

NEXT HOME GAME

MINNEDOSA BOMBERS VS **RIVERS JETS**

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Tickets available at the door.

HOCKEY



Advertise Lo-HO-HO-cal
This Christmas Season



RIVERS BANNER

GAZETTE-REPORTER

Local People. Local Stories.

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JINGLE BELL JUNCTION CRAFT SALE

Inside...



PHOTO BY CAROLYN PHILLIPS

Cookies, crafts, and crochet all make wonderful Christmas gifts.

By Carolyn Phillips
RIVERS BANNER

As the first light snowfall dusted the ground, the Rivers Legion welcomed an eager crowd of craft sale enthusiasts for this year's Jingle Bell Junction Craft Show. On Saturday, attendees embraced the spirit of the season, indulging in a delightful day filled with festive shopping, homemade treats, and plenty of holiday cheer.

From the moment visitors stepped inside, they were greeted with merry music that set the tone for a joyful experience. The air was filled with the inviting aroma of hearty homemade soup, lovingly prepared for the lunch crowd. Taking a break from the holiday hustle and bustle,

families and friends gathered around tables to enjoy a warm meal, share laughter, and immerse themselves in the festive atmosphere.

The craft show boasted a delightful selection of unique items, ensuring there was truly something for everyone. Local artists and artisans showcased their talents, offering an array of baked goods, Christmas decorations, handmade jewelry, and beautifully crafted items designed with care. Readers could discover a table of books and knitting and crochet. In addition to the regular vendors, home-based businesses added an exciting twist to the shopping experience, showcasing innovative products that resonated with the community.

Read more about the Rivers Craft Sale on page 2...



**SANTA
BRUNCH IN
OAK LAKE** *P6*



**CAMPBELL'S
OPEN HOUSE** *P5*



**Ho-Ho-Hope
You Know
How Much We
Appreciate
Your Business**

**We will be closed
from Dec 20 - Jan 4
for the holidays.
No newspapers on
Dec 26 or Jan 2.**

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SMILES AND EXCITEMENT ALL AROUND THE LEGION HALL



So many wonderful crafters showing off their fantastic skills.

PHOTO BY CAROLYN PHILLIPS

Continued from page 1

A heartwarming aspect of this year’s event was the overwhelming generosity of attendees. Many guests brought non-perishable food items and toys to support the Christmas Cheer initiative. This act of kindness not only made the holiday brighter for those in need but also brought the community together in a spirit of giving. Entry into the hall was free, but many visitors took the opportunity to contribute to the donation jar for Christmas Cheer, resulting in a generous \$302.15 collected in support of the cause. Every year, the Jingle Bell Junction Craft Sale relies

on the hard work and dedication of its vendors, and this year was no different. A big thank you goes out to those who have supported the event time and time again, as well as a warm welcome to the newcomers who brought fresh creativity and ideas to the sale. The diversity of offerings this year reflects the vibrant community spirit that drives the success of this beloved event.

Special recognition must also go to the behind-the-scenes heroes of the Jingle Bell Junction team. Karen, the ‘lunch lady’ and Patrick, known as the ‘go-for’ elf, played an essential role in ensuring that everything ran smoothly throughout the day. Their

commitment and enthusiasm helped create a welcoming environment for all attendees.

As the craft sale came to a close, smiles and excitement lingered, and the team extended heartfelt gratitude to everyone who made the event a success. As we wrap up another wonderful year, the Jingle Bell Junction crew eagerly anticipates next year’s celebration. With gratitude for the past and hope for the future, they wish everyone a joyful holiday season filled with love, laughter, and community spirit.

We look forward to seeing you all next year! Happy Holidays from the Jingle Bell Junction crew.

EASY SHEPHERD’S PIE WITH GARLIC ROMANO POTATOES

Ingredients

1 pound ground beef

1 teaspoon dried rosemary

1 (8 ounce) can tomato sauce

1/2 cup butter

1/3 cup milk

1 teaspoon salt

2 (15 oz) cans mixed vegetables, drained

1/2 cup chopped onion

1 teaspoon dried basil

2 pounds red potatoes

1/2 cup grated Romano cheese

2 tbsps minced garlic

1 teaspoon dried oregano

1 (14.5 oz) can diced tomatoes, drained

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C). Lightly grease a medium baking dish.

2. Place beef and onion in a large skillet over medium heat. Season with rosemary and basil. Cook and stir until beef is evenly browned; drain grease. Mix in mixed vegetables, diced tomatoes, and tomato sauce. Cook and stir until vegetables are heated through. Transfer to the prepared baking dish.

3. Place potatoes in a large pot with enough water to cover; bring to a boil. Cook until tender, about 10 minutes. Remove from heat and drain.

4. Add butter, Romano cheese, milk, garlic, salt, and oregano to potatoes in the pot. Mash together with a potato masher until smooth. Spread mashed potatoes over beef and vegetable mixture in the baking dish.

5. Bake in the preheated oven for 30 mins. Turn the oven broiler to high and continue cooking until the top of potatoes are golden brown, about 3 mins.

Spruce Woods

CHRISTMAS

Open House

Wednesday, December 10

4 - 7 PM

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Complimentary coffee, drinks, and snacks

Colleen Robbins
MLA - Spruce Woods
Contact@colleen-robbins.ca

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Brandon (Corral Centre)
(204) 717 - 7000

BE ON TIME!

Advertising deadline:
12 noon Monday

Cooking safely through the holidays

National home fire safety week

By Lewis Smith
CANADA SAFETY COUNCIL

As the holiday season approaches, kitchens across Canada will heat up with family feasts, late-night baking sessions, and the occasional “experimental” recipe. Unfortunately, this is also when cooking-related fires spike, often turning celebration into catastrophe within seconds.

