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GAZETTE-REPORTER

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Dessert Tea at St James Anglican Church

Reverend Sally serving the scrumpous cakes and pies to the crowd.

Serving tea to the group on fine China.

Inside...

OAK LAKE QUILT SHOW

P8

BRILEY WOOD SIGNS AHL CONTRACT

P11

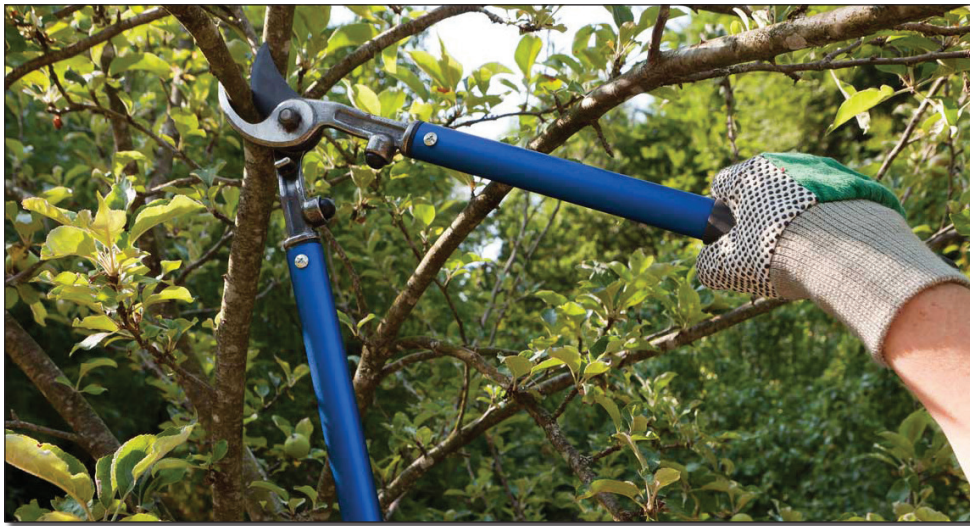
By Jessica Coulter
RIVERS BANNER

Everyone was welcome at the St James Anglican Church on the afternoon of April 13. Reverend Sally and a group of church volunteers helped serve up cakes and pies, tea and coffee to the many people who came out to enjoy.

The dessert tea was served on a traditional China tea set with teacups, saucers and dessert plates, giving the experiences an elegant feel. The visitors gathered and enjoyed an afternoon of comradery with friends on a beautiful spring day.

There was also a penny auction if you wanted to take part. There was a crafts table, bake sale, and thrift table for the visitors to do a little shopping.

Spring pruning



FILE PHOTO

Submitted

By PATRICIA HANBIDGE

The sun already has warmth which entices gardeners to get outside and find some part of the garden that is accessible. In the hope of finding something to do outside, I found myself out in the shed pulling out my pruning tools. The early spring is the best time of year to do pruning for most trees and shrubs. The trees are still dormant but ready to begin rapid growth so any pruning wounds will heal rapidly.

Pruning is the practice of altering the form of a plant. The act of pruning does many things including promoting the health of the plant by removing dead or diseased tissues. Proper pruning can also help to promote a function like more bloom or a higher production of fruit. By regular pruning you can improve the overall appearance of a plant. Good pruning can also protect your property and those who live there by removal of hazardous branches and by improving the sitelines in higher risk areas.

Before you begin to prune it is important to understand the proper structure of the tree you are pruning. Unless you are doing creative pruning (like topiary) it is a good idea to ensure that your pruning will shape the tree in its natural growth patterns.

Keep in mind that you should not prune too much at once. A good rule of thumb is that only a third of the tree should be pruned. If you have a tree that needs some major pruning, it is better to do it gradually over a period of two to three years. To do "catch up" pruning all in one year is very hard on the tree and may in fact cause the rapid growth of suckers that is not desired.

Prune carefully and slowly. Plan before you make that cut as once a limb is cut there is no going back. Start out by cutting out any broken, dead or diseased branches. It is amazing how improved a tree will be by just getting rid of the garbage. Speaking of garbage – when the tree is not fully leafed out there is less weight to haul away and it is easier to see the structure of the tree.

Next, stand back and take another look at the tree. Walk around the tree so you can have a good idea of how it looks from every side. Trees are 3-dimensional so need to be balanced on every side! Next to be removed is any crossing branches or those that will end up competing with each other in the future. Take into account, the expansion of the girth of the limbs with time. Branches that go back into the centre of the tree will likely become a problem in the future.

Try to picture the tree in the future. (This is sometimes the most difficult part of pruning for the novice pruner!!) Take stock of what you have already pruned. It is very easy to prune too much once you get going on this job!

If you are pruning fruit trees remember that in order to get a good crop of fruit it is essential for sunlight to get into the centre of the canopy. Here on the prairies we often prune out the centre completely to allow good light penetration.

Remember too that there is a ban in place from April 1 to August 30. During this time, pruning of elm trees is prohibited. It is important to remember this as Dutch elm disease (DED) is devastating to the entire elm population. When you prune an elm tree, it attracts the elm bark beetles which spread DED. The ban is in place while the beetles are most active.

When you have finished your spring pruning, your unused muscles may be a little sore and tired but you will have the satisfaction of having completed one of the necessary jobs in the garden.....and being able to enjoy spring as well.

Hanbidge is the Lead Horticulturist with Orchid Horticulture. Find us at www.orchidhort.com; by email at info@orchidhort.com; on facebook @orchidhort and on instagram at #orchidhort. Tune into GROW Live on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/orchidhort> or check out the Youtube channel GROW <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzkiUpkvyv2e2HCQIF10JyQ?>

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Wild pigs invasion A Manitoba species threat



FILE PHOTO

By Dr Wayne Lees

COORDINATOR FOR SQUEAL ON PIGS MANITOBA

Wild pigs are defined as any pig living outside of the control of people, including Eurasian wild boar and their hybrids, and feral domestic pigs now living in the wild. The biggest threat however, is posed by Eurasian wild boar, which have adapted to our climate and have become a very destructive invasive species. They have been described as an "ecological train wreck" because:

They are omnivorous and will eat anything.

