete with community newspapers

BY PAUL DEEGAN
News Media Canada

The shuttering of Winnipeg’s Community Review means 200,000 households will no longer get the benefit of a free community newspaper delivered to their door. It also means that more than 800 people who deliver the paper and their families will be affected.

This is an unforced error that never should have happened. How did we get here? The answer is complex.

First, there is a high degree of concentration in the flyer printing market in Canada. Montreal-based TC Transcontinental enjoys the dominant position in the marketplace thanks, in part, to a 2012 Competition Bureau-approved asset swap.

Second, municipal and provincial politicians have passed environmental regulations, however well-intentioned, that have unintended consequences. Former Montreal Mayor Valérie Plan-

te passed a municipal bylaw that led to the end of distribution of Publisac (a plastic bag with flyers and a community newspaper). Several provinces, including Manitoba, have imposed extended producer responsibility levies on printed newspapers. Ontario’s Premier Doug Ford made the wise decision to exempt newspapers from this kind of stealthy journalism job-killing tax in his province.

Third, Canada Post is the biggest culprit. TC Transcontinental, which had distributed Publisac door-to-door in Quebec, formed a strategic partnership with Canada Post, which as a Crown corporation was not beholden to municipal bylaws. They bypassed Mayor Plante’s new regulation by distributing a curated bundle of flyers called Raddar through the national postal service. Unlike Publisac, Raddar did not include a community newspaper. On the sidelines of this saga, news publisher Métro Média and its more than 30 hy-

perlocal publications — including 17 print newspapers — shut down.

In partnership with Canada Post, TC Transcontinental recently expanded its Raddar offering across Canada. It is understood that Canada Post — which has a mandate to “charge postage rates that are fair and reasonable” — is offering TC Transcontinental rates below what it is offering to community newspapers. To its own benefit, the Crown corporation has effectively shut community newspapers — their private sector rivals — out of flyer distribution, lessening competition substantially in that market.

This is not the first time community newspaper publishers have felt the squeeze of Canada Post in the flyer distribution market. As of January 2024, community newspapers with commercial inserts were no longer exempt from Canada Post’s Consumers’ Choice program, which allows Canadians to opt out of receiving ‘junk mail’. Canada Post made that decision without stakeholder consultation or economic/social impact analysis and failed to recognize that community newspapers — with or without an insert — are not ‘junk mail’; they are a social good.

The juxtaposition of the shuttering of Winnipeg’s Community Review at the same time as the revelation of \$30.8 million in bonuses at Canada Post has not been lost on community newspaper publishers across Canada.

What should Ottawa do about it?

First, Joël Lightbound, the Minister responsible for Canada Post, should ensure the Crown corporation is treating community newspapers fairly and offering them comparable pricing to what it offers to TC Transcontinental.

Second, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage should conduct hearings into

the role Canada Post can play in the sustainability of community newspapers — ensuring the relationship is one of partnership, rather than predatory and parasitic.

When a community loses a newspaper, like Winnipeg’s Community Review or Métro Média’s publications in Quebec, the information vacuum can lead to people getting their news from less than reliable sources — like AI and social media — which can create division that drives people apart. Without a check on local government, corruption, mismanagement, and wasteful spending often flourish, which can result in higher municipal taxes and borrowing costs.

It was not foreign Big Tech monopolists like Google and Meta that caused Manitoba’s largest community newspaper to shutter. It was Canada Post.

And it’s not like we weren’t warned...

Thirty years ago, in his review of Canada Post’s mandate, George Radwanski recommended that postal service get out of delivering unaddressed junk mail (i.e., flyers), concluding that the Crown corporation engaged in inappropriate practices that created unfair competition for private businesses like community newspapers.

As a former Toronto Star editor-in-chief, Radwanski knew the news business. He noted that Canada Post was actively siphoning advertising revenue away from the news industry and adroitly cautioned that the state-granted mail delivery monopoly should not be in the business of crippling the financial health of newspapers.

A healthy democracy demands a healthy community news media ecosystem. Let’s level the playing field and restore competition in the flyer distribution market before more community newspapers shutter.

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

~

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

~

BIG RIVER: Mark your calendar for the 20th Annual Northern Lights Bluegrass and Old Tyme Music Camp (Aug 10-14) and Festival (Aug 14-16) at beautiful Ness Creek. The Mainstage includes Virginia’s New Floyd County Ramblers and local favourite Jake Vaadeland, with daytime workshops, nightly dances and campfire jams. Get ready for a magical, musical ring-dang-do, we’ve got 20 years of bluegrass and old time to be celebrating this Summer... Learn more at northernlights-bluegrass.com.
SPIRITWOOD: Spiritwood Horticulture Society Annual Show – Friday, August 14, 2026 @ Spiritwood Civic Centre. Doors open to the public @ 2pm; Awards Ceremony @ 5:30pm. Canteen on site. *Entries will be accepted on Thurs., Aug. 13 from 2pm - 7:30pm* For more information call Megan Wasden @ 306-883-7202.

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YOUR TWO CENTS

Who pays for AI’s energy binge?

Dear editor,

Have you noticed your browser defaults to AI-generated overviews before search results? Convenient, perhaps, but convenience has a cost — one we’ve seen before with single-use plastics and disposable products.

What’s the environmental price of default AI?

I tested this myself. I asked an AI: “In 30 words, why do AI data centres require so much energy?”

Its answer: “AI data centers require immense energy because training large neural networks needs trillions of calculations. Running inference on thousands of GPUs, each using 300-700W,

plus cooling, drives huge power consumption.”

My question consumed 900 billion floating-point operations.

Here’s the stark reality: A Google search uses ~0.3 Wh (watt hours). A 100-word AI answer uses ~3 Wh, 10 times more energy. With 16 billion Google searches daily, the potential waste is staggering.

For Saskatchewan, this isn’t just theoretical. It’s a direct strain on our grid. Such waste is the last thing we need when facing the cost of coal plant refurbishment and small modular nuclear reactors. (Energy conservation, efficiency measures, and/or renewables could delay or

even eliminate the need for both.)

