



Gazette-Reporter
Rivers Banner
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No snow but plenty of Christmas Spirit in Rivers



PHOTOS BY CAROLYN PHILLIPS

SANTA!!! Families bundled up and lined the streets to catch a glimpse of Santa in Rivers on November 20.



New Christmas fireworks show thrilled the children this year.

By Carolyn Phillips
Rivers Banner

The charming town of Rivers embraced the spirit of the season last Friday with a heartwarming celebration that lit up the community and rang in holiday cheer, despite the absence of snow. The annual festivities at the Riverdale Community Centre were the perfect way to kick off the Christmas season, creating joyful memories for families and friends alike.

As families congregated at the Community Centre, they were greeted by an array of festive activities designed to bring delight to children and adults. One of the most popular attractions this year was cookie decorating, where kids rolled up their sleeves and got creative with icing, sprinkles, and an assortment of festive toppings. The laughter and excitement were contagious as families proudly displayed their sweet masterpieces.

In addition to cookie decorating, the community centre featured bouncy castles that provided endless fun for children.

Read more about the Rivers Christmas Celebration on page 2...

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Rivers Christmas Celebration

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The sounds of laughter echoed through the air as kids leaped, tumbled, and played, creating an atmosphere filled with unbridled joy. Parents enjoyed a moment of respite, sipping on hot cocoa while watching their little ones frolic in the inflatable wonderland.

A significant highlight of the evening was the opportunity for children and families to have their pictures taken with Santa Claus. Dressed in his traditional red suit, Santa greeted smiling children with warm hugs and joyful conversations. Parents eagerly snapped pictures, capturing memories and creating a magical experience that is often treasured for years to come.



PHOTO BY CAROLYN PHILLIPS

Ella, Leo, and Abigail Waldner got their picture with Santa before he left to drive his float in the parade.

As the sun began to set, the crowd eagerly anticipated the stunning Santa parade that wound its way through the streets of Rivers. Adorned with twinkling lights, beautifully decorated floats passed by, each reflecting the festive spirit of the season. A variety of local organizations and groups participated, showcasing their creativity and enthusiasm. The delight on the faces of onlookers as the parade rolled by was palpable, with children and adults alike waving and cheering in excitement.

The highlight of the night came as the parade culminated in a spectacular fireworks display, illuminating the sky with vibrant colours and patterns. The sparkling fireworks brought the day's festivities to a thrilling conclusion, leaving everyone in awe and setting the stage for a joyful holiday season ahead.

This year's celebration in Rivers was a perfect start to the holidays, demonstrating that even without snow, the community's spirit remains bright and warm. The combination of festive activities, delicious food, and a magical parade fostered a sense of unity and joy among attendees. With such a wonderful beginning to the season, it's clear that Rivers is ready to embrace the warmth and cheer of Christmas, making it a place filled with love and community connection. Looking ahead, residents can't help but feel excited about what the holiday season will bring!

NHL Memories

By Gerry Nolan
Rivers Banner

For all you hockey fans out there I thought I would share some November Milestones and Moments during the 1960-1969 decade of the National Hockey League.

On November 5,1960 Frank Mahovlich scored 4 goals for the Toronto Maple Leafs in a 7-3 victory over the New York Rangers. The Leafs could use the Big M as he was effectively known these days.

On November 12,1961 Boston Bruins goalie Don Head skated past the center red line to play the point on a delayed penalty against Toronto, prompting the National Hockey League to ban goalies from crossing the center ice line.

On November 27,1960 Gordie Howe became the first player in the National Hockey League to reach 1000 career regular season points.

On November 21,1964 Toronto Maple Leaf goalie Terry Sawchuk, a native of Winnipeg Manitoba, recorded a shutout to reach a record 16 consecutive seasons in the NHL with at least one shutout.

November 27,1965 Gordie Howe became the first player in National Hockey League history to score 600 career regular season goals.

In November 1967, the expansion California Seals were renamed the Oakland Seals.

In the 1960's there were some major hockey trades that had a direct effect on National Hockey League teams. On February 10,1960 the Toronto Maple Leafs acquired Red Kelly from the Detroit Red Wings for Marc Reaume. Red Kelly was an all-star defenseman with Detroit, but Toronto played Kelly at centre ice and he was a huge part of the Leafs 4 Stanley Cup victories in the 1960's.

On February 22, of 1964 the Toronto Maple Leafs sent popular forward, NHL hall of famer Dick Duff along with Rod Seiling, Arnie Brown and Bob Nevin to the New York Rangers in exchange for Don McKenney and Andy Bathgate, a Winnipeg Manitoba native.

On June 13, 1961 the Montreal Canadiens sent all-star and James Norris Trophy winner, Doug Harvey to the New York Rangers for Lou Fontinato. This trade was precipitated because Harvey was one of the leaders of the NHL players that were trying to form a Union. Ted Lindsay also would be traded because of their involvement in the Union. For Lou Fontinato, his fame was that Gordie Howe broke his nose in a fight, there was blood everywhere. Lou ended up breaking his neck when he went headfirst into the boards. He tripped on his own and crashed into the boards.

And finally for this edition, this one still hurts. Tommy Ivan who was the General Manager of the Chicago Black Hawks at that time traded Phil Esposito, Ken Hodge, Fred Stanfield to the Bruins for Gil Marotte, Pit Martin and goalie Jack Norris. With Bobby Orr, these players from Chicago became a tremendous team winning the cup on 2 occasions and should have had a couple more. Esposito, Hodge and Stanfield all played on the power play with Johnny Bucyk and Bobby Orr and could score at will. For Chicago, Marotte was a defensive defenseman, Martin was an okay centreman but on the small side and Norris never played any amount at all. You are welcome, Blair Fordyce, Mike Kyle and Randy Kalynuk.

Quick and Easy Brownies



Ingredients

- baking spray
- 2 cups white sugar
- 1 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup unsalted butter, melted
- 4 large eggs, room temperature
- 1/2 cup cocoa powder
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup walnut halves

Directions

1. Gather all ingredients.
2. Preheat the oven to 350°F (175°C). Grease a 9x13-inch pan with baking spray.
3. Whisk sugar, flour, melted butter, eggs, cocoa powder, vanilla, baking powder, and salt in a large bowl until combined.
4. Spread the batter into the prepared pan.
5. Decorate with walnut halves.
6. Bake in the preheated oven until top is crinkled and a toothpick comes out with a few moist crumbs, about 20 to 30 minutes.
7. Let cool completely in the pan on a wire rack before slicing into squares. Enjoy!



New Oakview Council works through heavy agenda



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE WADDELL

The new Rapid City Nurse Practitioner Clinic is moving quickly towards completion. This photo was taken on November 19 and work has been ongoing since. A wheel chair ramp and access is being planned for completion soon. Watch the Rivers Banner updates.



PHOTO BY ANNE DAVISON

Oakview Councillors met in chambers at the municipal office in Oak River with Reeve Gavin Reynolds at the head of the table and (L-R) Councillors Ian Christie, Trent Hedley, Shawn McFadden, Joey Bootsman, Charles Stewart, and Andy Corbey.