This includes ground nesting bird eggs, small marsh animals, acorns, forages and grain crops, as well as stored feeds. Their rooting behavior removes grubs and insects that are food for other wildlife, and destroys planted crops, pastures and green spaces. Their wallowing behavior sullies waterways. Having wild pigs on the landscape has significant negative impacts on native species, such as deer, turkeys, geese, ducks, upland birds and endangered small animals, like skinks.

Their home ranges can expand quickly.

They can travel several hundred kilometers in search of food, shelter and breeding opportunities, or in response to recreational hunting pressure. There have been sightings throughout most of southern Manitoba, with most being reported from the Spruce Woods area, southeast of Brandon, where a known breeding population exists. It is important to identify the locations of wild pigs to begin the process of control and removal.

They reproduce at an alarming, exponential rate.

A female pig can become sexually mature at one year of age and subsequently can have two litters per year of 4-8 piglets. Breeding can occur year-round. Because they reproduce so quickly, at least 70 per cent of the animals must be removed each year just to avoid population expansion. This means that early and aggressive intervention is essential to making headway.

They can be the vector for dozens of diseases.

If exposed, wild pigs will contract and spread foreign animal diseases such as African Swine Fever, Classical Swine Fever, and Foot-and-Mouth Disease, putting at risk Manitoba's domestic swine herd. They can also be a vector for diseases, such as tuberculosis or brucellosis that could threaten beef cattle herds or human health. Because they can be very aggressive when threatened, encounters with wild pigs present a significant risk to human safety.

They are an invasive species and have no natural predators.

Wild pigs congregate in groups called sounders, consisting of breeding and adolescent females and their offspring. Mature boars often travel long distances in search of females. There are no natural predators that will confront a sounder of females who will aggressively defend their young, and their large tusks can inflict severe wounds on any animal or person that threatens them.

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As a family, we sat with her during her stay at Health Science Center in Winnipeg; and then followed her to Seven Oaks Hospital at the north end of town. We knew she was a fighter. What we didn't know was just how hard she would fight to get better. By her actions, she let us know that she was taking life one day at a time; and she wanted us to do the same.

Over time, we learned to make a big deal out of every small step of improvement she took. We've been celebrating small steps for 18 years; and as we look back over that time, we are amazed at just how massive her recovery has been. But that hasn't changed her life's strategy one bit. She is still living one day at a time; and enjoying every moment of it.

This way of life (living one day at a time) is not a new idea. It's how Jesus lived; and it's how he wants his followers to live. "Do not worry about tomorrow," he said. "Tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today." (Matthew 6:34)

There is nothing wrong with keeping a calendar that lists your appointments for today and the days ahead. Nor is there anything wrong with making a list of the things you need to do and setting a date for each task to be completed. Those are excellent habits to cultivate.

But once we've completed the schedule and listed our responsibilities, our focus needs to be on this day-taking it one minute at a time, one appointment at a time, one problem at a time, one achievement at a time, one failure and one lesson learned at a time.

And if this was to be our last day on this earth, and we found ourselves standing before God, we could look him in the eye and, like Jesus, say: "I have finished the work that you sent me to do." That is the best way to live.

As he neared the time of his death, a man who had lived his life serving others while living in a rigidly disciplined, cloistered environment, wrote the following words: "If I could live my life over again, I would try to make more mistakes next time. I would relax. I would limber up. I would be sillier than I have been on this trip. In fact, I know of very few things that I would take that seriously. I would take more trips. I would be crazier."

He continued: "I am one of those people who has lived safely and sensibly all my life. I've had my moments-one or two. If I could do it over again, I would try to have lots more of them. In fact, I'd try to have nothing else-just moments-instead of living so many weeks, months or years ahead all the time."

Unfortunately, he can't live his life over again. Neither can you. Neither can I. But there is a lesson we can learn from his words; and if we learn it well, it will radically change our lives.

For the past 15 years, I have been married to a person who's been teaching me this lesson every day of every year we've been together. Kathryn is a stroke victim. Thanks to timely health care by dedicated professionals, her life was saved. But her left side was paralyzed, and no one knew precisely what quality of life she'd enjoy if she ever left hospital.

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From last weeks front page

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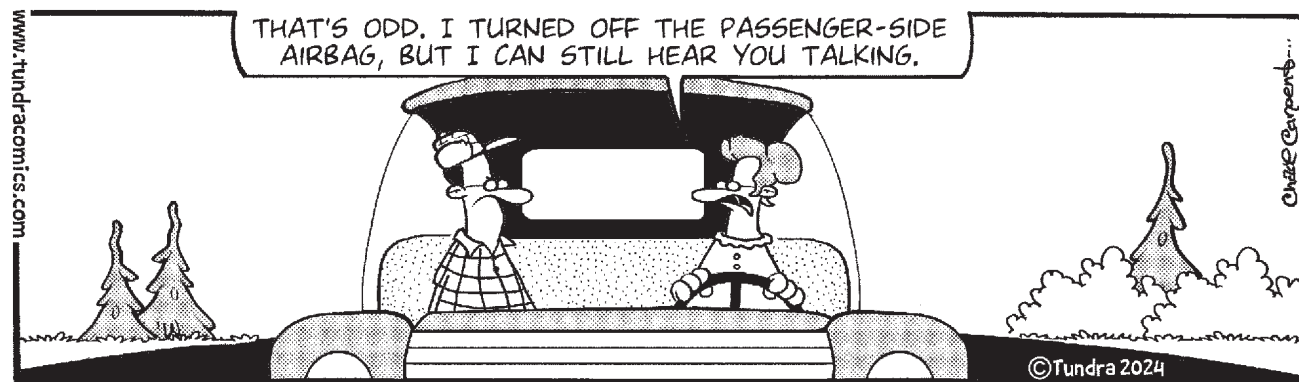
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|----------|---------------|--------------|-------------|
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Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



As the snow melted...