This isn’t about rejecting AI. It’s about rejecting waste. Big Tech is normalizing energy-intensive defaults without our consent.

You can act now. Install a “Disable AI” browser extension and bookmark AI tools for when you actually need them. But individual action isn’t enough.

Canada must act. Sign the AI data centre petition at ourcommons.ca/petitions/en/Petition/Sign/e-7550.

Demand your MP stop the waste. Tell your MLA to push Ottawa.

Nancy Carswell, Shellbrook, Sask.

Municipalities could play key role in food security

As often happens, at a recent interview on only a tangentially-related topic, the conversation turned to a discussion about food security.

The subject of the talk was how important it is at present to focus attention on personal and community security because culturally we have lost a great deal of our food knowledge.

It is certainly apparent that many people are struggling to put food on the table each day.

Even in a culturally-rural, small city such as Yorkton, food bank demand is growing. We

know for example the annual demand for Salvation Army Christmas hampers has trended upwards for a few years now.

Bottom line: even in Saskatchewan, with its thousands of acres of land capable of growing food, some people still go to bed hungry.

Next, sit at a local coffee shop and it likely won't take long to overhear someone lamenting to the cost of food at the grocery store.

While food costs have obviously spiked upwards, if you were to spend some time driving



CALVIN DANIELS

back alleys in the city you would find that gardens growing vegetables are rare — certainly far fewer than when I arrived here as a journalist four decades ago. Losing interest in a backyard garden is part of the food security that came up at the inter-

view.

With fewer gardens, the demand for deep freezers also declines. Now, they're nearly a special-order appliance.

And one wonders if a person were given a garden plot and had the opportunity to grow food, do they have the knowledge to can, pickle, freeze and store what they grow?

Of course, the first step in the process of food security is access to food, and one wonders if municipalities don't have a bigger role they might play.

Certainly, municipal leaders will say food isn't

their responsibility, but could it be?

Is it better to invest millions in a golf course or upgrading an ice arena, or do we need to see a direction change to more core needs like food?

Many urban communities own undeveloped land. Sometimes they offer that land as a base for community fundraising initiatives, but why not some for larger scale gardens?

And just maybe some of the homeless and unemployed in a community could work the garden.

Could the municipality then build a 'locker box'

freezer facility where residents could securely store food harvested from the garden?

Then why not dream bigger, and suddenly have a large free-range flock of chickens for community eggs, turkeys for Christmas dinner, hives of bees for honey, all owned and operated by the community through the municipality.

Would that be a better investment for taxpayer dollars?

A question worthy of greater thought and discussion against a growing disconnect for people and their food source.

Crop Report: July 28 to Aug. 3

By MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

Submitted

Crops rapidly developed due to warm temperatures and dry conditions in many areas across the province this week. Early-seeded crops are nearing maturity in many areas, and rain likely would not benefit these crops. However, producers in other areas are hoping for rain soon to help with grain fill in later-seeded crops.

While scattered showers brought limited moisture in some regions, most received no precipitation. The Mildred area received the most rainfall with 31 millimetres (mm), followed by the Beaver River area with 28 mm and the Invermay area with 20 mm.

Despite the lack of rainfall, topsoil moisture is rated as adequate for over half of the province.

The hot and dry weather conditions have accelerated crop development, with most crops being rated as normal for this time of year.

The dry conditions for much of the season in certain areas have led to some producers starting to harvest early-seeded crops and winter cereals. Provincially, harvest is two per cent complete with most of this progress occurring in the southwest.

Many pastures are in good to fair condition, but a small portion is rated as in poor condition due to limited precipitation in certain areas. Currently, six per cent of pastures are in excellent condition, 53 per cent are good, 33 per cent are fair, seven per cent are poor, and one per cent is in very poor condition.

Crop damage was reported in areas experiencing hot temperatures paired with dry conditions, with some areas reporting minor to moderate damage. There were also reports of wind, grasshoppers and bertha armyworms causing minor crop damage in

certain areas.

As producers prepare for and begin harvest, there will be increased farm equipment traffic on public roadways. Drivers are reminded to have extra 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 precautions to mitigate fire risk and ensure harvest efforts are conducted safely.

For crop or livestock questions, producers are encouraged to call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre toll free at 1-866-457-2377.

This can be a stressful time of year for producers as weather conditions can be unpredictable. The Farm Stress Line can help by providing support for producers toll free at 1-800-667-4442.

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

RCMP raises alarm about impaired driving

By JORDAN TWISS

Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Last year saw the highest number of serious and fatal motor vehicle collisions involving impairment by alcohol and/or drugs in the past 10 years, according to annual statistics released by the Saskatchewan RCMP.

All told, there were 113 impaired driving accidents through 2025. Additionally, police laid 1,650 criminal code charges for impaired driving and suspended the licenses of 2,270 drivers for having consumed alcohol or drugs prior to driving.

These statistics don't include collisions that occurred in other police service jurisdictions, on private properties, off roads, or that are the result of medical emergencies.

"There has been a steady upward trend since 2016, when Saskatchewan RCMP responded to 58 serious and fatal motor-vehicle collisions involving impairment," said Superintendent Grant St. Germaine, officer in charge of Saskatchewan RCMP Traffic Services.

"The Saskatchewan RCMP will continue

working to remove impaired drivers from our roads, but we also need people to start making safer choices."

Saskatchewan RCMP officers have been working to reduce impaired driving across the province by conducting motor vehicle check stops, leading proactive road safety initiatives, carrying out daily patrols, and organizing educational events.