By Anne Davison
Rivers Banner

On Nov. 17, Oakview Council met in Oak River municipal office council chambers.

With four new councillors at the table, new reeve Gavin Reynolds allowed discussion to bring clarity on the many items covered during this second public council meeting.

Chief Administrative Officer Mark Humphries left the municipality and Donna Anderson, ACAO/Manager of Finance is interim CAO.

Nurse Practitioner clinic

A public hearing to consider the application of a variance for the building where Nurse Practitioner Michelle Weighell will establish her office at 425 and 435 Second Avenue, Rapid City. The RM of Oakview is registered owner of the properties and Council moved to approve small side setback reductions. Weighell attended the meeting and gave an update on renovations required for accessibility.

The building, a mobile home, is set in place according to code requirements on a foundation which increases the height of the building and means the accessibility ramp has to be long to provide the correct slope.

At present, an electrician and plumber are giving of their time, fitting the installation work into their busy schedules, but Weighell hopes her clinic building will open in early January.

Tiny Homes

Leo Van Veen, owner of CL Van Veen Construction Ltd. has applied for a conditional use for a multiple dwelling in this General Development zone on his property, a double lot, at 585 Fourth Avenue, Rapid City.

A note on the application advises Council to consider the impact of the proposed development on adjacent properties. Development officer Lisa Hamilton included notes and said it's the first project of its kind for the municipality. The proposal is to construct four individual tiny homes to be available as rental units.

The site plan and property site meet all the zoning requirements except for the need for a small variance for the site width by 1 foot and is outside the 1 in 200-year flood line set by the province. Neighbours attended this public hearing and voiced a number of concerns including drainage, parking and feeling there is inadequate room.

With the proponent not present to answer concerns, council reversed a motion on the matter, backing out of the decision process until more information is available.

Communications

Council briefly discussed a letter shared by the Hamiota Municipality regarding their letter based on FIPPA (Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act) requesting Assiniboine West Watershed District (AWWD) to provide accountability about their use of funds according to policy.

Rolling River School Division invited Oakview to provide feedback on their educational and budget priorities.

Kent Heinrich with Free Ride EV offered a free one-hour EV demonstration for council and staff to test-drive a Silverado EV truck and passenger EVs in real winter conditions. "Learn what a charger costs to install at a municipal site, and how solar and battery backup keep it running in an outage…Natural Resources Canada funds the program in part, so it costs the municipality nothing."

Committee Appointments

Committee appointments for nearly two dozen organizations included a council representative on the LUD of Oak River, which Coun. Charles Steward agreed to. And for the SUD of Rapid City, Coun. Ian Christie will represent Oakview Council.

Animal Control

A couple who requested an exemption under the Animal Control By-law - a two-dog and a three-cat limit.

Coun. Christie said, "There would be a note attached to that, I take it? I noticed that there's a 16-year-old (pet) in that - that they do not replace it." CAO Anderson said this exemption request was unusual: "This is something that rarely happens. This couple is wanting to buy a home in Rapid City and they thought before they put an offer in on a home they should read our by-laws."

Council gladly voted to make an exemption and moved the couple could retain three dogs and four cats under the condition that all other sections of the by-law are followed.

Council discussed hiring a CAO and have set up a Special Meeting to interview recruitment agencies.

Rapid City Community Church
Sundays 10 a.m.
Children's Church during the message
Bible Study – Thursdays 7:30 p.m.
JESUS IS LORD

Wordsearch from last weeks cover

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

1. Advertise
2. Junction
3. Jingle
4. Bell
5. Cheer
6. Kicking
7. Sunny
8. Holiday
9. Showcased
10. Perfect
11. Celebration
12. Cherished



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efficiencyMB.ca/MEEO

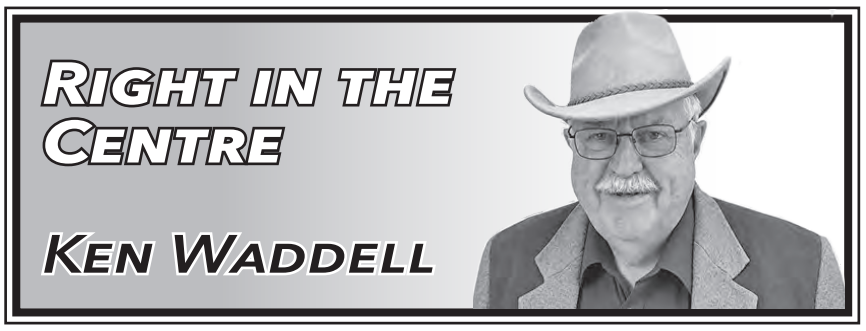
EFFICIENCY MANITOBA

Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



Some things that need to be said



“Putin, go home!”

I almost laughed out loud on Monday when the United Nations reacted with indignation to the attack on a Russian ship by Ukrainian drones. The drones sank a relatively new Russian ship. I wasn't amused by the destruction, or the deaths, but by the indignation displayed by the United Nations about the Ukrainian attack. Where was the United Nations when Russia invaded Ukraine? Where were the pronouncements by the UN officials when Putin marched his troops into Ukraine? I remember mostly silence. The UN and NATO should at least have given nodding assent to being peace loving nations. They should've at least told Putin to go home.

Had they forced that withdrawal, it would've gone a long way towards doing Russia and Putin a favour. It could have saved billions of dollars and thousands of lives. Lives and dollars on both sides of that battle and God knows how much grief, sorrow and heartache.

Invading nations can always invent an excuse to invade. Russia feels that they have been done wrong at some point in history by the Ukraine, however it appears to me that the reverse is true. Ukraine has been run over for hundreds of years. Certainly, during WWll, it was fought over. In the, 1930s Russia invaded and starved thousands of Ukrainian people.

The reason that Putin invaded Ukraine was sheer ambition and a crude sense of ego. I've been re-reading some history lately, and I happened to read about the American victory over Japan at the Battle of Midway. I think that honest Japanese historians would understand that they should not have invaded the United States. They invaded China, The Philippines and Pearl Harbour. But once the American forces got organized and fought back, the battle turned severely at the Battle of Midway.

If I remember correctly, the Japanese lost four aircraft carriers and another ship, along with thousands of men and millions of dollars. There were heavy losses, but lesser losses on the US side by way of an aircraft carrier and some other ships. Both sides lost a lot of airplanes, pilots and crew. But the losses were decidedly in favour of the US and against the Japanese.

