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Rivers Kids Club and Nursery School's 3rd annual Retro Trivia Night



PHOTO BY CAROLYN PHILLIPS

Team name - Fred's in Low Places: Jenni Moar, Darryl Moar, Darren Frederick, Rob Frederick, Andrea Frederick, Janice Worth, Jeff Worth

By Carolyn Phillips
RIVERS BANNER

This past Saturday, the Rivers Kids Club and Nursery School held its 3rd Annual Trivia Night fundraiser at the vibrant Redfern's Hall in the Riverdale Community Centre. The evening was a nostalgic journey back to the 80s and 90s, bringing together families and friends for a night filled with fun, laughter, and a bit of friendly competition.

The theme of the evening was a definite hit, with teams eager to show off their knowledge of both eras' iconic music and pop culture trivia. Attendees dressed in their retro best, and the excitement was palpable as teams squabbled over questions ranging from retro music hits to classic television shows. The "Best Dressed team" award went to the creatively named Risky Quizness, whose members brought true fashion flair from the past.

While the competition was intense, it didn't overshadow the spirit of camaraderie that filled the hall. Teams rallied

together, sharing hilarious memories and encouraging each other as they tackled challenging trivia questions. The atmosphere buzzed with energy, and the laughter was infectious. It was a reminder of how important community gatherings like this are, creating bonds and cherished moments that participants would remember for years to come.

The highlight of the event was undoubtedly the trivia competition itself. The winning team, Freds in Low Places, took home the coveted bragging rights. Their impressive knowledge from the 80s and 90s ensured they claimed victory against fierce competition.

Aside from the trivia, the night featured a popular 50/50 draw, where lucky attendees had the chance to win cash while supporting a worthy cause. The energy in the room heightened with the ticket drawn, as participants eagerly anticipated the results.

read more about Retro Trivia Night on page 2...

Inside...



MUSICIANS THRILL HAMIOTA
P16



FARMERS' ADVOCATE
P7-10

St. Patrick's Day at Mid West Arts Council



The Music Duo, Penny-Lane.

PHOTO BY CELIA NOLAN

By Gerry Nolan
RIVERS BANNER

On a blustery St. Patrick's Day, the Mid-West Arts Council along with some friends

gathered to enjoy a steaming bowl of stew, biscuits and yummy desserts. While enjoying their lunch the Penny-Lane entertained with some Irish tunes.

Thank you so much to

Penny and Elaine for all your festive songs. Thank you also to everyone who attended our lunch and thank you to everyone who donated and volunteered their time to make such a successful day.

A blast from the past Retro Trivia!



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Rivers Kids Club board would like to say a huge Thank-you to all who attended the 3rd Annual Rivers Kids Club Trivia Night. We appreciate the support for the children's Preschool and Before and After School Programs.

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Adding to the excitement was the silent auction, with a variety of prizes donated to the auction attracted much attention, with many participants eager to bid on items that piqued their interest. The funds raised from the auction, along with the trivia event proceeds, will go directly towards the Rivers Kids Club and Nursery School, helping to support programming and activities for children in the community.

As the evening wound down, the aroma of delicious pizzas from Shelly Moms Restaurant added a delightful culinary touch, feeding the hungry trivia warriors who

had spent the night competing hard. The food was a hit, adding to the festive mood of the evening, with everyone agreeing that there's nothing like sharing a meal with friends and family to round off a fantastic night.

In hindsight, this year's Trivia Night was not just a fundraiser but a celebration of community spirit and nostalgia. As the final smiles faded and laughter echoed in the hall one last time, many attendees were already looking forward to next year's gathering, eager to relive the joy, fun, and friendly competition. We can't wait for the next edition, with more memories to create and more trivia to conquer!

STRAWBERRY SLAB PIE

Ingredients

Strawberry Slab Pie

- all-purpose flour, for work surface
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 6 Tbsp. cornstarch
- 1 Tbsp. fresh orange zest, plus 2 tbsps orange juice
- Pinch salt
- 3 1/2 lb. strawberries, hulled and quartered
- 1 large egg white

Buttery Piecrust

- 3-3/4 cups all-purpose flour, spooned and leveled
- 3 tsp. sugar
- 3/4 tsp. kosher salt
- 3/4 cup (1 1/2 sticks) cold unsalted butter, cut into pieces
- 12 Tbsp. ice-cold water



Directions

1. Make the pie crust: Whisk together flour, sugar, and salt in a bowl. Cut in butter with two forks or a pastry blender until mixture resembles coarse meal with several pea-size pieces remaining. Add water, 1 tablespoon at a time, using a fork to pull dough together into a crumbly pile (add up to an additional 1 tablespoon of water, if needed).
2. Wrap dough in plastic wrap. Use the plastic to flatten and press dough into a disk. Refrigerate until firm, at least 2 hours.
3. Make the pie: Preheat oven to 425 F with the rack in lowest position. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. On a lightly floured surface, roll 2/3's of the dough into an 18-by-13-inch rectangle. Transfer to a jelly-roll pan and trim to a 1-inch overhang. Fold edges under and crimp; chill.
4. Roll remaining dough to 1/8- to 1/4-inch thick. Cut dough with assorted flower-shaped cutters. Transfer flowers to prepared baking sheet and chill.
5. Stir together sugar, cornstarch, orange zest, and salt in a bowl. Add strawberries and orange juice and toss to combine. Transfer to bottom crust, packing tightly into pan.
6. Whisk together egg white and 2 teaspoons water in a bowl. Brush dough flowers with egg wash. Arrange dough flowers, slightly overlapping, on top of strawberries. Brush edges of dough with egg wash. Freeze 20 minutes.
7. Bake on a large aluminum foil-lined baking sheet until filling is bubbly and crust is golden brown, 50 minutes to 1 hour. Cool on a wire rack 30 minutes. Serve warm or at room temperature.

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PHOTO: ROYAL WINNIPEG BALLET

Statement by Prime Minister Carney and Minister Anand on the situation in the Middle East

“Canada has long seen Iran as the principal source of instability and terror in the Middle East. The regime and its proxies have murdered hundreds of Canadian civilians and caused untold suffering for millions of people in the Middle East and beyond.

Despite more than two decades of negotiations and diplomatic efforts, Iran has not dismantled its nuclear program, nor halted its enrichment activities. Canada has long supported the imperative of neutralising this grave global threat.

Canada stands with the Iranian people in their long and courageous struggle against the regime’s oppressive rule. Which is why we support efforts to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and to prevent its regime from further threatening international peace and security. Because Canada is actively taking on the world as it is, not passively waiting for a world we wish to be.

We take this position with regret, because the current conflict is another example of the failure of the international order. Despite decades of United Nations Security Council resolutions, the tireless work of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and a succession of sanctions and diplomatic frameworks, Iran’s nuclear threat remains. And now the United States and Israel have acted without engaging the United Nations or consulting with allies, including Canada.

So where to from here? With a rapidly spreading conflict and growing threats to civilian life. Canada reaffirms that international law binds all belligerents. We condemn the strikes carried out by Iran on civilians and civilian infrastructure across the Middle East. We implore all parties, including the United States and Israel, to respect the rules of international engagement.

Canada calls for a rapid de-escalation of hostilities and is prepared to assist in achieving this goal. Resolution of this crisis requires commitment to a broader political solution.

Diplomatic engagement is essential to avoid a wider and deeper conflict. Innocent civilians must be protected, and all parties must commit to finding enduring agreements to end both nuclear proliferation and terrorist extremism.

Canada will continue to pursue this approach with like-minded countries and participants in conflict.”