Growing up on a farm, spring brought its own round of responsibilities. As the snow melted, retreating, until it only lingered in deeply shaded corners, the debris hiding under the cover of white was fully revealed. And work to beautify the yard began, with mom at the helm it began in earnest. The larger items that had been casually dropped— usually by dad the less tidy of my parents— were put back in their place, for in mom's world everything had a place. The raking of the inner yard was systematic, almost following the disappearing snow. Once the that space was tidy and clean, the work moved out to the larger, unfenced middle yard. Here it was more bale twine— twine, not plastic, I'm that old!-and the occasional fallen branch from the aging poplar trees. There was almost a sense of relief when a late snow storm dropped the layer of white, as mom would say, snow covers a multitude of sins. In this case, things that were where they didn't belong!

Managing my own yard I have taken on some of mom's standards. Fortunately the farm dogs of my youth were free range and we never had to pick up dog droppings. Not so in my world. As careful as I thought I was all winter about conscientious pick up duties, there has been more than one foray in my back yard scoop and bag in hand. I truly appreciate the companionship of my dogs/dog and so this is not a despicable task. The snow pack in my back yard was intense, slow to melt, leaving that mold discolouring the area. Articles that I've read lately encourage leaving the lawn unraked until the little critters have time to hatch, emerge, migrate, whatever— I take that as a reason, not an excuse, to delay my raking and mowing!

What the retreating snow has revealed is no surprise. The north side of Railway Street has been used as an unofficial garage dump. Sadly. There are boxes and bags of garbage littering the area, and now the crows are attacking and dispersing the contents. It is unsightly and makes me sad that folks can be so thoughtless. Another not a surprise is that the lovely little cedars planted at the entrance to the trail at the north east corner of the cemetery have been completely stripped by the deer. When I saw the choice of the shrub planted I thought it would have been easier, and more economical to drop off a bale or two rather than the expense and effort of cedars... even in the well settled area folks protect their cedars from deer... A lesson for next time? The loss of snow cover also revealed which trees newly planted in the cemetery have a flavour of bark that deer really appreciate. Don't get me started on how many of the shaped evergreens that were moved to the back forty haven't made the transition... And I'm just an amateur gardener...

Enough of a rant. I am thankful for the wonderful trails that allow me to walk in safety. I am thankful for the time and care our community devotes to making the area as 'purty' as possible.

Local is essential

It seems the ultimate goal of business corporations is to dominate the world, or at least their home country. I have written recently about the dreadful downside of big corporations effect on the newspaper industry. This week, I want to address some history and how corporations swallowed and then spit out many newspapers. I also want to show how that trend is affecting other part of our local communities.

In early years of newspapers, an ambitious person, or a couple of partners, would buy a printing press, build, buy or rent a shop on main street and start producing newspapers. The early days encountered some failures and setbacks, but many newspapers survived. It wasn't unusual for every town to have a local newspaper. As years moved on, some towns grew, some stood still or shrank and newspapers were then only in somewhat larger towns. Through the 1960s and 70s, the number of newspapers across North America was fairly stable.

In the 1970s and 80s, the smaller local newspapers owners started to anticipate what retirement might look like. Some sold out to other private small town owners, some faded away and some sold to corporations. Through the 80s, and even into the 90s, corporate ownership wasn't so bad. The remnant or legacy staff stayed on, sometimes former owner/family members worked for the big corps and things clicked along fairly well. Then the corporations figured out that they could amalgamate, sell and accumulate into larger and larger chains. They didn't need local publishers, all they needed was big money. The hedge funds took over but didn't know anything about



publishing and didn't seem to care. Corporations saw newspapers as a cash cow they could keep milking with less staff. The older, more experienced newspaper people soldiered on but eventually, the corporate chokehold eventually killed many papers. Manitoba lost 20 papers. Canada lost many dozens. The US lost over 2600. Fortunately, new start-ups and some buy-backs from corporations have been taking place, but sadly it's too late for some communities.

The corporate world is a hungry beast and has taken over another piece of local endeavour and that is gambling. In the world of sports betting, it has gone big time corporate and none of the money stays local. TV ads blast away about the magic joy of sports gambling but the profits go to corporations not local groups. As far as government run gambling is concerned, I was told by a businessman that he won't have video lottery machines in his establishment because so much of the money leaves the community. Except for a tiny bit, the profits all go to the government and it feels like those profits are never seen again.

In contrast, that same businessman said, he supports the local hockey 50/50 draws and the local charity lotteries. Why the different view? Pretty simple. With a local 50/50,

all the money stays local, The local organization and the winner basically split the proceeds. The same is true for local lotteries. Often the winners are local and local groups keep the rest to fund their organization.

We encourage our communities to buy local whenever possible. Corporations force people to drive to the next biggest centre to get what you need or want. If you don't think that shift is important, dig into your memory bank or look up the local history books to see how many businesses used to be in our small towns. There are many villages in this paper's coverage area that no longer even have a grocery store. If you are currently driving by your local grocery store to buy in a larger centre, just ask yourself, is the few cents savings worth the trip. Considering the price of gas and the risk of losing a local business, is it really worth it?

The overall message, be it newspapers, fund raising or groceries, keep it local. You will be glad you did. Be sure you support your local community as much as you possibly can. People who have done so have almost always been glad they did.

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 Banner & Press staff.

Rivers Banner
Est. 1908

204- 328-7494 info@riversbanner.com
www.riversbanner.com Drop box @ 529 Second Ave•Rivers, MB
Circulation: 2,200
Yearly Subscription Rates (excluding taxes): \$52.03 in Manitoba, \$59.08 elsewhere in Canada
Canadian Publications Mail Sales Product Agreement #40012782

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY
AD DEADLINE: TUESDAY 12 PM PRIOR TO ISSUE DATE

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Invasive Species Awareness Week in Manitoba

April 21-27, 2024

Submitted

BY SOUTHWEST WEED DISTRICT

The Province of Manitoba has declared the last full week of April as Invasive Species Awareness Week (C.C.S.M. c. 197). The Manitoba Weed Supervisors Association (MWSA) recognizes this week by highlighting just a few of the invasive plants considered to be a significant threat to the landscape of our province. Many of these invasive species are mistaken for wildflowers, but unlike native wildflowers, these species threaten agricultural productivity of both cultivated and non-cultivated land, as well as waterways and natural areas.