During National Home Fire Safety Week, November 24 to 30, the Canada Safety Council is reminding Canadians that the most common cause of home fires isn’t candles or Christmas trees — it’s unattended cooking.

The fix isn’t complicated. It’s awareness, attention, and a little bit of common sense.

“The kitchen should be the heart of the home, not the hazard,” said Gareth Jones, President and CEO of the Canada Safety Council. “The holidays bring joy and togetherness, but also distraction. Staying alert and taking a few simple precautions can make all the difference between a memorable meal and a dangerous accident.”

Stats

In Canada, from 2011 to 2020 an average of 220 people died due to fires every year, according to Firefighting in Canada.

We also know through Statistics Canada that almost

a third of fires from 2015 to 2021 were related to cooking. During that time period it was the leading cause of fire incidents and injuries at 32 per cent and 43 per cent, respectively.

Read on for tips on how to stay safe proactively:

Stay with your station

Most kitchen fires start when cooks step away “just for a minute.” Grease can ignite faster than you can unwrap a stick of butter. If you must leave the room, even briefly, turn off the stove or ask someone to keep watch. Multitasking and open flames are an awful pairing.

Control your chaos

Clutter is a quiet saboteur. Keep oven mitts, utensils, packaging, and towels well clear of heat sources. Wipe up oil splatter as it happens; residue buildup can ignite later, long after the meal’s over. And if you’re deep-frying, use a thermometer and stay below 175



SUBMITTED PHOTO

C (350 F). After all, hot oil doesn’t need an invitation to explode.

Dress for the task

Flowing sleeves, scarves, and polyester blends make fine holiday fashion but poor fire-resistant gear. Opt for fitted clothing or roll sleeves snugly. It takes just one brush of fabric across a burner to start a chain reaction you’ll remember for all the wrong reasons.

Watch the kids and pets

Keep children away from stoves and ovens. Children often want to feel included in this element of the holidays, so give them age-appropriate tasks like washing, stirring, and setting the table. Regardless of what those tasks may be, stove-related activities are generally not recommended for children, especially in potentially hectic or high-traffic situations like the holidays.

House pets, too, are known to take advantage of the chaos and try to scoop up any food that might be dropped. This in turn creates a tripping hazard, as a busy kitchen may not afford room to notice or react to the pet. Because of this, it’s always a good idea to maintain constant supervision of our furry friends and keep them out of the way.

Know how to react

If a pan ignites, never move it. Smother it with a metal lid or baking sheet and kill the heat. Baking soda can help with small grease fires; water will only make things worse. Make sure every adult in the household knows where the fire extinguisher is and how to use it — and, of course, that it actually works.

A little prevention goes a long way. But should these preparations still lead to the worst-case scenario, be sure to have an exit plan.

The holidays are about warmth, not flames. A little caution keeps the focus where it belongs: on friends, family, and food that stays safely on the plate.

From last weeks front page

Y O C T Z Q A N C Q J T K V L
Z Y B I Y Y M R U Z D H J K U
W I L D E W K P I J E S L P F
L R I O G J Y C V N J C A Q T
H D Q J N L O L N Z K Z V U H
Y R J T E O E M G I A K I P G
P H E N K A S W A B A X N P I
A P W I C E E A I G X P R B L
R E E I C B S N E C I F A E E
A T L Q H T M V B S S C C C D
D Q I X A Y A D I L O H A N R
E Q U E Z J F B S E L J D L W
N T R R E T H G U A L S S R Y
F T A R O N M D T M G J S A V
I C N X J A W A R D E D Z R M

Word Bank

- | | | | |
|------------|------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1. rink | 2. season | 3. wild | 4. holiday |
| 5. awarded | 6. treats | 7. cookie | 8. carnival |
| 9. magical | 10. parade | 11. laughter | 12. delightful |

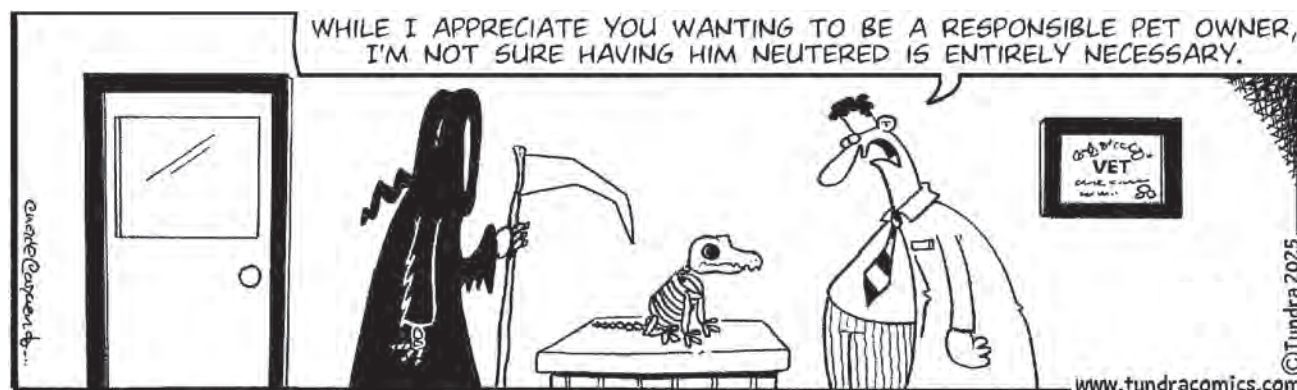
RAPID CITY COMMUNITY CHURCH
Sundays 10 a.m.
Children's Church during the message
Bible Study - Thursdays 7:30 p.m.