– Prime Minister Mark Carney and Minister Anand

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From last weeks front cover

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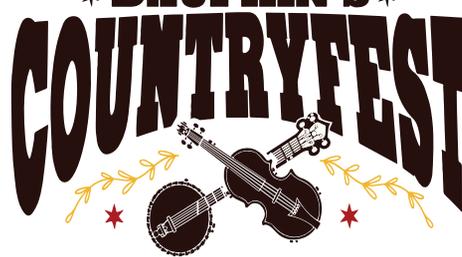
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Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



Homebodies
RITA FRIESEN

Flitting scenes

There was a scene, tucked way back in the memory bank, that resurfaced this week. We were speaking of a deer that had been struck by a vehicle, escaped only to suffer terribly, and was finally released in a respectful manner. Even hearing the story caused my heart to hurt, and I had not witnessed any part of it.

Years ago, driving to work from the farm, I came across a dog that had been struck and killed. Sitting, sadly, patiently, beside it was another dog. I assumed that they were friends that had stepped out for an adventure. I wondered how long before they were missed, how long the loving companion sat there mourning. Neither were there when I returned. Thankfully.

Other scenes then resurfaced. Not all sad. I recall having grandchildren in the car, and the five year old lad spotted a combine in a field. I had not seen it, was not certain there had been one. His siblings assured me that if Bryon said there was a combine, there was!

During my stint as a single parent when the children were, let's say four and five, I was accustomed to entertaining them while driving. Playing eye spy, and pointing out interesting things - scenes and animals- as we drove. On a rare occasion I was without the children, with another adult, and I caught myself still being the tour guide- did you see the horses in that field? Rather like thrusting one's arm out to protect a passenger, before seat belts, and still reflex action throwing your arm in front of another adult! Habits die hard.

Amusing the grands in church...so many silent games we played! I would draw half of an object and they would have to try to complete the picture. We made a baby in a cradle out of a kleenex, paper aeroplanes that were refused take off privileges, and little paper boats. There was the Sunday one of them quietly asked about all the brown spots on my hands and I assured them they were playing connect the dots...they could have been...

So many of my memories include children, grandchildren and now the great grandchildren. I am careful which one of my childhood stories I wish to share. I don't think they need to know that grandma skipped school by climbing out the hallway window. I don't think they need to know that grandma led a modest insurrection in the twelfth grade. I do tell them how I walked home from school - three and a half miles - when I was in grade two because the teacher said clearly that the next person who forgot their books at home would walk home and get them. I had forgotten mine, and I went before being told. Only I had not notified anyone, just raised my hand to be excused and kept walking!

No one was happy that day, not my parents, my teachers, or me! There are so many life lessons in that story!

I am thankful for the wealth of great memories, scenes that flit a land and go. I am thankful for the ability to process unhappy memories, and oh, so thankful to be still creating memories!

Random thoughts

Alfred Lord Tennyson once wrote, "In the spring, a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love."

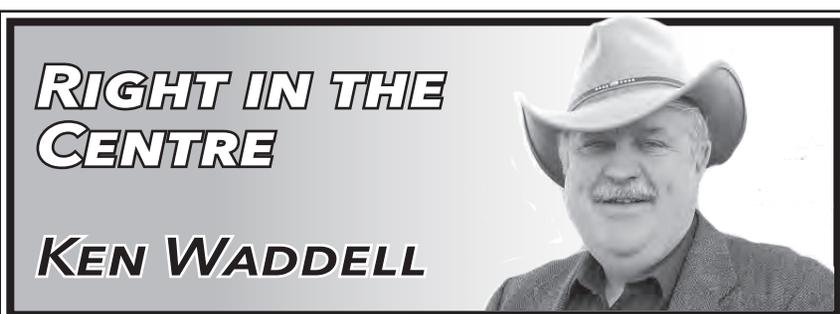
That sounds good to me but I am not a young man, am happily married and, yes, I am still in love with my wife of 57 years.

I will admit that in the spring though, my thoughts do turn, or maybe more accurately, churn. Warmer weather, spring rains, a whole summer ahead of us and that means it's time to do take on some projects. It also means thinking of about a lot of things that should be changed.

This column will be a lot of mixed ideas for change and improvements.

- Every community we serve with our three newspapers has their strengths and weaknesses. I hope that voters in all communities will take a serious look at how to preserve and improve their communities. The power is in your hands. This is a municipal election year. Roads can be graded, ditches can be mowed, garbage cleaned up, houses improved. Maybe if we all got off our butts and our phones, we would get more stuff done. Don't always wait for the government to come to your assistance, sometimes they have too many fires to put out to pay any more attention to us

- Neepawa's Yellowhead Centre, when it was built in 1971 was a crown jewel of western Manitoba recreation centres. Since then, replacements or upgrades have been made in Rivers, Minnedosa, Virden, Killarney, Brandon and many other Westman communities. I am looking forward to the report from the multi municipal and facility committee. Hopefully it will include a 10 year plan to upgrade and maintain existing Neepawa facilities while looking forward to some new facilities. As to the actual Yellowhead, there was an upgrade plan in the 90s, a full study in 2012-13, an



Right in the Centre
KEN WADDELL

economic operational study about five years ago and a physical upgrade study around 2014. All these reports were only partly completed. I believe that is because the Town of Neepawa has refused for years to take leadership on recreation. And full disclosure, even though I was mayor of Neepawa twice, I didn't get the transition done either.

Neepawa's three major recreation facilities, the arena and hall, the curling rink and golf course, unlike most towns, are not town owned. I believe that it is too much to ask volunteer groups to do what they can do without management and oversight from the Town.

- A year or two ago, the City of Winnipeg started having security staff on city buses. I actively encouraged that idea with the Winnipeg mayor's office, in fact suggesting that Winnipeg City Police be on the buses. The city stopped short of that, instead they have security people. It has helped reduce danger on the buses but I understand that the City is looking at putting police officers on the buses. Makes sense to me. If someone is intent on causing trouble on a bus with anything from non-payment of a bus ticket to being annoying to violence, it should be dealt with quickly. There is no reason anyone should be subject to danger or abuse on a city bus.

- Manitoba has so much to offer but we fall so short of where we should be and could be. We are a "have-not" province which means we are a welfare case among the other contributing

provinces. In fact, if BC, Alberta and Saskatchewan were to separate from Canada, it would be hard to convince them to take us along. How on earth does it make any sense that the Keystone province, the centre of Canada, one our first founding provinces can't carry our own weight.

- I look forward to a quick end to the war in Iran but it's not looking good. Countries in that part of the world have been fighting off and on for thousands of years. That said, Iran was very prosperous and relatively free country 50 years ago. Take a look on the internet as to how life looked in Iran in the 60s and 70s. It has since sunk into the depths of fear, repression, very bad regimes and a lot of death and destruction under a religious zealot system that forces their views on others. Few people are happy with Donald Trump but the US and its Allies have been treated very badly by Iran. Iran holds the world hostage for oil, kills their own dissenters and, horror of horrors, have now hung one of their top athletes because he protested. This is reason enough to overthrow the government. The problem is they have a lot of oil, can hold the world hostage and they place no value of human life. They are a nihilistic society where death is valued than life.

Let me know your thoughts.
Disclaimer: The views expressed in this column are the writer's personal views and are not to be taken as being the view of the Banner & Press staff.

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Canada

Penny introduces her Guardian Angel

By Anne Davison
RIVERS BANNER

Troubadour was a surprising guest at Hamiota Community Hall on Sunday. His harness gave away his purpose and Penny's cane completed the picture.

Troubadour is a Guide Dog for the Blind graduate who gives performing musician Penny Buhr a way to navigate this world since her visual impairment due to retinitis pigmentosa.

With deteriorating eyesight her life abruptly changed.

"About nine years ago I got hit by a car. I flew over three lanes – 15 – 20 feet. My life did not flash before my eyes... all I wondered was 'how long I'm going to be in the air?' It was quite a miracle," she recounts. Her daughter, a nurse, told her she must have had angels cushioning her fall. She didn't break any bones except a cracked elbow.