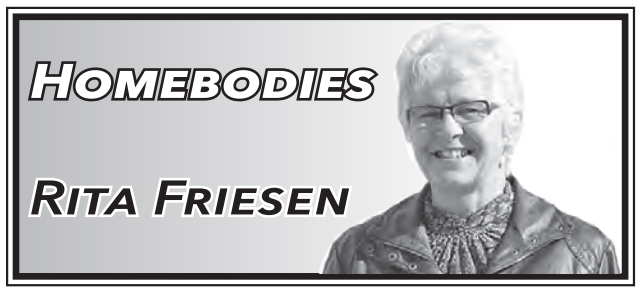
I probably don't know history well enough to make such an observation, but it seems to me that invading forces, at least in the last hundred years or so, haven't done well. In the end, certainly Italy didn't do well in WWll, Germany didn't do well either. The Allied forces had many thousands of losses, but the countries that started the invasions were virtually reduced to ashes. Now, 80 years later, Germany is doing pretty well, as is Japan. Russia had recovered from a lot of their losses that it incurred while on the Allied side.

So why must aggressor countries go to war? They don't usually win, especially when they've been the aggressor, the instigator. In the current situation in Ukraine, Russia should go home. I don't think they will unless they're forced to do so, because Putin is a man full of pride. Once such a man has instigated a war it's very hard for them to back down and say “I was wrong!”

I'm not holding my breath that Putin will say he was wrong, but I will say it. Putin was wrong. I hope and pray that cooler heads will prevail in Russia and Ukraine and their part of the world will come to a lasting peace.

I'm not holding my breath. I think it's so sad that countries in organizations such as UN and NATO didn't stand up to Putin. Surely, they should've learned the lessons of Pearl Harbour, of the conquest of Europe by Germany, and many other wars where countries have maliciously gone out to expand their boundaries and their resources by starting a war. It has rarely worked out well, and certainly is not working well for Russia. For God's sake, Putin, go home!

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.



‘You might want to think about that...’

The nicest ‘no’! When Ed and I were working on the heritage house just east of town, Francis was the contractor that became our friend. I would have these wonderful ideas of what I envisioned for the home. Francis would listen with respect, and then quietly say ‘you might want to think about that’. It was a phrase with which I became very familiar. He knew old buildings. Heck, compared to homes and buildings in Great Britain, anything constructed in Canada is a newborn. For us a house that was built before 1900 is ancient, and it does merit the term heritage. The upside was that Francis could come up with a work around, or explain gently why my idea sucked lemons!

How did this thought cross my mind a decade after I moved off that property and into town? I was having coffee with a friend and we got talking about how people tell us that there is a better way of doing things without outright telling us we are wrong! Somehow our hackles go up when we are told that the way we thought of doing something is wrong, the wrong tone, the wrong wording, the wrong approach and watch me get hostile! I never have claimed to know very much about anything, just a little bit about almost everything. Numbers– investing and maximising investments really aren't my forte. (How incredible that I should even have this to think about!) I appreciate a gentle voice guiding me to think of potential and alternate plans and programs. Never– you can't do that!, but rather a ‘you might want to think about that.’

Hate shopping? Afraid of spending hard earned money on something that you won't like next week or never wear at all? A great salesperson can read an individual quite quickly. They can see by the way we come out of the dressing room and approach the mirror what we really think of an outfit. They will be quick to bring you a variety of looks and combinations until you look pleased. Pressure buying? I have told folks, and been told, ‘I think we can find something that might suit you better’. No outright ‘what are you thinking!, or ‘that colour is awful on you!’, just a quiet ‘you might want to think about that’.

That phrase always made me ask ‘why can't I do it the way I want’. The phrase got used a lot when we were raising the second generation, and many of their friends. It is acknowledging a person has a desire, an opinion, and wants what they want. However, their way may not be the best for them, at this time, and in this place. The phrase never is insulting, rather inviting one another to work on problem solving. I have been using the phrase this month. I have been wanting to get back at quilting, working on a kit that was gifted to me. I take it out, look at the fabric, read the instructions, and put it away. I wanted to alter the suggested pattern. After thinking about it, I stuck to the manual. I thought about it!

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Sunset shines on shifting season



PHOTO COURTESY OF JODI BAKER PHOTGRAPHY

As the sun finally sets on the 2026 autumn season, farmers are thankful for some pretty good yields. As winter comes on, this batch of hay bales will be transported to the feeding yards and fields.

Keystone Agricultural Producers announces new Executive Director

By Emily Davidson
KEYSTONE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS (KAP)

Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP), Manitoba's general farm policy organization, is pleased to announce the appointment of Paul Pryce as its new Executive Director, effective Dec. 8.

"Following an extensive recruitment process, our Board of Directors has selected Paul Pryce as KAP's new Executive Director," said KAP President Jill Verwey. "His experience and understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing Canadian agriculture will be an asset as we continue to advance the interests of Manitoba farmers."

Pryce brings more than 15 years of experience in government relations, having previously served as Executive Director of the British Columbia (B.C.) Poultry Association and the B.C. Blueberry Council, as well as the first Director of Policy and Government Relations at the B.C. Agriculture Council, British Columbia's general farm organization.

Earlier in his career, Pryce also served as Principal Advisor to the Consul General of Japan in Calgary, whose jurisdiction includes Manitoba, and later as a Counsellor at the Embassy of Canada to Japan.

Pryce holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Calgary and a Master of Arts in International Relations from Tallinn University.

"I am honoured to serve as KAP's newest Executive Director, building on its strong history of advocacy for Manitoba farmers," said Pryce. "I look forward to working closely with the board, staff and members to ensure the industry and the folks who grow our food are supported by the right policies and impactful programs."

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Bison: Growing demand, and a path to reconciliation

Submitted
Farm Credit Canada

Note: This article is a joint collaboration between the National Circle for Indigenous Agriculture and Food (NCIAF) and FCC Economics.

'A rising tide lifts all boats' is a well-known saying in economics, and one that appears to hold true with the growing demand for protein. The nutrient's popularity is underpinning demand for a variety of meat products and bolstering livestock producers' economic prospects in the process. Protein's popularity is also providing opportunities to one of Canada's smaller and often overlooked livestock sectors, that being bison production. In this report, we provide a market outlook for the bison sector. In addition, and in partnership with the National Circle for Indigenous Agriculture and Food (NCIAF), we also explore the growing opportunities for Indigenous involvement in the bison value-chain, including actions underway to address key barriers, and the potential for the bison sector to serve as a roadmap for reconciliation in agriculture.

Protein demand is booming

Protein is 'in' right now – demand is booming, and farmers and processors are racing to meet it. Beef, chicken, fish and eggs all experienced sizable increases in per capita consumption last year.

There are many reasons for this, but here we highlight two of the main drivers. The first is social media, where influencers have been encouraging followers to embrace "protein-maxxing" – loading up on extra protein in their diets. The second is the rise in use of GLP-1s. The best estimate we have for Canada is that 8 per cent of adults – or nearly 3 million people - are currently using GLP-1s (as of March 2026) according to Leger, a market research company. Consumers on these medications tend to increase protein intake either by choice or because of medical advice.

Regardless of the reason, consumer preferences are clear. According to the International Food Information Council (IFIC) most recent Food & Health Survey, 27 per cent of respondents say they followed a high protein diet in 2026, up from just 4 per cent in 2018. For Canadian farmers and food processors, the 'buy Canadian' movement may also play in their favour. A Food Health and Consumer Products of Canada survey found that 74 per cent of Canadians have changed their grocery shopping habits because of tariffs. Affordability remains a concern, but consumers are looking for cost-competitive Canadian products.


