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Snowmobilers encouraged to ride responsibly on Manitoba trails



Sticking to the trails and following the signs will make riding safe for all.

PHOTO BY METRO CREATIVE

By Michelle Lissel
MANITOBA RCMP MEDIA RELATIONS UNIT

Snowmobilers are being reminded to take the necessary precautions to stay safe while out on the trails this winter. This includes wearing helmets and other safety equipment, controlling their speed, driving sober and sticking to signed and groomed trails.

Manitoba RCMP, Manitoba Public Insurance (MPI) and Snowmobilers of Manitoba (Snoman) are issuing the reminder ahead of International Snowmobile Safety Week, which begins on Saturday.

“Winter is a wonderful time of year for snowmobilers to hit the trails and enjoy the season, but we strongly urge everyone to ride safely,” said RCMP Staff Sgt. Matt Lavallee, who teaches snowmobile safety courses to RCMP members. “Snowmobilers need to ride in a responsible manner so that everyone returns home at the end of the ride.”

Lavallee noted that all riders, under law, must wear an approved snowmobile helmet when on their machine and

that all riders under the age of 14 must be under adult supervision. He said RCMP officers are on the trails throughout the province and will enforce laws as necessary.

Twenty-eight snowmobile-related deaths have occurred over the past six years, including four in 2025. Speed was a contributing factor in many of those 28 deaths, as was alcohol impairment, improper or no helmet use, driver inexperience and careless driving.

“January and February have the highest fatality rates among snowmobilers in Manitoba, so it is very important to continue to have conversations to educate riders about snowmobile safety,” said Maria Campos, vice-president and chief customer and product officer for MPI. “We work hard to reduce fatalities by standing together with our partners, like the RCMP and Snoman, to highlight the things riders can do to protect themselves, such as slowing down, wearing a helmet, and riding sober. Snowmobiling is great fun and a fantastic way to enjoy Manitoban winters, so let’s keep it fun by staying safe.”

read the safety tips on page 2...

Inside...

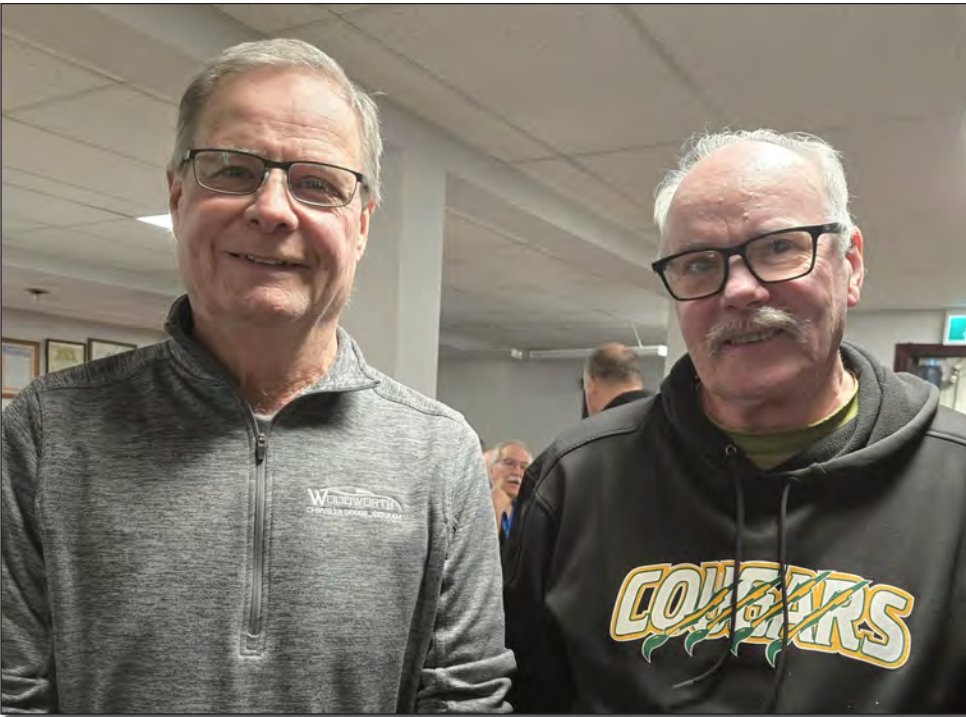
AG DAYS ARE COMING

P6-7

MANITOBA DIGITAL HEALTH CARD

P8

Woodworth Legion Bonspiel



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Ice makers Don Carter and Brent Houston, kept the curling going for the full bonspiel.

By **Gerry Nolan**
RIVERS BANNER

Woodworth Legion held their annual bonspiel on January 10 at the Kenton Curling Palace. Pictured are the two men who spend many hours getting the ice in the rink, then grooming it so it is ready to play on. Thanks, men, for your work every season.

Twelve rinks competed against one another in this cash bonspiel. Francis Wilson provided soup and sandwiches in the Legion club room during the day. The Woodworth Legion Ladies provided a roast beef supper in the evening. Thank you to Francis Wilson and the Legion ladies for providing and serving the hungry curlers.

Teams were from Hargrave, Virden, Oak River, Oak Lake, Hamiota and Kenton.

The winning team was the rink of skip

Johnny Finnie and his rink of Robert Stevenson, Vaughn Wilson and Allan Smith. They collected first prize money.

Finishing in second place and also receiving a cash prize was the rink skipped by Todd Hunter and his rink of Debbie Hunter, Jessica Hunter and Donald Caldwell.

All the curlers enjoyed the day and all the fun that goes along with bonspiels!

Snowmobile safely

continued from page 1

There are a number of things riders can do to mitigate the risk and stay safe before they even hit the trail, such as:

- Checking your snowmobile before leaving for any mechanical issues, including brakes, lights, fuel levels and engine performance;
- Bringing along a fully charged cell phone, first-aid kit and essential repair tools, such as a spare belt, pull chord and spark plugs;
- Planning routes ahead of time and sharing travel details with someone at home; and
- Wearing warm, layered clothing, insulated gloves, a windproof jacket, snowpants and a snowmobile helmet that's been properly fitted.