Her daughter insisted that she needed a guide dog. They found, Guide Dogs for the Blind school – GDB.com, the longest running school and the one with an exceptional reputation for dogs who do not get distracted and fail their person.

"It was a 16-year-old girl that raised Troubadour. First, they get chosen from the litter because they show confidence and caution. From five weeks old they are watched to see what kind of inclinations they would have. They can't be sneaky ... lazy or aggres-

sive," Penny explains.

Troubadour and two of his siblings (out of litter of eight) made it through. At 12 months old the dogs take a final exam with two tries to pass. They are taken into traffic, restaurants, and many situations.

"He passed, everywhere, with flying colours," says Penny proudly. "The process on my side took two years. At that time there were 200 people waiting for one dog that was ready. It was a great deal to be selected. You have to be walking a certain amount at a certain speed."

How does the dog help?

"His communication is very subtle, but he tells me a lot," says Penny.



PHOTO BY ANNE DAVISON

Troubadour and his people, Penny and Garnet.

On Sunday, Troubadour lay beside Penny as she performed on keys and vocals, rising for his kibble treat on cue – audience applause.

She encourages anyone looking for a charity to consider donating to the life changing guide dog project. "He's changed my life and I'm not afraid to go anywhere, anytime. He's my angel."

More Than Just a Fair

By Kristi Argue
HAMIOTA AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

For as long as I can remember, fairs and agricultural societies have been a part of my life.

One of my earliest memories is getting horses ready and loading them into an old blue tandem axle bumper hitch trailer. It felt like a clown car—mares, foals, and riding horses all packed in together as we headed down the road. That was the start of the "milk run," a week of fairs that would take us from one community to the next.

At the time, it was just what we did. But looking back—and especially now, taking my own kids—I realize it was always more than just an event. It's something worth holding onto.

My connection to the fair started in the lead line class with my little pony, Bandit. Over the years, I grew as a competitor, changed horses, and stayed involved. About 15 years ago, when I moved to Hamiota, I stepped into a new role as a volunteer organizer with the agricultural society, first with miniature horses and eventually taking on the light horse section as well.

But my story isn't unique. It's one of many.

My grandparents loaded horses into the back of a grain truck and took my dad and his siblings to fairs. My cousins and I followed, going with our parents, and now our kids are stepping into the ring. Along the way, friends have become family, and mentors—some lifelong, some found along the way—have shaped our connection to horses and the fair.

If you open any fair book, the first pages are filled with names. Directors, volunteers, community members—some still there year after year, some now sitting back and watching, and some no longer with us. You recognize their voices, their presence, and you feel their absence too. The fair has always been built on people willing to give

their time, their ideas, and their energy.

Fair week itself is a whirlwind.

It starts in Oak River and moves through Strathclair, Shoal Lake, Hamiota, Harding, and Oak Lake—each stop bringing its own events, from pony shows and gymkhanas to cattle classes and obstacle courses. Then, after a brief pause to recover, many exhibitors load up and do it all again in another small town.

Behind the scenes, it takes a lot to make it happen. Grounds need to be prepared, entries organized, ribbons and prize money sorted. Arenas are set up, speaker systems tested, artwork displayed, and meals planned and served. It's long days and an even longer week, especially for those who are both exhibitors and volunteers—but it's worth it.

The fair has changed over the years. It's no longer primarily a place to showcase livestock, grain, or produce for sale to your neighbour. But the pride hasn't disappeared. Exhibitors still bring their best—whether it's an animal, a loaf of bread, a quilt, or a piece of artwork—to show their community what they've done.

There's still competition, still conversation, still connection. Transactions happen, and bloodlines are discussed. And while some traditions have faded, others have evolved into new forms of entertainment that reflect a wider range of interests.

For kids today, the fair offers something different. It's a place where you can enter your schoolwork or a home craft and feel proud seeing that red or blue ribbon. It reaches those who may not find themselves in sports but still want to create, contribute, and be recognized. In a world where so much is digital, making something with your hands builds a kind of confidence that's hard to replace.

And maybe now, more than ever, these things matter.

With rising costs and changing markets, agriculture is facing new pressures. It's becoming more

expensive to transport livestock and participate in events like these. At the same time, there's a renewed curiosity—especially among younger generations—about where food comes from and how to grow it. You can hear it in 4-H speeches and see it in the questions kids are asking.

Fairs can play a role in that. They can spark interest, pass down knowledge, and connect generations while we still have those who know how to grow, cook, preserve, and create.

But none of this continues without people.

Agricultural societies need volunteers—especially younger ones. You don't need experience with livestock or crafts to make a difference. Sometimes it's as simple as helping set up, take down, or open a gate. Those small roles are what keep the day running.

Because when a fair disappears, it leaves more than just an empty space.

It becomes a place you drive past and say, "I remember when." The barns sit quiet. The arena is unused. The chance for town kids to see livestock up close, for neighbours to gather, for communities to connect—that disappears too.

The fair is more than the sights and sounds—though those are unforgettable. The cows bawling, the clatter of horse hooves, the announcer's voice over the speakers, the laughter and applause. The smell of straw, livestock, popcorn, and fries. It's not perfect, but it's real. It smells like rural life. It smells like home.

And at the end of a long day—after unloading, setting up, showing, and packing up again—you sit back, exhausted. The sun is setting, your body is tired, but your heart is full.

That's the fair.

And it's worth keeping.

If we want the next generation to experience what we did, it starts with a new generation of volunteers. Reach out to your local agricultural society or a director, get involved, and help keep this tradition alive. Because if we don't step up, we risk being the last ones who remember what it was like.

Highway 259 racetrack

By Gerry Nolan
RIVERS BANNER

Highway 259 runs from highway 21 past Kenton and Lenore on the way to Virden. The speed limit on this highway is posted at 90 km. When passing Kenton, it is 70 km.

Let's start with the 70 km sign at Kenton. That means slow down when passing the town. There are a lot of young children on bikes and just like you, the driver of the vehicle, they do not always look for traffic, just as you do not slow down by observing the speed limit sign. If you are coming from the west, going east to highway 21 there is a bit of a dip in the hill just as you go past the village. If you do not follow the posted speed, and are in fact speeding, no one would have a chance to stop. Is life worth slowing down for? I think so!

The other day a vehicle, with 2 snow sleds on the back, was witnessed going on the curve that takes you to Hamiota. They drove on a one way, going the wrong way. Fool!

As I said, the 259 highway, speed is 90km. It is not 110,120,130 etc. The highway is a speedway. There are lots of curves and hidden spots on this road including hills. The things I have noticed are

passing going up the hill on double lines, passing going down the hills on double lines and passing vehicles in the valley near Virden. The guard rails also mean nothing, I guess. Are you in that much of a hurry? Why not leave home earlier? Get everyone to work then home safely! I also notice people on their cell phones. Someday a life will be lost with this recklessness. I just hope it is not an innocent bystander.

I get the RCMP are busy and short staffed and do not patrol very much. If you read the paper at all in the RCMP report they do catch the odd one, going at excessive speeds and the fines, well maybe they need to increase.

I hope the RCMP, if they read this, will spend a couple of weeks out on highway 259, especially at 7:30 to 8 am and again around 5 pm. I have started writing down license plate numbers of the offenders and call the RCMP. After last week on Tuesday, a truck tried to pass me going down the river hill on a double line, but they discovered there was a vehicle coming from the east, so they had to duck back in the correct lane. I was doing 90km. They passed me on a double line down in the valley before racing up the hill before turning to go down Errol Road at the top of the hill. I can



PHOTO BY CELIA NOLAN

Highway corner near Kenton MB.

describe the vehicle. I wonder if the owner of the vehicle would be interested in this info or better yet the RCMP?

