



BULL & FEMALE SALE
February 22, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. • DLMS • Neepawa Ag Complex
Derrick & Megan Pilatic • 204-841-5466
Videos & catalogue • www.brooksideangus.com



NEXT HOME GAME
FRIDAY FEBRUARY 8TH
VS VIRDEN 7:30 PM

BOAK
Building & Renovations Ltd.
1-204-720-0205 ~ Boakbuilding@gmail.com

- New Home Construction
- Framing
- Concrete
- Renovations

Call today for your free estimate!

RIVERS BANNER

GAZETTE-REPORTER

Local People. Local Stories.

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

Rivers Legion CHILI COOK-OFF

A Spicy Community Tradition



PHOTO BY CAROLYN PHILLIPS

By Carolyn Phillips
RIVERS BANNER

The small community of Rivers has a big heart and an even bigger appetite, especially when it comes to the 1st annual Rivers Legion Chili Cookoff. The event drew food lovers and chili enthusiasts alike to enjoy an evening filled with robust flavors, hearty laughter, and the spirit of friendly competition.

This year, the cookoff piqued the interest of many, with hungry voters eagerly lining up to sample the delicious entries. Each bowl of chili offers a new adventure, a chance to experience the passion and dedication that local cooks pour into their recipes. Voters are encouraged to embrace their inner gourmet, tasting each dish and casting their votes for their favorites. The top three chilis, determined by popular vote, received accolades and bragging rights, establishing themselves as the best chilis of Rivers until next year's cookoff.

In first place, receiving 32 per cent of the votes was Kathy Davis!

Coming in second, receiving 24 per cent of the votes was Jeff Dickson. And coming in third receiving 20 per cent of the votes was Rivers Legion (chef Carolyn Phillips).

Many of the chefs including the winners, donated their earnings, a total of \$184 to the Legion. The proceeds will go towards Legion events coming up in February.

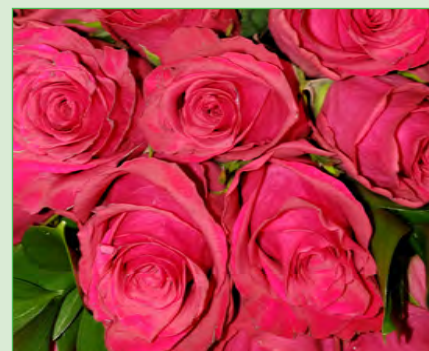
As this year's event wraps up, everyone is already buzzing with anticipation for the next chili cookoff. Who will step up to challenge the reigning champion and attempt to claim the title? The excitement mounts as the rivalry heats up, providing ample motivation for local cooks to bring their A-game next year. With whispers of secret recipes and new flavor profiles echoing among the community, it's clear that the cookoff is set to be even more spectacular in the following year.

In conclusion, the Rivers Legion Chili Cookoff embodies the essence of community spirit. It's a celebration of food, friendships, and local talent, proving that delicious chili and the people who love it can bring a town together. So, mark your calendars, gather your friends, and get ready to savor the unique flavors and warmth of Rivers at next year's cookoff! Will you be brave enough to taste them all?

Inside...



**LENORE
BONSPIEL**
P2



**VALENTINE'S
DAY IS
COMING**
P7

Find the right stone

Rocking the Lenore Bonspiel



Event A winners: William Daniel, Sharon Daniel, Rob Curtis and Lesli Burke.



Event B winners: Clarence Bailey, Wade Bewski, Cathy Bewski, and Mike Baker



PHOTOS BY JESSICA COULTER

Event C winners: Dan Kristof, Jason Heaman, Quinton Heaman, and Chelsy MacInnis

By Jessica Coulter
RIVERS BANNER

The Lenore Bonspiel event rocked the ice starting Thursday, January 30 and ending Saturday, February 1. The Lenore Rink Board organized the full event. Fifteen rinks came out to play and paid a \$100 entry fee.

Advertising, taking bonspiel entries, collecting prizes, accepting donations and organizing Calcutta evening was all arranged by the board. The ice making duties was a community effort and greatly appreciated by all the curlers.

They had their traditional community districts Breadalbane, Errol, Kinsmore and Ravine and each were responsible for a meal day during bonspiel. Meals are always amazing and are the curling clubs greatest fundraiser. The group of fantastic volunteers served these home cooked meals each night, Ham on Thursday, Roast Beef on Friday and Turkey on Saturday with all the trimmings

included. The club room known as Chic's is well maintained by a local fellow who also does a lot of volunteer ice making. It's truly a community event. This was also the 75th anniversary of the Lenore Rink. The new rink construction was started in 1949 and officially opened in January of 1950. It has been the communities centre for activities since the beginning. Curling is one of the Lenore communities' favourite past times and with construction of the rink came two sheets of ice so everyone could deliver their stones to the house in hopes to land on the tee. These teams had the most stones in the house by the end of the bonspiel. The winners of this weekend of fun were:

- A event: William and Sharon Daniel Rob Curtis Lesli Burke
- B event: Clarence Bailey, Wade Bewski, Cathy Bewski, Mike Baker
- C event: Dan Kristof, Jason Heaman, Quinton Heaman, and Chelsy MacInnis

SLOW COOKER CREAMY CHICKEN TACO SOUP

Ingredients

- 1 serving nonstick cooking spray
- 1 cup diced onion
- 1 cup diced bell pepper
- 2 cups chicken broth
- 10 oz can diced tomatoes and green chiles
- 10 oz can condensed cream of mushroom soup
- 1 pound skinless, boneless chicken breast
- 1/4 tsp ground black pepper
- 1 tbsp taco seasoning
- 2 tsps salt, divided
- 1/2 tsp ground cumin
- 2 tbsps oil
- 4 oz can chopped green chiles
- 8 oz pkg Neufchatel cheese, softened

Directions:

1. Spray a slow cooker with cooking spray. Add onions, bell pepper, and 1 teaspoon salt. Stir in chicken broth, diced tomatoes, condensed soup, and chiles.
2. Combine oil, taco seasoning, 1 teaspoon salt, cumin, and black pepper in a bowl. Add chicken and toss to coat on all sides. Transfer to the slow cooker.
3. Cook on Low until chicken is no longer pink in the center and the juices run clear, 2 to 3 hours. An instant-read thermometer inserted into the center should read at least 165 degrees F (74 degrees C). Remove from the slow cooker and shred.
4. Add Neufchatel cheese to the slow cooker and stir until melted. Return chicken to the slow cooker and cook until warmed through, 20 to 30 minutes more.
5. Serve hot and enjoy!



Rivers Minor Hockey & the U18 Female Jets

are excited to host the 2025 Rural A & B Provincial competitions in conjunction with Hockey Manitoba and Cargill

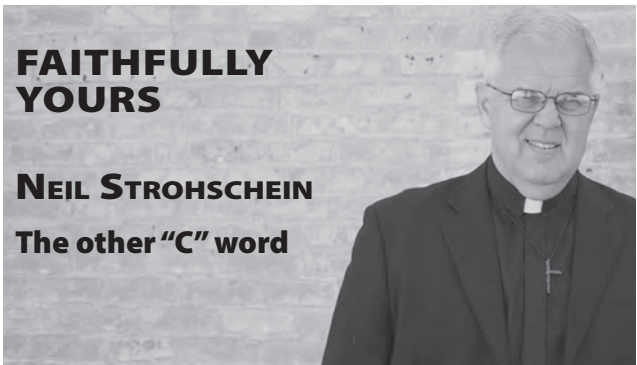
February 20-23, 2025 at Riverdale Community Centre

We are looking for volunteers to help make this event a success!