JESUS IS LORD

**This Season Come Celebrate
Jesus With Us**
Rivers Community Church
Sunday morning 10:30
447 Edward Street Rivers

Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



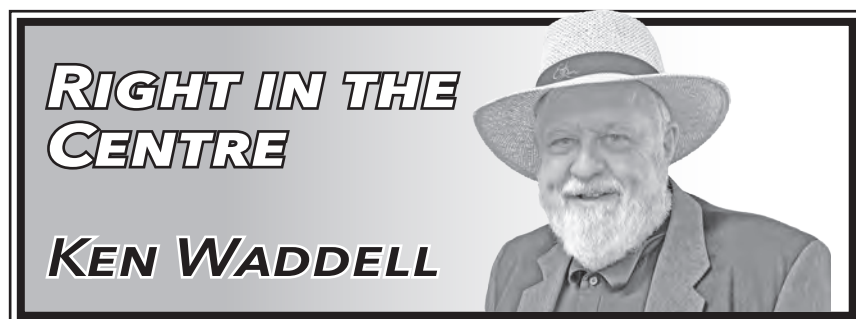
Disgraceful behaviour continues

As anyone who knows me well or who has read some of my columns, knows I try to keep close track of political matters. There are good reasons for that. My parents liked to stay informed about local, provincial and national politics. My father came to Canada in 1913 and was a fan of Prime Minister Wilfred Laurier, if for no other reason than the family benefited from Laurier's immigration policies. Both my parents followed politics, always voted as soon as they were old enough and taught us the importance of being involved.

My wife Christine and I have long been involved in politics, have run for office a few times. I have known about or been somewhat acquainted with every Manitoba premier since Douglas Campbell in the 1950s. I have been in the gallery many times at the Manitoba legislature and have seen some good debates and momentous occasions. With all that background, it was very disturbing to hear about the vicious name calling that took place last week in the Manitoba legislature. I won't repeat what was said but I abhor the attitudes, the slurs and the sheer ignorance of the discourse.

For me, it goes even a bit deeper than that. In 2006, the leadership of the PC Party of Manitoba became vacant when then leader Stewart Murray lost a confidence vote at a PC Party Annual General Meeting. A leadership race was called. I entered that race and came in third out of three candidates. It was a great experience. Through that leadership process, I became more familiar with the house and its workings. I met with the winner of that race, Hugh McFadyen, many times, and we talked about a wide range of topics and policies.

After all those years of political involvement, it had become evident to me that even then the level of discourse and decorum in the legislature had



“It's a mistake, a huge mistake for the legislature to carry on the way they have done for years now and with no relief in site.”

badly deteriorated. I strongly suggested that he gather his Members of the Legislature (MLAs) together and set a new course of action, discourse and decorum. I suggested that he not participate in the heckling and that he direct his MLAs to do the same. I predicted he would get a lot of attention, even adoration from the media and greater respect from voters. Even then, things were pretty bad in the house, a disgrace to the MLAs and an abuse of people in the gallery and especially to the delegations of school children.

McFadyen didn't apparently take my advice.

From that day forward, through the reign of now several premiers, the name calling, cat-calling and the general level of nastiness has accelerated.

It's a mistake, a huge mistake for the legislature to carry on the way they have done for years now and with no relief in site. No sensible Manitoban should say they like the situation.

The problem is that, although politicians may not realize it, most voters don't hold them in very high esteem. About 40 per cent don't even vote, let alone think that politicians can be taken seriously.

At all levels of politics in Canada, school board, municipal, provincial and federal, it should be incumbent upon politicians to behave in a cordial and respectable fashion. Added onto that is the amount of sad divisions that crop up in US politics and it's no wonder that people don't hold politicians in high esteem.

I am not about to quit preaching but it's getting disheartening to see the level of disrespect that comes out of politicians' mouths.

The bottom line seems to be that the worse the politicians behave, the more sour and dismissive the voters (and non-voters) become, the less politicians are held accountable. Maybe that's the way they want it to be. With nobody caring and nobody paying attention, the politicians can do whatever they like without accountability. I hope I am wrong but the evidence is building up that politicians render themselves irreverent and irrelevant with the result that they can do whatever they want. That's a sad prospect isn't it?

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



Go make a diff'rence

One of the 'going forth' hymns in the newer United Church song book encourages everyone to go out and make a difference in their world.

"Go make a diff'rence, you can make a diff'rence...."

It's an upbeat, off beat song, to be sung with enthusiasm. Singing it with enthusiasm is much easier than making a difference with enthusiasm!

It is easy to fall into the pattern of thinking that the something we do is big, splashy and noteworthy. They certainly can be, but they don't have to be grandiose actions that make a difference.

Two of my recent projects have possibly been totally unnoticed by everyone but me. And that's ok. In late spring I was distressed over the multitude of empty pop cans scattered down Railway Street. Twisted Tea cans to be exact. So, one day I grabbed a garbage bag as I left the house, and before I reached the stop sign a few blocks away I had almost 50 empties off the sides of the street, out of sight and into the recycling bin at home. I had not started out with a large enough bag so I stockpiled a few for my next trip out. And then I started spotting them on the grounds of the Yellowhead, down Hurrell Road, beside the old highway— everywhere!!! But I did what I could picking up after a prolific litterer...

This fall the plastic bags tumbling around the compost site have been annoying me to no end. And then one day—go make a difference was our closing song at service. When Arie and I headed out for our Sunday afternoon walk, I decided to start making a difference where I could see a need. I started gathering up bags, big bags, of old, of new, of rotted and whole plastic bags at the compost station. I chased them across the open field, I clambered through the ditch, I braved the tree line and I tugged them out of the dirt in which they were half buried. And I felt darn proud of myself for making a difference in my world. I did wonder if there is still a juvenile offender program in our community and if I could possibly get some assistance from a young offender. I did/do wonder why folks can not simply follow the instructions!!! There are bins provided for the bags. Oh, and I emptied other peoples bags of leaves, cause leaving your leaves in the bag is not the way to do it. And I wondered, every time I emptied one, what else might be in there! I collected a whole bunch of perfectly intact bags and stashed them away for the next time I go out gathering. That whole concept of a dedicated space to drop off trees and branches— NOT pieces of furniture—leaves and garden compost— NOT mattresses and light fixtures— is a wonderful addition to the community, my community, your community.