Life in the slow lane

By Gerry Nolan
RIVERS BANNER

Continuing on from last week, when our beef was processed, yes there were steaks, roasts and hamburgers but also tongue, heart, liver and kidney pie. Nothing was left to waste. Same went for pork and chickens and turkeys. Older laying hens were butchered, and mom would cut pieces of chicken and put in jars with some kind of whatever and it was like jelly chicken. It was really good. You don't see that very often anymore. With a self-sufficient farm there was really no need to go to the store. If there was extra roast mom, would make stew. This is one of my favourites! We also churned cream to make butter and, in the summer, mom would make homemade ice cream, a treat on a hot summer day.

Spring was not only time for planting the garden and the crop, it also meant the cows were having their baby calves, which meant milking cows. I think the most we milked was around 12, done by hand. After milking we carried the milk up the hill to be separated. After that was done, we hauled it back down to feed the calves as they were pail fed.

We sold the cream and stored it either in the refrigerator or the ice well. Norm Sutherland was the cream truck driver in our area. Norm was a great gentleman and a very friendly man. Norm was like family to us. If for any reason we were away, which wasn't often, Norm would put the cream into the cream cans and carry on with his route. Norm also carried butter in the truck, and we did purchase butter from him on occasion.

Also, in the spring with the melting of the snow meant our ravine would flood. It was a big deal to us. It filled the creek and dugout with water for the year. 1961 was a drought, so bad we had to pump water for the livestock that summer. Then the well went dry that winter, so we had to take them over to our neighbours, Wally Gray had a spring down in his pasture, so that is where we drove the cattle daily for water.

Away from daily chores, we did not have a television until 1961, so we listened to the radio, for the news, weather, markets and sports. Everyday, the radio had a signal at 12 noon signalling the time at central

standard time. Most of the clocks were the old kind that you had to wind up everyday, or it stopped and you had no idea what the time was.

The radio was also our entertainment with NHL hockey on Saturday nights. They also carried a ton of western programs, the Lone Ranger, Gene Autry, Roy Rogers and Dale Evans. Also, Davy Crocket and comedy shows as well. The family sat around the radio, especially in the wintertime. We also read a lot of

books and comics. Just a little note, my brother Garth practised drawing a gun out of the holster just like they did on the radio. Not a real gun, but nevertheless drawing a pistol. He got really quick at this action.

Of course, music was huge in our house. My mom could play piano by ear, so she entertained us as well. Our favourites on the radio were Elvis Presley and lots of good wholesome country music. My favourite were Johnny Horton and the Everly Brothers as well as Jerry Lee Lewis and Chuck Berry.

Also, in the spring meant playing catch with our gloves and a baseball. There is a story to tell about playing catch which I will lead off with next week. Until then, enjoy the sights and sounds of spring!

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Manitoba TESA award winners keep on learning

By Angela Lovell
 MB BEEF PRODUCERS

Connor and Kyla English of English Ranching Ltd. accepted the 2025 Manitoba Environmental Stewardship Award (TESA), presented to them by Stacey Stott of MNP, at the Manitoba Beef Producers AGM on February 12 in Brandon.

The couple received the award for their dedication to sustainable farming and adoption of environmentally-friendly practices on their family farm at Bradwardine, Manitoba.

In his nomination of the Englishs, Andre Stepler of Stepler Farms Ltd said they are “thoughtful, motivated and principled individuals whose commitment to sustainability and advocacy clearly sets them apart.”

Bringing new ideas

After Connor rented some pasture and began building his own cattle herd in 2021, he began farming alongside his parents, Brian and Leanne English of Melody Acres Beef, the following year, bringing with him new ideas to enhance the regenerative and conservation practices his dad was already practicing on the original family farm.

That winter, the Englishs grazed standing corn for the first year, and began to convert 80 per cent of their farmland to forages, dividing pastures into smaller paddocks with temporary fencing to allow for daily moves to avoid overgrazing and allow the land to rest and rejuvenate between grazing.

Water management is one of the biggest challenges on their farms, and they have developed two very low flowing water



PHOTO BY ROB LOVATT

Pictured from left to right: Brian and Leanne English, of Rivers, Manitoba; Hon. Ron Kostyshyn, and Kyla and Connor English along with their children. The English family were named the 2026 recipient of The Environmental Stewardship Award from Manitoba Beef Producers.

wells that pump water into a buried 15,000-gallon tank for watering the cattle during winter. They have installed solar watering systems for summer and winter watering sites, with both a stationary solar direct water pumping system, and another mobile solar system to move with the cattle.

They practice silage pile grazing as well as bale grazing out on the paddocks, returning manure and urine back to the land to improve soil health and reducing labour and fuel costs for hauling bales and manure.

Proud to reduce food waste

The Englishs are proud to be involved in a national program called LOOP

that aims to reduce food waste from grocery stores by feeding it to cattle. “The biggest reward we find is the knowledge that we have stopped the large tonnage of food from being dumped into our landfills, where it takes years to breakdown,” Connor said in his TESA submission.

In nominating the couple, beef producer (and former

TESA recipient) Ryan Boyd said they “actively pursue ongoing education to stay at the forefront of conservation practices, ensuring their methods are innovative and effective.”

Continuous learning is important to Connor and his dad, who frequently attend courses, field days and virtual learning events. They have also hosted a field

day to show attendees their many regenerative practices such as intercropping with corn and peas, multi-species cover crops and their watering systems.

They are working towards their goal of raising nutritionally dense, healthy livestock and reducing the use of industrial fertilizer and chemical sprays and having completely elimin-

ated the use of fungicides on both their farms.

Their conservation practices have encouraged wildlife to thrive on their land, where they frequently see moose, deer, rabbits and many new or returning species of birds. It seems that their farms are a great place to live for wildlife, cattle and people.

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Four careers in modern agriculture

Submitted
METRO CREATIVE

Farming and ranching may be the first roles people think of when they envision jobs in agriculture. But the modern agricultural sector offers a much wider range of career paths as well. As technology, sustainability and consumer demand impacts the industry, a greater number of unique and innovative career paths have emerged and opened doors for people with a wide range of skills.

According to the United States government and industry projections, the agricultural and food sectors supported about 22.1 million jobs in 2022, and growth is expected. Those exploring agriculture as a possible career field can look to these unique roles.

Precision agriculture specialist

A precision agriculture specialist is an emerging and dynamic role in the field. These professionals apply data analytics, GPS, sensor technology, and drone usage to optimize crop yields and input use. According to data reported by Zipdo, use of digital devices, AI and other tools in farming has surged. Digital tool use has risen by roughly 50 percent in the last five years, and drone technology adoption grew by 48 percent between 2019 and 2023. Estimates suggest that precision agriculture will expand robustly through the latter half of the decade, and individuals guiding this expansion will be in demand.

Sustainability consultants

Agriculture sustainability consultants also are important to modern farming. These professionals are responsible for advising farms and agribusinesses on eco-friendly practices. These may include soil conservation, water management, carbon sequestration, and regenerative agriculture. In addition, animal welfare and livestock technology specialists improve animal health and support ethical and sustainable farming practices. The Bureau of Labor Statistics says agriculture and food scientists

working in science and sustainability are projected to see employment opportunities grow by about six per cent between 2024 and 2034, which is faster than the average for all U.S. occupations.

Digital marketing

Careers in digital marketing and agricultural communications also are gaining traction, with consumers increasingly being interested in where their food comes from. Agricultural businesses need storytellers, social media managers and content creators to share engaging and transparent narratives about the innovative efforts taking place on their farms.

Agricultural entrepreneurs

Entrepreneurs, known as "agripreneurs" within the industry, are the go-getters who are helping to redefine the agricultural sector. These people develop plant-based products or ag-tech startups, combining creativity with agricultural knowledge and business development. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce says the agriculture and food industries contributed \$1.53 trillion to the U.S. economy in 2023, and agripreneurs are a rising part of that equation who are fueling innovation.

Careers in agriculture are diverse and profitable. There are many paths individuals can take to contribute to this vital industry.