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact:

Trevor Peters 204-741-0967
Nikki Devonald 204-647-1151





FAITHFULLY YOURS
NEIL STROHSCHIEIN
The other “C” word

If you mention “the dreaded ‘C’ word,” most people will assume that you are talking about “cancer.” Cancer, as we know, is a disease that shows no respect for who we are, what status we occupy, or how important we are to family, friends and community. It attacks and it leaves its mark on its victims and their loved ones.

But today, we are reflecting on another “C” word. It is found in a statement St. Paul makes in his letter to the Philippians. “I have learned,” he writes, “in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.” (Philippians 4:11) Today’s “C” word is “Contentment” which I believe is the missing ingredient in many of our lives.

Contentment isn’t a trait with which we are born. Infants will cry, kick, scream and do whatever else they feel is necessary to let their parents know that they want something immediately-if not sooner. Do they thank their parents after they receive it? No. Are they content with what

they receive? They may be satisfied, but mere satisfaction isn’t contentment. That trait must be learned.

Contentment is a feeling of satisfaction with and gratitude for who we are, who we’re with, where we are, what we have and what we do.

This quality of character is rooted in a strong faith in a sovereign God. This faith teaches us that nothing in life ever happens by accident. Long before we were born, God knew all about us. He knew where we would be born and who our parents would be. He knew all about the political, social, cultural and religious conditions we would face in our formative years. He knew which schools we would attend, whether or not we would attend college or university and if so, which college or university we would choose.

He knew who we would marry, when our children would be born and how many we would welcome into our families. And he knew what would bring us to this community, to the jobs at which we would work, and to the homes on the streets where we live.

Knowing what he knew about us and our futures, God provided us with all of the talents, skills, abilities and other resources he knew we would need to survive, thrive and serve him effectively right here and right now. We must change our attitude to who we are, what we have and the challenges we have faced to this point in our lives..

Many years ago, I met a man who was taking treatment to overcome an alcohol and drug addiction. He pointed to a motto hanging on the wall of his room and said: “Neil, I don’t believe much, but I sure do believe this.” The motto read: “I know I’m special; ‘cause God don’t make no junk.” That is where true contentment begins.

Westman Canadian Reformed Church
Worship Services
Sundays at 10:00am
“Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together.” Psalm 98:8

RAPID CITY COMMUNITY CHURCH
Sundays 10 a.m.
Children’s Church during the message
Bible Study – Thursdays 7:30 p.m.
JESUS IS LORD

Join us Sundays at 10:30 a.m.
RIVERS COMMUNITY CHURCH
447 Edward Street ~ 204-328-7882

Locally created crossword puzzle

See answers on page 10

- Across
- 1 – Trout covering
 - 7 – Bottled water from Coke
 - 13 – Forest Moon of Endor language
 - 14 – The answer is Ebugont
 - 16 – John A MacDonald’s Birthday
 - 18 – One of Santa’s helpers
 - 19 – Small settlements
 - 20 – Each
 - 21 – Red Skelton’s Kadiddlehopper
 - 23 – Abruptly shocks
 - 24 – River through Florence
 - 25 – Now
 - 27 – Operate, employ
 - 28 – Shut
 - 29 – One that veers
 - 31 – Rakes with gunfire
 - 33 – Violent public disorder
 - 34 – Employ, put on the payroll
 - 35 – Made of or containing tin
 - 38 – Appears like (2 wds)
 - 41 – British good-byes
 - 42 – Broad sash
 - 44 – Turn back to 000
 - 45 – Makes angry
 - 46 – Sheltered harbours
 - 48 – Mar with a hammer
 - 49 – Canada’s most populous region abbr.
 - 50 – Sky Blue
 - 52 – Tribute, lyrical poem
 - 53 – Spouse (2 wds)
 - 56 – Standing closet
 - 57 – Late payment monies
 - 58 – J.K. Rowling’s Trelawney
 - 59 – Norse mythological creatures
- Down
- 1 – Gulp down food
 - 2 – Robert E Lee’s force (2 wds)
 - 3 – Nigerian language
 - 4 – Jacob’s first wife
 - 5 – Indian bow played instrument
 - 6 – Dr. Quinn actress Jane _____
 - 7 – Removes text
 - 8 – Assists in a crime
 - 9 – On-road/off-road cars abbr.
 - 10 – Grow old, ripen
 - 11 – Amateur, layman
 - 12 – Extreme, strong
 - 13 – Spews out
 - 15 – Pangs of pain
 - 17 – Building add ons

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | |
| 13 | | | | | | | | 14 | | | | | | 15 |
| 16 | | | | | | | 17 | | | | | | | |
| 18 | | | | 19 | | | | | | | | 20 | | |
| 21 | | | 22 | | 23 | | | | | | | 24 | | |
| 25 | | | | 26 | | 27 | | | | 28 | | | | |
| 29 | | | | | 30 | | | 31 | 32 | | | | | |
| | | | 33 | | | | | | 34 | | | | | |
| 35 | 36 | | | | | 37 | | 38 | | | | | 39 | 40 |
| 41 | | | | | 42 | 43 | | | 44 | | | | | |
| 45 | | | | | 46 | | | | 47 | | 48 | | | |
| 49 | | | | 50 | | | | | | 51 | | 52 | | |
| 53 | | | 54 | | | | | | | | 55 | | | |
| 56 | | | | | | | | 57 | | | | | | |
| | 58 | | | | | | | 59 | | | | | | |

Created by David Harris of Oak River, MB

- 22 – Mooring harbour
- 24 – Concerned or frightened
- 26 – Mountaineer Chouinard and others same named
- 28 – Medieval public announcer
- 30 – Indonesian river
- 32 – Denotes a definite article
- 35 – Mark of shame
- 36 – Genghis Khan’s forces
- 37 – Foam mattress type (2 wds)
- 38 – Draws no cards (2 wds)
- 39 – Formal offers
- 40 – Playful mammals
- 43 – Steeped broth
- 46 – Oyster’s gem
- 47 – Beatles drummer Ringo
- 50 – 103 in Rome
- 51 – Moon crater named for a Mexican astronomer (dark side)
- 54 – Hold up
- 55 – Phone number abbr.



LEAD the herd

DUC programs put you ahead!
CALL TODAY for 2025 signup:

- Forage**
Experience exceptional establishment results.
- Marginal Areas**
Reduce weeds and salinity. Increase returns.
- Sod Seeding**
Rejuvenate pastures with legumes.

CALL TODAY
204-285-9779

Funding for these programs is made possible through partnerships with Manitoba Beef and Forage Initiatives and the Conservation Trust.



Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



Canada Post rules make no sense

I have heard repeatedly, and from various sources, that Canada Post is making a very questionable decision in regards to local mail sorting. By local mail, I mean a letter or parcel that is dropped off at a given post office for another customer at that same post office. So let's say a letter from Mrs. Brown is dropped off at the Post Office A and is addressed to Mrs. Jones at Post Office A. It would seem to make sense that the local Post Office staff would sort through the mail and simply put all the mail addressed to that Post Office in a tub or bin and send out all the out of town mail on the next truck. That would make sense but that is not the instructions from Canada Post. All, all mail regardless if it is addressed to someone in that same post office or for another Post Office is supposed to be sent to a regional centre for sorting.