Once out on the trails, riders should:

- Maintain a safe speed, stay alert, and be courteous to other riders;
- Dress appropriately for conditions and safety, including wearing a helmet at all times;
- Watch for hidden obstructions like rocks, fences, culverts, guywires

and abrupt terrain changes beneath the snow;

- Cross highways and roads safely and in compliance with local laws; and
- Drive sober.

"The safety of riders is of utmost importance to our organization," said Joe Thievin, a vice-president with Snoman. "Riders need to drive to their level of ability and not consume alcohol or drugs before or while out on the trails and take all the necessary precautions to ensure their safety and that of other riders so they can ride again."

MPI collects a \$25 non-refundable annual fee on all off-road vehicle registrations on behalf of the Government of Manitoba to support trail maintenance and development, off-road vehicle safety education and training programs, and rehabilitation of public lands impacted by off-road vehicle use.

Purchasing a Snopass to ride on 13,000 kilometres of designated provincial trails helps Manitoba invest in grooming and maintaining trails, which contribute to snowmobile safety.

CHICKEN COBBLER WITH BISCUIT MIX

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup butter
- 4 cups rotisserie chicken meat, shredded
- 1 (15 ounce) bag frozen mixed vegetables
- 1 (11.36 ounce) package Cheddar bay biscuit mix (such as Red Lobster Cheddar Bay Biscuit Mix)
- 2 cups milk
- 1 (10.5 ounce) can cream of chicken soup
- 2 cups chicken stock
- 2 tablespoons fresh chopped parsley (optional)

Directions

1. Gather the ingredients. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F. Place butter in the bottom of a 9x13-inch baking dish and place in the oven to melt.
2. When butter is melted, add chicken in a single layer over the butter. Top evenly with frozen veggies.
3. Stir together biscuit mix, seasoning packet from the mix, and milk in a bowl until well blended; pour over the chicken and veggies. Spread lightly and evenly over the top of the mixture but do not stir.
4. Whisk together soup and stock in a second bowl until smooth. Pour over biscuit mix but do not stir.
5. Bake in the preheated oven uncovered until very golden brown and only very slightly jiggly in the center, about 45 mins.
6. Sprinkle parsley over the top if desired and let stand for 10 mins before serving.

LAND AUCTION

RM OF ELTON

FEBRUARY 3RD, 2026

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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Monday February 2nd, 2026 (Opening bids close)
- Tuesday February 3rd, 2026 (Phone auction starting at 1:00pm)
- Wednesday April 1st, 2026 (Closing & Possession)
- Balance due by Certified Cheque or Bank Draft.

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From last weeks front page


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PUBLIC NOTICE
REGARDING SPECIAL SERVICE PROPOSAL NO. 01-26 FOR FIRE PROTECTION

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to subsection 318(1) of The Municipal Act, that the Council of Riverdale Municipality has scheduled a public hearing in the Council Chamber, at Riverdale Municipal office in Rivers, Manitoba on the 3rd day of February, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. to present the following special service proposal:

The intent of this Special Service proposal is to continue with a special tax for provision of fire protection services, to all benefiting property owners, including otherwise exempt and railway properties, in Riverdale Municipality.

The total cost of Fire Protection Services for Riverdale Municipality is \$115,758.53

The Special Service Area to be levied under this proposal will be all taxable, grant-in-lieu and otherwise exempt properties in Riverdale Municipality, including Classification 52, Railway companies at the following rates:

Property classified as 30T Farmland only	\$13.92
All other Classes including 10, 20, 40, 50, 60 (this includes property with dual classifications)	\$87.92

The Special Service Tax will raise \$115,758.53. In addition any unforeseen costs or un-anticipated expenditures will be funded by the Municipality's Operations Budget and included in the general municipal levy.

The aforementioned Special Service Tax will be set out in the Financial Plan for the years 2026 to 2028 inclusive.

A written objection may be filed with the Chief Administrative Officer at the Riverdale municipal office, 670 – 2nd Ave, prior to the commencement of the hearing. At the hearing, Council will hear any potential taxpayer who wishes to make a presentation, ask questions or register an objection to the special service proposal.

All objections, written or verbal, must be filed prior to the adjournment of the hearing and must include the name, address and property description of the person filing the objection and the grounds of their objection.

Copies of the special service proposal are available for review and may be examined by any person during regular office hours of the Riverdale Municipal Office at 670 – 2nd Avenue, Rivers, Manitoba.

DATED AT RIVERDALE MUNICIPALITY this 9th day of January 2026.

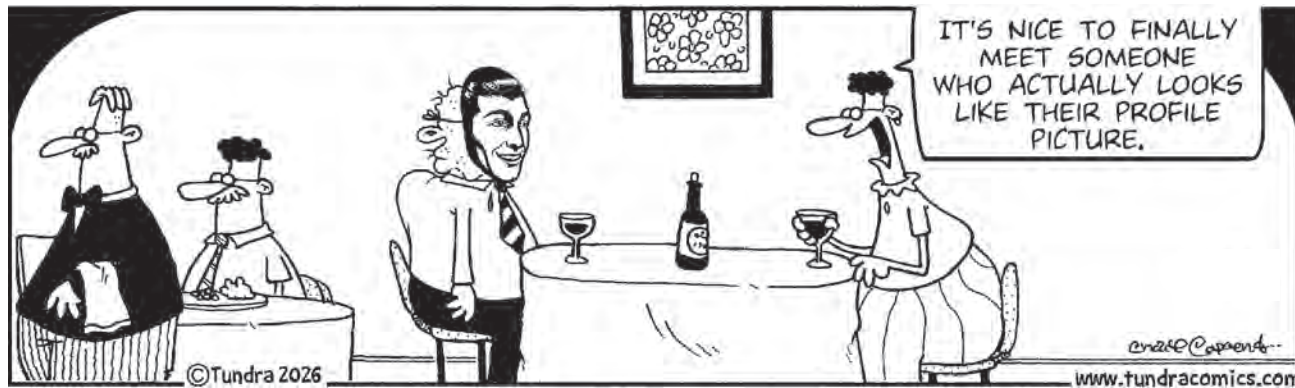
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Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



Joel Runyon, who operates a web site called IMPOSSIBLE has offered up a version of a very old Asian parable. I have included it below as an example of how to have some measure of peace with circumstances and the uncertainties of life.