Aging farmers, aging equipment

A growing safety challenge on Canadian farms

Media Release
CANADA SAFETY COUNCIL

The late-winter sun hangs low over a machine shed in rural Canada. Inside, a farmer in his 70s climbs into a tractor he has operated for more than four decades. The machine still runs reliably but its lack of modern safety features tell a quieter story, one that's shared by farms across the country.

As farmers work later into life and equipment remains in service longer than ever, the risks associated with this trend are becoming increasingly difficult to ignore.

National Farm Safety Week is March 14-20 and the Canada Safety Council is raising awareness on the intersection of aging operators and aging machinery, a combination that significantly increases the likelihood of serious injury.

By the numbers...

Machinery remains the leading cause of agricultural fatalities in Canada. According to the Canadian Agricultural Injury Reporting (CAIR) program, 2,814 agriculture-related fatalities were recorded between 1990 and 2020, representing an average of 91 deaths per year over the full period and 70 per year between 2006 and 2020.

Machinery, especially the tractor, continues to account for the largest share of fatalities, with rollovers, runovers and entangle-

ments representing the most common circumstances.

Canada's farm population, meanwhile, is aging. Statistics Canada's Census of Agriculture continues to identify a rising proportion of farm operators aged 55 and older. In 2021, the most recent year for which information is available, that demographic accounted for 60.5 per cent of Canada's 262,045 farm population.

"As farmers age and equipment ages with them, the risks change," said Gareth Jones, President & CEO of the Canada Safety Council. "Older machinery may lack rollover protection or reliable braking systems. And at the same time, older operators may be facing natural changes in mobility, reaction time and visibility. Recognizing these realities helps protect the people who built the farms and ensures they can continue working safely."

Tips and Tricks

- Evaluate older equipment



IMAGE COURTESY OF METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

for safety. Look for worn tires, degraded brakes, poor lighting and unguarded power take-offs (PTOs).

- Schedule preventative maintenance. Build regular inspections and servicing into the farm calendar to catch mechanical issues early and keep aging machinery operating safely.

- Plan tasks with physical changes in mind. Avoid high-risk terrain and allow extra time for mounting, dismounting and rest.

- Ensure lighting is adequate for early-morning or late-

evening work. Establish check-ins with family members to allow for quick response in case of emergency.

Aging farmers and aging equipment are both realities of modern Canadian agriculture. But neither needs to become a source of preventable tragedy. Take the time to understand how these factors interact. Take practical steps to address them. This way, farm families can protect their most valuable assets: their people and their livelihood.

Canada's farmland values continued to climb in 2025

Submitted
FARM CREDIT CANADA

The average value of Canadian farmland continued its steady climb in 2025, increasing by 9.3 per cent, according to the latest FCC Farmland Values Report. The Prairie provinces drove much of the year's average increase, while the Maritimes followed with continued growth. In contrast, Ontario and Quebec's increase in average values eased from the stronger gains recorded in previous years.

Manitoba recorded the largest average farmland value increase at 12.2 per cent, followed by Alberta at 11.4 per cent and Saskatchewan at 9.4 per cent. In Atlantic Canada, New Brunswick showed a 9.1 per cent gain and Prince Edward Island rose by 8.5 per cent, while Nova Scotia recorded a more modest 1.6 per cent increase. Farmland values in Quebec increased by 4.8 per cent, reflecting steady demand across a diverse agricultural base, while Ontario saw a slower pace of growth at 2.2 per

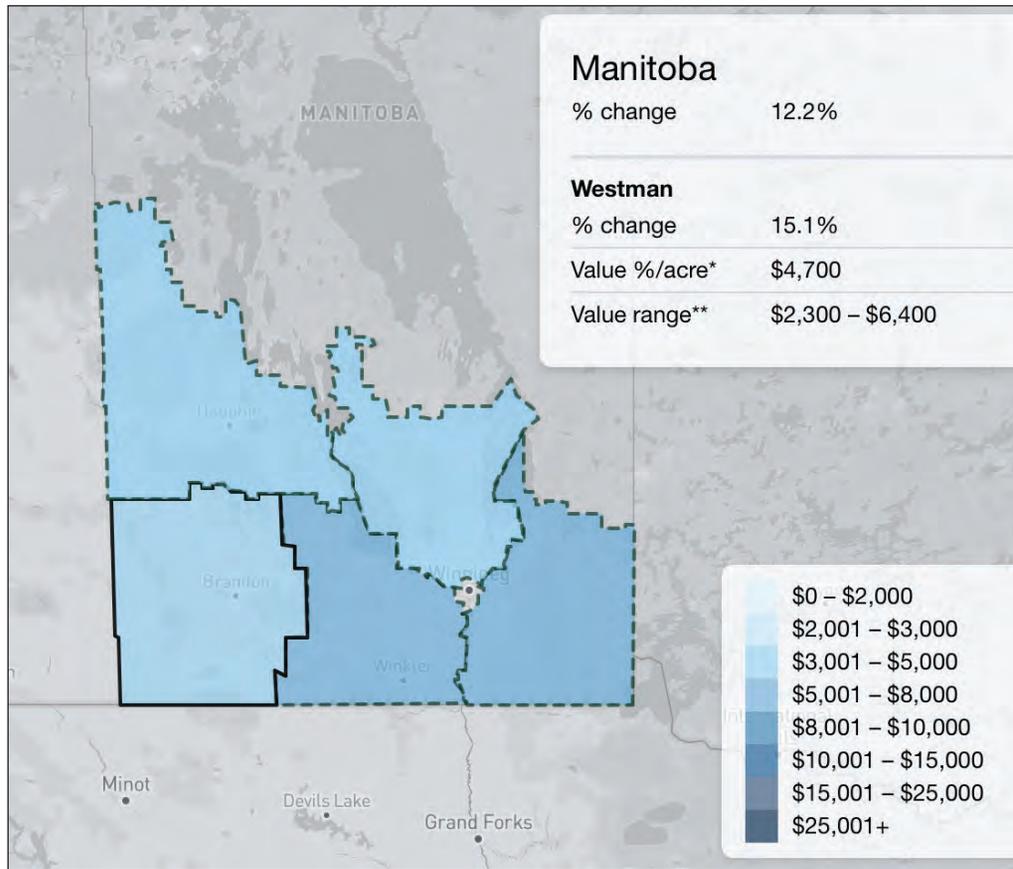
cent following several years of stronger gains. Four provinces reported higher growth rates in 2025 than 2024: Alberta, Manitoba, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.

British Columbia recorded a decline in the average value of 1.7 per cent, yet the province has the highest farmland values on average. There were insufficient publicly reported sales in Newfoundland and Labrador, Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Yukon to fully assess changes in farmland values in those regions.

Defying expectations

Over the past year the Canadian farmland market remained resilient, defying expectations as producers continued to expand their land base and make strategic acquisitions, supporting values across cultivated, irrigated, and pastureland nationwide.

"Demand for farmland remained robust, supported by long-term confidence in Canadian agriculture, lower borrowing costs, strong livestock prices and



In the most recent evaluation of farmland values across Canada, Manitoba recorded the largest year-over-year increase at 12.2 per cent, with Westman above the average at 15.1 per cent.

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF FARM CREDIT CANADA

the limited supply of land available for sale," said J.P. Gervais, ag production executive vice-president at FCC. "The ongoing uncertainties related to trade and tariffs, high input costs and low commodity prices did not deter buyers' interest in farmland. These factors

combined with varying local market conditions will influence future trends in farmland affordability."

While more than 30 years of increasing farmland values is good news for current owners, it can present

a significant challenge to those who want to enter the agriculture sector. FCC offers products such as the Transition Loan to support young farmers and others looking to join a thriving industry.

By sharing agriculture economic knowledge and forecasts, FCC provides solid insights and expertise to help those in the business of agriculture achieve their goals. For more information and visit fcc.ca/Economics.