Perhaps not quite the spiritual intent of the song writer when sending me forth, but it's a start. I challenge each of us to make a positive diff'rence in our world.

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Campbell's Christmas Open House a 55-year tradition



PHOTO BY ANNE DAVISON

At the heart of Campbell's Christmas display, talented florist Loree Gardham puts the finishing touches on the Christmas tree. This week, Dec. 4-6 Campbell's Flowers & Gifts hold their annual Christmas Open House.

By Anne Davison
RIVERS BANNER

From Thursday, Dec. 4 – Saturday, Dec. 6. You will find a stunning array of holiday gifts, during Campbell's Flowers & Gifts Open House this week.

The Campbell family has a long history of serving Hamiota and the surrounding area. Mac Campbell worked for Max and Dorothy McConnell funeral service since 1963. It was 1970 when Mac and Sheila Campbell took over the funeral home and florist business serving Hamiota and the wider area for 40 years.

From the get-go they held an open house for Christmas shoppers.

Through the years Mac had part-time employees. However, Lloyd Hazelwood was his right-hand man for many years. Sheila Campbell was the florist and by April of 1998 Loree Gardham of Miniota was hired to help with floral arrangements and serve in the gift store.

Son Dwayne Campbell began to work alongside his father Mac, and in December of 2003 Mac and Sheila retired.

Dwayne took over full responsibility for the funeral home, flower and giftshop with Mac assisting for several years.

Loree took a five-year break in 2000 to raise the family's twin girls and in 2005, she returned to run the flower shop for Dwayne once her twins started school.

Now, 55 years later Dwayne says the Christmas Open House that became a tradition begun by his parents, hasn't missed a beat. (Covid year 2020 meant remote/online shopping.)

This Christmas Season the store includes robust potted poinsettias in brilliant reds, contrasting with white poinsettias plants.

Christmas cactuses in three different colours are bursting into bloom. Other plants are also available in gift pots and there's a cooler full of cut flowers for Christmas bouquets.

New Christmas ideas abound, many sparkling with lights.

Campbell's chapel has been turned into a Christmas themed winter wonderland, an inspiring sight. With innate talent and an eye for floral arrangements Loree has arranged a beautiful display where you can shop local in Hamiota.

Christmas Rural Road Trip comes to Hamiota



PHOTO BY ANNE DAVISON

The road trip travellers prepare to enter Campbell's Flowers & Gifts.

By Anne Davison
RIVERS BANNER

About 16 women got off the bus, chatty, eager to stretch their legs and to check out their final shopping stop on the Christmas Rural Road Trip that began in Virden.

Charlotte Artyshko, tour guide for the trip, raved about the unique shopping afforded at all their stops where "no two

places were the same."

The tour took in four towns and began at Virden's Flower Attic & Gifts, then to MJ's Coffee Bar – fuel for the trip to Elkhorn and Samantha's Boutique. Rosburn's Gone Scrampin' In Bloom was the lunch-hour stop with another round of unique wares. The final shopping spree was in Hamiota to Campbell's Flowers & Gifts winter wonderland before the bus headed to Virden.

The 5th annual Christmas Artisan Market



PHOTOS BY CELIA NOLAN

Lots of treasures to be found at the Christmas Artisan Market in Hamiota.



Entertainment was provided by The Backyard Band.

By Gerry Nolan
RIVERS BANNER

The past month of November has been a flurry of activity at the Art center in Hamiota. A four-week acrylic class of an Irish cottage and castle was featured every Wednesday afternoon and Thursday evenings. It was enjoyed so much, that plans are being made to offer another four-week class starting the end of January and running into February.

The fifth annual Christmas Artisan Market started November fifteenth and concluded November Twenty Ninth. There are so many talented crafters that bring their treasures to the

Art center. Delicious jams, beautiful quilted and sewn items, as well as warm cozy knitted sweaters, slippers, toques and mitts were on display. Such a wide variety of wonderful unique ideas for gift giving or just to keep for yourself.

On Sunday, November 30, a free music concert paid by the Hamiota and the New Horizon grant was open to everyone. Entertainment was provided by The Backyard Band. Members are Cyril and Janice Maxwell, Mary Richie and Willie Gilbert.

A very enjoyable afternoon was followed by tea, coffee and homemade cookies provided by Mid-West board members Marianne Whyte and Celia Nolan.

THE 30TH ANNUAL SANTA BRUNCH IN OAK LAKE



The Oak Lake Lions Club cooked up a delicious Christmas brunch.

By Jessica Coulter
RIVERS BANNER

Santa was spotted in Oak Lake on Sunday, Nov. 30. The Oak Lake Community School Parent Advisory Council (OLCA PAC) was excited to partner with the Oak Lake and Area Lions Club in hosting the 30th Annual Santa Brunch in Oak Lake at the community hall.

They had approximately 30 volunteers working various shifts and stations during the event and many other community members pitched in when needed without being asked.

Fluffy scrambled eggs and pancakes, tasty pork sausage, cheesy hash browns, a variety of muffins and delicious Christmas oranges was served to over 400 people during the four-hour brunch by the Oak Lake and Area Lions Club.

