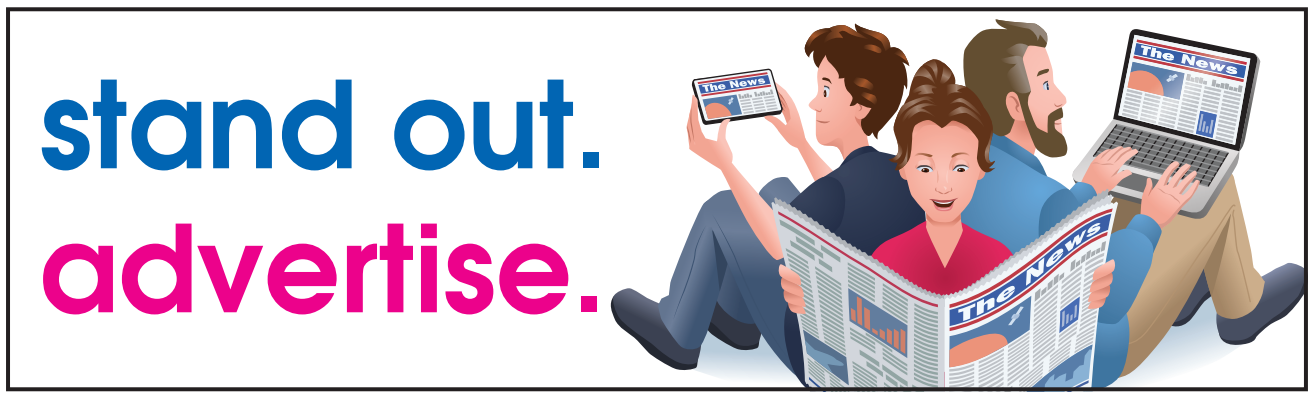
Friday, November 13, 2026 • Vol.119 No. 10 • Rivers, Manitoba





Gazette-Reporter
Rivers Banner
Local People. Local Stories.

Serving the Rivers, Rapid City, Forrest, Kenton, Oak River, Hamiota and Oak Lake areas for 116 years

Assiniboine Credit Union, building a stronger future together



The new signs are up and looking wonderful and inviting to all their members.

PHOTO BY CHRISTINE WADDELL

Submitted
By Assiniboine Credit Union

At Assiniboine Credit Union (ACU), our focus has always been on helping members, businesses and communities thrive. As a Manitoba-based financial co-operative, we are proud to serve more than 216,000 members in both French and English through 49 branches across the province, including right here in western Manitoba.

This October, we reached an important milestone with the completion of the final phase of the merger between Assiniboine Credit Union, Caisse Financial Group and Westoba Credit Union. Following the successful technical merger of legacy Caisse earlier in the year, the Westoba technical merger brought all three organizations fully together as one ACU, allowing members to access a shared branch network, common banking platform and expanded services across Manitoba.

We came together to build on the strengths of each organization and ensure we can continue meeting the evolving needs of members and businesses across Manitoba. By combining our expertise and resources, we are better positioned to enhance digital banking, expand specialized services and continue offering competitive products while remaining focused on the communities we serve.

For communities like Rivers, one of the most important commitments throughout this journey has been our continued support for rural Manitoba and the agricultural sector. Since the merger, we have launched our Agribusiness Financial Centre, providing specialized advice and financial solutions for farm and agribusiness operations across the province. We have also introduced new agricultural products and services designed to support producers and help Manitoba's agricultural sector continue to grow and succeed.

Although we now serve more members and communities than ever before, the local relationships and community focus that have always defined our credit unions remain just as important today. That is why we continue to support local events, initiatives and partnerships across Manitoba, including in communities like Rivers. Locally, that commitment can be seen through investments in the Sekine mural and donations to the Riverdale Harvest Food Bank through our Community Response Drive, to name a few.

With the final phase of our merger journey now complete, we are excited about the opportunities ahead. Together, we are building a stronger organization with the scale, expertise and resources to better serve our members, while remaining rooted in the co-operative values and community focus that have always guided us. For more information about ACU and the products and services available to members across Manitoba, visit acu.ca. Whether you bank with us in person, online or through our expanded branch network, we're here to support our members and help meet your everyday banking needs.