The Noxious Weeds Act of Manitoba (NWA) (C.C.S.M. c. N110) requires control or destruction measures for different invasive plants. A comprehensive listing of noxious weeds is found in The Noxious Weeds Regulation, which ranks plants according to their threat levels and specifies the areas of the province to which these levels apply. The Act requires that Tier 1 weeds must be eradicated without conditions. Examples of Tier 1 weeds that are currently negatively affecting Manitoba's ecosystems are diffuse and spotted knapweed, orange hawkweed, red bartsia and Palmer's amaranth and tall waterhemp. Tier 2 weeds are also a significant concern, and include leafy spurge, common tansy, field scabious, and nodding thistle.

The MWSA is comprised of and represents Weed Supervisors who are individually employed by Weed Control Districts formed by one or more Municipalities. Weed Supervisors are authorized through the NWA to ensure problematic weeds are dealt with appropriately on all lands in the districts they cover. Weed Control Districts, first started in 1964, have developed programs to deal with invasive plants such as leafy spurge and red bartsia. Prevention measures, early detection and rapid response by Weed Supervisors are critical for protecting habitats and agricultural land from these types of invasive species.

Tall Waterhemp (*Amaranthus tuberculatus*)

Waterhemp is native to the U.S. but was not considered a major agronomic problem until the 1980's. Herbicide resistance and changing production systems, including more corn and soybean, reduced tillage and more reliance on herbicides for weed control, favored the "weediness" of this plant. This member of the pigweed (*Amaranth*) family can rapidly take over crop land and significantly decrease yields. The native habitat of waterhemp is wet, low-lying areas, but it grows well in drier areas. It thrives in reduced tillage and no-till environments. Watch for patches to pop up along field edges or near field entrances, along ditches and waterways. The plant typically grows to 6-8 feet tall, with glossy, hairless and more elongated leaves compared to redroot or smooth pigweed. Waterhemp is well-adapted to warm growing temperatures and intense sunlight and is capable of producing up to a million seeds per plant that can germinate over the whole summer. Waterhemp has very tiny seed, (similar to red root pigweed seed), so it is easily transported in equipment, with water and by wildlife, and can be a contaminant in seed lots.

Removing small patches of waterhemp prior to seed set, and destroying the plants, is one of the most effective strategies to eradicate this weed. Tall waterhemp populations can be resistant to multiple herbicide groups, making it very hard to control this weed in field crops. Waterhemp samples in Manitoba have been tested and confirmed resistant to 3 herbicide groups. This has serious implications for local producers.

New populations have been discovered since it was first detected in Manitoba in 2019, with confirmed presence in 20 municipalities as of 2023.

Palmer's Amaranth (*Amaranthus palmeri*)

Palmer's Amaranth is an aggressive, invasive weed native to the desert regions of the southwest US and northern Mexico. It was accidentally introduced to other areas and has devastated crops in the South and Midwest US as it rapidly became herbicide resistant. With the ability to emerge all season, grow 2-3 inches per day and set seed over the entire season this highly invasive weed can drastically reduce crop yield. Infestations have slowly moved north through contaminated seed, equipment, animal feed and bedding and the digestive tract of wild birds. Palmer's amaranth was first detected in North Dakota in 2018, and is spreading throughout the state. Considered to be the #1 weed in the US, this plant can grow at least 10-12 feet tall and produce one million seeds and heavy infestations can reduce soybean and corn yields by approximately 80-90 per cent.

A member of the Amaranth family like redroot pigweed and tall waterhemp, Palmer's amaranth can be difficult to distinguish from its cousins. Smooth-stemmed like tall waterhemp, its leaves are a little wider, more like redroot pigweed, but can be

distinguished by the long petiole (stem-like structure that attaches the leaf to the main stem). Petioles of Palmer amaranth are longer than the leaves, while its cousins have shorter petioles. Long, snaky seed heads that can be up to 2 feet long are a distinctive feature of Palmer's amaranth. Identification is crucial, and removal of individual plants and small patches is critical to prevent this weed from establishing in our province. Two plants were found in Manitoba in 2021; a single plant was found in 2022 in the same area, with zero plants found in 2023.

Nodding thistle (*Cardus nutans*)

Nodding thistle is an invasive species accidentally introduced to Manitoba over 100 years ago as contaminant in forage seed. Nodding thistle grows as a biennial (two-year growth cycle), invading dry areas such as heavily grazed rangeland, coarse soils, etc. Its stalks and leaves have strong sharp spines which can injure livestock. Animals will avoid it and graze elsewhere, giving the plant a competitive advantage. Nodding thistle reproduces only by seed. The first year the seedling will develop into a large flat rosette and will need to overwinter, then continue to grow to maturity the following growing season.

Usually, the rosettes require adequate snow cover to survive the winter, that's why nodding thistle patches are generally found in ravines or bluffs within a pasture.

As seed is its only means of spread, the first step is to cut down the flowering stalks and destroy the seed heads. Later in the fall, once the rosettes have established, (late September) apply a broadleaf herbicide to prevent maturation and seed set the following year. Continue checking for and spraying new rosettes as they develop throughout the fall. This will provide you a head start on control for next year, but it's still important in the spring to look for and treat any more rosettes that you may find before they start to form flowering stalks.

Nodding thistle is found primarily in South Western MB.

More information on Invasive plants either threatening or already present in Manitoba can be found in The Noxious Weeds Act (C.C.S.M. c. N110) and the Noxious Weeds Regulation (Man.Reg.42/17), by contacting your local Weed District or at the MWSA website, www.mbweeds.ca



TALL WATERHEMP: CREDIT KIM BROWN - LIVINGSTON, MB AG

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The potential health benefits of pickleball

Submitted
METRO CREATIVE

Anyone who lives in close proximity to a pickleball court can no doubt attest to the popularity of the sport. According to the 2023 Topline Participation Report from the Sports & Fitness Industry Association, pickleball participation grew by 159 percent between 2019 and 2022. Such figures are a testament to the popularity of a sport that has reinvigorated millions of players' enthusiasm for physical activity and team sports.