"Once upon a time, there was an old farmer who had worked his crops for many years.

One day his horse ran away. Upon hearing the news, his neighbours came to visit. "Such bad luck," they said sympathetically, "you must be so sad."

"We'll see," the farmer replied.

The next morning the horse returned, bringing with it two other wild horses.

"How wonderful," the neighbours exclaimed! "Not only did your horse return, but you received two more. What great fortune you have!"

"We'll see," answered the farmer.

The following day, his son tried to ride one of the untamed horses, was thrown, and broke his leg. The neighbours again came to offer their sympathy on his misfortune. "Now your son cannot help you with your farming," they said. "What terrible luck you have!"

"We'll see," replied the old farmer.

The following week, military officials came to the village to conscript young men into the army. Seeing that the son's leg was broken, they passed him by. The neighbours congratulated the farmer on how well things had turned out. "Such great news. You must be so happy!"

The man smiled to himself and said once again.

"We'll see,"

This story is often bantered back and forth between my son and I as it speaks to the need to avoid panicking when facing decisions both big and small.

My father had a similar approach to life. He faced some hard times with bereavement and with what we would call poverty today.

He would quote Wilkins Micaw-

We'll see

RIGHT IN THE CENTRE

KEN WADDELL



"I have adopted a summation of those family traits and that is the Four Fs- Faith, Family, Friends and Finances and be sure to keep them in that order."

ber, a fictional character and David Copperfield's landlord in Charles Dickens' 1850 novel David Copperfield. Micawber was known for his optimistic outlook and the phrase "something will turn up".

By the time I came along in 1948, my Dad and Mum had gained a bit of financial security so I didn't directly experience the depths of their hardships. Before I was born, my parents had each lost a sibling and both their parents, they had to give up their little "Dirty Thirties" farm, worked their way through World War II and then started farming all over again. Their lives had many "We'll see" and "Something will turn up" moments.

Let's just say that since my father's birth in 1907 until this present day, our family has its share of problems, but we have never been overcome with long terms of despair. For sure, there have been tough times but pessimism and despair have been kept at a distance.

While Dad gets credit for bringing

the Dickens quote into our family story, Mum gets credit for another quote she brought into the family story. "When the wolf comes to the door, love creeps out the window." It's a proverb from the 1500s. Both my parents, but especially my mother, worked hard to make sure that even when the wolf was walking up to our door, love was not allowed to escape out the window. Yes, there were tough times, but beating back the tough times and learning from them became a family trait.

I have adopted a summation of those family traits and that is the Four Fs- Faith, Family, Friends and Finances and be sure to keep them in that order.

There's terrible turmoil in our world today, at all levels, but follow the advice of the ages and always be ready to say, "We'll see!"

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this column are the writer's personal views and are not to be taken as being the view of the newspaper staff.

Homebodies

RITA FRIESEN



What is in your library?

There was a random quote that caught my attention; so much so that I jotted it down on a paper serviette found in the car's console; 'the titles in your library reveal a great deal about who you are.'

With that in mind, I checked out which books have survived the moves and the culls. What they tell me is that I am rather boring and nostalgic. Well loved is, 'The Covered Wagon- Emerson Hough' has an inside cover inscription "To Grandma with love from Evelyn. October 1924" That makes it over a century old, and the price pencilled in is .35...That one is a hard cover treasure, 'The Virginian - Owen Wister' is a paperback published in 1969 and certainly shows signs of being well read. The hero to his opponent 'When you call me that, smile.' - well, that quote comes to mind frequently. Tattered and torn and taped, half coverless is 'Rilla of Ingleside - L.M Montgomery', the only book I have ever purloined from a school library. Little wonder it is so worn, my youngest daughter is named Rilla. I find comfort and solace in a good re-read. Bits of poetry on the shelf as well - 'Robert Frost - The Road Not Taken' is a collection of many of his words and works and I enjoy them all. His prose is poetry, John O'Donohue's 'Eternal Echoes' speaks clearly to my heart and spirit. For lighter reading there is 'Something Old, Something New' a treasury of Lynn Johnston's cartoons. They are more a graphic novel than cartoon. A boxed set of 'The World of Charlie Brown' has seen better days! It is so well loved, seeing any one frame allows me to see the story.

There is a collection of local history books, reference books for flora, fauna and wildlife. That would be evidence of my love for the out of doors, along with several how to garden books!

The largest collection pertains to spirituality. Books about the saints, the women of the Bible, devotional books, study books, reference books. Some were accumulated through my studies, many are gifts, and some have been purchased. That row in my little library would declare that I am a seeker, a searcher, and one who wishes to delve deeper into my faith journey.

It's what is not in my library that is also noteworthy. There are no suspense, action packed, fantasy, nor science fiction books. I have not read the Tolkien series, nor any of C.S. Lewis books, nor any of the Harry Potter series. I don't do well with suspense or tales of man's inhumanity to man. Reality is that when I start reading a book, if I think I may like it, I check out the last chapter. If I like the ending, I read the book. I have used that method for a lifetime and find it works well for me. I don't need trigger books; books that will cause me to review and relive difficult portions of my life. I don't need to be rigid with suspense or horror. That's not fun for me.

Yep, stable, boring, seeking, nostalgic and devout. Pretty accurate.