I asked Media Relations at Canada Post for clarification. I must say I have submitted questions before to Media Relations and the responses have been informative, polite and quick, so good on them.

I asked, "We've been told that local post offices are required to ship all mail, even local mail to a regional centre for sorting and then it's shipped back. Can local mail not be sorted at the local Post Office? That way there could be same day or one day delivery?"

Because I live in Neepawa, I asked about that Post Office in particular.

Here is what I was told, "As the letter mail originates from Neepawa Post Office, it would be consolidated in Brandon and then dispatched to Winnipeg where all product originating from Manitoba is processed on their high-speed equipment. From there, it is then sent to Brandon for the final processing and sort before it is dispatched to Neepawa to be sent out for delivery or pick up by the cus-

tomers. The mail processing system in Neepawa has been in place for more than a decade. The process enables Canada Post to better monitor mail volumes in order to plan and respond to customer needs as needed.

It takes approximately three business days for mail to arrive at its destination, when mail is being sent within the same province.

If customers have questions regarding their postal services, they can contact Canada Post's Customer Service team online at canadapost.ca/support or by telephone at 1-866-607-6301 (TTY: 1-800-267-2797)

So I asked the following question a different way just so I would know exactly what is happening.

Can you clarify if the process "consolidated in Brandon and then dispatched to Winnipeg where all product originating from Manitoba is processed on their high-speed equipment. From there, it is then sent to Brandon for the final processing and sort before it is dispatched" applies to all Southwestern Manitoba Post Offices?

Media Relations answered, "Yes, we can confirm that all letter mail flow through Brandon to Winnipeg for all southwestern Manitoba post offices as Brandon is the centralized distribution centre for this part of the province."

So there you have it folks, even if the letter is dropped off at a particular post office for a customer at the same Post Office, it has to be shipped

to Brandon, then to Winnipeg, then back to Brandon and then to your local Post Office.

And, they openly say, it can take three days to get it back to the customer. That, by the way, is three business days and doesn't include weekends. If you drop off a letter on a Friday, it could take five days to get into the intended box number.

Is it any wonder that Canada Post is losing money operating under rules that make no sense at all? I know it's not polite to call a company's decision makers stupid but I think this process makes it difficult to not apply that description in this situation.

The letter goes to Brandon, then to Winnipeg, then to Brandon and back to the originating Post Office. After all those truck rides, it still has to be put onto the local P.O. box by local staff so there's no saving of staff time at all. All this process is doing is making unnecessary work. It still takes the same amount of labour and time to put it in the mail boxes regardless if it is done initially at the local post office or after the letter has made it's three day trip.

I would recommend that Canada Post re-examine this deal but I suspect that unionized employees at Brandon and Winnipeg might object.

Canada Post is bound up in poor practices, bad rules and hide bound union protectionism. Guess we know where customers rank in importance in this process.

Homebodies

RITA FRIESEN



At peace, I pray...

The message no parent ever wants to receive arrived. The son I bore way back in 1968 succumbed to the cancers that ravaged his body. We live in the hope that we don't have to come to terms with the death of a child; the elders should die first. We all have a different story, we all have our own story, and with our own story we have details and memories that we need to recognize, and sometimes, address.

My son's body bore the scars of living. One vivid scar was on his right ankle. As a pre-schooler, shadowing his grandfather cleaning up a wind row burn, he got a boot full of hot coals, badly burning his ankle. The old family doctor wept as he faithfully changed the bandages, while the wee lad watched and winced but never cried loudly. That same body bore the scar of an emergency tracheotomy required to save his life when he overdosed. The inquiring mind that challenged him to see how many of his chickens he could keep hypnotized at once, and for how long (seven if one wants to know, and for quite a few minutes if you circle the chickens and keep drawing the line in front of their beak) was the same inquiring mind that drew him down paths that were not healthy. The hands that brought me spring flowers and sticky hugs were the same hands that, clenched in anger, punched a hole in the wall in lieu of striking me.

These days I take out the memories of the young lad I knew so well. The one who raced at life, loved to fish and hunt. The year he turned fifteen, he chose not to attend school. The fact that no teacher, principal, school trustee or truant officer ever called and inquired about his absence may be indicators of his presence in school! That winter he ate, grew inches, slept many hours, snowmobiled and trapped small varmints. It was a winter during which his outdoor gear hung on the wash line for days because of a strong skunk odour. He maintained for years that the scent of skunk triggered his appetite, a carry over of the year of rest. My son was a comic and a mimic, he could replicate the speech and actions of family and community members and there was no doubt about who he was enacting! He and I spent hours working together, clearing up old fence lines, scrubbing brush and cutting firewood. We walked and talked and shared thoughts. And then I lost him. Lost him to addictions and personality disorders. And once away, the severed link was forever severed. I give thanks for and to the partner that loved him and for the peace he found.

When I share these thoughts with you, it is not for pity, or judgement on either one of us. It is because this is far too common a story. One that folks do not want to address, or, often, know how to address. My son, over the years, would be out of contact for years, only to reappear and cause heartache. I recall, speaking to a mother whose son was killed, identifying strongly with her when she simply said- 'now I know where he is.' I understood, and I understand.

**Rivers
Banner**
Est. 1908

204- 328-7494
www.riversbanner.com
info@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

STAFF

Owner/Publisher/Editor
Micah Waddell

Sales/Media
Jessica Coulter

Members
of:



Funded by the Government of Canada
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada



Canada

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

Rivers Banner does not guarantee publication of any submitted articles or pictures. Such submissions, if printed, will appear at the discretion of the managing editor or publisher and only when time and space permit.
We are not responsible for fax and e-mail transmissions which are not confirmed either in person or by phone.

Another Hamiota business targeted

By Anne Davison
RIVERS BANNER

A second break in has occurred within Hamiota business community in just four weeks. Country Crocus Bakeshop was broken into over the weekend. It was the first week of January when Rawlings Home Hardware storage unit was robbed.

Bakeshop owners posted on Facebook on Monday morning: “We wanted to inform you that the bakeshop was broken into on Friday, January 31, 2025. The intruder smashed the glass on the back door to get in and took only the tip box. The alarm was triggered, and based on surveillance footage, the individual was inside for less than five minutes.

While it’s disappointing, we’re grateful that nothing else was damaged, and all of our



A still photo from the video captured of the criminal that broke into the Country Crocus Bakery in Hamiota.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Westman Juried Art Show 2025 Call For Entries

Public Service Announcement



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Arts West Council and Reston Art Club invite regional amateur and emerging artists to participate in the 46th Annual Westman Juried Art Show which take place on April 27 at the RES Centre Reston. Categories include painting, drawing, mixed media, scratch art, 2D fibre art and silkscreen.

Entries from youth (11-19 years) and adult artists are welcome. All entries will receive juror critiques and will be exhibited at the public reception. Jurors will select 20 works for the Arts West Travelling Gallery which will tour the Region over the next year. Entry deadline is April 16.

Complete information and entry forms are available at www.artswestcouncil.ca

“I got my home insulated for free. You can too.”
- KARL

Like Karl, you can:

GET YOUR HOME INSULATED FOR FREE.