To this end, they remind motorists of the following:

- Give yourself time to get where you are going. This prevents speeding and ensures you are focused on road safety. Posted speed limits are maximum speeds during ideal conditions (dry roads, clear visibility). Vehicle type, condition, and whether or not you are towing anything can affect the speed at which you can safely travel.
- Always ensure everyone in your vehicle is wearing a seatbelt.
- Keep your phone out of reach. In Saskatchewan, using a hand-held cellphone while driving is prohibited for making or receiving phone calls; sending, receiving or reading text messages and emails; surfing the internet; and using "push-to-

talk" technology. Also be mindful that other things, such as eating/drinking, conversations with passengers and pets, can be distracting. Give your full attention to the task at hand: driving safely.

• If you — or your guests — will be consuming products which result in impairment, such as alcohol or cannabis, have a designated driver assigned, or plan to take a cab or transit. If no safe ride is available, stay the night and drive only when sober. Don't take a chance. If you question whether you're "too impaired to drive or not", you likely are.

• If you see a suspected impaired driver, pull over and immediately call 911. Signs of a possible impaired driver include: lane drifting; driving too fast, slow or at an inconsistent speed; not using proper signals; making very wide turns; approaching and leaving intersections too slowly or quickly; driving without headlights; and leaving high beams or turn signals on.

Police aren't just reminding people to be safer on Saskatchewan's roads.

After a one-day patrol at Last Mountain Lake on July 25 resulted in officers dumping more than 100 containers of

alcohol and issuing seven tickets, the Saskatchewan RCMP is also warning people to boat more safely as well.

Officers remind watercraft operators that impairment — whether it be from alcohol, cannabis, or other intoxicants — is punishable under the Criminal Code. Furthermore, it is prohibited to have open alcohol on a watercraft.

"A day on the lake may feel more relaxed than a drive on the road, but your responsibility to be safe — and abide by the law — is the same," says Supt. St. Germaine.

"On any given day, there are families out fishing and kids tubing or wake-surfing on the lake. These are the people — along with yourself and your loved ones — that you are putting in harm's way if you ignore the law." Have your Pleasure Craft Operators Card with you on the water. This is mandatory for all watercraft operators.

The Saskatchewan RCMP advises that if you see or experience an emergency on the water, you should call 911 immediately. In a non-emergency, contact your local RCMP by calling 310-RCMP (7267).

Thickwood Hills Studio Trail celebrates 26 years

Continued from 1

“Cold-pressed soap is a centuries-old, traditional method of making soap, where melted oils are weighed, melted and added to a lye bath for the creation of soap. Requiring a month of curing time after being cut into bars, the final product is an incredibly long-lasting and wonderfully moisturizing soap, containing no chemical detergents. Cold pressed soaps also retain their natural glycerin, which is a by-product of soap making. It is most often removed in commercially produced soaps in order to be used in lotion products,” said Karalash.

More prairie-inspired art and lake landscapes at number 10, Karen Harbaruk’s Sunridge Studio, were added to by guest artist Lee Walerius. Harbaruk’s original paintings, prints, cards, and jewellery are inspired by both her city life and lake life. For her part, Walerius creates custom leather, fibre, jewellery and wool products under the studio name of CRR Ranch.

Hitting the highway toward Shell Lake, one

turn off the pavement leads to Painted Horse Studio, hosted by Nadine Jones. A long-time participant in the Thickwood Hills Studio Trail, Jones has seen 25 out of the 26 years of its history.

Crediting founder Rigmor Clarke’s art lessons for sparking her interest, Jones reflects on years of creating her art, “I started out doing some sketches and then watercolour — mostly western scenes. When we first moved here in the ‘70s I took some art classes, and then later on took classes from Rigmor.”

Speaking of the master, Rigmor Clarke’s studio was a major highlight of the 2026 trail. Having founded the Thickwood Hills Studio Trail, Clarke’s stop on the route is the holy grail.

Explaining her journey to establishing the Thickwood Studio Trail, “I used to teach art, and I could see all this fantastic talent, and nobody knew about them. I took a trip to Ottawa and the folks there took me on a studio trail, and I thought – that’s it, that’s it!”



The iconic Rigmor Clarke (middle) explains her work to visitors.

Clarke returned home to prepare a presentation to pitch her idea of the arts studio trail, and thus was born the enduring summer experience that is in its 26th year.

Forest Raven Studio is crammed to the rafters with her life’s work, and Clarke’s art is held

in private and public collections such as the Mann Art Gallery in Prince Albert as well as in the Saskatchewan Arts Board’s Permanent Collection.

At 91 years of age, Clarke is a cherished gem in the art world of the province. She received the Saskatche-

wan Order of Merit in 2020, recognizing her contribution to art. In true Rigmor fashion, she hosted a guest artisan at Forest Raven, allowing Pam Primeau to join the trail with her sewing creations.

Primeau began her craft with bags and purses, and has now

branched into more patterns including jackets.

“It’s a great way to use up my scrap material,” Primeau said.

Inspecting one of Primeau’s jackets, Rigmor Clarke comments, “It doesn’t look like scraps to me,” and thus gives the nod to another successful artist.



Artist Annette Henbig presented her prairie landscape art along with hand-knit items at Northern Sky Studio.



Pam Primeau was a guest at Rigmor Clarke’s studio, displaying bags and jackets.



Pebble Baye Soap Co. by Dawna Karalash and Anna Tataryn.



Visitors at Spirit Studio browse the unique ceramic offerings.



Skipping Stone Studio had handcrafted quilts on display.

Winners crowned at Leoville Rodeo

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

Dust was flying in Leoville over the August long weekend, as the Leoville Trailriders hosted their 49th annual rodeo.

With participants ranging in age from 2 to 50+, about 130 amateurs signed up to compete over the course of two days. And despite the blazing summer heat, about 500 spectators came to watch and cheer them on (and maybe laugh a little when they ate dirt).

The action kicked off on Saturday, Aug. 1, with the day being devoted to the Saam Memorial Team Roping competition.

In team roping, two riders (a header and heeler) work together to immobilize a steer in hopes of finishing in the fastest time. With 117 teams in the running for the Montana Silversmith buckles, donated by the Leoville Trailriders and R&L Feeds, Virgil Kiefer and Shane Silvernagle ended up being the big winners on the day.