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March 30 - April 4, 2026 Keystone Centre - Brandon, MB



Submitted

PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION OF MANITOBA

The Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba is excited to announce the theme days for the 2026 Royal Manitoba Winter Fair, running Monday, Mar. 30 to Saturday, Apr. 4, 2026 at the Keystone Centre in Brandon. This year's theme, "A Royal Celebration of Agriculture and Community," promises six days of spring break fun filled with entertainment, equestrian events, live performances, food, trade shows, agricultural education, and family-friendly activities.

2026 Theme Days:

A weeklong celebration

Monday, Mar. 30 – Heroes Day: Heroes Day kicks off the Royal Manitoba Winter Fair by celebrating the outstanding contributions of our military members, police officers, public safety communicators, firefighters, and EMS personnel. Special recognition and activities throughout the day will honour those who serve and protect our communities. As a token of appreciation, eligible heroes will receive free admission to the RMWF upon presentation of valid service identification, and their entire carload will receive 50 per cent off gate admission.

Tuesday, Mar. 31 – 4-H Day: Celebrate the next generation of agricultural leaders on 4-H Day. Members from clubs across Manitoba will participate in demonstrations and evening ceremonies, showcasing their hard work and dedication. Visitors can enjoy hands-on activities and learn more about agriculture through these inspiring youth programs.

Wednesday, Apr. 1 – RBC Family Day: RBC Family Day invites families to enjoy a full day of fun and entertainment. From live performances to educational activities, this day is

designed to bring everyone together and highlight the best of the Royal Manitoba Winter Fair.

Thursday, April 2 – Forever Royal Kids Day:

Forever Royal Kids Day is dedicated to kids and families, with interactive activities and surprises throughout the fairgrounds. Through the Forever Royal Community Ticket Program, local partners purchase and provide complimentary tickets for selected families and community groups, helping ensure more children and families can enjoy the RMWF.

Friday, Apr. 3 – Multicultural Day:

Multicultural Day celebrates the diversity of Manitoba. Visitors can experience cultural performances, music, food, and displays that reflect the rich traditions and heritage of communities from across the province.

Saturday, Apr. 4 – Indigenous Celebrations Day:

Indigenous Celebrations Day honors the culture, history, and contributions of Indigenous peoples in Manitoba. The day features storytelling, dance, music, and hands-on activities to showcase Indigenous traditions and



SUBMITTED PHOTO

heritage. Each day of the Royal Manitoba Winter Fair offers a unique experience, from world-class equestrian competitions and livestock events to interactive agricultural education, food and concessions, and trade show exhibits. There is truly something for everyone, making it the perfect spring break destination for families and community members.



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Blue Hills RCMP respond to fatal collision near Brandon

Submitted
By D MEDIA RCMP

On March 23, at approximately 10:10 a.m., Blue Hills RCMP responded to a two-vehicle collision on the Trans-Canada Highway.

The collision occurred just west of Brandon, at the Kemnay turnoff, when a northbound SUV attempted

to cross the highway and was hit by an eastbound semi-trailer.

The driver of the SUV, a 69-year-old female from Melita, died of her injuries.

The driver of the truck was uninjured.

Eastbound lanes on the Trans-Canada Highway were closed for several hours while RCMP investigated the scene.

Manitoba Government ending predatory pricing in grocery stores and other retail

Bill 49 Makes Using Data to Increase Prices an Unfair Business Practice: Sandhu



PHOTO BY METRO CREATIVE

By Manitoba Government
RIVERS BANNER

The Manitoba government has introduced an amendment to the Business Practices Act that would ban retailers from using consumers' personal data to increase the price of goods for a specific consumer, Public Service Delivery Minister Mintu Sandhu announced today.

"Protecting Manitobans from unfair pricing practices is essential to keeping life affordable," said Sandhu. "These are first of their kind amendments and take aim at the misuse of personal data to inflate prices and ensure consumers are treated fairly whether they shop at the grocery store or other retailers. By strengthening these protections, the Manitoba government is reinforcing its broader commitment to lowering everyday costs for families."

Whether in-store or online, the proposed bill would make it an unfair business practice for suppliers to charge higher prices to certain consumers

based on personalized or algorithmically determined information.

The proposed amendment would also make clear that the Business Practices Act applies to online retailers and online distributors. By adding the use of personal data to increase prices as an unfair business practice, the proposed bill responds to concerns that companies may be using a consumer's data to charge them more for goods, including groceries.

Bill 49 aligns with the Manitoba government's commitment to lowering grocery prices for Manitobans including other actions such as:

- removing property controls on grocery store locations;
- freezing the price of milk;
- freezing hydro rates;
- cutting the gas tax permanently;
- ensuring every student gets a meal; and
- increasing the property tax credit and the pre-natal benefit to ensure families have more money for groceries.

Blue Hills RCMP charge male after online threats made

Submitted
By D MEDIA RCMP

On March 13, Blue Hills RCMP was alerted by INTERPOL to an online conversation that was occurring between two youths – a 15-year-old from Nova Scotia and a 14-year-old from Rivers, Manitoba.

Officers were informed that the conversation began in late February and that the male youth from Rivers was actively discussing and planning to harm other students at Rivers Collegiate.

An investigation immediately began to identify and locate the 14-year-old who engaged in these conversations and to bring him safely into custody prior to the start of the school week.

On the morning of March 16, RCMP officers initiated a traffic stop on a school bus near Provincial Road 250 and arrested the 14-year-old suspect, who was unarmed. His phone and electronic devices were seized.

A subsequent search of two other

properties associated to the youth resulted in the seizure of additional electronic devices and other items, including two firearms owned by a relative.

"We know details of this arrest will have an impact on the students, parents, and the entire community of Rivers. Be assured that our officers acted quickly, worked closely with our policing partners, and took immediate steps to find and arrest the youth. The priority from the outset was the safety and security of the students at Rivers Collegiate," said Superintendent Lee Fortin, West District Commander for the Manitoba RCMP. "As we continue to see a rise in these types of threats, we need everyone to continue reporting anything suspicious or concerning to police — your information can make a critical difference."

The youth has been charged with uttering threats. Additional charges are possible as the investigation continues.

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Manitoba 

A unique blend of art and fashion

Discovering All Things Hanna

By Carolyn Phillips
RIVERS BANNER

Nestled within a stunning mid-century former church at 303-3rd Ave in Rapid City, All Things Hanna stands out not just for its historical architecture but also for the eclectic offerings it presents to the community. Owned by the talented Hanna Bordewijk, this unique establishment is a harmonious blend of a portrait art studio and a fashion boutique, appealing to those who appreciate both visual art and stylish clothing.

At All Things Hanna, customers can explore an impressive collection of brand-name fashion sourced from Europe and Canada. With a keen eye for quality, Hanna has curated a selection that features beloved brands such as Soya Concept from Denmark, Garcia from the Netherlands, and Astrid from Canada. The store prides itself on providing casual and dress options in a wide range of sizes from 2 to 20, ensuring that everyone can find something that fits both their style and silhouette.

Fashion enthusiasts will also be thrilled to discover the ever-popular sale section, filled with seasonal items as well as timeless staples. Whether you're hunting for a summer outfit or winter wear, All Things Hanna has you covered. Each piece is chosen with a focus on natural materials and comfort, reflecting current trends while maintaining a classic appeal.

One particularly unique aspect of All Things Hanna is the opportunity for private shopping events. Imagine booking the store for an exclusive



All Things Hanna in Rapid City, MB.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

night out with friends, complete with laughter, drinks, and snacks while you peruse the latest fashions! For those interested in this delightful experience, Hanna can be contacted at allthingshanna@outlook.com for inquiries and booking arrangements. This allows for a personalized shopping experience, making it perfect for special occasions or simply a fun evening of indulgence.