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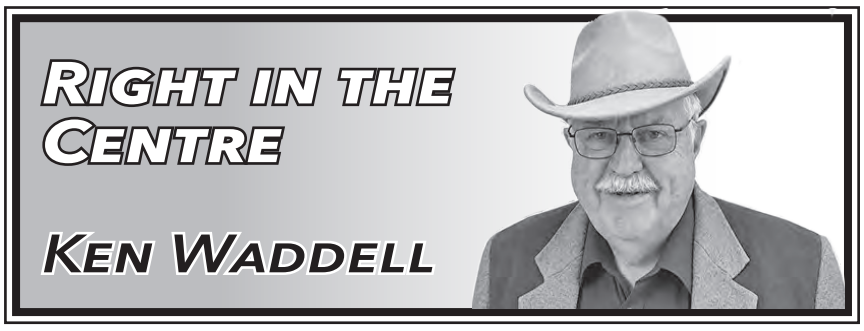
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Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



Trump self-destructive



Last week's election loss by Donald Trump and the Republicans should've come as no surprise to anyone. Ironically Trump didn't need to lose that election– he brought it on almost entirely by himself.

When Trump won the election in 2024, it also shouldn't have been a surprise to anyone because of the environment in which the election was fought. For years, the democratic movement in the states, backed by the socialist movement and the academic community, had brought about policy stances that were of great concern to people across a political spectrum. Socialism has never worked and socialism likely never will work in spite of the many ways in which those who are in favour of it try to dress it up. Against that background of the great socialist push, Trump came to power with a large mandate.

However, he squandered that mandate. He sacrificed it on the altar of ego and pride. Every time Trump turned around, he claimed to be the best president, have the greatest ideas and a vigourous program for the rebuilding of the United States. The man showed no grace, almost no humility and, in spite of his great claims about his intelligence, he didn't show a lot of intelligence in his determination to "Make America Great Again". He lost sight of the goals.

For those who saw the benefit in Trump's policies, it will be a great disappointment. However, there is a big lesson here. Politicians aren't elected to ride their ego, to line their pockets, to make enemies, or, in Trump's case, just to do some very stupid things. In terms of trade, he picked a trade war between Canada and United States when trade is essential to the well-being of both countries.

Trump had the idea that tariffs were a wonderful way to raise money to support government programs and the operations of the government. What he failed to realize was that the citizens of the United States were the ones who were paying the tariffs on goods and services brought in from Canada and other countries. Those goods and services were being made more expensive by the tariffs. Trump's theory was that if things from other countries cost more money, then the United States would produce or grow more and more of those things that were being tariffed.

What he refused to realize is it takes months and years to increase growth capacity in industries, be it manufacturing or farming. You can't just turn on the tap and produce more cars, canola or potash. It takes a long time to catch up to the deficiencies that built up within the US manufacturing system over the past many decades. Cheaper goods from other countries are part of the problem but one of the reasons goods are cheaper from other countries, especially China, is that the American workers and their very powerful unions have driven US manufacturers to the brink in terms of affordability. It's fine to earn 50 bucks an hour, but if that same product you're making can be made in China for 15 bucks, surprise, surprise– it's going to be cheaper.

Trump will go down in history as having some very good ideas about how to manage the United States and what policies would be best for the United States. But he will go down in history as a disaster, politically and economically. Trump didn't act alone; he acted on the advice of a number of people who thought they could build a great American dream again by strong arming other countries.

But over-arching all of the policies is the fact that Trump can't get past his own ego. Trump is not the greatest president, he's not the smartest businessman, and he certainly isn't going to go down in history as a great president. He will be fortunate if, in the last two years of his term, he can retrieve or re-polish the image to a point where people will even consider him as being somewhat successful. Early on in his term, a person who said they agreed with a lot of his policies also said, "The man lies!"

That is correct, but even worse than the lies that he tells the public and other countries is the one big lie he tells himself. He may be the greatest buffoon, or the man with the biggest ego, but those kind of attributes are what brought him down. Pride goes before a fall and that was illustrated in a big way last week in the US mid-term elections.

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 news staff.



Really???

This month has been filled with headshaking and headscratching. I have been perplexed and puzzled, irritated and irrational. It's been a ride!