Saturday night's festivities concluded with

a dance and live music from Darryl Anderson and his band.

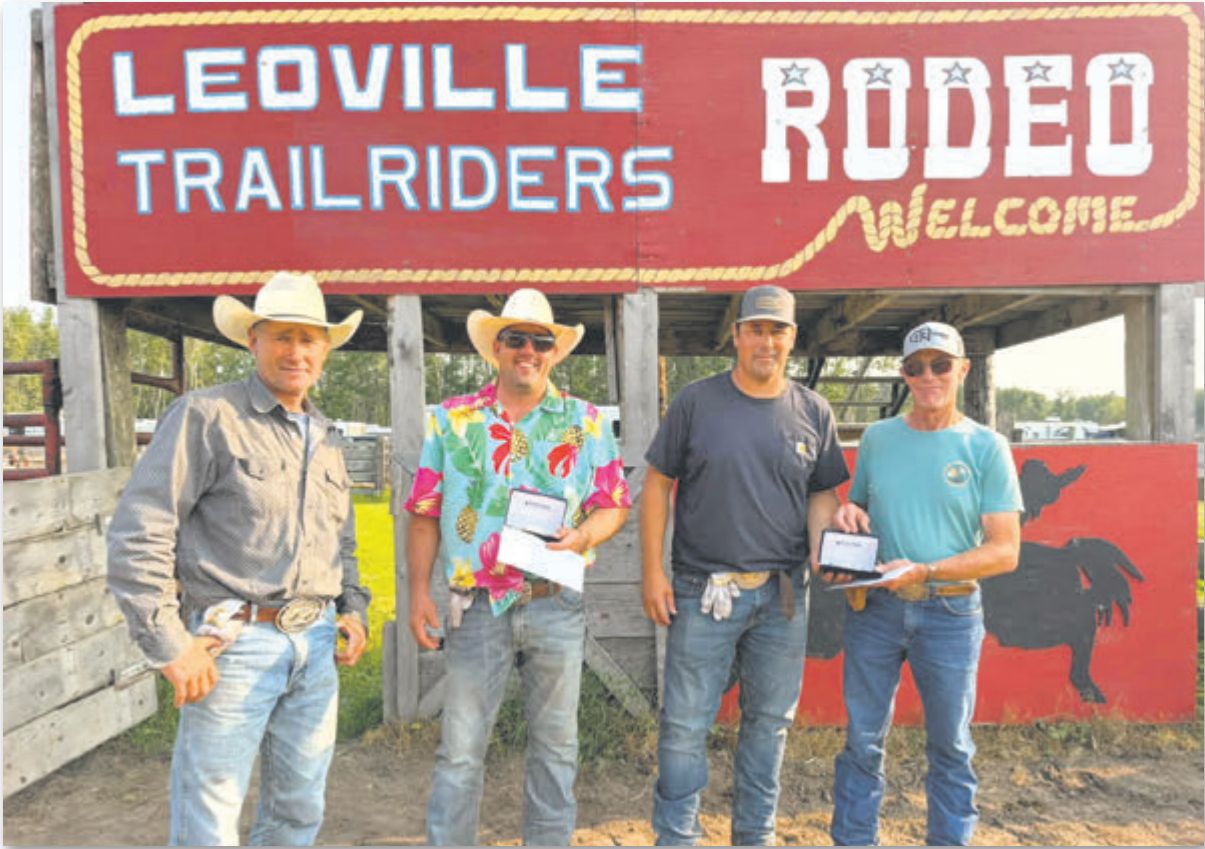
The following day was full of non-stop rodeo action, with traditional events such as steer riding, steer throwing, calf roping, pole bending, barrels, rescue race, and wild cow milking. For the younger crowd, there was also mutton busting and a chicken scramble.

For each event they participated in, cowboys and cowgirls earned points for finishing in the top three. And at the end of the day, these individual scores resulted in Gracie Martens and Tyson Tuhe earning the All-Around Cowgirl and Cowboy belt buckles.

Like Saturday night, Sunday's rodeo action wrapped up with a dance, live music, and a fireworks show.

For Maria Higgins, who has been involved with the Leoville Trailriders Rodeo for the past 27 years, the event is all about bringing the community together.

"It brings a lot of people that you haven't seen into town, and you just get to visit with people," she said, noting that she loved seeing everyone smiling and having a



Virgil Kiefer (header) and Shane Silvernagle (heeler) were the winning duo in the Saam Memorial Team Roping contest. Jodi Saam (left) and Ben Saam (right) presented the silver buckles.

good time.

"It turns into a little holiday for a lot of people who just come out and ride their horses. Their kids ride sheep and chase chickens. It's fun."

Like all small-town events, the Leoville Trailriders Rodeo is only possible because of the team of volunteers behind it. This year, Higgins says, a team of

about 27 people did the work of putting on the rodeo, with some extra helpers pitching in here and there. Many of them, like Higgins, have been involved for 25 years or more.

With next year marking 50 years for the rodeo, Higgins hopes the community support will remain just as strong as it's always been.



Mutton busting winners, from left to right: Lindsay Williams (2nd), Octavia Williams (3rd), and Levi Newman (1st).



A rider eats dirt during the mutton busting competition.



Gracie Martens won the All-Around Cowgirl silver buckle. Tyson Tuhe won the All-Around Cowboy silver buckle.



Kidz Land included facepainting and other fun for the younger crowd.



A team chases down a steer in the team roping competition.

Minutes of a Big River Town Council meeting

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

The regular meeting of the Council of the Town of Big River was held in the Administrator’s Office at 606 1st Street North, on June 8 at 8 a.m.

Present at the meeting were Deputy Mayor Lana Meyers, Councillors Chad Dunn, Shirley Schwab, and Greg Sundby, and CAO Noreen Olsen.