There was this amazing idea that the Council started



PHOTOS BY JESSICA COULTER

A toonie to shop for a perfect present for every kid to get something for their favourite adult.

a few years ago where kids get to shop for a toonie. Before the event, the council puts a shout out to the community inviting people to donated items to Christmas Store. The items donated included kitchenware, books, ties and more. This store is for children 12 and under. Each child brings a toonie to the store, which was in a separate room from the brunch, and buys a gift from the donations table. They then wrap it with the donated wrapping paper and save this gift to give to a parent on Christmas day.

They had 38 silent raffle prizes that people could bid on and they had 30 rainbow ticket raffle prizes.

There were too many sponsors to list them all. The group was able to get approximately 100 sponsors to donate to this great day. Donations were in the form of prizes, items for the kids store and some monetary donations.



The tables were packed with people from all around enjoying the 30th Annual Santa brunch.

“This year saw the OLCS PAC and OL and area Lions club host the 30th Annual Santa Brunch. This event is an anticipated annual event for our community. For many it feels like the official kick off to Christmas where community members gather to visit, eat a delicious brunch while children visit Santa, do crafts and secretly shop for family members in the kids store. The support for this event is so wonderful,” says Jodie Gompf, lead organizer.

Profits from this event were split between two active groups in the community. OLCS PAC is focusing fundraising on new playground equipment. They also support the school swim program and various school activities. The Lions Club returns profits to the community and support many initiatives with in the Oak Lake community.



CurlManitoba

WOMEN OF THE RINGS

RIVERS 2026

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RIVERDALE COMMUNITY CENTRE

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GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT
Regular Price \$150 Dec 22 - 30
- Day passes available at the door
\$40 - whole day
\$20 - evening draw
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Or by contacting any committee members
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RING IN THE NEW YEAR

NEW YEAR'S EVE SOCIAL

DECEMBER 31, 2025
RIVERDALE COMMUNITY CENTRE
RIVERS, MANITOBA
9:00 PM - 1:00 AM

SCAN TO RESERVE TICKETS



\$20 NO MINORS

HOSTED BY
RIVERS CURLING CLUB

FEATURING LIVE ENTERTAINMENT BY
"THE NEW" HIGHWAY 25 "REPAVED"

From the prairies to the highland tour 204 - Part 14

By Gerry Nolan
RIVERS BANNER

Last week, Celia shared her story about the ladies having tea, while the men were walking the St. Andrews Golf Course. This is a very prestigious golf course, one where professional golfers compete. Yes, it is that kind of golf course!

St. Andrews Golf Course hosts the British Open professional golfer's association every five years, so it is truly professional. We didn't walk the complete course, but we saw some amazing things.

WOW! What a course! It costs \$300 for eighteen holes. There are narrow fairways, tall fescue, and sand traps that can be 6 or 7 feet deep. Sand traps surround most greens and also are strategically placed along the fairways. This course is

not a hack and whack course, club size is of huge importance when playing here.

We walked some of the course and watched some golfers playing. All of the golfers had caddies, who helped the players out with club selection, distance to the pin as well as reading the greens, which were anything but straight in putts. The Caddies make a living doing this service, and if a caddie does two, eighteen hole rounds he would make around \$500.00 for the day. Probably tax free, I am thinking. What a great career. The caddies play the course a number of times so they can pass this information to their selected golfer.

James then took us to the equipment shed. I worked at the Wellview Golf Club in Virden for five years back in the 1990's, so I was of course

very interested in what the professionals use for equipment. Well, it was awesome! St. Andrews actually has three different eighteen-hole golf courses and they are actually building a fourth golf course. There are so many people who want to play golf.

Their equipment had 8 greens mowers, plus multiple tractors and front-end loaders. They had several side by sides and a storage shed where they mixed sand and grass seed as well as fertilizer and black dirt. Obviously, there is a lot of maintenance. One man spends 6-7 hours a day just raking the sand traps on one of the eighteen-hole golf courses.

The course is immaculate! The professional player can struggle on this golf course, imagine the run of the mill golfer, it must be difficult.

The greens are built so



PHOTO BY DEVON CALDWELL

Enjoying a round of golf at St. Andrews Golf Course.

they have ups and downs and curves and any other way to make them difficult. They are anything but flat and straight, but there is a knack of doing it. Just off of the side of the greens are putting holes to practise on. These are just flat surfaces.

We were there on a

Sunday. People are allowed to walk some of the course and take their pets as well. It is family day. What a way to introduce your children to golf. We were told the golf course has so much money, they just keep investing it back into the course.

After the tour, we went to the clubhouse

for lunch. What a clubhouse! You can only imagine what a professional golfer's clubhouse would look like!

I think we were all a little drained after this day, but we had to get rested because next week you will learn about the (Tattoo) in Edinburgh!

The Kenton Cup

By Gerry Nolan
RIVERS BANNER

What is the Kenton Cup? Well, back in 2014 a group of men got together and decided we would try to be like National Hockey League General Managers. The rules are fairly simple, so this is how it works.

Initially we started I believe with 8 teams, and we now have expanded to 14 teams. We have had teams drop out but have been able to replace those teams by taking on new owners.

The first season we drafted a total of 30 players. Your roster included team goalies, six defensemen and 12 forwards in your lineup. The remaining players go into your player pool. From the pool you are allowed 12 changes per season. In case of injury, you can put in a player from your pool to replace him, but you have to remain under the cap. The salary cap that we have is the same as the NHL.

If you trade a player, that player's salary is prorated, so making trades can help you make changes in your lineup.

Todd Hunter is our President because in the wintertime he is looking for something to do as farming slows down. Todd also keeps track of the points and sends us weekly updates. He also keeps track of trades and lineup changes, so as you can see he has another full-time job! We the members of the league award a Gold Star to Todd for all his work!

Teams that are in the league are, Todd Hunter, Blair Fordyce, Chris Sutherland, Jason McTavish, Kevin Kirk, Sheldon Rapley, Lane Routledge, Grady Routledge, Matt Pugh, Lynn Madsen, Mark Madsen who teams with Les Sutherland, Ryan Todd teams with Kyle Brown and James and Connor Ramsey and yours truly.