Part one involves technology, lack of understanding of technology, and inability to navigate technology. And, like Yogi the Bear, I like to think I'm smarter than the average bear– very senior citizen in this case. What got my knickers in a knot? It's my own fault, which never makes it easier to confess. I inadvertently allowed my Canadian Dental Care Plan to lapse– even after the friendly letter reminder. So, faced with another dental appointment, it seemed like the appropriate time to reapply for coverage. I was doing so well; remembering passwords, clicking 'next' at a good rate, when 'they' needed a personal code, available through/with OAS or CPP. I have those documents on file and even with many tries of many numbers, no clicking 'next'. And so, with grave trepidation I called the help number provided. It's really not difficult to imagine what happens next. I press one or two, listen to prompts, press a number again, and after some lovely elevator music, I am shuffled to another line where a voice cheerfully informs me that with the lengthy wait anticipated, it would be their recommendation that I try calling on another day. Really! Again, I am of average intelligence, average ability to find my way around government forms, average level of patience and understanding (I think!) and I slunk away from my project, defeated. It shouldn't be so difficult. And I should not have allowed it to lapse…

Part two was more of an amazed headshaking. But still a 'really!' Some of you may recall my rant about the condition of the sidewalks around town, concerned that we centre the housing for seniors around the town centre, and then fail to provide safe routes for them to travel. Some of you were kind enough to encourage my tilting at windmills, and some of you were kind enough to forgive my spouting off. So… I never did receive any reply from any town council member, no recognition of my letter of concern. BUT the two sections of sidewalk that were the very worst (in my opinion), are being repaired, improved, fixed– made serviceable! A little hallelujah here! Thank you to whoever initiated the work projects.

Part three, the final part, and this one hurts, how much further can the insanity in this world go… I gave away my television set, still have a trusted friend that informs me of world happenings that I should be aware of, and catch some news headlines online. I am encouraged by the potential for change following the mid term elections in our neighbouring country. But… there is until January for havoc to be wrecked… All around us we see and hear of injustice, lack of mercy, greed and despair. This is a slow and mournful shaking of the head. The distance between the haves and have nots has widened with only a few left in the middle. The cost of daily needs, never mind the wants, is mind numbing. Why can't we share… Still no other place I wish to live, and no other person I wish to be!

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Kenton Curling Club celebrating 125 years



Kenton curling bonspiel from January 2025. FILE PHOTO

By Gerry Nolan
Rivers Banner

The Kenton Curling Club will be celebrating 125 years of curling in January of 2027. President Don Carter will be organizing the celebration. I am sure he would like some help so give Don a call or there is a curling meeting on November 17 at the RM office.

Kenton held the first bonspiel in 1902. The rink moved around somewhat as the first rink was where the hall now stands.

In 1956 the current rink was built and still serves the community today.

In 2002 the Kenton Curling Club celebrated 100 years of curling. There were 69 rinks that participated in that bonspiel 25 years ago. Here are the winners of various categories that may bring a memory or too.

In the Masters division, the winner was Roy McKenzie from Brandon, followed by Allen Smalley of Brandon, Gordie Lyall from Hamiota followed by Gerry McKay from Brandon. All of these skips called Kenton home at one time or another.

In the ladies division the winners were Megan Bond (Johns), Kenton, Mavis Smith, Hamiota, Sherrilyn Stewart, Kenton and Merrilee Bond, Kenton.

In the men's division the winner was Alex Gerrard from Rivers. He was followed by Lyle Adair from Maryfield, Saskatchewan. Don Grey of Virden was third, and John Finnie of Kenton rounded out the top four teams. Ken Bond of Kenton was the President of the curling club at that time.

Mark it on your calendar and get your team together and come on out to the best town by a dam site and take part in this once in a lifetime bonspiel in Kenton. I will have an update in the future after the curling club has their meeting.

Don Carter is President, so give him a shout for all the information you will need for that weekend.

Community Battling Exploitation, an event to disrupt sextortion in Westman

By Anne Davison
Rivers Banner

Protecting kids from online harm and families from devastation has been Val Caldwell's mission for 18 years. She shares information and stories of kids and parents who are reached in time, yet criminal minds seek new victims as the stream of growing children enter the online world.

Cybertip.ca logged 14,153 reports between 2020-2025.

In a relentless information campaign Caldwell brings new voices, personal accounts and actionable strategies to a session in Brandon on Monday, Nov. 16 meant to arm parents and forewarn youth.