A quorum being present, Deputy Mayor Lana Meyers called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

Dunn: THAT the June 8, 2026, Agenda be adopted with the power to add. Carried

Council acknowledged with sadness the passing of Mayor David Krawetz since the previous regular meeting and expressed appreciation for Mayor Krawetz’s contributions and service to the municipality.

Sundby: THAT the Administrator’s Report be accepted as presented. Carried

Maintenance Foreman Terry Olsen attended the meeting from 10:35 a.m. to 10:43 a.m.

Schwab: THAT the Sewer and Water and Maintenance reports to May 31, 2026, be accepted. Carried

Delegation: Emily Davis, Canada Day Committee, attended the meeting from 12 p.m. to 12:22 p.m.

Sundby: THAT the minutes of May 11, 2026, Regular Meeting be adopted as presented. Carried

Sundby: THAT the Statement of Financial Activities for the month of May 2026 be acknowledged. Carried

Schwab: THAT the Bank Reconciliation for the month of May 2026 be acknowledged. Carried

Dunn: THAT the Journal Entries for the month of May 2026 be acknowledged. Carried

Dunn: THAT accounts for approval, including EFT payments No. 286 to 319 and cheques No. 22302 through 22322 totaling \$265,433.06, plus payments to Drop Water Solutions for \$1,884.65, CIBC for \$1,392.88, Morin Plumbing Heating & Gas for \$15,873.00, and Noreen Olsen for \$279.50, be authorized for payment. Carried

Sundby: THAT Correspondence be filed as presented. Carried

Dunn: THAT the Big River Regional Park 2026 Sewer and Water charge remain status quo, which is \$2000 to reflect \$1000 per service. Carried

Schwab: THAT Council approves the purchase of an efficient watering system for municipal flower pots throughout the Town in order to improve plant maintenance. Carried

Schwab: THAT the Board/Committee Reports be filed as presented. Carried

Dunn: In conjunction with the R.M. of Big River No. 555, THAT the 2026 Town and Rural Municipality of Big River Council Bursaries be awarded to Fallyn Klassen and Kathleen Zinovich. Carried

Sundby: THAT it be acknowledged that the Town has entered into agreement with Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) for two Youth Worker positions, for 9 weeks at 30 hours per week per position, with funding provided at and ESDC contribution rate of \$7.68 per hour. Carried

Meyers: THAT the Town hire Dali Snyder and Sara Olsen as Summer Youth Workers consistent with the summer maintenance program, at 30 hours per week at a wage of \$18.00 per hour. Carried

Meyers: THAT Council authorize the purchase of a \$100 gift card for David and Laurie Bartsch in recognition and appreciation of the handcrafted wooden memorial gift they created and donated following the passing of Mayor David Krawetz. Carried

Dunn: THAT Council support the initiation of the Municipal Heritage Property designation process under The Heritage Property Act for the property located at 110 3rd Avenue South, legally described as Lot 11, Block 3, Plan AA4863, being a former SaskTel building constructed in 1910; and THAT Administration be directed to prepare the required Notice of Intention to Designate and draft Heritage Designation Bylaw for Council consideration. Carried

Schwab: THAT the Town donate \$200 to the Big River Golf Club to sponsor their 2026 tournaments. Carried

Dunn: THAT, as part of the Town’s wildfire mitigation efforts, all open fires be prohibited within the Town-owned portion of the sandhills located at Block 26, Plan BS4112; and further, THAT “No Fires” signs be installed at all entrances and at appropriate locations throughout the trail system; and further, THAT any person found contravening this prohibition be subject to the penalties and fines set out in Bylaw No. 2026-01 and its associated fine schedule. Carried

Dunn: THAT the Town of Big River authorizes to send letters to SaskTel and Bell Media requesting consideration of wildfire mitigation measures, including vegetation and tree removal, on properties surrounding their communications infrastructure in the Big River area to help protect critical infrastructure and improve community safety. Carried

Schwab: THAT Council acknowledges receipt of the 2026 Certificate of Confirmation from the Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency (SAMA), issued by Order of its Board of Directors, confirming compliance with Section 228 of The Municipalities Act. Carried

Schwab: THAT the Town of Big River approve the transfer of \$2,000 from the Celebrate Canada Grant together with any donations received specifically in support of Canada Day 2026 activities for the planning and delivery of Canada Day celebrations. Carried

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

NDP sounds alarm over SGI rate increases

**By SASK NDP
Submitted**

Saskatchewan’s Rate Review Panel has revealed that Scott Moe’s Minister Responsible for SGI, Jeremy Harrison, has almost driven another Saskatchewan Crown corporation into insolvency — and has spoken against his attempts to use Saskatchewan drivers to bail out his mismanagement.

In a report released by the panel on Friday, the Rate Review panel has recommended against Harrison’s proposed rate increase for 2027, while warning that the Crown faces insolvency.

On Page 6 of the report, the panel highlighted the concerns of Saskatchewan residents saying: “Those concerns are understandable. Saskatchewan residents have experienced several years of elevated cost pressures, and many ratepayers have emphasized the difficulty of absorbing further in-

creases”

“Since 1945, Saskatchewan Government Insurance has been serving the people of this province, and in less than two years, Jeremy Harrison has nearly bankrupted it,” said Darcy Warrington, Shadow Minister of Highways, Infrastructure and SGI.

“What we have is a Premier and a Minister who are hellbent on piling costs onto Saskatchewan people to cover for their mismanagement. We cannot reach a point where making it more expensive to drive is the only way to keep SGI solvent.”

On Page 38, the panel warns about the consequences of Harrison’s mismanagement of SGI saying: “A financially-weakened SAF can affect the public by increasing the risk of larger future rate increases, reducing flexibility to respond to severe weather or unexpected claims costs, and creating pressure for more urgent correc-

tive action.”

“The panel has made it clear that unless we see a change, Saskatchewan drivers will see large rate increases, or reduced access to support,” said Warrington.

On Page 7, the panel criticizes the practice of imposing rate increases before consultation can be conducted, something that Moe and Harrison have done repeatedly this year.