Lynn (Stumper) Madsen keeps track of the trades and of the many draft picks that are traded each season. We meet in early October for our draft meeting.

Important to note you cannot draft a player who has already been taken, we have to remind Blair of this each fall.

We also have a free agency night where you can drop a player from your roster and pick up another player who has not been drafted and put into your lineup or pool. After this night, you can not make any more trades until the end of the season. The top 8 teams make the playoffs while the other 6 try

to figure out where they went wrong.

The way to get points is goals and assists and the dreaded plus/minus. The team with the best plus/minus is usually the winner. Lane Routledge currently is a plus 92. He has a 41-point lead in that department. If you are a Minus, that comes off your point total. We find that NHL teams are not concerned about this as they will pull their goalie multiple times to try and come back in a game.

Blair Fordyce was our initial winner in 2014 and has not been close since.

Grady Routledge leads the league in trades and no one else is close to him in that department.

Lynn Madsen is the most difficult team to make a trade with as it is always all about him! Jason McTavish is the one liner specialist and keeps our meetings real loose!

At the end of each season we must submit a roster of 15 players that you want to protect. Of these 15 players, 3 must be in your pool. You can use those pool players to put into your lineup in case of injury.

All in all it is a lot of fun and for \$40.00 it is cheap entertainment. Oh yes I forgot to mention that the weekly top team receives \$5.00. Not a get rich thing that's for sure.

Obviously we have a lot of fun with it and it is a great way to pass the winter!

Be On Time!

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Manitobans encouraged to be educated and vigilant when shopping online

By Michelle Lissel

RCMP MEDIA RELATIONS OFFICER

Shoppers looking online for great deals this holiday season are strongly encouraged by Manitoba RCMP to be on the lookout for scams designed to empty their bank accounts and steal their personal information.

“Most Manitobans look forward to the holiday season, with many shopping online to find the perfect gift for loved ones. Unfortunately, there are criminals lurking online who are using increasingly sophisticated methods to take advantage of that good will and steal people’s money and personal information,” said Staff Sgt. Kevin Cavanagh, of the Manitoba RCMP’s cyber and financial crime unit.

“We strongly encourage Manitobans to be educated about the dangers lurking online, so they can be vigilant in protecting themselves.”

Online scams can be basic and straightforward, such as phishing texts that claim package deliveries are delayed or that payment information needs to be verified. They can also be sophisticated, with ads placed on social media that direct people to fake websites that mimic legitimate retailers and travel agencies offering incredible deals. Even charities can be impersonated, with people encouraged to give money to charities that don’t actually exist.

There are things Manitobans should look out for to avoid being scammed. The Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre recommends you look carefully for spelling errors in texts or on websites, references to a product as “the item,” overseas buyers who are looking

to buy without seeing the product first and sellers with recently created social media profiles. Shoppers should also be cautious about supposed “blowout” sales or greatly reduced prices posted online – the product you receive may be a counterfeit, if you receive it at all.

Further steps Manitobans can take include:

- Knowing the market value of the product they’re looking for;
- Locating and verifying the sellers’ contact information before purchasing;
- Looking for customer reviews and ratings from third-party sources;
- Using a payment method with fraud protection, such as credit cards;
- Providing the payment in person whenever possible;
- Reviewing all email information to ensure it’s coming from a legitimate source; and
- Not clicking on ads that sound too good to be true – use a trusted search engine instead to locate the seller and research if they are a vendor you should trust.

If you or someone you know has been defrauded, report it to the RCMP or your local police service. Your report can help identify links, catch criminals and prevent further frauds.

Please also report it to the National Cybercrime

HOLIDAY SCAMS!

Protect your info, protect your future



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Canada

and Fraud Reporting System, which serves as a central repository of fraud and cybercrime reports from across the country. Reports can be filed here: Report Cybercrime and Fraud | National Cybercrime and Fraud Reporting System.

Letter to the Editor RE: WHO CARES?

The media have sicced their hounds on PM Carney for responding “Who cares?” to an off-topic question that was followed by “When did you last speak to President Trump?” Flippant and dismissive, they decried. We want to know. You have to tell us. It’s your job. You promised!

Perhaps my problem is that I watch politics through a Lit-major’s eyes. In this story, I see the media as single-minded, intrusive, distracted like the Ancient Mariner, badgering the PM as he attempts to walk by, insisting that he stop and listen, when all the passerby wants to do is get himself to that wedding. The question itself is demented, sourced from the albatross around their own necks, the dead bird whose onus they, the media, want to shift from themselves on to the PM. Trump is the albatross, the not-quite-yet dead Bird, whose stench warps every thought and taints every question. But the burden of it, weighing down every step the PM tries to take, is holding us all back from the reception and wedding dance.

If, like the PM, I had spent months in international meetings, trade negotiations, while crafting a first budget at home, and I were facing a scrum in a foreign nation after days of work, and the only question which “makes the news” is about the albatross, a Bird who was not even present, I would say more than Who Cares? Personally, I would say Shut up about Trump. Because I know it’s a waste of our time and that other more important issues are not being covered because of the reek of the

corpse around the media’s own neck that the pack following the PM insists on carrying.