With the **Energy Efficiency Assistance Program**, you can also:

- Get a FREE Home Energy Check-Up to find more ways to save.
- Get a new natural gas furnace upgrade for \$9.50* or \$25** per month for 5 years.
- Get FREE energy efficient light bulbs, showerheads and aerators, air sealing products, and other energy saving items.

Find out if you qualify today
efficiencyMB.ca/EEAP
204-944-8181 or toll free 1-844-944-8181



*When replacing a standard efficiency natural gas furnace.
**When replacing a mid-efficiency natural gas furnace.

Capturing the northern lights



PHOTOS BY CELIA NOLAN

What do you do on a Sunday afternoon, when the weather is crappy? You head to the Art Studio at Midwest Arts in Hamiota. The cozy sunny studio is the perfect location to gather with friends for a fun afternoon of art, visiting, and laughs. This class was aimed at capturing the perfect Northern Lights. Our Instructor, Joan Trott spent many hours perfecting the exact effect she was aiming for. Nine students, brushed, shaded, and used chopped up credit cards to gain just the right angle of Northern Lights, mountains, ice drifts, and even a polar bear. They are all masterpieces! It was an amazing afternoon. Thank-you Midwest Arts!

How to Wake Up Like a Winner

HOLISTIC WELLNESS
CERTIFIED HYPNOTHERAPIST
MARIE EVELYNE GINGRAS

Let's be real: waking up is hard. One minute, you are dreaming about something fantastic (maybe flying over the city, maybe eating an endless buffet of desserts), and the next—BAM! The alarm clock yanks you back to reality like an unpaid intern being called into a meeting they were not invited to.

How you handle those first few groggy moments can either make or break your entire day. Do you hit snooze until you have exactly 4.2 minutes to get ready and sprint out the door like a caffeinated tornado? Or do you take control of your morning like the main character in an inspirational movie montage? Science says the second option is better, and lucky for you, I have got some foolproof (and mildly ridiculous) tips to

help you master the "wake-up mindset".

Your brain is like a puppy. It responds to whatever you feed it. So, before you go to sleep, give it a nice little command: "I am going to wake up feeling refreshed and fabulous." Do not say, "I hope I am not exhausted in the morning," because your brain is dramatic and will take that as a challenge.

I know, I know. Your phone is "right there", glowing like a digital night-light filled with memes and unnecessary emails. But the moment you start scrolling, you are opening the floodgates to stress, weird news, and messages from that one person who "always" texts at 6:12 AM. Instead, give yourself at least five minutes of screen-free time. Let your brain wake up before you invite

chaos in.

Before you even get out of bed, think of three things you are grateful for. It could be as deep as "I am grateful for my health" or as simple as "Thank goodness coffee is a thing." Bonus points if you throw in an exaggerated morning stretch and a big fake smile. Your brain does not know the difference, and soon enough, you will feel happier. Guaranteed.

Say something positive to yourself, out loud if possible. "I am unstoppable today." "I am basically a productivity wizard." "I have survived all my worst days, and I still look amazing." Whatever gets you hyped. If it helps, imagine dramatic background music playing while you say it.

Your body has been lying there like a human burrito all night. Give it a chance to wake up! Stretch, wiggle your toes, roll your shoulders, or stand up and do a victorious superhero pose in the mirror. Not only will this boost your energy, but if anyone sees you, they will either be deeply impressed

or deeply confused. Either way, both are wins.

Before you even leave your bedroom, visualize yourself handling everything like a pro. Imagine your meetings going well, your emails not ruining your life, and your coffee order being "exactly" what you wanted. Manifest that greatness.

Mornings are never going to feel like a luxury spa experience (unless you are some kind of morning person, in which case, I admire and fear you). But with a few small mindset shifts, you can turn your wake-up routine from "barely functioning zombie" to "confident, ready-for anything legend."

So tomorrow, when your alarm goes off, instead of groaning dramatically and contemplating a career where you can sleep until noon, take a breath, say something positive, and start the day like the main character you were born to be! You will notice a huge difference in your day!

**GOT
NEWS?**

204-328-7494

riversbanner@outlook.com

**Rivers
Banner**
www.riversbanner.com

Valentine's Day and Flowers

Submitted
By PATRICIA HANBIDGE

The art of floral design is a very proud form of art that has been around for thousands of years. The diversity of style is amazing and will reflect a variety of social, religious and cultural trends. It is a part of social interactions, of interior design and is very important in relationships and for enhancing the overall quality of our lives. Working with flowers is fun but also brings a dimension to our life that is purely pleasing. Having a bad day – then make a bouquet! Feeling sad – bring some joy to your life by working with a bunch of flowers that smile for you!

Flowers are both beautiful and functional. We enjoy their colour, their scent and often forget that the real significance of a flower from the plants' perspective is to provide a means of reproduction. Flowers have played a role in many cultures throughout the years, symbolizing an identity, a goal or aspiration and even may have special religious significance.

We also mark special days with flowers – births, deaths, weddings and a host of other special occasions to give thanks, to say "I love you" or to just say I am thinking about you. In fact, individual types of flowers have been given special meanings which you may consider when you are giving flowers as a gift.

The floral industry itself is huge. It is a multibillion dollar industry that brightens our lives at every special holiday and event in our lives. It does make a great contribution to our economy and provides a host of employment opportunities. Valentine's Day which is February 14th is one of the busiest days for florists, candy shops, lingerie shops and restaurants. It is "expected" to give and receive flowers, chocolate, to go for a romantic date and more!



During Victorian times, flowers were given special meanings and small bouquets would be given to sweethearts to demonstrate love. The rose has been forever a symbol of love, beauty and peace and evidence of cultivation of roses dates back to over 5000 years ago. Over Valentines over 250 million roses will be harvested and bring in over two billion dollars in sales!

If you received cut flowers from your valentine, then here are a few tips to prolong their life and beauty. Begin with a clean vase. If your container was previously used, then wash it with hot, soapy water to remove any debris and destroy bacteria and fungi that might shorten the life of your cut flowers. Cut off the bottom half inch of your flowers to aid in water uptake. Ensure all foliage is removed beneath the water line. When your flowers begin to wilt, just give them a quick recut to ensure the stems are able to take water up to the blooms and rewash and refill the vase with clean water as well as more of the floral preservative if you have some.

Cut flowers are not the only option as there

are also many potted plants now available everywhere. It is impossible to walk into any grocer without being greeted by flowering potted plants of every colour and type. Remember that our homes are not really welcoming to plants that would normally live in areas with brighter light and higher humidity. Our plants in our houses are stressed during our long winter months so ensure you are giving them the care they deserve for brightening up our lives!

Hope your February is going well and your heart is full with all of what gives us joy during our winter!

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 GROWLive on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/orchidhort> or check out the YouTube channel GROW... <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzkiUpkvyv2e2HCQIFl0JyQ?>

Beautiful Flowers for a Love That Keeps Growing



- Fresh Roses (Assorted Colours) and other fresh cut flowers
- We'll custom make a Bouquet or Arrangement of your choice
- Great selection of Giftware

Order early to avoid disappointment!

CAMPBELL FLOWERS & GIFTS

24 2nd St. SE | Hamiota, MB
204-764-2744

Regular Hours: Tuesday to Friday • 9am to 5pm

Manitoba government issues directive to reduce for-profit nurse spending in Prairie Mountain Health

Submitted
By MANITOBA GOVERNMENT

The Manitoba government has directed Prairie Mountain Health leadership to reduce for-profit nursing agency costs by 15 per cent by March 2026 as part of a systemwide effort to refocus funding on nurses in the public system, Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care Minister Uzoma Asagwara announced today.