Caldwell is bringing a father and author, Carl Burke from PEI to speak. Another voice will be a friend whose 11-year-old was the victim of sextortion.

Harry Burke, at 17, had everything to live for, but on April 24, 2023 he died by suicide. One year after Harry's death the story was told by CBC and then on other news outlets.

Burke says he's coming to Manitoba because this problem isn't going away.

"I'm willing to speak everywhere and anywhere, because the message needs to get out," says Burke. "Just the thought of another family experiencing what we're going through makes me sick. And if we can prevent that, then I'm going to work as hard as I can."

Caldwell is partnering with Brandon's SEAT (Sexual Exploitation Awareness Team) to bring together community resources including Brandon Police Services to speak about local issues.

She says, "My goal is an evening of awareness and understanding of the online dangers from the perspective of families who have lived it."

The Burke family's story is reminiscent of the loss due to sextortion experienced by local families with small town roots.

All the way to the East Coast, the Burke family now know the ordeal of these parents, but they didn't know in 2023 when Harry faced blackmail. Carl wishes they had and he says the media has a duty to keep this issue before the public.

"There's a storm coming…"
– Carl Burke

A registered nurse for the province of PEI for 36 years, Carl has researched the impact of AI, and the Internet apps being used to target kids.

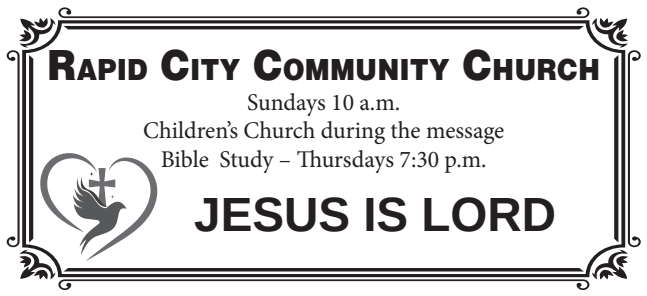
"I spent my whole life as a nurse, as an educator. Because I taught lots on dialysis to patients, to families and to hospitals… but I never thought I'd be doing this."

Last winter, Burke wrote and published a small book which he illustrated himself. He hopes parents and children read it together "to sort out what the dangers are on social media. Certainly, wouldn't be all of the dangers, but a good few."

He's now working on a longer book also purposed to help parents and kids navigate the Internet jungle. He sees serious times ahead.

"The last presentation I gave in Somerset (PEI) to the Foster Parents Association of Canada, I said, there's a storm coming and we're just on the outer edge of this because we have no idea what's on the other side… but the long-term effects of social media on our children is astounding."

There's no charge for this session held in the Army Navy Air Force - 31, 14th St. Brandon, on Monday Nov. 16. Caldwell hopes that parents, grandparents, teachers - anyone involved with kids will attend. She advises this will be an impactful night, youth should attend at the discretion of their parents.









SPORTS

Jets come back to beat Royals

By Robin Wark
Rivers Banner

The Rivers Jets had their hometown fans cheering last Friday night as they battled back to beat the Deloraine Royals.

The Royals took a 2-0 first-period lead, but the Jets surged back to win 5-3. The victory improved Rivers' record to 2-2-0-0.

"Layne (Anderson, the Jets' goaltender) kept us in the game last night. He made some huge saves to keep it at 2-0," Rivers coach Ryan Lamb said. "I felt we carried the play for stretches of the first, so as soon as we saw Clarky (Braden Clarke) score, it gave us a boost going into the intermission."

This week, the Jets were to play in Virden on Nov. 12 after the Rivers Banner deadline. The squad hosts the other Jets, Wawanesa, on Nov. 14. Having a committed roster helps during weeks with more than one game.

"Having committed guys is everything in senior hockey," Lamb said. "Having a good group has been an advantage of ours over a lot of teams in the league."

At home on Nov. 6, the Royals scored twice, including once on the power play, to lead 2-0 about 15 minutes into the contest. Clarke scored before the period was done to get the Jets on the scoreboard.

Just over nine minutes into the second period, Luke DeCorby tied the game at 2-2 on a power-play goal. Riley Shamray put the Jets in front 3-2 before the second intermission.

In the third period, Kayden Sutherland scored what proved to be the game-winning goal. With less than a minute and a half remaining, Reegan Kominko scored into an empty net. The Royals capped the scoring with a goal in the final 30 seconds.