Why do I empathize with the PM’s sloughing off the question? Because I have my own reading of the body language. I’ve read between the lines to the subtext, the unvoiced story about that albatross. I saw a hard-working team of negotiators coming to an acceptable proposal and having it dismissed out of hand by the Bird. I see that dismissal as evidence that all our efforts to negotiate a fair deal as equals who mutually respect each other are fruitless. I see a Bird interested only in coercive control of this relationship. One he chooses to dominate. He neither respects us nor wishes us well. He loves to see us squirm. He turns an older story, of Ontario’s ill-advised ad featuring Ronald Reagan, into a way to gaslight us. A gaslighting that says “it’s all your fault”. He uses that as an excuse to dig in his heels and turn his back. His gaslighting is repeated, seemingly unquestioned, by the media pack who refuse to let the dead Bird go. What sane person, what self-respecting PM, would continue to pester an ex-partner, an old Bird who revels in holding all the power? Whose flight changes with the wind? Who disgorges words like undigestible pellets? Who delights in devising new ways to hurt us and our friends?

There are archetypes in politics as there are in literature. The abusive partner is real. Coercive control is real. We have to be strong and resist the orbit of this Bird’s chaos. Walk on by. Accept

other invitations. Ask others to dance.

My defense of our PM will never extend to national politics if he were to tolerate coercion from federal or other provincial governments against those of us in British Columbia who prioritize human and Indigenous rights and the protection of the environment over resource extraction. Coercion is coercion, and one of the first clues is the denial of the constitutional rights of specific groups guaranteed in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. It was wrong when railroad construction and settlement in the west were allowed to dominate, preventing the buffalo migration and destroying life as they had known it for Indigenous peoples after 1867. When force was used against those who fought for their human and Indigenous rights. When leaders were arrested, charged, tried, imprisoned, and some, executed for treason. It was wrong then and it is still wrong, 140 years later. Have we learned nothing from past mistakes? I know people will argue that there would not be a Canada without the railroad. We have to do better, be more creative, come up with other more viable solutions than these borrowed from history and already outdated.

J.M. Bridgeman,
Writer, one lonely substack contributor
Bridgeman has Oak River
and Gladstone connections

CLASSIFIEDS

Notice

RIVERDALE MUNICIPALITY

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PLANNING ACT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the date and at the time and location described below, a PUBLIC HEARING will be held to receive representations from any persons who wish to make them in respect of the following matter:

BY-LAW NO. 2025-06

being an amendment to the Riverdale Municipality Zoning By-Law No. 2016-12.

HEARING LOCATION: **Riverdale Municipality Council Chambers
670- 2nd Avenue – Box 520
Rivers, Manitoba R0K 1X0**

DATE & TIME: **December 16, 2025 at 6:05 p.m.**

GENERAL INTENT OF BY-LAW No. 2025-06

That Table 5-11: ("I" Institutional Zone - Use & Bulk Requirements) be amended by adding Group Day Care as a Permitted Use within the Institutional Zone.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Laura Gill, Assistant Administrative Officer, Riverdale Municipality, Ph: 204-328-5300

A copy of this by-law can be inspected at the Municipal Office location noted above during normal office hours (8:30 to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 to 4:30 p.m.) Monday to Friday. Copies may be made, and extracts taken therefrom, upon request.

Any person may make a representation regarding by-law No 2025-06, either in person or in writing, at the public hearing.

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SPORTS

BEST VS BEST: JETS FALL TO SHAMROCKS, HOST BOMBERS

By Robin Wark
RIVERS BANNER

Over a two-week span, fans at the Riverdale Community Center are getting to watch three of the top four teams in the Tiger Hills Hockey League do battle.

On Nov. 29, their hometown Rivers Jets suffered their first loss of this senior hockey season. The defending THHL champion Killarney Shamrocks defeated the Jets 4-1. The visiting Shamrocks held a 2-1 lead after two periods of play. The Jets now have a 7-1-0-0 record, while the Killarney team is undefeated at 7-0-0-0.

"Killarney is the favourite to win the league again this season," Rivers coach Ryan Lamb said. "Early on, I thought we played really well, we minimized their chances and used our speed to have a couple

chances. We had a couple bad breakdowns in the second leading to goals but I thought we battled and put up a good fight. Hopefully, we can see them again in the playoffs."

On Dec. 5, the Jets host the 6-0-0-0 Minnedosa Bombers. As of Dec. 1, Killarney and Rivers were tied for first in the THHL standings with 14 points. The Bombers and the 6-1-0-0 Hartney Blues were next with 12 points.

The Bombers boast strong goaltending. Devon Fordyce enters the week with a 2-0-0-0 record and a 1.00 goals against average. Jayson Argie was 4-0-0-0 and had a 1.75 GAA. Leading the Bombers offensively this season is Bryson Werbicki-Mallett, who had a team-high 13 points in four games. Owen Riffel was second with seven goals and 11 points. Ryan Heino paced the team with eight assists.

For Rivers, Luke DeCorby has a team-best 20 points in seven games. Kaelen Huibers leads the Jets with nine goals in eight games. DeCorby and defenceman Riley Shamray each have 12 assists. Goalie Riley Lamb has a 6-1-0-0 record. His GAA is 1.86.

After the first period in the Jets versus Shamrocks contest, the two teams were tied at 0-0. Brock Sutherland and Parker Korman scored for Killarney in the second period. Korman's marker came on the power play. The Jets' Braden Clarke, assisted by Layton Veitch and Ryder Richmond, found the back of the net to make the score 2-1. In the third period, Colten Miller and Daniel Stagg had goals for the Shamrocks.

Lamb made 17 saves. Brian Archibald stopped 21 for Killarney.

REF MEMORIES

REF TO
WRITER

GERRY
NOLAN



In the late 1980's and early 1990's the Sioux Valley Dakota had a great senior hockey team. They could play the game anyway you wanted to and they were very successful at winning. Most nights they were easy to officiate, but on other nights they could be more than a handful. You just never knew what you were going to get when you went to the rink. There were occasions when they could beat you based on talent alone. On other nights they would spend most of the game in the penalty box! I guess it was one way they could get in your head, so you never knew what was coming.