"Prairie Mountain Health has consistently been dealt a bad hand," said Asagwara. "Alongside the challenges in the area, the previous government gave the region little to no support by cutting services, closing ERs and firing nurses resulting in millions overspent on private nursing agencies. Enough is enough. It's time to put a hard stop on private for-profit nursing agency over-spending and re-invest in the public system. Our government is committed to working with all health regions to bring

nurses back into the public system."

This direction comes alongside the Manitoba government's efforts to invest in publicly funded health care and encourage nurses to join the public system, the minister added.

The Manitoba government recently issued a request for proposals (RFP) to reduce the number of contracted agencies at prices that ensure the majority of health-care funding is directed to public front-line workers and their patients, noted the minister. The RFP is now closed, and the government will begin reviewing and evaluating proposals this week.

In the past, Manitoba has held hundreds of distinct contracts with more than 70 private for-profit agencies, with little to no policies on how to limit those agencies' impact on the nurses working in the public system or the rates they charge to publicly funded service delivery organizations, noted the minister.



Wrap Up the Best Deals for Valentine's Day

Chocolates

Cards

Gifts

All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt.



SUPER THRIFTY
WE CARE... Your Family Drug Store

501 Second Ave | Rivers, MB
204-328-7420 | www.superthrifty.com

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

By Gerry Nolan
RIVERS BANNER

Billy Derlago from Beulah, Manitoba is a former NHL player, now retired. Billy was born August 25, 1958, in Birtle, Manitoba. He played his minor hockey in Birtle and Miniota. He was a very gifted and talented athlete, so it wasn't long before scouts started taking notice of his athletic abilities.

Sports in general came easy to Billy, as he had a God-given talent. Under the watchful eye of his older brother Steve Derlago, Bill practiced his shooting at an old shed, with a piece of tin in front of it. He was a great ball player too. Bill played with the Bin-scarth Orioles at the age of 14 and played short stop and second base. He finished fourth in league hitting with an average of .320. Remember, he did this at age 14! He garnered interest from the Cincinnati Reds of

the National Baseball League!

One way Billy stayed in shape, besides the ice and the ball diamond, was the "Hookway Training Camp" in Beulah. Mr. Ulley hired him at age 12 and 13 to treat untreated fence posts. There were four cement pits containing a solution to treat the green posts making them last longer. Mr. Ulley owned the store in Beulah and happened to be the Stepdad of my wife Celia.

Hockey was his first love, so he went and played with the Brandon Travellers in the Manitoba Junior Hockey League. In 45 games, he logged 59 points. As a 14-year-old he finished tenth in the goal scoring with 38.

In 1975, Bill suited up with the Brandon Wheat Kings, where he put up some astounding numbers. In his first season he gained over a hundred points. His second season with the

Wheaties, he scored 96 goals and had a total of 178 points, and in his third season, a broken leg prevented him from possibly setting an all-time record in Major Junior hockey. In 52 games, he scored 89 goals and had 152 points. When he was injured, he still had 20 more games he could have played in. He scored his fiftieth goal of the season that year in just 27 games which still stands as a record!

In 1978, Amateur Draft Billy, was drafted fourth overall by the Vancouver Canucks. He played only 9 games that year but scored 4 goals and had 4 assists when he injured his knee while getting hit by Denis Potvin of the New York Islanders.

In 1979 Bill played 54 games with Vancouver before being traded with Rick Vaive to the Toronto Maple Leafs. This ended up being the worst trade in Vancouver's history, which was made by then

General Manager Jake Milford. Milford later admitted that it was one trade he would never make again! Going to Vancouver from Toronto was Dave Williams, and Jerry Butler. Dave "Tiger" Williams scored 83 goals in Vancouver and Jerry Butler scored 19. Billy scored 161 goals and Rick Vaive scored 299 with the Leafs. I would say it is pretty obvious who got the best deal of the trade! Rick and Billy were the number one picks of the Canucks in 1978 and 1979 respectively. Injuries were a part of the game and Billy certainly had his share of them!

Billy was traded to the Boston Bruins for Tom Fergus, then he was off to Winnipeg Jets for the 1986-87 season. Next was the Quebec Nordiques before finishing his career in HC Ambri-Piotta Switzerland. Billy scored 189 goals along with 227 assists for 416 points in just 555 games!



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Billy Derlago of Beulah Manitoba

In 1999, Billy was inducted into the Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame as an Honoured Member in the Player Category. He is ranked 35th in the all-time Toronto Maple Leafs scoring and was named 75th of the top 100 Toronto Maple Leafs. Dave Keon is number one.

"Once a Leaf, always a Leaf" Billy retired from

Hockey. He worked at a car dealership. Now that he is fully retired, Billy plays some hockey with the Toronto Maple Leaf Alumni.

Bill and Rick Vaive remain the best of Buds. All in all what an amazing career he had, all the way from Beulah, Manitoba to the NHL. Billy "D" you did all of rural Manitoba proud!

Premier announces cabinet changes, welcomes new minister to work for Manitobans

Submitted
BY MANITOBA GOVERNMENT

The Manitoba government has made changes to cabinet and renewed its commitment to its mandate to continue working on behalf of Manitobans, Premier Wab Kinew announced today.

Tracy Schmidt, member of the legislative assembly for Rossmere, becomes minister of education and early childhood learning, following her acting role in that portfolio after the late education and early childhood learning minister Nello Altomare stepped back in October before passing away last week. Mike Moyes, member of the legislative assembly for Riel, has joined cabinet as the minister of environment and climate change.

"I am honoured to take up the torch of minister of education and early childhood learning and continue on the incredible work of my late colleague and friend Nello Altomare," said Schmidt. "In this role I will keep working to give every child in Manitoba a path to success – an inspiring education, a fulfilling career and a good life."

Moyes committed to working to protect the environment and tackle climate change as one of the greatest challenges



FILE PHOTO

Tracy Schmidt minister of education.

facing the province.

"I am honoured to be asked to serve Manitobans in this role," said Moyes. "Together, we will work to face the climate challenges ahead and to create safe, clean and healthy environments for Manitobans. I look forward to helping preserve and protect lands and waters in our province for generations to come."

The premier noted both ministers have been sworn into cabinet at a private ceremony.

GAZETTE-REPORTER
**Rivers
Banner**

**WE HELP MAKE
YOUR BUSINESS
MORE CREATIVE**

Do you have a Large print job?
We offer special pricing on large
volumes of printing

- Business cards
- Envelopes
- Invoices, purchase orders and statements
- Brochures, booklets and flyers
- Raffle tickets
- Invitations and postcards
- Gift certificates
- Anything you have in mind!

Rivers, MB
204-328-7494
info@riversbanner.com
www.riversbanner.com

CLASSIFIEDS

In Memory

In Loving Memory of George Kroeger Sept 19, 1928 - February 7th, 2024

A married family man of "71" years. A home builder, A talented musician, and just an all around wonderful example for us to follow. We miss your hearty laughter, your deep voice, of confidence & wisdom.



And in times of trouble we think back now, to how "YOU" would have handled it Dad :) Thinking of you always: Wife Katie, sons Garry, Bill, & Dale, & families, Granddaughters Ashley, Kelsey, & their families...