In addition to the fashion offerings, Hanna's portrait art studio offers a glimpse into her creative world. Passionate about the arts, she accepts commissions and works on various personal projects that reflect her artistic vision. The studio serves as a space for inspiration and creativity, showcasing not only her impressive work but also art from other talented artists throughout Canada. Her pieces have garnered attention and acclaim, having been displayed at prestigious venues such as the Art Gallery of Southwestern Manitoba and the Federation

of Canadian Artists Gallery in Vancouver.

The symbiotic relationship between All Things Hanna's fashion and art spaces fosters a vibrant community. Customers often find themselves drawn into the warm atmosphere, where they can shop for stylish apparel while being inspired by the art surrounding them. This unique combination transforms a typical shopping trip into a delightful and enriching experience.

All Things Hanna is more than just a store; it's a celebration of creativity, fashion, and community. With a commitment to quality products and personal service, Hanna Bordewijk has cultivated a space that invites everyone to explore their personal style while appreciating art in its many forms. Visit All Things Hanna and discover your new favorite outfit or perhaps commission a piece of art that speaks to you. Whatever your reason for visiting, there's no doubt you'll leave feeling inspired.

PC Proposal to update property tax exemption for Personal Care Homes blocked by NDP

Submitted
By PC CAUCUS

Manitoba Progressive Conservatives introduced legislation this week to amend the Municipal Assessment Act to increase the property tax exemption for personal care homes (PCHs) and other senior housing facilities. This morning, the Kinew government blocked the legislation.

"This is about more than dollars and cents—it's about ensuring the dignity, safety, and quality of life of Manitoba's seniors," said Roblin MLA Kathleen Cook, PC Critic for Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care. "Our personal care homes are modern facilities that serve hundreds of Manitobans, yet many are paying significant school taxes because the exemption has not been updated since 1989. This amendment is long overdue."

Currently, Manitoba has 124 licensed PCHs, most of which are publicly owned or operated by not-for-profit and faith-based organizations. PCH operators, like other Manitobans, are facing significant cost pressures including soaring food inflation, rising fuel costs and Hydro rates, and wage increases. By increasing the property tax exemption, PCHs can redirect critical funds toward:

- hiring and retaining qualified staff;

- upgrading infrastructure and facilities;
- enhancing resident care and programs;
- supporting recreational, cultural, and therapeutic initiatives; and/or
- strengthening infection control and emergency preparedness.

With nearly 20% of Manitobans aged 65 or older, including over 30,000 seniors aged 85 and older, the demand for long-term care is rapidly increasing. Financial relief through property tax exemptions will allow PCHs to better support residents, improve staffing, and meet modern care standards without compromising quality.

Bill 233 would align Manitoba with similar policies in other provinces, reflecting the growing recognition that seniors' care facilities require adequate financial support to meet the needs of modern seniors.

"This is not a partisan issue; it is a human issue," said Cook. "Personal care homes are community anchors, they employ local workers, support families, and provide essential care. By updating this exemption, we can relieve one of the cost pressures that PCH operators are facing and ensure that these homes can continue to operate with stability, compassion, and dignity."

"It is incredibly disappointing that the NDP would reject such a needed change."

Mid-West Weed District

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice is hereby given that the Mid-West Weed District intends to conduct the following Pesticide control programs during 2026.

1. To control noxious weeds and brush on right's-of-ways within the municipalities of Oakview, Hamiota and Riverdale including all villages and towns within. The projected dates of application will be from May 1st 2026 to October 31 2026. The herbicides that may be used include:
- 2.4D amine 600, Banvel VM, Overdrive, Navius Flex, Clearview, Garlon XRT, RT 540 Glyphosate, Esplanade, Trillion, Par III, Milestone, Milestone NXT, Fiesta, Weed be gone, Detail.

2. To control noxious weeds on the Hamiota golf course. The projected dates of application will be from May 1st 2026 to October 31 2026. Herbicides that may be used include:
- Trillion, Par III.

3. To control turf disease at the Hamiota golf course. The projected dates of application will be from May 1st 2026 to October 31 2026. The fungicides that may be used include:
- Instrata, Bumper 432EC

4. To control grasshoppers. The projected dates of application will be from June 1st 2026 to October 31 2026. The insecticide that may be used include:
- Eco Bran.

The public may, within 15 days after this notice is published, submit written comments to the department or register a written objection to the use of pesticide next to their property.

Required contact information:
Manitoba Environment and Climate Change
Environmental Approvals Branch
Box 35, 14 Fultz Boulevard
Winnipeg, MB R3Y 0L6
pesticideusepermit@gov.mb.ca

CLASSIFIEDS

Help Wanted

R.M. of Oakview HELP WANTED GREEN TEAM



The R.M. of Oakview is accepting applications to hire summer students for 2026. Start date may be as early as May, ending in September.

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

Requirements:

- Preference goes to those with a valid Class 5 Drivers Licence.
- Ability to work some evenings and weekends if required.
- Ability to operate small municipal equipment such as lawn mowers and grass trimmers.
- Applicants must be energetic, friendly, be able to take direction well and work independently.

Closing date for resumes is Wednesday, April 10th, 2026 at 12:00 noon

Position subject to confirmation of Green Team Funding.

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

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Notice

R.M. of Oakview PUBLIC NOTICE



REGARDING THE INTENTION TO PASS A WARD BY-LAW INCLUDING THE NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS PER WARD BY-LAW 2026-1

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given in accordance with Subsection(s) 79(4) and 87(4) of The Municipal Act that the Council of the R. M. of Oakview present a proposed by-law to establish a ward system for the purpose of electing municipal councillors and to confirm the number of members of council per ward at the next general election to be held on the 28th day of October, 2026. The purpose of the hearing is to allow any interested person to make a representation, ask questions or register an objection.

The third reading of the by-law to maintain the established wards and to confirm the number of councillors per ward is scheduled to be given at the regular meeting of Council to be held in the Oak River Council Chambers of the Rural Municipality of Oakview, on the 14th day of April 2026 at 6:40 p.m.. Copies of the proposed by-law are available on our website at www.rmfoakview.ca or may be examined by any person during regular office hours of the Municipal offices at Oak River (10 Cochrane Street) or Rapid City (435 3rd Ave) or by emailing a request for a copy to financemgr@rmfoakview.ca.

Consultation with our community is an important component of the decision-making process. Council encourages you to attend.

Mark Humphries,
Chief Administrative Officer
Rural Municipality of Oakview
March 18, 2026

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Lorra Eastcott - CAO

Email: cao@hamiota.com;

Mail: Box 100, Hamiota MB R0M 0T0

In-Person: 75 Maple Avenue Hamiota, MB

All applications are greatly appreciated however, only those that are selected for an interview will be contacted.

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SPORTS

REF MEMORIES

REF TO WRITER

GERRY NOLAN



This week in my referee memories column I would like to talk about the Blanshard Bobcats hockey club of the mid nineteen nineties. This was a combined team of players mainly from Cardale and Oak River. There were several other pick-up players including one from Moline, Manitoba.

I could not remember all the players that played for those 2 seasons in that time frame. The Bobcats went to the North Central Hockey League finals 2 years in a row. In case you have forgotten, here are the names of the players I could remember with a little help from my hockey guru, Dallas Bridgeman formerly of Moline, Manitoba. To those whose names we missed, my apologies, but with what I have here goes. Coach was Wes Coulson. Players were Dallas Bridgeman, Gordy Paddock, Derek Shamray, Thomas Heapy, Blaine Heapy, Darcy Heapy, Dean McBride, Jeff Hume, Brad Pilling, BJ Birch, Neil Gillies, Darren Rozdeba, Billy Brown and Wayne Baker.

They were a strong defensive team and scored enough to go to the finals in back-to-back seasons. They were

also maybe the most sportsmanlike teams that I ever officiated. All the officials liked to do their games, not that they were easy, but when the game was over, you could share a brew or two. The game was left out on the ice.