PHOTO FROM FARM CREDIT CANADA

Bison prices up

The bison market is much smaller when compared to other Canadian livestock sectors. For example, there are approximately 12 million cattle and calves in Canada, while the most recent Census of Agriculture (2021) reported 150,000 bison. Most Canadian livestock markets are influenced by U.S. livestock market dynamics given the high degree of integration between the two countries and the fact that livestock inventory sizes in the U.S. are roughly five to 10 times larger than in Canada. However, this is not the case for bison. The USDA reported 192,000 bison were on farm in the U.S. in 2022, only 1.3 times more than in Canada. Thus, supply and demand fundamentals north of the border have a greater relative influence on the broader market.

Given this smaller herd size, there is limited data available to understand current bison market dynamics. But let's start with prices. Bison prices have continued their ascent since early 2023, and today average bull prices are 78 per cent higher than three years ago.

On the supply side, so far in 2026 slaughter volumes in federal facilities are at historical highs through July. Similar to cattle, bison must be finished at a federally inspected plant to be shipped interprovincially or internationally (provincial abattoirs can only sell within provincial borders). In Western Canada, where 82 per cent of the herd lives, there are only a few federally inspected plants that possess both the physical capability and the proper approvals to process bison for export.

Bison cuts have always held a premium at retail, and there are reasons for this. One is the aforementioned difference in scale – bison are simply not farmed at the same scale as cattle. In addition, bison calves are market ready at 22-30 months compared to beef calves at 15-18. In the last few years, however, the gap at retail has grown. Bison cut prices have increased at a faster pace than beef cuts.

Shipping live animals to the U.S. is another marketing option, but recently, with more animals finished north of the border, we've seen a decline in bison exports in 2026. This despite the Canadian dollar being quite weak relative to the U.S. dollar (recall that a weaker loonie makes Canadian exports relatively cheaper to international buyers which supports exports).

Growing demand for protein presents new opportunities for Canada's bison sector. However, for many Indigenous Nations, the value and significance of buffalo (as they are sometimes traditionally referred to) extend well beyond their role in agricultural production or commercial markets.

For many Indigenous Nations, buffalo hold profound cultural, ecological, and historical significance. Buffalo remain central to Indigenous Peoples' lives, economies, food systems, and land relationships. The 19th-century destruction of buffalo, along with displacement and colonial restrictions on land and resources, disrupted Indigenous ways of life. This history still shapes the challenges Nations face today.

Continued on next Advocate page





Indigenous participation could enhance food sovereignty

Continued from second Advocate page

However, the repatriation of buffalo (that is, restoring herds to their traditional territories) offers a significant opportunity to revitalize cultural practices, strengthen food sovereignty, restore ecological relationships, and reconnect future generations with the land and traditional knowledge systems.

The decisions made today about investment, market development, infrastructure, and partnerships will influence who can meaningfully participate for years to come. This shift must also involve meaningful Indigenous inclusion, recognizing Indigenous Peoples as key decision makers, knowledge holders, land stewards and essential partners in the development of building a stronger and more resilient bison sector. Although food security and food sovereignty are closely connected, Indigenous food sovereignty recognizes the inherent rights, responsibilities, knowledge systems, and decision-making authority of Indigenous Peoples in relation to their foods, lands, waters, and food-producing practices. This means creating space for Indigenous communities to identify their own priorities, respecting the knowledge and relationships they bring, and working together to address the barriers that have historically limited Indigenous participation in agriculture. This also includes supporting Indigenous ownership and leadership across production, processing, distribution, and marketing, while ensuring Indigenous knowledge and community priorities meaningfully guide buffalo stewardship and management practices.

Meaningful progress requires addressing several systemic barriers within existing agricultural financing and investment frameworks. For example, complex land ownership rules can make it difficult for First Nations communities to leverage equity when establishing or expanding operations. Separately, record-high bison prices create another challenge: while they support current profitability, they also increase the cost of entering the sector or expanding an existing operation. For example, say a producer wants to grow their operation by 100 head. Given today's bred heifer prices, that requires at least $500,000 in capital needed to fund the expansion. It also carries significant risk: those calves won't be market ready for approximately two years and, while we believe there are indicators pointing to strength in the market for years to come, there's no guarantee what future price market ready animals will fetch. This is a barrier for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous producers, but legalities and other barriers limiting access create additional challenges for the former.

On a broader scale, these opportunities collectively have the potential to contribute to stronger local food systems, employment opportunities, skills development, cultural continuity, and regional economic activity. This responsibility becomes increasingly important as Canada's agricultural sector faces a generational transition, reiterating the need to attract, develop and retain a skilled workforce. Increasing the participation of Indigenous People into agriculture and bridging the gap in farm income between Indigenous and non-Indigenous farm operations represents a $1.5 billion boost in primary agriculture GDP.

Building capacity through the IPBI

The National Circle for Indigenous Agriculture and Food (NCIAF) is an Indigenous led non-profit organization that directly serves Indigenous communities, peoples, and businesses to strengthen food sovereignty. The NCIAF is currently advancing the Indigenous Prairie Bison Initiative (IPBI), a capacity development initiative funded by the Government of Canada. The IPBI is centred around building the foundational tools, training, and relationships needed to support Indigenous communities across the Prairie provinces in exploring and establishing bison-based economic, ecological, and cultural opportunities.

For Indigenous Nations that are interested in exploring these economic opportunities, the IPBI works to connect communities with resources, funding opportunities, industry expertise, and strategic partnerships that support sustainable economic growth. For example, this may include partnering nations with processors and retailers. Participation in economic development pathways is entirely community-driven, recognizing that each Nation has its own priorities, readiness, and vision for how buffalo may fit within its broader goals for food sovereignty, cultural revitalization, and community well-being.