Anderson made 34 saves. All of Rivers' goal scorers, along with Brock Paddock, who had two assists, recorded two points on the night. For Deloraine, Billy Patmore made 39 saves.

Stats Leaders

The Jets' depth this season is reflected in their scoring, with four players tied for the team lead with four points as of Nov. 7. Owen Wareham led the team with four goals. Sutherland and Shamray each recorded a goal and three assists, while DeCorby had two goals and two assists.

River U13 Tournament



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE WADDELL

The Rivers youth 13 hockey team (in black and gold) hosted their tournament November 6 to 8. Large crowds attended to watch eight teams battle for the prize. Rivers came in second on the B side.

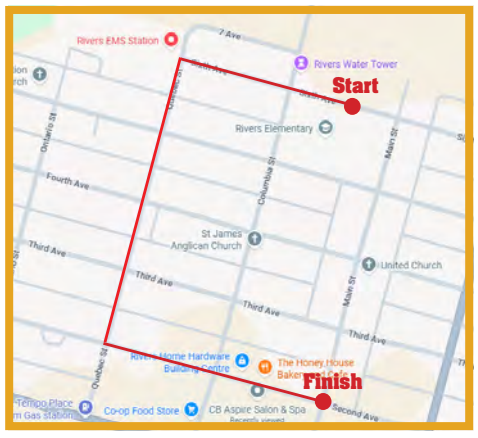
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Friday, November 20, 2026 ~ Riverdale Community Centre

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7PM	"LIGHT IT UP" PARADE STARTS

RIVERS AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

PARADE ROUTE



Merry Christmas, and many thanks to everyone who has made us a part of their year!

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When parenting feels like November



There are seasons of parenting that feel bright and easy. Summer is full of adventures, sunshine, and memories you're certain your children will treasure forever. Then there's November. Not just the month itself, but the feeling.

The lunches still need packing. The laundry still needs folding. Children still need rides, snacks, help with homework, and someone to listen to their endless stories about recess drama. But somewhere between the early sunsets and colder temperatures, many parents find themselves running a little lower on energy.

November parenting often isn't about creating magical moments. It's about showing up.

It's making supper when you'd rather order takeout. Reading one more bedtime story when you're counting down the minutes until you can finally sit down. Listening to a child's excited retelling of a game they played at school when your own brain feels foggy from a long day.

The funny thing is that children rarely notice when we're in these quieter seasons. They don't see the mental checklist running through our heads or the exhaustion we feel after a busy week. They simply see Mom or Dad sitting beside them at the table, helping with homework or watching them perform a living-room dance they've rehearsed all afternoon.

As parents, we often put pressure on ourselves to make every season memorable. We celebrate summer adventures and holiday traditions, but life is mostly built in the ordinary days in between. Maybe that's what November teaches us.

Parenting isn't measured by the grand moments. It's measured by consistency. By being there on the days when nothing special happens. By showing up even when you're tired, stressed, or counting the hours until bedtime. Because years from now, our children probably won't remember a random Tuesday in November. But they'll remember that someone was always there.

Every gift is worth more during the Endow Manitoba Giving Challenge, Nov. 9 – 15, 2026.

Submitted
Rivers & Area Community Foundation

Now is the time to help our community flourish forever! Rivers and Area Community Foundation encourages residents of Rivers and Riverdale Municipality to make a gift between Nov. 9 – 15 as part of the Endow Manitoba Giving Challenge.

Help Rivers and Area Community Foundation reach their Giving Challenge goal of $10,000. For this week only, every gift will be stretched by Winnipeg Foundation and the Manitoba government – increasing the amount Rivers and Area Community Foundation receives.

Online gifts can be made securely through endowMB.org. Contact Rivers and Area Community Foundation for more giving options.

Winnipeg Foundation and the Manitoba government are committed to the growth of community foundations across Manitoba, each providing a maximum stretch of $2,000 per foundation. Rivers and Area Community Foundation can receive up to $4,000 in stretch funding.

"This is a great opportunity to support Rivers and Area Community Foundation," says Donna Morken of the Rivers and Area Community Foundation. "Of course, we welcome gifts at any time, but giving between Nov. 9 – 15 means extra support. We're so excited to see what our community can accomplish!"