The panel warned against Harrison’s repeated use of this practice saying: “The Panel has concerns about the use of interim rate adjustments implementing rate increases prior to completion of the Panel’s review and final report being issued. The long-established governance process is threatened by this practice, which, in the view of the public, casts doubt on the effectiveness and usefulness of the Panel’s review and reporting to the Minister.”

“It is clear that the only plan that Scott

Moe and Jeremy Harrison have is to punish drivers for the Sask. Party’s incompetence. Crown Corporations are important to the

people of Saskatchewan. Carla Beck’s team, when we form the next government, will restore SGI and the Auto Fund to be sustainable

as a Crown and affordable for the drivers of Saskatchewan,” said Warrington.

“It’s time for a change.”

GOOD NEWS ~ REINVENTING ONESELF

**By DAVID BODVARSON
Submitted**

When I turned 65 years old, I felt it was time to pass the torch.

Marlene and I had pastored some 40 years. When we pastored, we would often “tent make,” an expression meaning we found work outside the ministry. Marlene had a sign business when we were in Rocanville. I would shingle or paint houses.

Sometime ago, I preached a Celebration of Life message. As I was speaking to people afterwards, I was asked, “Why did you give up preaching?”

I was quick to respond I actually hadn’t. I just don’t necessarily preach at one church. God has opened doors that has given me opportunity to speak into lives of people that I wouldn’t have if I had remained pastoring. I have reinvented myself.

When I was 65 years old, I felt I should complete my air brakes ticket. I had passed the written test years before. I actually paid for the practical test years before as well! I finally figured out how it was possible.

I enlisted in total training near Prince Albert, gave them some \$500, and took the air brakes course. They gave me some excellent instruction and had a semi tractor brought to the site, which I used to be tested.

I have driven school bus a number of years but now here I am reinventing myself. I now have opportunities to drive a coach.

“Reinvention is not about changing who you are; it’s about becoming more of who you are.”

Proverbs 4:18 says “that the path of the righteous is like the morning sun, shining ever brighter until the full light of day.”

ADVERTISING DEADLINE IS FRIDAY 4PM

Three great stat stories from MLB

Baseball statistics used to be fairly straightforward. Batting average, home runs, and runs batted in were the important ones for hitters; victories, strikeouts, and earned run average were the categories that mattered for pitchers.

Today, Major League Baseball has a ballpark full of advanced stats, some that are easy to understand and some that need a 20-minute tutorial describing how they identify a great ballplayer.

Today, we're going back in time. No mention of advanced stats, analytics be damned. We're going to pretend it's 1957 and the basic baseball statistics are the only ones that matter.

Today, there are three MLB players who are having outstanding seasons and only one of them is likely to wind up playing in the World Series.

Yordan Alvarez of the Houston Astros has a legitimate shot at winning baseball's Triple Crown — leading the American League in batting average, hom-

ers, and RBIs. At the end of July, the Astros' designated hitter led the A.L. in average, 20 points ahead of his nearest rival; had a four-homer lead on Ben Rice of the Yankees; and was nine ahead of Rice in the RBI category.

Detroit's Miguel Cabrera was the most recent Triple Crown winner, accomplishing the rare feat in 2012. Prior to that, Carl Yastrzemski of the Red Sox, in 1967, was the last player to lead his league in all three categories.

Notice those former winners were all from the American League. The last N.L. player to win the Triple Crown was Joe Medwick of St. Louis in 1937.

Jacob Misorowski of the Milwaukee Brewers is on a trail that's leading to the Hall of Fame. In only his second year with the Brewers, the flame-throwing 24-year-old is must-see baseball every time he takes the mound.

Misorowski regularly throws pitches faster than 100 MPH and recently threw the year's



BRUCE
PENTON

winner — a 105.5 mph heater against the Cubs in June.

But the sophomore flash is not just about blazing fastballs. He will be the strong favourite to win the Cy Young award in the National League based on his strikeouts (1.55 per inning), his ERA (a league-leading 1.58 at the end of July, the only starter under 2.00) and the .149 batting average opposing hitters are managing against him.

Oh, yes, Misorowski's Brewers are leading the NL Central, too, and are on track to meet the Dodgers in the NL championship series.

Speaking of the Dodgers, no survey of outstanding individual baseball accom-

plishments can be put together without mentioning Shohei Ohtani, the two-way Japanese star who could go down in history as the game's best player ever.

The Dodgers have reduced his mound appearances, but through the all-star break, Ohtani was 8-2 with a 1.79 earned-run average, numbers which would make most pitchers drool.

As the Dodgers' regular designated hitter, Ohtani had 23 homers through July and recently passed the 300 career HR total, in only his ninth season.

Fifteen-year veteran CC Sabathia didn't beat around the bush on a radio talk show recently, saying Ohtani is "already the greatest player of all time."

• David Beri, on Bluesky: "I have a theory for why LeBron keeps playing basketball. I think he likes playing basketball! That's the entire theory."

• Eamon Lynch of Golfweek.com, on legal problems the LIV golf tour is facing: "Another lawsuit has been filed by a group alleging its

original concept for LIV was stolen (apparently there's a competition to claim ownership of a fiasco)."

• Ron Green, Jr., of Global Golf Post, describing the speed at which Open Championship winner Ryan Fox plays the game: "He goes about his business with the speed of a man trying to put out a grease fire."

• Green again, on fellow PGA speedsters Ludvig Aberg and Matt Fitzpatrick: "Left to their own devices, they could play nine holes before a cup of coffee gets cold."

• Another one from Greg Cote, on LeBron James spurning Miami and signing with Philadelphia: "Miami and the NBA were waiting for LeBron like Vladimir and Estragon waiting for Godot."

• Janice Hough of leftcoastsportsbabe.com, on FIFA's since-rejected plan to sell off part of the World Cup's commercial interests to private investors: "Infantino is trying to turn the World Cup into LIV golf."

• Headline at fark.

com: "World Cup sell-off shelved thanks to UEFA threatened pull-out; childish Gianni forced to find another way to grift."