The thrill of competition and the joy of social interaction undoubtedly have contributed to the popularity of pickleball, but those are not the only benefits to participating in this fast-growing sport. Indeed, there are many potential health benefits to pickleball as well.

Pickleball provides a fun way to embrace physical activity. It's easy to lose interest in an exercise regimen characterized by time on a treadmill and traditional strength training in a gym setting. Though cardiovascular exercise and strength training are vital components of successful exercise regimens, it's important that individuals make their fitness routines enjoyable, which increases the likelihood that they will remain committed to less sedentary lifestyles. The SFIA report found that players deemed pickleball 150 percent more enjoyable than walking for 30 minutes.

Pickleball provides social benefits that positively affect long-term health. The socialization aspect of pickleball should not be overlooked when discussing the health benefits of the sport. According to the Centers for Disease



PHOTO BY METRO CREATIVE

Control and Prevention, loneliness can increase a person's risk for mental health issues like depression and additional problems like heart disease, dementia and stroke. By engaging in social activities like pickleball, individuals can reduce their risk for loneliness, which can improve their overall quality of life and may lower their chances of developing potentially deadly health problems.

Pickleball can lead to a healthier heart. A study from Apple that is examining the effects of pickleball participation on heart health has thus far found that playing pickleball helps players reach moderate to vigorous heart rate zones.

Pickleball can benefit brain health. MacRae, one of the Apple study's lead investigators, notes that pickleball is one of various activities that also can improve memory and recall over time. The physical benefits of pickleball may not be lost on players, but some may be surprised to learn the sport offers cognitive health benefits as well. A studies have found that pickleball participation led to significant improvements in personal well-being, life satisfaction and happiness.

Pickleball courts are packed, and players may or may not realize all they are gaining from participation in this wildly popular sport.

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prairie west

Manitoba government freezing provincial park pass fees this season

Submitted
BY MANITOBA GOVERNMENT

The Manitoba government is freezing provincial park fees for this camping season, Environment and Climate Change Minister Tracy Schmidt announced today.

"Manitobans are starting to plan trips to our beautiful provincial parks and our government knows affordability is top of mind for many families," said Schmidt. "That's why we're freezing provincial park pass fees and camping fees this season. While the previous government opted to privatize park passes which raised fees, our government is focused on keeping parks affordable and accessible for Manitoba families."

In 2020, the Manitoba government announced it was signing a contract with an American-based service provider to administer the park pass program. The fees associated with the contract were scheduled to increase this year. In Budget 2024, the Manitoba government is investing \$46 million in Manitoba parks.

The government is taking action to make sure no Manitoban has to pay more to enjoy the province's beautiful parks, the minister noted, adding Manitoba has some of the most affordable park entrance and camping fees in North America.

Additionally, several times a year, the Manitoba government offers free provincial park entry, meaning a vehicle permit is not required to visit one of Manitoba's parks. This includes a free parks entry during a week in July, the Labour Day long weekend and the entire month of February.

- Upcoming free provincial park entry dates include:
- June 7 to 9;
 - July 15 to 21;
 - Aug. 30 to Sept. 2; and
 - Feb. 1 to 28, 2025.

Campsite reservations for the 2024 season opened earlier this week. This year, reservations are staggered over five days to accommodate the high demand and make it easier for Manitobans to book a site at their favourite campground.



FILE PHOTO

Duck Mountain Provincial Park trail

Gardening chores for early spring



FILE PHOTO

Submitted

By PATRICIA HANBIDGE

It is the last chance to get planning on what is going to happen in your garden or landscape this growing season – especially if you are going to be making any radical changes to your space. If you like to start your own seeds, you may have already ordered them or perhaps already are watching the magic of tiny little seeds becoming plants that will grace our gardens when it gets warmer.

If you are ready to get gardening, then it might be time to ease into the gardening chores. Try not to overdo it all at once as gardening muscles have been resting for the long, cold winter. If you have not kept

up your personal physical fitness since fall, then do yourself a favour and work into gardening slowly. Make use of those lovely mornings and evenings going for a brisk walk followed up by some simple stretching exercises...using of course those same muscle groups you will use all summer long in the garden.

As the snow recedes and the soil dries, it is a great time to clean up the borders. Take away any dead plant parts, dig out any offending dandelions that seem to be already so green but take some time to ponder what is coming up. I find that each spring I get a few surprises. Things seem to be sprouting in places where you can't quite remember planting something! I guess that is what we call a "spring bonus"!

It is also a good time to tidy up the garden shed or

garage. The temperatures are warm enough that it is not an ordeal to be outside for longer periods of time. Take a look at your tools, clean them up, sharpen them and get rid of what you do not use. The expression spring clean-up is generally meant to be for your garden – but for me – it is for every part of my property! It is such a great feeling to dispose of clutter!

If you still have not done your spring pruning – you still have a little bit of time. Try not to miss this chore as to prune later in the year is not ideal for most of our woodies. The rapid growth of spring will ensure that any wounds caused by pruning will heal over quickly thus reducing any chance of disease transfer. Remember that it is not a good idea to do catch up pruning but instead to do a little bit each year. Do not remove more than one third of the canopy in any given year.

If you have any trees or shrubs that need moving, then as long as the soil is not too wet but is fully thawed then this is a good time to do this rather big chore. The buds have not yet burst so moving anything at this time will be the least risky time of all. Better yet, anything you move will have the entire growing season to get reestablished.

Rake your lawn areas if they are dry enough. It is amazing how this small chore really spruces up the landscape. It seems that the grass areas turn green overnight once they have some of that thatch removed. It is a bit early to fertilize with conventional inorganic fertilizers as that will encourage fast green growth that is susceptible to late spring frosts but feel free to use a slow release fertilizer.