I was involved in two games in particular where it just didn't matter what you called or how many you called; they just kept taking penalties. They used this method, especially in the playoffs, to mess with the other team's mindset. The funny part of it as an official is the players never complained to me. I never remember handing out a misconduct to anyone for

verbal abuse of an official, they just took their penalty without much fuss or bother.

When the team decided, they were going to beat you where it counts, on the scoreboard, they could do it on a nightly basis if they wanted to.

Offensively they were led by Stacy Pratt, who was a really gifted athlete. I got to know Stacy when he and his uncle Brian Pratt played fastball with us in Kenton. Stacy played Major Junior hockey with the Brandon Wheat Kings and was on his way to a professional career. It was cut short as he had both of his knees injured on two separate occasions by the same player from the Saskatoon Blades. Stacy was also Ray Ferraro's leftwinger when Ray scored 108 goals in the Western Hockey League, which is still a record today!

One thing the Sioux Valley Dakota team did was use the short passing game better than any other team I ever saw. Here are some of the names you may remember from those

teams. I am sorry for the ones I missed. Stacy Pratt, Stu Chalmers, Robbie Chalmers, Derek Chalmers, Joe Halfa, Kenny Essie, Fraser Taylor, Eli Tacan and one of my favourites Billy McKay. On defense, they had Harold Blacksmith, Rod Tacan, Tim Whitecloud, and Frank Sioux. The rink in Rivers would be packed as their fans really supported this team.

As an official, another thing you had to pay attention to was their jersey numbers. They would use that short passing game and there could be four or all five guys on the ice that had touched the puck. Most of these players could beat you one on one at any time. They could all dippy-doodle with the puck, this is not something I see in kids' practises, and I wonder why not? This was what won them a lot of games because they had multiple players doing it.

One night in a game in Rivers, Sioux Valley had a four man breakaway. They all passed the puck from one to the other from center ice right to the opposition goalie. I wonder what that goalie thought. Stacy pulled the trigger with a slapshot to the top corner of the net. I never saw a four-man breakaway at any other time in any other hockey games! Thanks to the boys from Sioux Valley Dakota hockey team, for the entertainment!

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Surviving Winter Inside...

Submitted
By PATRICIA HANBIDGE

So far, winter has been what winter seems to be - cold! I guess that is what we expect but with that cold and cars not starting also comes less comfort for us even being inside. Winter is infinitely more liveable with a higher rate of humidity! Our homes are adversely affected by the dry air we are living with. Our furniture cracks, our hair stands on end and our houseplants are crying for just a little bit of humidity in the air that surrounds us.

This dryness in the winter is more prevalent in our climate. Warm air as we have in the summer will hold more water thus raising the relative humidity rate. Relative humidity is the amount of water that is held in the air relative to the maximum amount of moisture the air could be holding if saturated. Even in the summer, our air is kind of dry - but in the winter, it is even drier! Winter is dry but when it gets very cold, the relative humidity is less - which makes the cold weather even worse and when the temperature plummets to minus stupid the humidity is almost non-existent!

On the prairies, our homes are so much drier in winter as there is a very large temperature differential between the great outdoors and inside our homes. The very cold air contains very little moisture and when that air is warmed it feels extremely dry. The air will actually "grab" moisture from any available surface like our skin and our houseplants. The battle against desiccation is endless.

A couple of years ago, I made an investment that cost around \$100. I purchased a middle of the road cold air humidifier that would hydrate our living space. The water reservoir is easy to fill and takes about 3 minutes of time each day to fill it up. What it has

done for us is provide a much more hospitable atmosphere in which to live. It is amazing that none of our clothing has static electricity while we are at home. Once we leave to go to school and work, the static takes no time to invade! The solution is not endless cans of static guard but simply to walk back into the house and miraculously, our clothes become less clingy! Our skin becomes almost dewy and our hair begins to naturally curl. Our houseplants are happier and exhibit many fewer problems with pests and diseases.

Sometimes an investment like a humidifier is delayed due to other techniques that we hope will hydrate our space. For example, misting plants is a task that is often enjoyed by many. However, misting has a beneficial effect for a minute or two. As the air is so dry, that little bit of moisture is quickly slurped up and really is a waste of time.... except for the fact that it makes us feel better!

If you would like to help your plants feel more hydrated, try grouping them together on trays that are filled with pebbles covered in water. This will raise the humidity directly around the plants and will make them much more comfortable.

Another effective way to help raise the humidity in your home without investing in a humidifier is to simply lower the temperature in the home. For every 1 degree F of decreased temperature, the relative humidity increases by 4 per cent. So if you can reduce the temperature each night in your home and when you are away at work or at play, the humidity will increase to a level that will make both you and your plants smile!

Hanbridge is the Lead Horticulturist with Orchid



Bright lights swiss chard.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

7


Rivers Legion
Bingo 11:30am

8


50 + Card
Games
1pm

9


50 + Club
Pool 1pm

10


50 + Club
Cribbage 1pm

Darts Rivers
Legion 7pm

11


50+ Floor
Games 1pm

Rivers Legion
Cribbage 7pm

12


Kenton Legion
Meat Draw
7:30pm

Prairie Crocus Library
Storytime in
Rivers 10am

Chase the Ace
Rivers Legion 7pm
Kenton Legion 7pm
Hamiota Hotel 7pm

13

14


Rivers Legion
Bingo 11:30am

15


50 + Card
Games
1pm

16


50 + Club
Pool 1pm

17


50 + Club
Cribbage 1pm

Darts Rivers
Legion 7pm

18


50 + Floor
Games
1pm

Rivers Legion
Cribbage 7pm

19


Kenton Legion
Christmas Party

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Storytime in
Rivers 10am

Chase the Ace
Rivers Legion 7pm
Kenton Legion 7pm
Hamiota Hotel 7pm

20

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