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SPORTS

HAMIOTA HUSKIES U15

By Gerry Nolan
RIVERS BANNER

At the U15 tournament of Champions in Souris, the Hamiota Huskies took part in this weekend and played very well. Hamiota started off by defeating Souris/Carberry Elks 2-1. Goal scorers for Hamiota were Thompson Charlton and Blayden McKinnon. Both goals were unassisted.

In game two, the Huskies blanked Selkirk 5-0. Thompson Charlton led the charge scoring a hat trick plus an assist. Other goals were scored by Bridger Kent who also had an assist and a single goal from Blayden McKinnon. Danilo Conde and Rennie Watson each had an assist.

Next up for Hamiota was a match versus the Transcona Regents. Hamiota jumped out to a 3-1 first period lead. The teams then split goals in the second and third period as the Huskies coasted to a 5-2 victory. Nolan Edwards scored the first goal with an

assist to Bridger Kent. The second goal was scored by Bridger Kent. This goal was unassisted. The third goal was scored by Lawklan Pompana with assists going to Blayden McKinnon and Nolan Edwards.

In the second period Thompson Charlton scored an unassisted goal. Thompson scored another goal in the third period with an assist going to Bridger Kent.

Hamiota then faced Winkler for the right to go to the championship game but lost a heartbreaker 4-3. The Huskies at one point were down 3-1 but came back strong to tie the game before Winkler scored to seal the win. Thompson Charlton scored twice for Hamiota and Blayden McKinnon who tallied once. Assists went to Rennie Watson, Colby Woychysyn and Reid Chwaluk. What a great tournament the boys had. Congratulations guys!

Russell defeated Winkler in the gold medal game 5-4 in overtime and won the Souris Tournament of Champions.



WESTMAN HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY

By Gerry Nolan
RIVERS BANNER

It was a tough week for the Hamiota Huskies hockey team as they dropped all three contests. On January 7 they dropped a 5-3 contest to the Major Pratt Trojans. Goal scorers for Hamiota were Matao Finnie, Aaron Roels and Sam Rivas. Assists were credited to Aaron Roels with two, Nash McMaster, Sam Rivas, Josh Matheson, and Matao Finnie.

On January 9, the Neepawa Tigers defeated the Huskies 5-1. Jesse Bourdin scored the only Hamiota goal assisted by Chase Airey.

On January 11 the Huskies travelled to Swan River to face the Tigers and were trounced, 15-3. Scoring for Hamiota were Aaron Roels, Jayden Schoonbaert and Nash McMaster. Assists went to Josh Matheson,

Sam Rivas, Matao Finnie with 2 assists and Jayden Schoonbaert. The Huskies stand tenth in league standings. The next home game is January 21, watch for posters for this match.

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Santa at the Brierwood Creek Café and Grill



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A huge thank-you to our new owners of Brierwood Creek Cafe and Grill for hosting a Santa Event. The staff decorated the restaurant with Christmas decor making a beautiful seasonal atmosphere for a visit from Santa Claus. Christmas cookies and hot chocolate were available to all, while everyone waited for a visit from the Jolly Old Fellow! Approximately 20 young children got to sit on Santa's knee and give him their requests for his visit on Christmas Eve. Thanks, Santa, for taking time out of your busy schedule to come and visit us in Kenton at our valued restaurant and thanks to Torrie Carter for being Santa's helper, you're the best Elf!

SAY SOMETHING.

*Before it's
too late.*

Whether you notice a hazard or feel unsafe on the job, raising your concerns helps prevent injuries. Remember, a safe workplace is your right.

**If it's unsafe, tell your employer.
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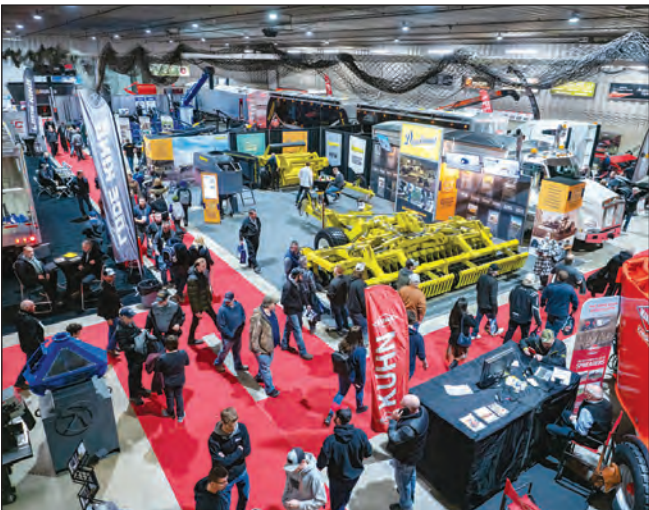
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The Keystone Centre - Brandon, MB. - January 20, 21 & 22, 2026

Canada's largest Ag show nears



ARCHIVED PHOTOS

Now in its 49th year of operation, Manitoba Ag Days has become a staple on the prairie agricultural calendar. This year's edition runs from Jan. 20 to the 22, and the theme is "Produced on the Prairies."

By Joshua Jackson
RIVERS BANNER

It's that time of year again, when farmers and agriculture enthusiasts will be gathering in Brandon for Canada's largest indoor farm show, the Manitoba Ag Days.

The annual three-day exposition of agriculture production expertise, technology, and equipment attracts exhibitors and visitors from across Canada and the United States.

Now in its 49th year of operation, Manitoba Ag Days has become a staple on the prairie agricultural calendar, serving as a meeting place for producers, researchers, and industry leaders looking to connect, learn, and prepare for the upcoming growing season.

The event takes place

from Jan. 20-22. This year's theme is "Produced on the Prairies," which aims to highlight people, products, and opportunities that are made right here in the prairies. The theme reflects the strength and innovation found within prairie agriculture, showcasing locally developed solutions that help producers adapt to changing market conditions, environmental challenges, and evolving technology.