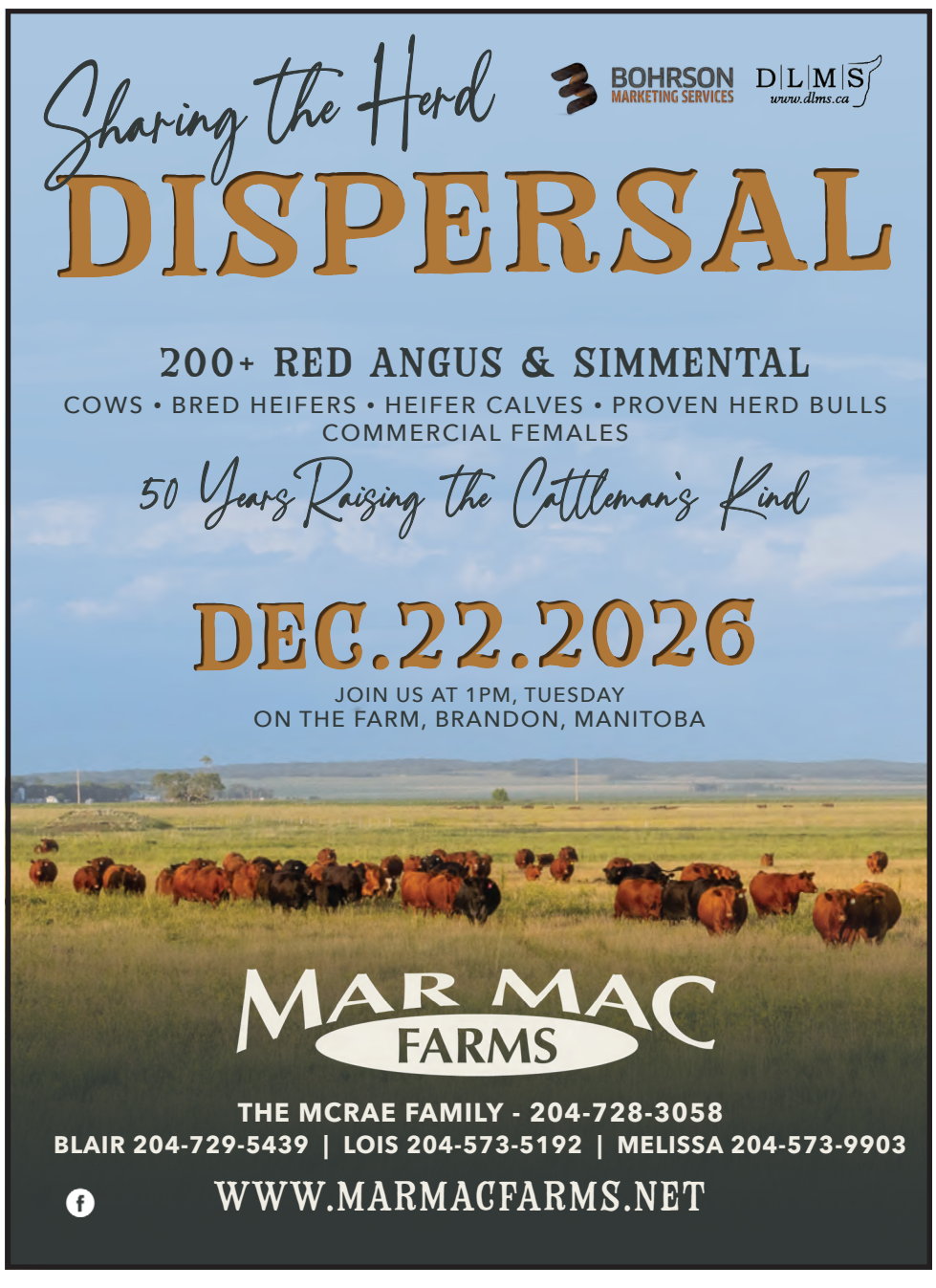
The initiative objectives and activities are designed not only to support near-term Indigenous economic development and capacity development in the bison sector, but to also lay the foundation for long-term food sovereignty, intergenerational knowledge transfer, and sustainable food systems rooted in Indigenous leadership. The NCIAF welcomes opportunities to connect with Indigenous communities, bison producers, industry organizations, and others interested in advancing meaningful collaboration through the IPBI. See here for more information.

Bottom line

With supplies tight and demand strong, there are ample opportunities for Indigenous and non-Indigenous producers alike to grow the bison sector as a whole – but there are some challenges in the way. Meaningful Indigenous participation in this space could enhance food sovereignty and be an engine for economic growth for nations that chose to embark down that road.

As interest in protein continues to evolve, the bison industry has an opportunity to demonstrate what inclusive agricultural development can look like. After all, a rising tide lifts all boats – but only if everyone has access to a boat when the tide comes in.





3rd annual dinner auction, a night of fun and generosity



PHOTOS BY CAROLYN PHILLIPS

Participants were invited to bring an item to be auctioned off, and in return, they received a dinner.



Auction items on display for the crowds to review.

By Carolyn Phillips
Rivers Banner

This past Saturday evening, the Rivers Legion hosted its third Annual Dinner Auction, an event that has quickly become a staple in our community. Combining the thrill of an auction with the pleasures of a delightful dinner, this unique philanthropic effort brought together neighbours, friends, and families for a night of enjoyment and giving.

One of the standout features of the Dinner Auction is its captivating concept: participants were invited to bring an item to be auctioned off, and in return, they received a sumptuous dinner for free. This exchange not only encouraged attendees to contribute to the evening but also fostered a sense of camaraderie among guests as they shared stories about their donations.

The menu for the evening was nothing short of spectacular. Diners were treated to a mouth-watering meal featuring ham, scalloped or roasted potatoes, and carrots, all rounded off with decadent cheesecake parfaits for dessert. Every bite was a reminder of the dedication the Rivers Legion puts into providing quality experiences for its community.

Once everyone had their fill, it was time for the main event—the auction! With laughter in the air and excitement building, auctioneer Warren took the stage, accompanied by his charming assistant, 'Nana'. Together, they ignited energy throughout the room, transforming what could have been a simple gathering into an electrifying experience. Bidders engaged in frenetic bidding, playfully ribbing one another as they sought to claim their desired items. It was a fantastic reminder that fundraisers can be just as enjoyable as they are impactful.

The auction featured an array of items donated by generous individuals and local businesses, with deals that made everyone feel like a winner. And let's not forget the stunning centre pieces that decorated each table, crafted with love from Lillian's garden. Guests had the pleasure of admiring Lillian's handmade flowers throughout the evening, and they were invited to take these beautiful arrangements home, adding a personal touch to the night.

As the evening unfolded, it became clear that this event was more than just a dinner and an auction—it was a celebration of community spirit and generosity. The laughter and joy shared among attendees fostered connections that extended beyond the event itself. It's a true testament to the bonds that can be formed when people come together for a common cause.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all who attended this year's Dinner Auction. Your participation and contributions not only made the evening an overwhelming success but also played a vital role in supporting our community initiatives. The Rivers Legion aims to make each event better than the last, and thanks to your support, we are one step closer to our goals.

Fundraisers should indeed be this much fun! As we reflect on the successes of the 3rd Annual Dinner Auction, we eagerly anticipate what next year will bring. Until then, let's continue to uplift one another and support the important work that helps our community thrive. We hope to see everyone again soon for another delightful evening of laughter, generosity, and togetherness.

Annual Immaculate Conception Church Christmas Tea



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A treasured occasion reminding us all of the true meaning of the Christmas season.

By Carolyn Phillips
Rivers Banner

As the holiday season approaches, it is time for cherished traditions to come alive. What better way to celebrate than the Immaculate Conception Church Christmas Tea! Set against the charming backdrop of a beautiful November Saturday afternoon, this event was a delightful gathering for all.

The Christmas Tea is not just a social event; it embodies the spirit of fellowship and community that is so essential during this joyful season. This year, the parish hall was adorned with festive decorations, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere. Our attendees came to enjoy delicious homemade sandwiches and elegant dainties, expertly prepared by church members. Each bite is a testament to the love and creativity of our community.