Pay close attention to any seedlings you have growing inside. If you have started your seeds without additional lights and have them sitting on a windowsill you will likely have noticed them reaching for that sun. Try to give them all the light possible as if you find them reaching for light the seedlings will be less strong and more susceptible to stresses like disease.

Happy Spring!

BREADED AIR FRYER PORK CHOPS

These breaded pork chops, made in the air fryer, are perfectly tender and juicy. They require basic pantry ingredients and take just 10 minutes to cook.

Ingredients:
 4 boneless, center-cut pork chops, 1-inch thick
 1 tsp Cajun seasoning
 1-1/2 cups cheese and garlic croutons
 2 large eggs
 cooking spray

Directions:
 1) Preheat an air fryer to 400°F.
 2) Place pork chops on a plate and season both sides with Cajun seasoning.
 3) Pulse croutons in a small food processor until fine; transfer to a shallow dish. Lightly beat eggs in a separate shallow dish. Working one at a time, dip pork chops into beaten egg, letting excess drip off; press into crouton breading to coat both sides and place breaded chop, unstacked, onto a plate. Repeat with remaining chops. Mist chops with cooking spray.
 4) Spray the air fryer basket with cooking spray and arrange chops in a single layer in the air fryer basket. You may have to do two batches depending on the size of your air fryer.
 5) Cook in the preheated air fryer for 5 mins; flip chops and mist again with cooking spray if there are dry areas. Cook 5 mins more. An instant-read thermometer inserted into the centre of the chops should read 145°F.

R.M. of Oakview

2024 Dust Control Program

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 Box 179
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 204-566-2146

Rapid City Office
 Box 130
 Rapid City, MB R0K 1W0
 204-826-2515

The R.M. of Oakview is accepting requests for dust control application in front of residences and/or established sites within the Municipality on a pre-payment basis.

Applications are available at the Oak River or Rapid City municipal offices and on our website (rmfoakview.ca). Applications and payment are due by May 17, 2024.

Applicants will be charged:

\$230 for a 12 x 300' strip
 \$530 for a 16 x 500' strip

Other lengths are available by request.

Payment Options

- ✓ Online banking
- ✓ Etransfer to: info@rmfoakview.ca
- ✓ Mail to Oak River or Rapid City municipal offices
- ✓ Drop off available at Oak River and Rapid City offices

Sites must be marked by applicants by June 1st, 2024

Payments will be refunded if there are not enough requests for a truckload. Dust control will be applied as soon as possible, after road restrictions are lifted and spot gravelling is completed.

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A brief history of Earth Day

Submitted
METRO CREATIVE

A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit

in. – Greek proverb.

Earth Day is celebrated each April and draws attention to a range of issues affecting the environment. Earth Day aims to raise awareness in the hope of inspiring change.

Earth Day is observed on April 22. According to National Geographic, the first Earth Day was celebrated in 1970 in the United States. Wisconsin senator Gaylord Nelson was inspired to begin a national celebration uniting the environmental movement after witnessing environmental activism in the 1960s. With the help of Denis Hayes, a graduate student at Harvard University, Nelson organized the first Earth Day. Twenty million people participated in events across the United States and strengthened support for environmental legislation like the Clean Air Act and the Endangered Species Act.

Earth Day was expanded to a global initiative in 1990 under guidance from Hayes. Canada aligned with the international organization in 1990. Nearly 200 million participants in more than 140 countries now join in the name of protecting the planet. Awareness continues to be raised each year regarding renewable energy and climate change.

One of the hallmarks of Earth Day celebrations is the planting of trees. Researchers estimate roughly 15 billion trees are cut down each year across the globe. By planting a tree every Earth Day, people can make a difference. Trees absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen and bolster ecosystems for wildlife. Shade trees can reduce reliance on fans and air conditioning systems.

The main message of Earth Day 2024 is the need to



Bald Hill Trail in Riding Mountain National Park.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

commit to ending reliance on plastics, says EarthDay.org. The goal is a 60 percent reduction in the production of all plastics by 2040. Plastics are bad for the environment a growing body of research indicates they have an adverse effect on the major systems of the body, including immune, respiratory, digestive,

and hormonal systems.

Everyone can do their part to promote the ideals behind Earth Day. For 54 years, millions of people have been advocating for change to benefit the planet and human and animal health, and that fight is ongoing.

Cozy quilts for everyone



SUBMITTED PHOTO

By Jessica Coulter
RIVERS BANNER

The Oak Lake Cozy Quilters Quilt Show was in full swing on Saturday, April 13 at the Oak Lake Community Hall. Beautiful pieces

were on display made of many inspirational fabrics. Entrance fee was \$5 at the door. Soup, biscuit, dessert, tea and coffee was served for lunch for \$10. A huge table of rainbow auction items were also available.

Spring Thrift Sale
Rivers United Church

**April
25, 26 & 27, 2024**

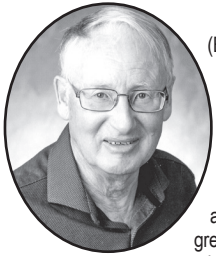
Thursday, April 25 - 1pm - 8pm
Friday, April 26 - 9am - 5pm
Saturday, April 27 - 9am - 1pm

Come and see us for lots of great bargains. All are welcome. Look forward to seeing you.

CLASSIFIEDS

Obituary

IN LOVING MEMORY OF DONALD BRUCE MCEWING



Donald Bruce McEwing (Bruce), beloved father, brother, friend and most neighbourly man ever, passed away suddenly on Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024.

Bruce was born December 19, 1950, first son of Donald and Phyllis McEwing. He grew up on the family farm, and was later joined by brother Grant, sisters Audrey and Sandra. He attended elementary school at Robinville School, high school in Rivers, MB. In 1966, the family moved 1 1/2 miles north and east, to the new house with running water. This is the same home where Bruce lived again from 1997 until his passing.

Bruce grew up surrounded by brother and sisters, cousins, aunts and uncles, and the neighbour farm kids. He always loved gardening. In high school, Bruce was in the Glee Club and played violin in the Rivers Orchestra. He joined and later led the army cadets in Rivers. Through cadets, he obtained his pilot's license, shortly before his driver's licence, and his love of flying stayed with him always.