Donations to a community foundation are pooled and permanently invested. Gifts are never spent and the money will always stay in the community. Every year, these investments generate money that is distributed to support local charitable needs. Rivers and Area Community Foundation provides support that lasts forever.

Manitoba is home to 57 community foundations – more than any other area of the country. Every year, these foundations invest millions of dollars into a wide range of local charitable projects. They help ensure our hometowns are vibrant and thriving.

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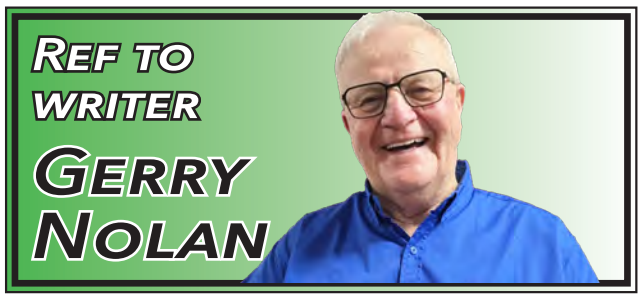


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GO FURTHER

NHL REFEREE'S



The National Hockey League refereeswho officiated the Montreal Canadian vs. Toronto Maple Leafs game on Saturday, November 7 in Toronto, have left me scratching my head. I wonder where the NHL dug these two guys up.

Referee number 18, Tom Chmielewski and number 21 TJ Luxmore, both 14-year veterans of the National Hockey League were the officials of this game. Are they not supposed to be in charge of the game?

One particular melee occurred and after watching it live and then on multiple replays, it makes one wonder what they saw or in this case did not see. They were both standing right there, watching the melee.

With the score 3-0 for Montreal at the time, it makes one wonder if they refereed by the scoreboard, again! I wondered how the Montreal player got the only minor penalty and Toronto escaped any call. At very least, coincidental minors. The Toronto player punched the Montreal player four times in the face, albeit with his gloves on. The Montreal player punched the Toronto player one time with his gloves on as the Montreal player was being held by another Toronto player. How you come up with this call is unbelievable. I think they called the penalty according to the scoreboard as they seem to often do.

Toronto scores on the power play, then adds another goal shortly after and the score is now 3-2, Montreal.

Two 14-year refereesshould be investigated to see what the rule on punches to the face penalties are. Even the Toronto announcers were shocked by the call and kept replaying the skirmish. They pointed out and asked how did Toronto get the man advantage on the play? They said that Toronto should have gotten the extra minor. This is just another example of refereeing gone wrong in my eyes in the National Hockey League. Refereeing by the scoreboard and by what is taking place on the ice. I have witnessed this thousands of times in the NHL.

I am not finished yet! Later on in the game, around the last 5 minutes when the score is 3-2 Montreal, a Toronto player gets tripped right in the middle of the ice in the offensive zone. The Toronto player has possession of the puck and is pulled down. No call! Did they let that go because they had screwed up earlier? This was not a scoreboard! Anyway, you look at two 14-year veteran referees really messed this up. The NHL will say that these 2 officials will lose game assignments. Do you believe this? I say BS, they won't. The reason I bring this up is this. Have you ever looked at the NHL injury lists and the amount of players who are treated or are out from concussions? The NHL refuses to take accountability for concussions, one day I hope a player or players go after the NHL and sue Gary Bettman and the rest of the NHL for billions!

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A Century Ago, 1926



A century ago, there was some exciting news as the National Hockey League underwent a massive expansion into the United States, with three iconic franchises playing their first-ever regular season games.

The Chicago Black Hawks skated in their first official match and defeated the Toronto St. Patricks 4-1. This game took place on November 18,1926.

The New York Rangers made their debut 2 nights earlier and played against the Montreal Maroons at Madison Square Garden and defeated the Maroons 1-0.

The Detroit Cougars (Red Wings) made their National Hockey League debut on November 18,1926. Due to stadium construction delays in Detroit, they actually played across the border in Canada at the Border Cities Arena in Windsor, Ontario.

In the Canadian football League, the Ottawa Senators secured their place at the top of the interprovincial rugby football union, paving their way to fourteenth Grey Cup Championship match which would take place in December.

November 1926 also marked the debut of the Winnipeg Maroons as founding members of the brand-new American Hockey Association. Having lost their home when the Winnipeg Auditorium burned down earlier in the year, the Maroons moved into Shea's Amphitheater. Their goalie was a 21-year-old and future National Hockey League Hall of Fame goalie Chuck Gardiner.