This year's Ag Days features a whopping 580 exhibitors spread across the Keystone Centre, including 27 exhibitors taking part in the Innovation Showcase, highlighting products and services across a wide range of applications, which helps contenders and producers bridge from innovative ideas to on-farm adoption.

This year's Ag Days speaking program features over 60 speakers, with topics ranging from disease pressure, global markets, and animal care.

The program also includes several panel discussions with topics like how to prioritize when making on-farm decisions and how cooperation improves choice for farmers.

Speakers include industry experts, economists, veterinarians, and producers, offering practical insights designed to help farmers navigate the increasingly complex agricultural land-

scape and make informed decisions for their operations.

Ag Days kicks off on Jan 20, with a Made in Manitoba Breakfast at the Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Dome Building, which raises money for Ag In The Classroom- Manitoba.

Early bird tickets are \$15 per day, and three-day passes are also available for \$40. Tickets will be available during the show for \$20 per day and can be purchased online or in the Keystone Centre. Youth 17 and under do not require a ticket.

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Manitoba Ag Days

The Keystone Centre - Brandon, MB. - January 20, 21 & 22, 2026



Neepawa student nets scholarship



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Pictured is Carson (left), along with Scholarship winner receiving the Bob Gordon Memorial Award from Bruce Gordon, for the Top Beef Judge of the Weekend.

Submitted

BY YOUTH BEEF ROUNDUP

Congratulations to Carson Baker of Neepawa for winning the \$1,500. Scholarship presented by Manitoba Youth Beef Roundup.

Baker was the recipient of the 2025 Manitoba Youth Beef Roundup Scholarship. Carson grew up at Neepawa and is in his second year at Lakeland College taking a Diploma in Agribusiness. Carson has attended and participated at Round Up for 11 years. He is active in his community but something he is very proud of is, the high school hockey team held Cancer Care fundraising games that raised over \$ 5,000 in two seasons, which he was on the hockey team at that time. The money raised was donated to various cancer care units around Manitoba, with the majority staying in Neepawa. After college Carson plans to be involved in the agriculture industry while continuing to have his own herd of cattle. Congratulations Carson!

The Manitoba Beef Roundup invites you to join them to join at the Roundup in Neepawa from July 31 to Aug. 2, 2026.

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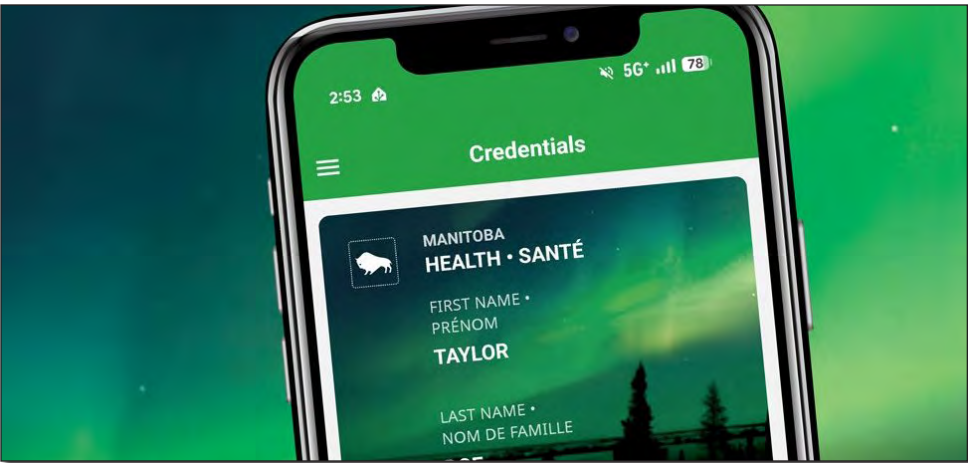
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Manitoba Government launches digital health card

New digital health card makes health care more accessible and convenient:



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Submitted
By MB GOVERNMENT

Manitobans can now apply for and access a digital health card on their mobile devices, Premier Wab Kinew, Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care Minister Uzoma Asagwara, and Innovation and New Technology Minister Mike Moroz announced today.

“Digital health cards put Manitobans in control of their own infor-

mation, make it easier to access care, and support a safer, more responsive health system,” said Kinew. “Over the past year, we’ve moved from paper health cards to plastic and now to a digital option. It is a practical step that reflects our focus on patient safety, accessibility and putting people first as we make health care better for families.”

Alongside the digital health card, Manitobans can also use MediNav,

the online appointment-booking system launched in 2025, to find and book care at participating clinics provincewide. Together, these tools allow Manitobans to carry their health card and book appointments from their mobile device, making access to care simpler and more convenient.

“We eliminated the backlog of health card wait times and now we’re making the process even faster,” said Asagwara.

“For Manitobans who are already registered, the digital health card will be available right away. No waiting, no delays. This is about making health care more accessible and responsive for families across the province.”

The digital health card allows Manitobans to securely carry health card information on their mobile device and present it when receiving care, reducing the need to carry a physical card. Manitobans can choose to request a plastic card, a digital card or both when they sign up, and those

with existing paper or plastic cards can request a digital card at any time, the ministers noted.

This modernization supports upcoming patient safety legislation, which will create a safer, more efficient patient experience, and give Manitobans greater confidence and autonomy in navigating the health system, the premier noted.

“The MB Wallet app makes health care more mobile. It is convenient, secure and easy to use,” said Moroz. “By offering this service, Manitoba is putting families at the

forefront of modern, accessible health care.”

The MB Wallet is available free of charge through the Apple App Store and Google Play. Once downloaded, the app allows offline access to stored digital credentials. To protect privacy, users remain in control of when to use their credentials and what information they choose to share.

For more information or to apply for a digital health card, visit <https://gov.mb.ca/health/mhsip/digitalhealthcard.html>.

HOCKEY MEMORIES



The South West Hockey League was a senior hockey league that saw many good teams and some great players compete against one another. Most of the teams used local talent but there were teams who paid players to come join their team.