Bruce was very proud of his first car, a Datsun. He entered car rallies, and was active in the Brandon Car Club.

Bruce studied welding at ACC, then worked at Metals Industries, and then later started MGB Services, then to Keller Equipment and his own business in "retirement". Bruce did many farm visits with his work, and seemed to know almost everyone in the area.

In 1975, Bruce married Judy Bullion, and they moved to the "little house" on his quarter section at the corner of Highway 25 and 270. Bruce continued to work at Metals Industries as well as farming the land. They had two children, Kathrine Darceen (Darcy) in 1976 and Derek Brock (Brock) in 1980. In 1983, the family moved into the new house, an RTM from Cardale. They enjoyed camping in Curran Park, Minnedosa, and Oak Lake, surprise trips to Minot, and visits with the large extended families. Bruce and Judy separated in 1995 and later divorced. Bruce became active in the area's AA, where he met Noreen Bailey. They enjoyed more than 25 years together until Noreen's passing in 2022.

Bruce would frequently host family and friends at the farm, with a big bonfire, and sometimes fireworks, even in the dead of winter. He enjoyed visiting small towns, especially in Fall Supper season. He loved being in the air in his airplane, flying to the far north and west to the mountains. Bruce was a part of many flying clubs including Virden, Shoal Lake, Erickson and Brandon. If there was a fly-in breakfast, he was either directing traffic or whipping up pancakes. If there was a parade around, Bruce would put something behind his truck, usually with a campfire in it, some Christmas lights and see who else wanted to join in the parade.

Bruce thrived on the outdoors, being in the garden, skating, or just walking. He enjoyed feeding the birds and whatever other animal would stop by for a snack, and took careful note of the footprints left by unseen visitors to the yard.

He is survived by daughter Darcy Wareham, (Clark Wareham), his son Brock McEwing, grandchildren Derek, Daren and Kendra McEwing, siblings Grant McEwing (Lynn McEwing), Sandra McEwing (Dave Bertin), special friend Islay Shelborn. Bruce was predeceased by his parents Donald and Phyllis McEwing, sister Audrey Easter, wife Judy McEwing and partner Noreen Bailey.

A celebration of Bruce's life will take place at 1:00pm on Friday, April 19, 2024 at the Provincial Exhibition Dome Building at the Keystone Centre, 1175 18th Street, Brandon.

He will be missed.

Arrangements are in care of Brockie Donovan Funeral & Cremation Services, (204)-727-0694.

Help Wanted

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Inquiries please call the R.M. of Oakview office at
204-566-2146.
R.M. of Oakview
Box 179 Oak River, MB R0K 1T0
or email to: publicworks@rmfoakview.ca

We thank all those who apply and advise that only those selected for further consideration will be contacted.

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Interested applicants should apply with a resume and cover letter to mjabatunde@canadamalting.com by **May 3, 2024**

**R.M. of Oakview
HELP WANTED**

SUMMER STUDENTS

The R.M. of Oakview (L.U.D. of Rapid City/ L.U.D. of Oak River) is accepting applications to hire summer students for 2024. Start date may be as early as May, ending in September.

Duties include maintaining grass, weeding, watering flowers, recycling, painting and other duties as required.

Requirements:
Preferences goes to those with a valid Class 5 Drivers Licence.

- Ability to work some evenings and weekends if required.
- Ability to operate small municipal equipment such as lawn mowers and grass trimmers.

Applicants must be energetic, friendly, be able to take direction well and work independently.

Closing date for resumes is Friday, May 3rd, 2024 at 4:30pm.

Please submit a resume with cover letter to the Oak River or Rapid City office or email: info@rmfoakview.ca.

We thank all those who apply and advise that only those selected for further consideration will be contacted.

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All welcome.

www.midwestartscouncil.com
204-764-2400
39 Maple Avenue
Open Monday, Wednesday & Friday 12:00-3:00

Coming Events

Bridal Shower

For:
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SPORTS

BRILEY WOOD SIGNS AHL CONTRACT WITH COLORADO EAGLES

Submitted

BY COLORADO EAGLES

Former Neepawa Titans forward, Briley Wood, has signed an Amateur Tryout Agreement with the Colorado Eagles in the American Hockey League (AHL). He joins the team ahead of a four-game home stand to end Colorado's regular season, starting with an April 16 home game against the San Diego Gulls.

A forward from Rivers, Manitoba, Wood played with the Winnipeg Ice and the Neepawa Titans as well as a Triple A career with Yellowhead Chiefs U15 and U18 with two part seasons with Lethbridge Hurricanes.

Wood enjoyed a breakout season in 2023-24 with 28 goals and 34 assists – his 62 points this season ranked third on the Wenatchee Wild roster in scoring. He finished his final season of junior hockey with a memorable Western Conference quarterfinal series against the Kelowna Rockets, posting six goals and seven assists in a six-game affair. His four-goal volley in Game 1 was the first four-goal playoff game in the WHL since 2017, and his 13 points led all first-round scorers across the Canadian Hockey League. Wood is also well-known to the Avalanche, having earned an invitation to the club's development camp this past summer.

Congratulations to Briley and his family on this outstanding accomplishment.



Briley Wood of Rivers in his playing days with the Neepawa Titans Junior A hockey club.

PHOTOS BY JHESSA PENANO

Manitoba government supports youth through 4-H programming

Submitted

MANITOBA GOVERNMENT

BRANDON—The Manitoba government will continue to provide funding to the Manitoba 4-H Council to offer programming for rural Manitoba youth, Agriculture Minister Ron Kostyshyn announced today at the Royal Manitoba Winter Fair.

“The 4-H program has a long history in Manitoba of working with rural youth to help develop leadership, self-confidence, communication and many other practical skills,” said Kostyshyn. “Our government appreciates the volunteers who dedicate their time to helping guide young Manitobans and build communities.”