Love The Kroeger Family

Help Wanted

Hamiota Golf Course

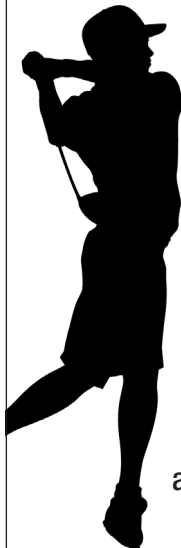
is now accepting applications for the following positions for the 2025 season:

Clubhouse Manager - Seasonal
Clubhouse Staff - Seasonal
AND/OR
Proposals for Tender
- Management of Clubhouse Facility

Please email resume or offers of tender, and any questions to:
hamiotagolf@gmail.com

Application Deadline: Feb 28, 2025

Hamiota Golf Course thanks all applicants, however only those chosen for interviews will be notified



For Sale

Farm land for sale in Hamiota RM

South half of 5-13-23
Approximately 260 acres broken
Others accepted until
February 15th 2025
Interested parties must rely on their own inspection and knowledge of property
Highest or any offer not necessary accepted.
A deposit of \$5000 to be paid at time of signing of agreement of sale.

Mail offer to Westwood Enterprises Ltd
Box 520
Hamiota
ROM OTO
204-764-2734

Announcement



Response Builder Advertising WORKS!

- GET SEEN by over 360,000 Manitoba Homes!
- Create instant top of mind awareness
- Showcase your info, business, product, job, announcements or event
- We format it, to make it look great!
- Starting at \$239.00 (includes 35 lines of space)
- The ads blanket the province and run in MCNA's 31 Manitoba community newspapers
- Very cost effective means of getting your message out to the widest possible audience

Contact this newspaper NOW or MCNA at 204.947.1691 or email classified@mcna.com

www.mcna.com

For Rent



LAND FOR RENT

Ducks Unlimited Canada is offering Land for rent in the following RM's:

First four listings are cash rent, one-year rental agreements

RM of Clanwilliam-Erickson:

SW30 & NW 19 - 17 - 18 W1 230 acres

RM of Oakview:

NW 23 - 13 - 19 W1 105 acres

RM of Prairie View:

S 1/2 34 - 17 - 25 W1 150 acres

RM of Whitehead:

SW 19 - 9 - 22 W1 95 acres

Last listing is a cash rent, two-year rental agreement

RM of Minto-Odanah:

SE21, N1/2 & SE10, S1/2 15-13-18 W1 825 acres

Tenders close at NOON on February 21, 2025.
Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

Anyone wishing to submit a tender should provide in writing: name, phone number, price per acre, crop and weed control plans. Cash rent is due JUNE 1, 2025.

For a copy of the rental agreement and/or specifics on the lands being rented, please contact **Charlotte Crawley** call/text: (204) 868-5599 or email: c_crawley@ducks.ca

If emailing a tender, please indicate "Land Rental Tender" in the subject line and email to: info@ducks.ca. If mailing a tender, please indicate "Land for Rent" on your envelope and send to:

Ducks Unlimited Canada
Unit 2-545 Conservation Drive
Brandon MB R7A 7L8

Help Wanted



Rolling River School Division Invitation for Price Quotation

CUT / MOW GRASS
Grounds of Schools in the Rolling
River School Division
for the 3-year period
Spring 2025 to Fall 2027

The successful service provider must:

- Have appropriate equipment and be available to perform grass cutting and mowing on an a regular and as need basis at the school(s) they bid on.
- Make site visit to determine what areas are to be cut and trimmed

For detailed information and to review specifications and general conditions for the price quotation, please visit our website at www.rrsd.mb.ca

Select **Division** link then **Tenders** link.

Closing date for Price Quotation is
February 28, 2025.

Help Wanted

Full Time Music Teacher Wanted

Boundary Lane Colony School is seeking a full time music teacher applicant to teach music at school for grades 1 through 12 near Elkhorn MB.

- Looking for singing teaching but instrumental talents also very welcome.
- Preferably 2 different sessions for the different age groups of students.
- Flexible times available.
- Would preferably like someone with a Christian faith background willing to teach in a Hutterite context setting.

Contact Jason @ 204-851-3965 for any inquiries.

What happens when you don't advertise?
VERY LITTLE.

For Sale

BATTERIES FOR EVERYTHING! 50,000 BATTERIES IN STOCK

*Auto *Farm *Truck
*Construction *ATV
*Motorcycle *Golf Carts
*Rechargeables *Tools
*Computers *Medical
*All phones *Chargers
*Marine *RV & more
Shipping/Delivery avail.

THE BATTERY MAN
1390 St. James St.
Winnipeg
TF 1-877-775-8271
www.batteryman.ca

WANTED

COIN COLLECTIONS



CASH FOR COIN COLLECTIONS & ACCUMULATIONS OF COINS! ROYAL CANADIAN MINT COINS, OLD COINS, OLD PAPER MONEY, SILVER COINS, GOLD COINS, RARE COINS ETC.

Also buying all Silver, Gold, Nuggets, Scrap, Coins, Old Jewelry, Bullion, Ingots, Sterling Silver, Old Quality Watches working or not, Rolex, Omega ++

Todd
204-904-9705

For Sale

2 LOTS in Shoal Lake

with self store units containing 14 individual storage spaces. These units are well used and generate a good return on investment. Call southwest storage (204) 764-2734

HEY! YOU!

If you are reading me, that means others are too! Place your Classified here!

Manitoba Community Newspaper Association Province Wide Classifieds

NOTICES

Advertisements and statements contained herein are the sole responsibility of the persons or entities that post the advertisement, and the Manitoba Community Newspaper Association and membership do not make any warranty as to the accuracy, completeness, truthfulness or reliability of such advertisements. For greater information on advertising

conditions, please consult the Association's Blanket Advertising Conditions on our website at www.mcna.com.

URGENT PRESS RELEASES

- Have a newsworthy item to announce? An exciting change in operations? Though we cannot guarantee publication, MCNA will get the information into the right hands for **ONLY \$35.00 + GST/HST.**

Call MCNA (204) 947-1691 for more information. See www.mcna.com under the "Types of Advertising" tab for more details.

SEASONAL HIRING? SELLING SOMETHING? Jump on our great prices and start getting responses! Book your blanket classified ads, seen in the 31 Member Newspapers which are seen

in over 368,000+ homes in Manitoba. Please **Call THIS NEWSPAPER NOW** to book, or call MCNA at (204) 947-1691 for more details or to book ads. MCNA - Manitoba Community Newspapers Association. www.mcna.com

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Private mortgage lender. All real estate types considered. No credit checks done. Deal direct

with lender and get quick approval. Tollfree 1-866-405-1228 www.firstandsecondmortgages.ca

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

NEWTEC IRRIGATION. Looking to Hire: Travelling Salesperson. Agricultural Experience Preferred. TOP WAGES. Please call for more information: 306 - 260 - 9575.

Auction

Online McSherry Auctions

Estate & Moving
Feb 12th @ 7PM

Firearms & Ammo
Feb 13th @ 7PM

Estate & Moving
Feb 19th @ 7:00PM

McSherryAuction.com
204-467-1858
or 204-886-7027
mcsherrytld@gmail.com

Visit our website
www.riversbanner.com

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

YOUR LOCAL MARKETPLACE FOR GOODS & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



KROEGER
BACKHOE SERVICES
LTD.