Most of these players had previously played with the Brandon Wheat Kings or the Brandon University Bobcats. There were also educators who moved into the surrounding towns that would join the local team, making the competition great. This was great hockey, very entertaining, and each town had a following of spectators to cheer their favourite team on to victory.

I was very fortunate to officiate in this league for a number of seasons. I worked in games from 1977-1996. I worked the league finals as a referee from 1984-1995 and was a linesman for 5 years prior to 1984.

I thought I would share a little history about the league, sharing the league champions, in case you forgot. Here we go.

The South West hockey began play in 1956, and the Pierson Bruins won the Art Ross Trophy emblematic of being league champions. In 1957 the Souris Elks won the Art Ross Trophy as league champions.

In 1958, 1959, 1960 and 1961, the Pierson Bruins won the league 4 seasons in a row as league champs!

In 1962 and 1963 the Waskada-Goodlands team won the championship, with Pierson Bruins regaining the Art Ross Trophy back in 1964, then the Waskada Comets took the trophy back in 1965.

I do not know why, but in the seasons of 1966, 1967, 1968 and 1970 there was no league champion. If someone knows I would appreciate any feedback as to what happened in those seasons. The Brandon

Bobcats won the league in 1969.

The Neepawa Natives won the league championship in 1971 and 1973. There was no winner declared in 1972. Again, if someone knows why or the trophy just was not recorded, give me a shout.

In 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978 and 1979 the Deloraine Royals dominated the South West hockey league winning the Art Ross Trophy six years in a row. They were an awesome team for a lot of years.

In 1980, the Ste. Rose Royals were the champions and in 1981 the Elkhorn Canadians left the North Central Hockey League and joined the South West Hockey League and were crowned league champions.

In 1982, the Deloraine Royals recaptured the league championship and in 1983, the Ste. Rose Royals were the champions.

In 1984 and 1985, the Brandon Spectrum Sportsmen were league champions. In 1986, the Cartwright Clippers won their first league championship defeating the Brandon Sportsmen, but in 1987 the Sportsmen won the trophy back.

In 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991 and 1992 the Cartwright Clippers dominated the league winning five championships in a row. The Boissevain Border Kings ended the Clippers streak by winning the crown in 1993.

In 1994 the Elkhorn Canadians were the league champions followed by the Boissevain Border Kings who won the league in 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000. The Souris Elks then took their turn winning the league in 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005. Boissevain won the league in 2006.

The Souris Elks won the league in 2007 and 2008, and Boissevain claimed the trophy in 2009, which also saw the league fold as they were down to a handful of teams.

This great league that had provided so many memories of some great players and teams folded. What a shame to see another of the great senior leagues fold. Leagues combined so that players could keep playing the game they love, but oh the memories of the South West Hockey League live on and on!



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Obituary

IN LOVING MEMORY
BARRY JAMES GREEN



Barry James Green passed away at the Hamiota Health Centre on Tuesday, December 16, 2025. He was born on October 11, 1944, at home on the L.W. Skinner farm near Alexander, Manitoba, to Percy and Jessie Green.

Barry grew up in the Alexander district and began his schooling there. In the fall of 1950, his family moved to the Bradwardine district after purchasing the former Shuttleworth farm. He attended Bradwardine School and was an active member of 4-H. Barry completed Grade 12 at Rivers Collegiate, where he met Gwen Archibald. They were married on October 26, 1963.

Barry worked for Manitoba Hydro and later worked on his father-in-law's farm. During this time, their son Robert was born. In 1967, Barry and Gwen purchased the Les and June Seens farm and worked as a team alongside his parents. Their daughter Janice arrived in the summer of 1968.

Barry was involved with numerous organizations in Bradwardine, Harding, and Kenton. He was an avid fisherman, trapper, hunter, and curler. He could sometimes be found at the ball diamond, golf course, or bowling alley, and always enjoyed a game of cards, crokinole, or pool. Barry also took an interest in photography, which served him well as he and Gwen enjoyed several trips abroad.

Family was very important to Barry, and he was always willing to lend a hand to relatives and neighbours. He was known for his easy-going nature, sense of humour, and love of teasing both young and old.

Barry is lovingly remembered by his wife of 62 years, Gwen of Hamiota; son Bob of Winnipeg; daughter Janice (Ryan) of Hamiota; grandsons Sawyer (Cassidy) and Holden (Matea) of Regina. He is also survived by his sisters, Phyllis Dubuc of Cornwall, ON, Luetta Sinclair of Duncan, BC, and sister-in-law Gaylene Archibald of Three Hills, AB as well as nephew Torin (Katrina) and nieces Rana (David) and Lori. Barry was predeceased by his parents Percy and Jessie Green, his brothers-in-law and his two nephews.

A funeral service was held on Saturday, December 27th at 2:00 pm at the Hamiota Community Hall with Rev. Noel Suministrado officiating. Interment will take place at Greenwood Cemetery at a later date.

The family wishes to extend their heartfelt thanks to the dedicated doctors, nurses and healthcare staff at St. Boniface Hospital, Health Science Centre, Brandon General Hospital, Cancer Care Manitoba, and especially Hamiota Health Centre for their exceptional care, kindness and support. The family is also grateful for relatives and friends who visited, sent messages and provided support during Barry's time in palliative care and following his passing.

Services were arranged by Campbell's Funeral Home. Donations in Barry's memory may be made to the Hamiota CancerCare Program, payable to Prairie Mountain Health, Box 751, Hamiota, MB, R0M 0T0; to the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Canada, 2300 Yonge St, Suite 1200, Box 2414, Toronto, ON, M4P 1E4; or to a charity of one's choice.

IN LOVING MEMORY
ALFRED JAMES LINES
DECEMBER 31, 1926 - DECEMBER 29, 2025



Dr. Alfred James Lines of Medicine Hat, AB, went to be with the Lord, peacefully on Monday, December 29, 2025, with his family by his side. He was 2 days shy of turning 99.