The Manitoba government has provided

\$900,000 over three years starting in 2022 to Manitoba 4-H Council to deliver programming across the province to over 100 4-H clubs for more than 1,000 members, the minister said.

“We appreciate the support of the Manitoba government,” said Shannon Carvey, executive director Manitoba 4-H Council Inc. “The funding from the Manitoba government allows us to provide quality programming for our members, leaders and volunteers at regional and provincial events.”



4-H was founded in Roland, Manitoba in 1913 and has been supported by the Manitoba government since the early 1920s. Manitoba's financial support helps further the program's goal to provide young members with the foundations for success in their future, noted the minister.

JUNE 28 - 30
#CFEST2024

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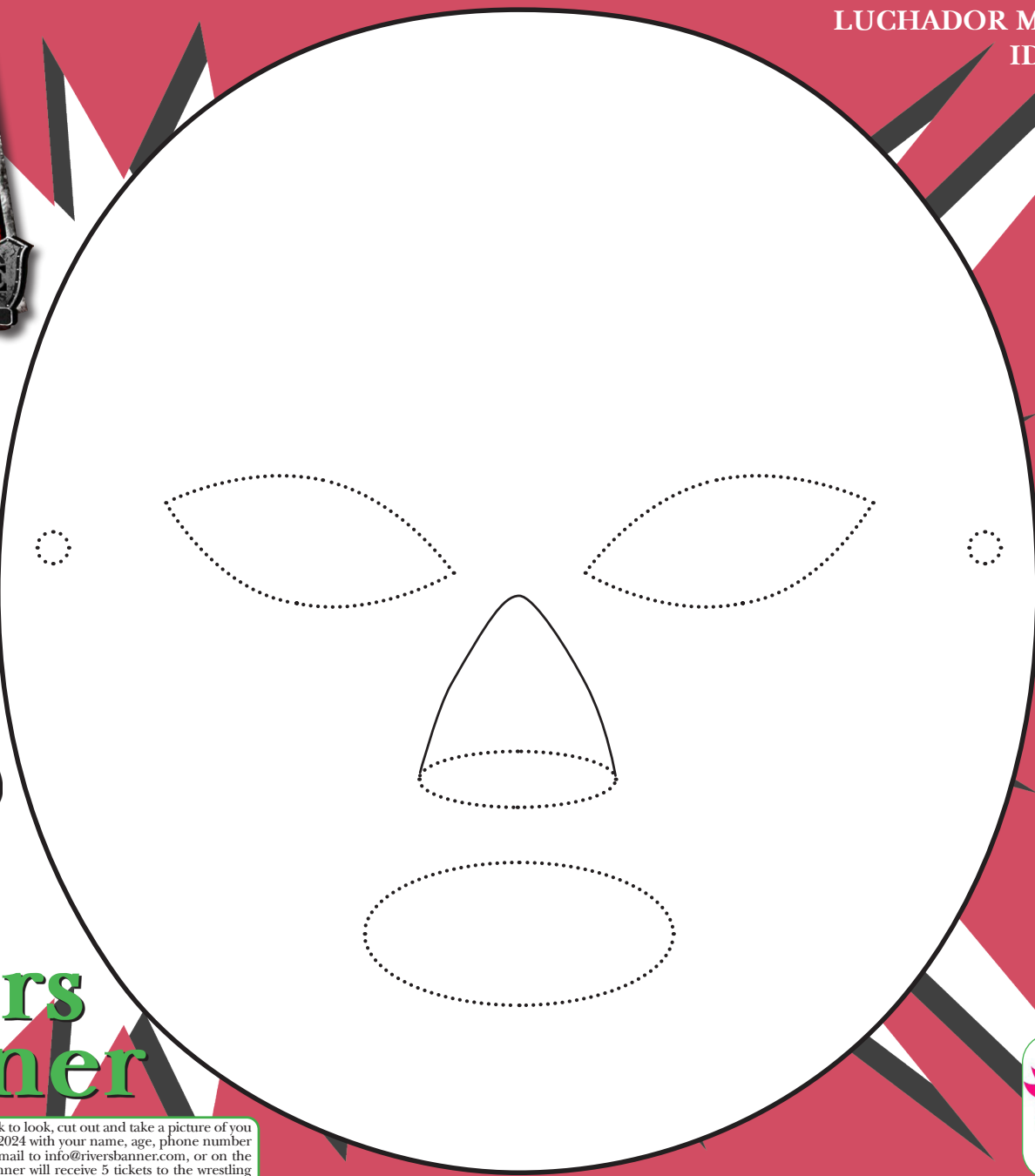


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ENTER TO WIN 4 TICKETS TO LIVE PRO WRESTLING



Rivers Banner

Kids Colouring Contest rules: Colour the mask however you would like your wrestling mask to look, cut out and take a picture of you wearing the mask with your best wrestling pose. Submit to the Rivers Banner by April 22, 2024 with your name, age, phone number and email. All masks must be submitted by 5pm on April 22nd. Readers can submit by email to info@riversbanner.com, or on the website at www.riversbanner.com. We will draw the winner on Tuesday, April 23. The winner will receive 5 tickets to the wrestling matches on April 27. Only one entry per person will be permitted. Contest is for children under the age of 18. Two chances to win.

CUT OUT

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Apr 19



Oak River Bingo Night

20



Rapid City Emergency Services Fundraising Supper 5pm

21



Rivers and Area Lions Club Fish Fry 4:30 - 6:30pm

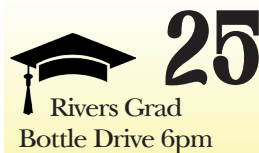
22



23

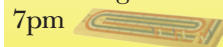
Woodworth Seniors Club in Kenton 2pm

24



Rivers Grad Bottle Drive 6pm

Crib Night Rivers Legion 7pm



26

Spring Thrift Sale Rivers United Church



27

Live Pro Wrestling in Rivers

28

Spring Thrift Sale Rivers United Church



Westman Juried Art Show in Kenton

29

30

Woodworth Seniors Club in Kenton 2pm

May 1

2

Crib Night Rivers Legion 7pm



3

4