In addition to the delightful treats, they hosted a Bake Sale featuring an array of mouth-watering goodies crafted by our talented bakers. Whether you have an affinity for cookies, cakes, or festive pastries, sweet surprises make perfect holiday gifts or simply satisfy your cravings.

Among the highlights of the event was the ever-popular penny raffle, showcasing a variety of items generously donated by church members and local businesses. This raffle not only adds an element of fun but also creates an opportunity for attendees to go home with unique prizes. From handcrafted treasures to useful gadgets, there was something for everyone. Additionally, they had special draws for festive grocery hampers—ideal for your holiday cooking needs—as well as a stunning Christmas centre piece that will bring beauty to someone's holiday table.

The Immaculate Conception Church Christmas Tea serves more than just delicious food and engaging activities. It marks a treasured occasion reminding us all of the true meaning of the Christmas season. The joyful atmosphere provides a space for friends to reconnect, families to come together, and new acquaintances to make lasting memories.

This year's Christmas Tea was filled with laughter, love, and rekindled the spirit of Christmas as we embrace the season of joy and generosity. We can't wait to see you again next year.



Notable November History

By Gerry Nolan
Rivers Banner

One of the biggest events that happened in my lifetime was the assassination of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy of the United States. I remember all the kids that went to Education Point School were sent home in the afternoon that day.

John Fitzgerald Kennedy was the 35th President of the United States, he was shot and killed on November 22,1963.

The President also known as JFK was assassinated at 12:30 Central Standard Time, while riding in a motorcade through Dealey Plaza in Dallas, Texas. He was pronounced dead at Parkland Memorial Hospital about 30 minutes later. The fact is he was dead almost immediately. The coffin was never opened because there was very little left of his head.

The shots were fired from the sixth floor of the Texas school book depository as the presidential limousine passed through Dealey Plaza. Texas Governor John Connelly was wounded but survived.

Lee Harvey Oswald, a former U S Marine and employee at the depository was arrested an hour later. Oswald also shot a Dallas police officer, JD Tippit. Two days later on November 24, 1963 Dallas nightclub owner, Jack Ruby fatally shot Oswald while police transferred Oswald to the basement of police headquarters. Jack Ruby died in prison in 1967 while awaiting trial.

The Warren Commission in 1964 concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone and found no evidence that Oswald and Jack Ruby were part of a conspiracy.

I have always wondered who gave the order to shoot the President? There was much speculation as to who initiated the plan and how it would be carried out. We may never know the answers to so many questions that exist, but in the end many fingers pointed toward President Kennedy's own government. Many suggested it was Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson who would be sworn in as President later on that fateful day, that gave the order to shoot President Kennedy.

So much information was never revealed about this event. It is interesting to note in what I just shared that the shooter, Lee Harvey Oswald was arrested yet shot two days later by a nightclub owner who was dealing with cancer. Shut the shooter up by killing him, in police headquarters, protect the nightclub order and have him shoot Oswald. As Marty Johnson from the television comedy show Laugh in would say, very interesting!

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.

Obituary

IN LOVING MEMORY
BRENDA LOUISE THERIEN
FEBRUARY 17, 1960 - OCTOBER 30, 2026



It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Brenda Louise Therien our beloved wife, mother, grandmother and friend on October 30, 2026 with family by her side. Brenda leaves to mourn her passing her husband Clayton, her son Bryan and wife Brittany, her sister Jo Anne, grandchildren Eryk, Abbi, Sylas, Emmitt, Parker and daughter Sheena.

Brenda was pre-deceased by her parents Albert and Maretta Gelsthorpe. Brenda was born in Brandon on February 17, 1960 at the Brandon General Hospital. She was the second daughter to Albert and Maretta Gelsthorpe. Brenda attended George Fitton Elementary school, moving to Earl Oxford for Junior High and then off to Crocus Plains for high school graduating in 1978. She met the love of her life Clayton Therien on October 29, 1976 at Crocus Plains and the two were married on November 8, 1980 and lived in Brandon until September 2005. Brenda worked as a secretary at the Brandon Mental Health Centre from 1978 to September 2005. She left her secretarial position at the Child and Adolescent in 2005 to be with her husband in Dauphin. While in Dauphin she took a job as a server at Parkland Assisted living or Lorray Manor graduating to a cook after several months. Brenda worked at Lorray Manor for more than ten years meeting many friends and acquaintances.

Particularly important to Brenda was spending time with family, especially her grandchildren. She really enjoyed her "Happy Place" at the lake. Going boating in the summers. A highlight for her in the summer of 2026 was going tubing with her two granddaughters, Abbi and Parker. She enjoyed fishing trips to Lake of the Prairies with friends Doss and Shelley Mayor and Gerald and Cheryl Bourdeau D Hui. Our winters from 2016 to 2025 were spent at our place in Ranchero Village in Weslaco, Texas, with our friends and acquaintances visiting South Padre Island and Spacex, watching launches of various Spacex rockets.

Above all Brenda was a loving wife to husband Clayton. Together they shared a life filled with love, laughter, challenges, adventures and countless memories. Through life's many seasons their bond was one of compassion, commitment and a love that will continue beyond her passing.

Brenda will be remembered for her sense of humour, kindness, strength and generosity. Her presence will be missed at family gatherings, around the dinner table and in the everyday moments that now feel so precious.

Although her passing leaves an immeasurable emptiness, her legacy lives on through the people she loved, the relationships she built and the memories that will be shared for generations.

A wife, a mother, a grandmother, a sister, friend and a life that touched so many. We will miss her voice, her laughter, her presence, and all the little things that made her who she was; most of all we will miss the opportunity to make more memories together.

We the family would like to express our gratitude to Dr Anderson and Dr Mollller and all the nurses and support staff of the Western Manitoba Cancer Centre in Brandon for their care and compassion throughout Brenda's cancer journey. Donations in Brenda's memory can be made to either organization. Please send the cancer care donations to:

Western Manitoba Cancer Center ~ 300 McTavish Ave. East ~ Brandon, Mb. R7A 7Z8

Also we would like to send a special thank you to the nursing staff at the Riverdale Health Centre Palliative Care Program for your caring support through Brenda's final days.

Donations to Riverdale Palliative Care Committee may be made in memory of Brenda by making the cheque payable to

Prairie Mountain Health ~ Box 428 ~ Rivers, Mb. R0K 1X0

Be sure to mark on the cheque for Palliative Care Committee and Brenda's name

A celebration of Brenda's life is planned for Saturday January 9th, 2027 at the Rivers Legion at 633 Second Ave. Rivers, Mb. beginning at 1:00 pm.