Alfred (Jim) will be lovingly remembered by his children Mark (Louise), Joanne (Tony), Rachel (Bill), Catherine, Amy, Jolyon, and Jon, as well as the mother of his children, Ann Lines; sixteen grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

A celebration of life was held on Saturday, January 10, 2026, at 11am at the St. James Anglican Church in Rivers, followed by a light lunch at the Rivers Canadian Legion. A private interment followed at Roseville Cemetery.



Condolences: www.memorieschapel.com

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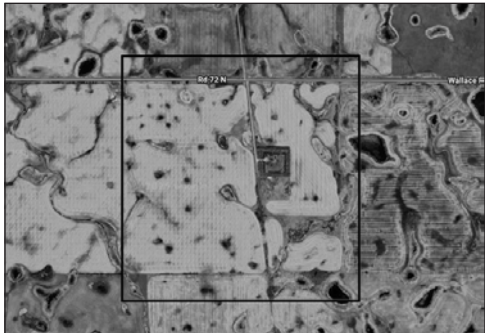
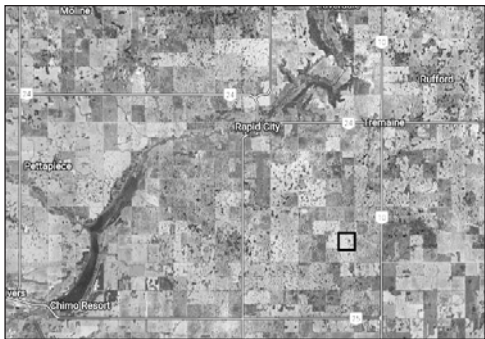
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1. Interested parties must rely on their own inspection and knowledge of the property and not on the above or any other particulars or representations made by or on behalf of the Estate of GREGORY ALLAN NYKORAK.
2. Tenders must be received on or before 5PM on Friday, January 30th, 2026.
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 - a. Total purchase price;
 - b. Confirmation that the buyer is prepared to close as of March 3rd, 2026 or later date pending the seller's subdivision completion;
 - c. Confirmation the buyer shall be responsible for the property taxes for 2026; and
 - d. Be accompanied by a \$5,000.00 deposit cheque payable to Meighen Haddad LLP. Deposits accompanying unacceptable bids will be refunded.
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1. The successful bidder will be required to execute an agreement setting out the terms and conditions of sale. The possession date shall be March 3, 2026, or such later date as may be required by the Seller to accommodate completion of the subdivision process. The Buyer shall have access to the Property as of March 3, 2026, as a tenant, until such time as title can be conveyed. Until possession, the balance of the accepted tender must be paid of March 3, 2026 unless delayed by the Seller pending subdivision completion, or satisfactory evidence provided that funds will be available under conditions acceptable to the Vendor.
2. Failure to pay the balance within the specified time may result in forfeiture of the deposit as liquidated damages (not as a penalty).
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For further information or an appointment to view, contact Stacy Senkbeil at sasenkbeil@mhlaw.ca or 204-727-8461



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SPORTS

JETS SHAKE OFF RUST IN 5 TO 2 WIN OVER CARBERRY

By Robin Wark
RIVERS BANNER



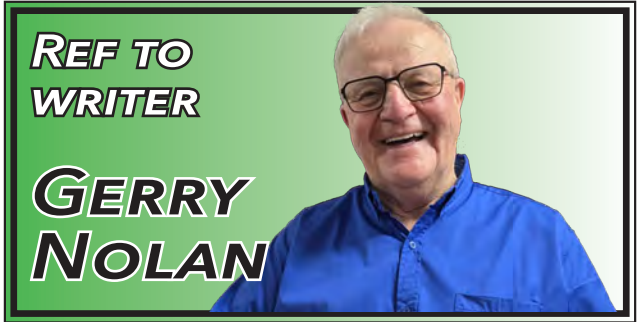
The Rivers Jets were back in action last week. Before its Jan. 10 home contest against the Carberry Plainsmen, the local senior hockey team last played on Dec. 21 — a win over Wawanesa. Last week, the Jets returned to beat the Plainsmen 5-2. “Three weeks between games is never ideal, but it was nice to knock the rust off and come away with two points,” Rivers coach Ryan Lamb said. “There are still some areas we can improve on, for sure.” The Jets had a strong start against Carberry. Kaelen Huibers lit the lamp just a minute and 55 seconds into the contest. Brett Melnyk scored his first senior goal at the 4:16 mark. Cameron Ramsay made it 3-0 for Rivers with 10:40 gone in the

first period. “We moved our feet and used our speed, we generated a lot of chances early by playing with pace,” Lamb said. “Layne (Anderson) also kept us in it with a few huge saves.” Carberry’s Jaren Waldner got his team on the board with about six and a half minutes remaining in the opening frame. That made the score 3-1 at the first intermission. In the second period, the Jets’ Luke DeCorby and Carberry’s Nate Robson scored in the final three minutes. At the second intermission, Rivers held a 4-2 lead. Dylan Thiessen scored for the Jets just over a minute into the third period. Anderson stopped 23 shots, while Joel Baron made 27 saves for the Plainsmen. Huibers and DeCorby each had a goal and an assist. As

of Jan. 11, DeCorby was second in the Tiger Hills Hockey League scoring race with 32 points. Jaxon Heeney recorded two assists. As of Jan. 11, the Jets sat third in the THHL standings. Their 11-2-0-0 record gave them 22 points in the standings. That put them third behind Killarney (13-0-0-0, 26 points) and Hartney (12-2-0-0, 24). The Jets are on the road for their next two games. They play in Minnedosa on Jan. 17. On Jan. 20, the Rivers squad is in Boissevain.