The Winnipeg and District Junior Hockey League which later became known as the Manitoba Junior Hockey League launched its 1926-27 season. The Brandon Wheat Kings were members of this league before the Western Canadian Hockey league was formed. Now the Virden Oil Capitals are members of this league and are enjoying a great season. Wouldn't it be fantastic if the Capitals could win and celebrate this season as league Champions, the 100-year champs!

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Look Closely. Help Those Close to Home.



Find the Red Mittens to Enter for Your Chance to

WIN A $500 GROCERY GIFT CARD & RFNOW SWAG BAG!

Count the red mittens hidden in our winter scene and help **RFNOW** spread holiday cheer right here in **Rivers!**

Visit to Enter: Heritage Co-op, Rivers Food Store

601 First Avenue
Rivers, MB

Count the red mittens on the poster, then submit a ballot or scan the QR code at the display to enter.

See full contest details and official rules at RFNOW.com/season-of-connection

Your Entry Helps Give Back

For every eligible entry in the **Rivers community**, RFNOW will donate $1 to **Rivers Christmas Cheer**, up to $1,000.

Enter by November 29, 2026

RFNOW INC.

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NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Open to legal residents of Manitoba and Saskatchewan who are 18 years or older. Contest ends November 29, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. CT. One (1) $500 Grocery Gift Card prize is available, with an approximate retail value of $500 CAD. Odds of winning depend on the total number of eligible entries received. The selected entrant must correctly answer a time-limited mathematical skill-testing question. Full rules and alternative free entry details are available at **RFNOW.com/season-of-connection**.

Vandals Target Community Treasure

By Carolyn Phillips
Rivers Banner



PHOTO BY CAROLYN PHILLIPS

Vandals have shattered windows and caused damage to the vintage train cars.

Rivers, Manitoba, a small yet vibrant community, has long cherished its railway heritage, a significant part of its history as a Grand Trunk Pacific and Canadian National Railway hub. In 2004, this connection was honored with the installation of a vintage caboose and its accompanying boxcar at Millennium Park, positioned proudly at the town's eastern entrance. These train cars became a symbol of Rivers' rich history, drawing locals and visitors alike to learn about the past while enjoying the scenic surroundings of the park.

Sadly, this community treasure has become a target for mindless vandalism. Shortly after the caboose was installed in 2004, the area faced its first wave of vandalism, prompting the town and Manitoba Crime Stoppers to issue a public appeal for information. What should have been a steadfast symbol of heritage was marred by acts that could only be described as pointless destruction.

Recently, the caboose has fallen victim to yet another attack. Vandals have shattered windows and caused damage to the vintage train cars, prompting concern among community members who cherish this piece of their history. The damages are not just a financial burden on the town but also an emotional blow to those who view the caboose as a vital link to Rivers' railway past. The historical significance of the train cars cannot be overstated; they are among the last remnants of a bygone era, serving as a reminder of the pivotal role that railways played in the development and connectivity of communities across Canada.

Vandalism, whether aimed at public or private property, poses a serious threat to community culture and heritage. Repairing damages to the caboose and boxcar can be a costly affair, diverting essential funds away from other cherished projects. The accumulation of such acts of vandalism not only threatens the physical integrity of these structures but also the community's sense of pride and identity.

The caboose, once a bustling center of activity during its operational days, now serves a different purpose as an educational tool and community landmark, positioned among other features such as a gazebo, the Train Rail arbor, and the picturesque gardens of the Rivers Train Station Restoration Project. It's a space where current and future generations can gather, reflect on the past, and appreciate the history that shaped their town.

To combat this trend of vandalism, residents are encouraged to be vigilant. It's vital to report any suspicious behavior to local authorities. Communities thrive when individuals take collective responsibility for their surroundings. Furthermore, having open conversations with children about the importance of respecting community landmarks can instill values of pride and ownership in the next generation.

Ultimately, the hope is to preserve the caboose and its accompanying boxcar for years to come. By working together, the people of Rivers can ensure that these historical pieces remain a fixture at Millennium Park, allowing everyone—young and old—to learn and appreciate the town's rich railway heritage. Let's unite to put an end to vandalism and protect our history for generations yet to come.