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Notice

ROLLING RIVER SCHOOL DIVISION
Statement of Operating Fund Revenue and Expenditures
for the year ended June 30, 2026

Revenue		
Provincial Government		$19,890,549
Provincial Funding of School Programs	$9,229,115	
Other Department of Education	$2,691,912	
Homeowners Affordability Tax Credit	$3,807,340	
Manitoba School Tax Rebate	$2,482,162	
Tax Incentive Grant and Property Tax Offset Grant	$1,535,410	
Other Provincial Gov't Departments	$144,610	
Federal Government		$21,055
Municipal Gov't (net of tax credits, rebates & grants)		$8,368,278
Other School Divisions		$59,900
First Nations		$1,603,901
Private Organizations & Other Sources		$243,457
Total Revenue		**$30,187,140**
Expenditures		
Regular Instruction	$16,546,628	
Student Support Services	$4,092,152	
Community Education and Services	$22,469	
Divisional Administration	$1,016,342	
Instructional and Other Support Services	$923,931	
Transportation of Pupils	$2,201,025	
Operations and Maintenance	$3,593,140	
Fiscal	$500,399	
Sub Total Expenditures		**$28,896,086**
Transfers to Capital Fund	$779,920	
Total Expenses & Transfers to Capital Fund		**$29,676,006**
Operating Fund Surplus (- Deficit)		**$511,134**
Adjustment to Surplus (Deficit)		
Non Vested Accumulated Sick Leave		**$28,432**
Adjusted Operating Fund Surplus (- Deficit)		**$482,702**

The above represents the 2025-2026 Operating Fund Revenue and Expense Statement. A Consolidated Statement of Operating, Capital and Special Purpose Funds prepared to Public Sector Accounting Board standards is available for inspection at the Division Office in Minnedosa or on the Rolling River School Division web page at www.rrsd.mb.ca. A resident elector, at his own expense, may have a copy of all, or any part of the report.

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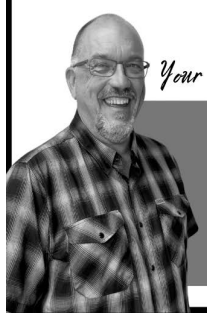
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Mayor Lints continues projects, envisions exciting new possibilities, Hamiota

By Anne Davison
Rivers Banner

When Randy Lints opened his campaign for mayor of Hamiota in the recent municipal election his platform emphasized finishing ongoing projects and improving access to healthcare for residents in the municipality.

The election saw Lints returned to office. Two newly elected councillors have no previous council experience but Lints is optimistic that their enthusiasm and eagerness to learn about municipal government will help them become effective representatives, noting that councillors must carefully review meeting agendas, previous minutes and relevant documents to prepare for council meetings.

He described training sessions for new councillors at the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) conference this week and added, "Monday, there is a training seminar…they are gearing some of the sessions towards the new people to help them just know their roles and responsibilities…and both of our brand-new councillors have signed up for that."

Infrastructure Projects

Lints described the difficulties municipalities encounter when coordinating infrastructure projects with outside agencies, engineering firms and provincial organizations such as the Manitoba Water Services Board.

One significant example is the installation of backup generators for the water treatment plant and sewage lift station. Lints recalled that the municipality announced plans for the generators approximately two or three years earlier. Although progress has been slower than anticipated, he expects the installations to be operational by spring.

The municipality has been fortunate not to experience a major system failure while waiting for the backup generators to be installed and Lints gives credit to the operational staff for avoiding a disaster. He said, "Sometimes they have to set up an exterior pump if you're having a big rain event …so the system doesn't get overloaded… fortunately they've been able to head off some catastrophes that might have happened."

Health-Care Training

Lints described preliminary efforts to expand healthcare training opportunities in the community through a partnership with the University of Manitoba. The local hospital already has a relationship with the university through its resident physician training program and is recognized as a teaching hospital. The university is now interested in expanding the number of students who receive training in the community.

Randy identified health care as one of the major areas likely to remain a priority for council. He expressed frustration that municipal governments must devote so much attention and effort to health-care concerns despite health care being a provincial responsibility.

Future priorities

Lints also has a few projects he hopes to begin in the next four years.

One initiative under consideration is the development of an additional bulk water filling station in Hamiota. The proposed station would provide treated water and help reduce demand on the existing facility.

Another of Lints' personal priorities is the possibility of establishing a youth centre in Hamiota. He said, "I always thought that Hamiota could use a youth center of some sort, similar to the 55 plus center." Hamiota regularly hosts sporting events, including school tournaments, minor hockey competitions and curling events, that attract young participants from other communities.

While the town provides facilities for the sporting events he feels there are not many recreational opportunities, and a youth facility could provide these, for local kids as well as visitors.



PHOTO BY PAULA LINTS

Hamiota Mayor Randy Lints takes the Oath of Office at the inaugural council meeting in early November.

SPORTS

Rivers rides power play to victory over Bisons

By Robin Wark
Rivers Banner

The Rivers Jets were flying on the power play in the second period of a 6-3 victory over the Melita Bisons.

The Jets scored three goals with the man advantage in the second period on Nov. 21. The outburst turned a 2-1 deficit after the opening period into a 4-2 lead, putting Rivers on its way to victory.

"Our powerplay was clicking, we moved the puck quick, and took away the goalies' eyes with traffic in front," coach Ryan Lamb said.

The victory, which came with only 15 players dressed for the game, improved Rivers' record to 5-2-0-0. The Jets are idle this week. They host the Neepawa Farmers on Dec. 4.

In the first period in Melita, Layton Veitch gave Rivers a 1-0 lead. The Bisons responded with goals by Lucas Oliver and Will Brown to take a 2-1 lead.

Just over 10 minutes into the second period, the Jets' Kaelen Huibers scored with the man advantage to tie the game at 2-2. About two and a half minutes later, Owen Wareham's power-play goal gave Rivers a 3-2 lead. With 2:10 left to play in the period, Veitch's second of the night extended the Jets' lead to 4-2.

In the third period, Brown scored on a power play to draw the Bisons within one, 4-3. However, the Jets responded with two empty-net goals. Wareham and Veitch did the honours.

Veitch finished with a hat trick and four points. Wareham also collected four points due to two goals and two assists. Dylan Thiessen assisted on four goals. Cam Ramsey had three assists, while Luke DeCorby had two.

Rivers goalie Riley Lamb made 27 saves on 30 shots. Melita's Andrew Greig stopped 30 of the 34 shots he faced.

Rivers' Mike McFadden and Melita's Lucas Greenley dropped the gloves in the second period.

Stats Leaders

As of Nov. 22, Wareham led the Jets with team highs of seven goals and 13 points in five games. Kayden Sutherland had a team-high 10 assists and ranked second in points with 12. Veitch was second in goals with six and tied with defenceman Riley Shamray for third in team scoring with nine points.

Goaltender Layne Anderson had a 3-1-0-0 record and a 3.31 goals-against average. Riley Lamb was 2-1-0-0 with a 4.70 GAA.

Questionable Officiating

By Gerry Nolan
Rivers Banner

I was watching the Vegas Knights vs Winnipeg Jets game on Saturday night which was scarred by a very questionable call that influenced the game. Vegas scored a goal which was waved off by Referee Cody Beach. This is a non reviewable play. After the goal, which, I thought was the correct call by referee Cody Beach, the officials for some reason gathered together and a decision was made that it was a good goal. The announcement was made by referee Carter Sandlak! The explanation was that the Winnipeg player shoved the Vegas player into the goal post causing it to be dislodged and then a Vegas player shot the puck into the net.