• Another sportscurmudgeon.com post, after broadcaster Tony Romo was arrested in Wisconsin for drinking and driving: "Dean Martin had an interesting piece of advice that Tony Romo should consider: 'If you drink, don't drive. Don't even putt.'"

• Headline at theonion.com: "Baseball Hall Of Fame Displays Fossilized Skeleton Of Stan Musial"

• Falcons' receiver Drake London, after proposing to girlfriend Sofia Gabay during a meal featuring her favourite food, Taco Bell Crunchwrap Supremes and hot sauce: "She was actually more stoked about the Taco Bell than the ring,"

• Another fark.com headline, after San Jose of the NHL made a critical signing: "Sharks fans can Celebrini for the next five years."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

CTF calls out Sask Party travel spending

By GAGE HAUBRICH
CTF Prairie Director

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation is calling on the Saskatchewan government to cut wasteful travel spending after billing taxpayers \$17,401 for one round trip on two private planes between Regina and Saskatoon, according to documents obtained by the CTF through freedom-of-information requests.

"Hundreds of Saskatchewanians make the round trip down Highway 11 every day without spending thousands on private airplane charters," said Gage Haubrich, CTF Prairie Director. "The provincial government is maxing out the taxpayer credit card and it's ridiculous that anyone at the legislature thought this was a good idea to charter two private planes."

The Saskatchewan government chartered two private planes for round-trip flights from Regina to Saskatoon to attend the SUMA convention in April 2025.

Premier Scott Moe, his chief of staff and seven cabinet ministers took the first

flight. Five more cabinet ministers and three backbench MLAs took the second.

The flights cost taxpayers about \$966.73 per passenger, according to the documents.

The company that provided the charter flight bills itself as the "premier choice for aircraft charter services."

Instead of chartering a private plane, the government could have rented three minivans, bought three tanks of gas, 17 large double-doubles and two-dozen doughnuts for about \$800.

The government is increasing the debt to \$26.8 billion by the end of this year. Debt interest payments will cost taxpayers about \$1 billion this year. Moe more than doubled the provincial debt while premier.

"The provincial government needs to find savings and driving a couple hours instead of sticking taxpayers with the bill for not one but two private planes a no-brainer," Haubrich said. "If politicians think they are too good to hop in the car for a couple of hours, they can pay for their own private planes."

Sask. expands cystic fibrosis drug coverage

By MINISTRY OF HEALTH
Submitted

People in Saskatchewan living with cystic fibrosis (CF) are now eligible for Alyftrek, a medication that improves lung function.

As of Aug. 1, coverage of Alyftrek is now available to CF patients ages six and older who meet the medical criteria. The drug is effective for patients who have one of 266 different rare genetic mutations causing CF.

"Our government is pleased to cover the cost of this new treatment for Saskatchewan patients with cystic fibrosis," Health Minister Jeremy Cockrill said. "Alyftrek has been shown to improve quality of life in patients with CF, so expanding coverage puts CF patients first by helping them to lead healthier lives."

Although there is no cure for CF, Alyftrek controls symptoms and slows the rate the disease progresses.

Coverage comes after Health Canada issued a recommendation in July

2025 that jurisdictions cover Alyftrek for patients six years of age and older who meet certain medical criteria, followed by successful pricing negotiations through the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance in July 2026.

Saskatchewan also provides coverage for other CF medications that treat specific genetic forms of the disease, including Trikafta, Orkambi and Kalydeco. The additional listing of Alyftrek expands access to effective CF treatment, making more than 95 per cent of eligible patients in Saskatchewan candidates for the therapy.

Patients with CF or parents/guardians of children with CF who think they may benefit from therapy with Alyftrek are encouraged to speak with their physician.

CF is a genetic disease that damages the lungs and digestive system. According to the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Registry, there are more than 4,500 CF patients in Canada and almost 150 patients in Saskatchewan.

OBITUARY

~

Herculine Schultz



It is with heavy hearts that the Schultz family announce the passing of Herculine (née: LaPierre) Schultz, of Marcelin, SK, on July 29, 2026, at the age of 96 years.

She was born in Marcelin, SK, on April 2, 1930. She attended Skipton School and helped raise her younger siblings on the farm. Herculine met her husband, John, while he was working on the threshing crew. In

1949 they married and moved to Sudbury, Ontario, and started their family. Judy was born in 1950, Joyce 1951, Robert (Bob) 1954, David 1955, and twins Irene and Marlene in 1960. They purchased a farm in Marcelin, SK, in 1959 but were unable to move there until 1962. Their youngest daughter, Linda, was born in 1964. Unfortunately, her husband John passed away in 1977. She continued to live on the farm until 2023.

Herculine's many interests included gardening, growing flowers, square dancing, sewing, playing card games, bingo, and watching soaps on tv. She also was a foster mother to several children. In later years she enjoyed vacations in Hawaii and going on several cruises.

She spent her final years at the Leask Wheatland Lodge until her passing.

Funeral Service was held at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Marcelin, SK, on Thursday, August 6, 2026, at 11:00AM.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in her name, to the Heart and Stroke Foundation (1738 Quebec Ave Unit 26, Saskatoon, SK S7K 1V9) or the Breast Cancer Society of Canada (420 East Street North, Sarnia, ON N7T 6Y5).

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.

Shellbrook Library

promotes fire safety

By **EDDIE HOEHN**
Branch Librarian

On Thursday, July 30, Anara Arcand from the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency came to the library to give a presentation about fire safety. She talked to the kids about the difference between a problem where they would ask an adult for help and an emergency where they would need to call 911.

Anara stressed the importance of being aware of and catching all unsafe things in the house before they become dangerous. The kids identified several unsafe situations in a picture on a laptop.

There are important things to keep in mind, such as having a smoke alarm on each level of the house, testing one's smoke alarm every month, charging one's cell phone on a hard surface without overcharging, supervising pets, being gentle and only plugging two things into electrical outlets, putting away

matches and lighters, cleaning up the kitchen, and practicing having fire drills.