Rivers, MB R0K 1X0
204-761-8765
kroegerbackhoe@gmail.com

- Development Services
- Pond & Dugouts
- Drive/Lane Construction
- Basements
- Excavation
- Laser Ditching & Drainage
- Septic Systems
- Gravel & Trucking
- Demolition
- Snow Removal

Stewart Endeavors

Gravel - Sand - Stone - End Dump/Belly
Dump Services - Excavating

stewartend2015@gmail.com
204-365-0086
Alex Stewart
Box 916,
Rivers MB, R0K1X0





Brockie Donovan

FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES

Serving Rivers and area since 1915.

Phone 204-727-0694
www.brockiedonovan.com

THE BLANCHARD

Oak River,
MB R0K 0T0
(204) 566-2131

HOTEL, LOUNGE, AND RESTAURANT

Sunday
Buffet
Feb. 9th
4pm - 8pm



WAY-MOR AGENCIES LTD.

RIVERS OFFICE:
MON - FRI: 9:00 TO 5:00
(CLOSED 12-1pm)
SAT: 9:00 TO 12:00
201 MAIN ST., RIVERS, MB
(204) 328-7540

OAK RIVER OFFICE:
TUES - FRI: 10:00 TO 3:00
16 COCHRANE ST.
OAK RIVER, MB
(204) 566-2490

GET AN **INSURANCE QUOTE**
BEST CHOICE **REAL ESTATE BROKER**

HOMES | ACREAGES | CABINS | FARMS | COMMERCIAL

ROYAL LEPAGE
Martin-Liberty Realty



Your Trusted Local Realtor

Ken Kirk

REALTOR®
204-764-2904
kenkirk@royallepage.ca
Serving Hamiota & Surrounding Areas





REDLINE
TRANSPORT
RIVERS, MB

204-724-6870
280 Taylor Road
Rivers, MB R0K 1X0
www.redlinetransport.ca
alepp@redlinetransport.ca



Memories Chapel

FUNERALS
CREMATION
RECEPTIONS

*Cherish the Memories
locally owned and operated*

330 - 18th Street North, Brandon, MB R7A 7P3
204.727.0330
memorieschapel.com



Hamiota's Campbell Funeral Home

204-764-2744
FUNERAL DIRECTORS
Dwayne Campbell
Brittany MacLellan

Whelpton ELECTRIC Ltd.

- Residential & Commercial
- Farm Wiring & Trenching

Brandon - Rivers
204-761-2192



Gill's PLUMBING & HEATING

RIVERS, MB. 328-7728

- Residential
- Commercial
- HVAC Installations
- Licensed Gas Fitting
- 24hr Emergency Service
- Repair & Maintenance
- Septic Truck Service
- Duct Cleaning

Does Facebook support local?

Has your organization ever called up Facebook and asked them for a donation to your cause? Local business rely on local support to exist.

Shop local today.



Redfern
FARM SERVICES LTD.

- Feed • Seed
- Fertilizer • Herbicide
- Hardware
- Custom Application

We Stay Ahead In Our Field
So You Can Stay Ahead In Yours

Agronomy & Service





ALLIANCE ACCOUNTING GROUP

CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS INC.

Hamiota Brandon Souris
Killarney Pilot Mound

Hamiota—71 Maple Ave E 204-764-2544
Brandon—Unit E 2425 Victoria Ave 1-888-726-1995

www.allianceaccounting.ca

Answer for this weeks Crossword

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| 1 | S | C | A | L | E | S | 7 | D | A | S | A | N | I | 12 |
| 13 | E | W | O | K | E | S | 14 | E | B | U | G | O | N | 15 |
| 16 | J | A | N | U | A | R | Y | E | L | E | V | E | N | T |
| 18 | E | L | F | H | A | M | L | E | T | S | P | E | R | |
| 21 | C | L | E | M | J | O | L | T | S | A | R | N | O | |
| 25 | T | O | D | A | Y | U | S | E | C | L | O | S | E | |
| 29 | S | W | E | R | V | E | R | S | T | R | A | F | E | S |
| 35 | R | I | O | T | H | I | R | E | | | | | | |
| 37 | S | T | A | N | N | I | C | S | E | E | M | S | T | O |
| 41 | T | A | T | A | S | O | B | I | R | E | S | E | T | |
| 45 | I | R | E | S | P | O | R | T | S | D | I | N | T | |
| 49 | G | T | A | C | E | L | E | S | T | E | O | D | E | |
| 53 | M | A | R | R | I | A | G | E | P | A | R | T | N | E |
| 56 | A | R | M | O | I | R | E | A | R | R | E | A | R | S |
| 58 | S | Y | B | I | L | L | T | R | O | L | L | S | | |

Created by David Harris of Oak River, MB

Rivers Banner

CONTACT US TODAY TO BOOK YOUR SPACE!
riversbanner@outlook.com ~ 431-351-1628

**ONLY \$30.00
+ GST PER WEEK**
when booked for 52 weeks

SPORTS

JETS BEAT DIVISION RIVAL SHAMRICKS, HOST OIL KINGS

By Robin Wark
RIVERS BANNER

The Rivers Jets triumphed last Saturday in a battle between the top two teams in the Tiger Hills Hockey League's Eastern Division.

The Jets beat the host Killarney Shamrocks, 5-2. The victory improved the Rivers team's record to a league-best 13-2-0-0 and put them on top of the division. The Shamrocks are in second at 12-1-1-0.

"It was a very big win last night in Killarney," the Jets' Brock Paddock said on Sunday. "It's a team we may run into again come playoff time and to have beaten them both times this year will give the boys some confidence."

Earlier this season the Jets beat the Shamrocks, 4-3, in overtime. The battle for the Western Division title will come down to the final weekend of the regular season. The Killarney squad has two games remaining. The Jets only have one - against the THHL Western Division-leading Virden Oil Kings.

"I'm looking forward to playing Virden as it will be another good test for our team as they are the top team in the West," Paddock said. "It's a good time of year to play these top seed teams as our team prepares for playoffs."

Jets 5. Shamrocks 2

On Feb. 1, the host Shamrocks led 1-0 in the opening frame due to a goal by Jesse Bernard. The Jets started to fly in the second period with Jaxon Heeney piloting the way. He scored a powerplay goal at the 12:14 mark to knot the contest at 1-1. Fifteen seconds later, Heeney scored at even strength to put the visitors on top, 2-1. In the period's final minute, the Rivers team's Kayden Sutherland scored what would be the game-winning goal and create a 3-1 score.

"I felt that we had a lot of good looks on the power play last night," Heeney said. "That first goal gave the guys a spark and we just built on that."

In the third, Killarney's Ty Enns drew his team to within one, 3-2, with a goal. The Jets closed out the contest with a pair of powerplay markers. Paddock



PHOTO BY JESSICA COULTER

Rivers Jets getting ready for their next play.

scored first and then Ryder Richmond lit the lamp.

Rivers goalie Riley Lamb made 32 saves. He also earned an assist on Sutherland's goal. Brian Archibald stopped 42 shots for Killarney.

Things were physical in the third period with 24 infractions called. For the game, three Jets and four Shamrocks had double digit penalty minutes.

REFEREEING

REF TO WRITER

GERRY NOLAN

On Wednesday, Jan. 29, my son Oliver and I went to a Brandon Wheat Kings game. The Wheaties won the game, and we were entertained. One of the things I was watching for was the way the officials handled the game. Wyatt Rapsky and Karlin Kreller were the referees. I was very impressed by these two gentlemen. They let the two teams play but called all the penalties that were in that game. They had control of the game from the outset of the contest. Congratulations on a job well done.