First thing I see is referee Cody Beach within 8-10 feet away from the net with the play right in front of him. Cody is in an excellent position, the very best position to determine the play. In my referee memories you may recall how I stated positioning was the most important part of officiating hockey games. Why was the call of Cody Beach overturned? How could referee Carter Sandlak who is standing 80 feet away standing between centre ice and the offensive blueline see that when you have an official 8 to 10 feet away? How could the linesmen Shawn Oliver and Bevan Mills who are both outside the blueline, some 60 feet plus, see something that the referee who was on top of the play sees that would be different? This is a real head scratcher. It was also interesting to note that when they went to face-off at center ice, Cody Beach was over by the Winnipeg bench and got a chewing out from the Winnipeg coach. After Arneil finished his verbal discussion, Cody Beach just nodded and the game continued.

My opinion is that the officials outside the blueline are all wrong, not only for the call on the ice but by showing up the referee who was standing with the play right in front of him. They undermined Cody Beach and really put him in a bad position. So much for teamwork!

If it was me, I would never work with those 3 blind mice again, but of course this is the NHL we are talking about.

I was refereeing one night with another referee; we were doing the old 2-man system and can relate to this situation. I was in a similar position one night. I was young then and working with an older official and he overruled me. It involved a goal and a one goal game. I stated the puck did not go over the goal line. The other referee was standing outside the blueline and was adamant that it did. I let him overrule me, but I never would work another game with him. I let it be known to my referee-in-chief to never assign me to work a game with him as I would not go on the ice with him to officiate, and I never did! The club who were scored against never said a bad word to me, as one of their veteran players said to me, will you work a game with him again? My answer was never!

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.

Crowd goes shopping at Mall in the Hall



The many vendors in Hamiota Hall represent talent, ingenuity, hope and the entrepreneurial spirit. Sherry and Debbie Lawrence have a table full of sewn and quilted crafts at Hamiota's Mall in the Hall.

By Anne Davison
Rivers Banner

Hamiota's Mall in the Hall was a huge success with 200 to 250 visitors shopping at a multitude of vendors. "It's been a good day—very busy," said organizer Tammy Campbell.

There's something inspiring about shopping among the multitude of vendors. From jewelry to jams, baking to hand crafts, and exclusive linens to Sunset Gourmet, these independent entrepreneurs enjoy meeting the public. It's a great social event as well as a shopping spree.

This craft sale where shoppers find unique and often locally created gifts works in so many ways to be a blessing.

A silver collection at the door will be donated to the Palliative Care Committee. "Every year I try to find a different organization to donate the money to. Last year it was Christmas Cheer and the year before that was the food bank," says Tammy.

The Hamiota Hall benefits. The Board of Directors - Cal Harrison, Greg Little, Jaimie Waddell, Brian and Pat Kirk, Dwayne Campbell and Evie Strachan prepared the luncheon and serve at the counter. "It's a fundraiser for us," says Pat Kirk. "We do the luncheon and Tammy donates the table (vendors' fee) money."

The downtown hall is just the right size for many community events. In recent years and months, a kitchen renovation has brought it up to standards and most lately the hall floor has ben professionally finished making it a bright and welcoming place.

And there's more to do yet. "The next thing we're going to do is fundraise for new bathrooms," says Pat.

For the vendors, whether or not their sales goals were met, their business has caught people's attention.



PHOTOS BY ANNE DAVISON

Pearl Cairns of Oak Lake with her glamorous Fifth Avenue Collection.

Unique craft market open one more week

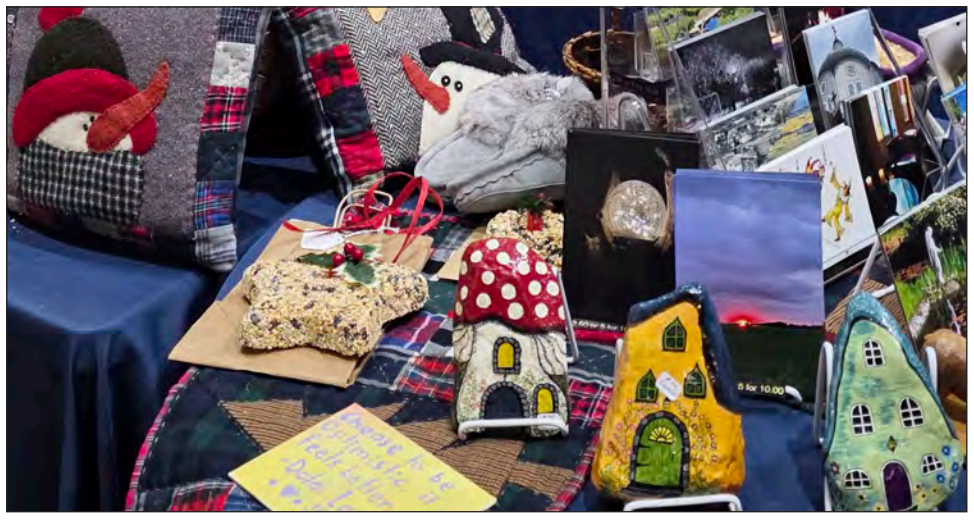


PHOTO BY ANNE DAVISON

Hamiota's Heritage Art Gallery's Christmas Artisan Market has a large display and many vendors at 39 Maple Avenue. The market is open until Dec. 4, so for a few more days the entire gallery is a gift shop, open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11am to 3pm; and Saturday from 10am – 4pm. The place is packed with treasures and on Saturday, Nov. 21, shoppers dropped in to shop the fascinating array of hand-crafted pieces included sewing, knitting, art, pottery, jewelry, home décor and more.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					Nov 27 Rivers Curling Club Sportsmans Dinner 5:30pm Prairie Crocus Library Storytime in Rivers 10am Chase the Ace Rivers Legion 7pm	**28**
29 Rivers Legion Bingo 11:30am	**30** 50 + Card Games 1pm	**Dec 1** Riverdale Municipality Council Meeting 50 + Club Pool 1pm	**2**	**3** Rivers Food Bank 9:30 - 11:30am Rivers Legion Cribbage 7pm 50+ Floor Games 1pm	**4** Prairie Crocus Library Storytime in Rivers 10am Chase the Ace Rivers Legion 7pm	**5** Rapid City Community Church Christmas Concert - 7pm
6 Rivers Legion Bingo 11:30am	**7** 50 + Card Games 1pm	**8** 50 + Club Pool 1pm	**9** 50 + Club Cribbage 1pm Darts Rivers Legion 7pm	**10** Rivers Legion Cribbage 7pm 50+ Floor Games 1pm	**11** Prairie Crocus Library Storytime in Rivers 10am Chase the Ace Rivers Legion 7pm	**12**