There should be two ways to get out of every room at home, so it is important to have a home fire escape plan.

Anara told the kids what information to

give the operator if they would ever need to call 911 in an emergency. She gave out Sparky the Fire Dog fire safety hats to the kids. Sparky the Fire Dog greeted the kids for pictures and high-fives immediately following the presentation.



Raelynn Klumpenhower (left) and Elijah Klumpenhower took in a fire safety presentation by Sparky the Fire Dog and Anara Arcand.

Sweetgrass in the garden

By **PATRICIA HANBIDGE**
Orchid Horticulture

Sweetgrass (*Anthoxanthum nitens*) was previously known as *Hierochloa odorata* holds a profound significance in many Indigenous cultures. It is commonly used in ceremony or representation and is often part of the four sacred medicines along with tobacco, cedar, and sage.

It belongs to the genus *Anthoxanthum* which contains around fifty species that grow in temperate and arctic regions around the world. As it has global distribution, has been used by both interacting and non-interacting cultures it is considered a cultural keystone species. Many cultural practices, traditions and teachings have depended and do depend on this species around the world.

This hardy cool-season grass thrives in diverse habitats and is circumpolar in distribution. It thrives in many diverse habitats but is native to northern Eurasia, Greenland, Iceland, Canada and the United States (except in the south central and southeastern regions). This plant needs full sun, moist soil and is hardy to zone 3.

This perennial grass contains coumarin, which is emitted when the plants are disturbed, such as by drying or burning. It is used by Indigenous peoples across North America, with each community having slightly different beliefs about this sweet-smelling plant.

Sweetgrass is one of the four plants considered sacred to Indigenous, Inuit and Métis Peoples. It is known for its sweet scent, which intensifies when it rains or when burned. It is usually associated with the Prairies but is found in many different growing conditions from low meadows and clearings in forests, along waterways but also in subalpine and alpine zones.

Sweetgrass is primarily utilized by the indigenous nations of the Interior Plains. The Anishinaabe Nation believe that sweet grass is the sacred hair of O'gushnan, Mother Earth.

When harvested it is often braided, with the three sections representing mind, body and soul. Some other communities believe that the three sections of the braid represent love, kindness and honesty.

The Mi'kmaq who are indigenous to Atlantic Canada, traditionally use sweetgrass for ceremonial smudges, braiding and embellishments on basketry. It is commonly believed that the smoke of sweetgrass will purify thoughts and clear away negative energy. On Vancouver Island, ancestral practices are deeply rooted in cedar and local forest medicines.

This grass has flat, bright green leaves and will grow up to half a

metre in height and sometimes even taller with good water and warm temperatures. It has an indescribable fragrance that is somehow a blend of vanilla and freshly cut grass.

The scent is unique and unforgettable. When I water the sweetgrass that I grow it emits this fragrance that spurs many memories. Sweetgrass is a perennial and does produce seeds, but is better propagated by division as it spreads and reproduces through long, underground roots.

It is generally harvested in late June or early July by cutting it close to the ground. It is not acceptable to harvest more than is needed, nor damaging the clump while harvesting. Traditionally it is laid out in the sun for about six hours and once it is thoroughly dried it can be braided, used to make baskets or for use in other ceremonial rituals.

After harvesting sweetgrass and letting it dry, I have been taught by a good friend who was a Cree Elder that sweetgrass helps us to heal and reconnect with our ancestors. The traditional twenty-one strands in the braid have significant meaning.

The first seven strands that form the first section of the braid represent the seven generations behind us. The second section of seven strands represents the seven sacred teachings – love, respect, honesty, courage, wisdom, truth and humility. The third section represents the seven generations still to come.

All together the braid reminds us that we are all connected – to everyone and everything in the past, the present and the future. To understand that all things in life are interwoven, and that change can only happen right here in the present and that in the present time is the only time we can heal and make a good path to the future.

Hanbidge is the Lead Horticulturist with Orchid Horticulture. Find us at www.orchidhort.com; by email at growyourfuture@gmail.com on facebook @orchidhort and on instagram at #orchidhort.



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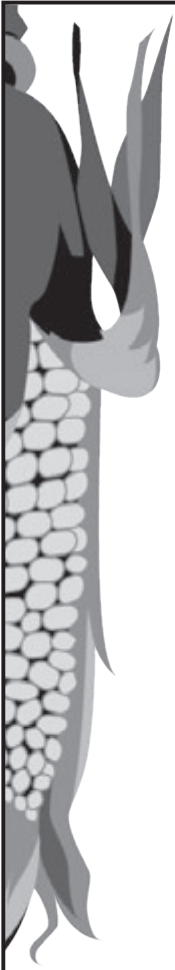
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The family of the late Doreen Sorensen wishes to express our deep appreciation and thanks for the kind expressions of sympathy and support. We wish to thank everyone who attended Doreen's memorial service and thank those who donated memorial donations. The family extends their deepest thanks to the staff of Whispering Pine Place for the care they gave Doreen during her stay there. The family wishes to thank Beau "Lac" Funeral Home for guiding us through the process during this difficult time.
- Peter Sorensen



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organization holding an event?

Take advantage of our
COMMUNITY CALENDAR

With the purchase of a 2 column x 2 inch display ad,
we will advertise your community event in our
Community Calendar **FREE** for two weeks
prior to the event!

\$60 + GST - A savings of over 30%

*Don't miss out on letting your community
and others know about your event!*

We are also your local supplier for:

- Business Cards
 - Rubber Stamps
 - Posters
 - Paper Supplies
- Photocopies
- Full Colour & Black/White
 - Brochures
 - Invoices & Forms
- Envelopes
 - Cheques
 - Labels
 - and More!

Have flyers you need to distribute? Give us a call!

\$70 per 1,000 *(Inquire about volume rates)*

Contact us at:
306-747-2442 or chads@sbchron.com