I cannot always say that about officiating. Over the course of time, you see some great officials and some not so good. On any given night in the NHL I see some guys out there and wonder, how did they ever get there? Do they ever look in the mirror? NHL officials seem to call the cheap penalties but let shots to the head, cross checks and punches to the head go by as if you should have to take that. You can run someone through the boards or a hit from behind go, no penalty.

The Winnipeg Jets are playing the Calgary Flames. Josh Morrissey gets cross checked from behind and it hurts him, he goes off the ice but does later return. He probably had a stinger. Same shift a Calgary forward steps on a stick and falls down. Winnipeg gets a tripping minor penalty. I can only shake my head and wonder what are these 2 guys doing out there. The one official is number 15, you can look him up. He used to do Wheat King games and he was awful there to. He is also the same referee who did not give Ryan Hartman a penalty for a headshot to Ehlers last season at centre ice. Ehlers missed 6 weeks with a concussion. The same official worked the NHL

Stanley cup division championship series to see who goes and plays in the final. Hard to figure this one out.

The worst game I ever saw was when the Canadian Olympic women's team played the USA Olympic team. The penalties were 9 for Canada and 2 for the U.S. team. Somehow Canada won that game and received the gold medal.

I still believe there is no accountability to some of these officials. The NHL says these officials who make bad calls or do not call flagrant fouls lose assignments. I doubt that!

Fans deem it unfair when their team gets a penalty and focus on the official and take out their frustrations on referees with verbal abuse, etc. One of the things I noticed in my years of officiating is that the great teams were so focused on the game and on their assignments they rarely said anything to you. They would re focus and keep on playing, just like the Ladies Olympic team did.

The Elkhorn Canadians and the Cartwright Clippers who were the best 2 teams in the Southwest Hockey League for a number of years, were so focused on the game they hardly said anything to me, they just kept playing. Discipline! That is not to say there was not the occasional outburst from someone in the heat of the moment, but they were right back playing the game at the next face-off.

Officials today stand out in front of the penalty time-keepers' bench to assess penalties and with that comes a lot of rabbit ears. The player is usually not happy with the call and says some colourful language. The solution, make your call and skate away. It is only the heat of the moment when the player says something.

These days what frustrates me the most is the linesmen will not drop the puck. They have to throw out some player then drop it like it is nobody's business. Linesmen just drop the puck. Nobody came to watch you, get the game going!

Like officials, players should know the rule book. In fact the parents should know the rule book. Parents should also have the opportunity to officiate a game or two. On ice referees get different angles on infractions and sometimes you have players skate right in front of you and block the look you may get.

In conclusion, focus! Focus on the game not the officials. There will always be controversy as long as there are games. Cheer loud for your team and enjoy life!

Time for a Check?

ColonCheck: Every 2 years for all age 50 - 74

BreastCheck: Every 2 years age 50 - 74

CervixCheck: Every 3 years age 21 - 69

CancerCare Manitoba
ActionCancer Manitoba

Brought to you by
CancerCare Manitoba
FOUNDATION
All funds raised stay in Manitoba.

Get Checked for Cancer.
PracticePrevention.ca
1.855.95.CHECK

**Become
a volunteer
on the Westoba
Inspire Community
Investment Committee.**

**Applications accepted
February 3 - 21, 2025.**

Apply at westoba.com*

*Committee positions available to active Westoba members only.



**Westoba
Inspire** COMMUNITY
INVESTMENT PROGRAM
westoba.com • 1-877-WESTOBA

Manitoba Conservation Officers Join RCMP Patrols to Increase and Support Border Security: Kinew

Submitted
By MANITOBA GOVERNMENT

Manitoba conservation officers are patrolling along the Canada-United States border to increase security, Premier Wab Kinew announced here today.

“Our government is committed to ensuring the safety and security of our southern border, and with Manitoba conservation officers joining the RCMP and the Canada Border Services Agency in this work, Manitoba is doing our part,” said Kinew. “Increased eyes and ears will help crack down on drug trafficking, stop unsafe crossings and potentially save lives.”

Conservation officers stationed out of Virden, Boissevain, Manitou, Winnipeg, Steinbach and Sprague are conducting border patrols as part of their work. Patrols are being conducted between ports of entry, focusing on secondary roads and backcountry areas. The province is deploying equipment such as snowmobiles, utility terrain vehicles and helicopters to support the conservation service in its work to patrol the border.

“Our conservation officers stand ready to apply our enforcement skills, deploy our patrol equipment and use our knowledge of the land to assist the

Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Canada Border Services Agency and other enforcement agencies to take immediate action to stop the proliferation of smuggling in firearms, drugs and people across our shared border with the U.S.,” said Corey Meadows, chief conservation officer. “Our officers will uphold and enhance co-ordinated law enforcement in this shared international effort. Manitoba conservation officers are expertly trained and skilled peace officers who have authority to enforce a variety of acts and regulations in the interests of public safety and resource protection.”

Unsafe crossings, including those that occur between points of entry, can be dangerous and even deadly, noted the premier.

“This is a humanitarian effort as well as an important step to keep people safe,” said Kinew. “If there’s a child or a family in danger near the border, we’re going to make sure there’s help there. But if someone is smuggling drugs or guns, we’re going to stop them.”

Patrols will be watching for suspicious activity or activity in unusual places with a focus on identifying illegal border crossings and stopping drug trafficking. Officers will work with the RCMP to carry out activities and lay charges under the Criminal Code of Canada and the provincial Highway Traffic Act.

We’re
Engaged!

Who is getting married?
Tell us!
The Rivers Banner wants to help you tell the community about your big news!

Let everyone know your love story!

Rivers Banner

Rivers, MB
204-328-7494
www.riversbanner.com



SUNMONTUEWEDTHUFRI

SATSAT

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Feb 7

Prairie Crocus Library
Storytime in
Rivers 10am

Chase the Ace
Rivers Legion 7pm
Kenton Legion 7pm

8

Rapid City
16th Annual
Ice Fishing
Derby

Rivers Jets vs
Virden
Oil Kings
7:30pm

9

Rivers Legion
Bingo 11:30am

10

50 + Club Tile
Rummy
1pm

11

Woodworth Seniors
Valentines Lunch
in Kenton
12:30pm

50 + Club
Pool
1pm

12

50 + Club Tile
Rummy
1pm

13

50 + Club Floor
Curling/Carpet
Bowling 2pm

Darts
Rivers
Legion 7pm

14

HAPPY
Valentine's
DAY

Prairie Crocus Library
Storytime in
Rivers 10am

Chase the Ace
Rivers Legion 7pm
Kenton Legion 7pm

15

Rivers
2-person
Bonspiel

16

17

Kids Learn
to Fish
10am to Noon

50 + Club Tile
Rummy
1pm

18

50 + Club
Pool
1pm

19

50 + Club Tile
Rummy
1pm

20

50 + Club Floor
Curling/Carpet
Bowling 2pm

Darts
Rivers
Legion 7pm

21

Prairie Crocus
Library
Storytime in
Rivers 10am

Chase the Ace
Rivers Legion 7pm
Kenton Legion 7pm

Rivers U18 Female Provincials
Hamiota U15 Co-Ed Provincials

22