REF MEMORIES



Starting last weekend and continuing on during the month of January, the Brandon Tournament of Champions takes place in some of the rural communities in our area. Hamiota which was once played in Oak River, Elkhorn, Souris, and Minnedosa then the winners of these tournaments go to Brandon to compete for championships of their age category. January was always a busy month officiating hockey as there seemed to always be a shortage of officials. There was lots of minor hockey as well as MAHA Provincial playoffs in senior hockey would begin. January meant cold weather as well. If you thought it was cold outside, some of the rinks were colder inside I believe. Usually, an official would work at least 2 games in a row which meant your skates especially would get cold and wet from sweating, thus by the end of the day the feet were rather cold. I quit wearing socks in my skates in 1980 as my feet were warmer than by wearing socks. The only problem was if you worked multiple games your skates were wet. At these tournaments depending on the schedule, my skates would be wet. I was forced to put on socks which I hated! I liked the feel of skating without socks. When I had to put socks on, I wore a pair of baseball socks. They were lightweight and thin. I mentioned the towns earlier that I officiated in for the tournament of champions. I was also fortunate enough to work games in Brandon at their Tournament of Champions as well. I did not need long underwear in the Keystone. I found it hot there. I

could also stay barefoot all day. There were so many friendly people in these towns and would love talking hockey, which was right up my alley. All of our rural communities put on a terrific weekend. It takes a lot of volunteers to put in some time to be able to put on a successful event like these big tournaments. I would encourage everyone who has some free time to volunteer to work at some of these events. I know you will have fun! What could a person do if they volunteer? Well, it takes people to run the ticket booth, sell 50/50 tickets, work a time clock or the game sheet. How about a shift in the kitchen? This alone takes a number of people and then there is the whole downstairs, cleaning dressing rooms, etc etc. As a referee for so many years, we were treated like royalty in all these towns, people made sure we had food, coffee or just anything we needed. Thank you for giving me great memories of the terrific times I spent on the ice during the coldest month of the year! I was fortunate to meet so many great people.

Rivers Banner

2026 Special Issue Calendar

Event	Due Date	Run Date
Valentines Day	February 6, 2026	February 13, 2026
Easter	March 27, 2026	April 2, 2026
Mothers Day	May 1, 2026	May 8, 2026
Fathers Day	June 12, 2026	June 19, 2026
Canada Day	June 19, 2025	June 26, 2026
Grad RB	June 19, 2026	June 12, 19 July 3
Virden Rodeo	July 24, 2026	July 31, 2026
Oil Caps	September 25, 2026	October 2, 2026
Thanksgiving	October 2, 2026	October 9, 2026
Firefighters	October 16, 2026	October 23, 2026
Remembrance Day	October 30, 2026	November 6, 2026
Christmas	December 4, 2026	December 18, 2026

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How to get more flavour when slow cooking

Submitted
By METRO CREATIVE

Slow cooking is a popular way to prepare hearty meals. Slowly cooked stews can make for the perfect meal on cold winter days. In addition to helping craft meals that stick to your ribs, slow cookers fill a home with enticing aromas all day long, and that can make everyone hungrier and more eager to try the finished product by dinnertime.

Slow cooking aromas wafting through the air heighten anticipation, and cooks can exceed expectations by employing a few strategies to increase flavour.

- Let fat do the flavouring. Fatty cuts of meat fare best in slow cookers, as the excess fat ensures the meat won't dry out. The thought of flavouring with fat may not appeal to everyone, and those who prefer lean cuts will likely have to shorten the cooking time and add more liquid than the recipe calls for to ensure the meat doesn't dry out before it makes it to the dinner table.
- Brown the meat. Slow cooking experts tout the importance of browning meat prior to placing it in the slow cooker. According to AllRecipes.com, searing meat with a little oil in a hot skillet will help the meat develop more complex flavourus. Ground meats also should always be browned before slow cooking, as this prevents the meat from clumping up and can ensure the finished product is not excessively greasy.
- Avoid overfilling the cooker. Foods cook differently when the cooker is too full. In such instances, the dish may end up tasting more like steamed food than simmered food. That's especially so when too much liquid has been placed in the cooker. In such instances, steam hits the lid of the cooker and creates condensation, which then drips back into the pot. That can make everything inside more soggy and less



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tender. The owner's manual of the slow cooker may recommend how much to fill it, but it's generally best to fill the cooker somewhere between halfway and two-thirds of its capacity.

- Cut ingredients evenly. Uniformity of flavour is a goal when slow cooking, as slow cooked meals tend to be served when hosting a crowd and cooks will want everyone's meal to boast the same amount of flavour.

One way to ensure that is to make sure ingredients are cut evenly. Evenly cut carrots and potatoes will finish cooking at the same time, ensuring everyone's meal will benefit from the same flavour profile.

Slow cooking is simple, but veteran slow cookers know that a few simple tricks can make meals that much more flavourful.

SUNMONTUEWEDTHUFRI

SAT

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Jan 1617

Rivers Mens Bonspiel

Prairie Crocus Library

Storytime in Rivers 10am

Chase the Ace

Rivers Legion 7pm

Kenton Legion 7pm

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Rivers Legion

Bingo 11:30am

Rivers Mens Bonspiel

50 + Card Games

1pm

50 + Club Pool 1pm

50 + Club Cribbage 1pm

Darts Rivers Legion 7pm

50+ Floor Games 1pm

Rivers Legion Cribbage 7pm

Prairie Crocus Library

Storytime in Rivers 10am

Chase the Ace

Rivers Legion 7pm

Kenton Legion 7pm

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Rivers Legion

Bingo 11:30am

Rivers Mens Bonspiel

50 + Card Games

1pm

50 + Club Pool 1pm

50 + Club Cribbage 1pm

Darts Rivers Legion 7pm

Rivers Food Bank 9:30 - 11:30am

Rivers Legion Cribbage 7pm

50+ Floor Games 1pm

Prairie Crocus Library

Storytime in Rivers 10am

Chase the Ace

Rivers Legion 7pm

Kenton Legion 7pm