One year, after the red line was taken out for offside passes the Bobcats used it to their advantage. The defenseman would go back into their own end and fire the puck up on the left-hand side of the ice to Derek Shamray who was deadly on the breakaway. I believe he won the south division scoring championship.

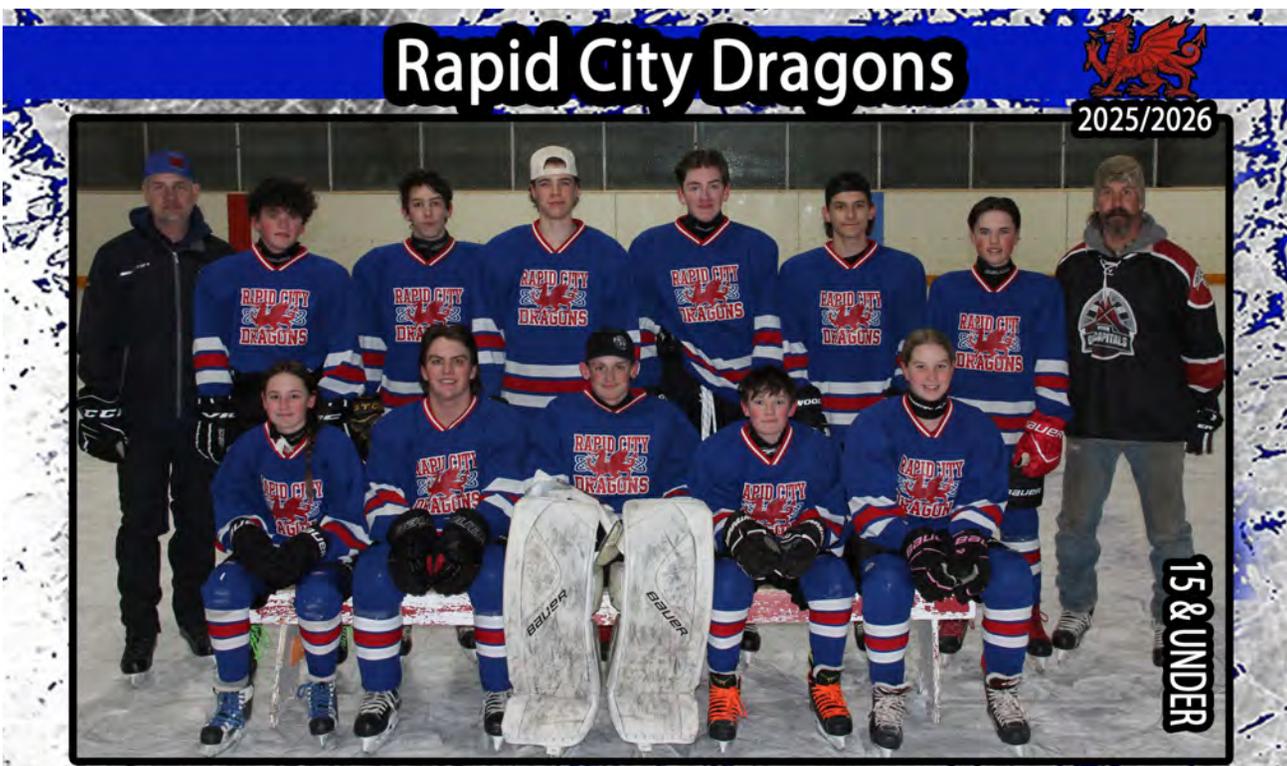
When you had defensemen like Gordy Paddock, Blaine Heapy and Thomas Heapy on the back end, getting the puck up the ice in a hurry was a huge deal in their teams' success. Jeff Hume and BJ Birch could also light the lamp quickly as well. This was possibly their last run at a championship as teams began to fold because of a lack of players. If you remember this great team from the 1995-1996, 1996-1997 they provided some great memories and showed everyone how to play the game correctly and with class and sportsmanship!



Back Row: Cory Bayes (coach) Middle Row: Oakleigh Barclay, Brady Cooke, Taci Gilchrist, Beckham Boak, Mallory Hodgins. Front Row: Briar Brown, Kaysen Bayes, Xavier Fleury, Chloe McFarland, Laine Hodgins, Kasen vanMeijl



Back Row: Justin Usunier (coach), Ian Barclay (coach), Renno Fleury (coach), Dustin Harvey (coach). Middle Row: Amelia Dyck, Avery Wheaton, Jacob Jager, Jacob Schroeder, Chase Connor, Rhys Wheaton, Maddy Williams, Jessica Robins, Braxtyn Usunier. Front Row: Benjamin Wright-Ricker, Timothy MacDonald, Isabel Fleury, Bennett Barclay, Cruz McFarland, Fallyn Brown, Charli Myslichuk, Maverick Harvery, Goalie: Logan Cooke



Back Row: Nelson Gourlay (coach), Benjamin Dyck, David Thiessen, Ben McAuley, Jacob Dyck, Rylan Kamali, Gryfon Gourlay, Russell Thiessen (coach). Front Row: Anita MacDonald, Reid Klym, Collin MacDonald, Robert MacDonald, Rebekah Thiessen

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Exceptional musicians thrill Hamiota audience

By Anne Davison
RIVERS BANNER

It was family reunion time in Hamiota Hall as an exceptional musical duo unleashed their musical talent on Sunday afternoon.

Garnet Knight, a world class fiddler and son of Glen Knight had attended Hamiota school. A nephew of Hamiota's Wilma Bell he had many connections to Hamiota. His presence at a class reunion in the area last year sparked the idea to invite the duo for this concert.

Garnet is a third-generation musician from Chalet Beach near Matlock, Manitoba.

He began performing in old-time fiddle competitions as a child (a fiddle champion) and was working in country, bluegrass, and western swing bands by age 15.

Garnet moved to Calgary in 1988 and spent nearly a decade performing in the city's vibrant country music scene and in mountain ski-resort venues. Since returning to Manitoba in 1997, he continues performing with groups like The Spectacles, The Grant Simpson Jazz Swing Quartet, and of course, with Penny as part of their duo. He's a fiddle, guitar and mandolin teacher and a contest judge and mentor in the fiddle community.

Penny Buhr stars with thrilling keyboard and vocals.

A Winnipeg-born singer-songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist, Buhr has been performing since childhood—beginning as a church pianist at age 12 and later earning her RCM Grade 10 Piano certification.

As she became known as a vocalist she was challenged by someone to sing jazz.

"I listened to Miles Davis, (many) original Jazz artists, Ella Fitzgerald..." she said, and soon made it her own. Hamiota heard several of her signature compositions including one about the man in the moon, which won her a prestigious career milestone – First Place at The



PHOTO BY ANNE DAVISON

Penny Buhr at the keys and Garnet Knight with fiddle in hand, guide dog at Penny's side as Knight addresses the Hamiota audience.

Manitoba Voice Competition in Portage la Prairie.

When she performed it in Hamiota she said it was the focus she chose in light of her circumstances. Buhr sang her delightful piece, "No Time to Be Blue, Mr. Man in the Moon." You see, she faces deteriorating eyesight and is now legally blind. Her guide dog Mr. T. was a charming and well-behaved stage companion.

The New Horizons for Seniors Program (NHSP) federal grant supports projects designed by seniors and for seniors making the 'Penny and Garnet' show a

free event that drew the community's older set. When everything has become very expensive, this was a great way to nurture the community.

It was a toe tapping event with fiddle favourites like Maple Sugar on the Menu. The duo took requests and dancers took to the floor, jive style.

This warm-hearted show included Wayfaring Stranger and ended with Garnet playing the beautiful, Ashokan Farewell.

The duo can be found at pennyandgarnet.com.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
COMMUNITY CALENDAR						Mar 27 Prairie Crocus Library Storytime in Rivers 10am Chase the Ace Rivers Legion 7pm Kenton Legion 7pm	28 TRIVIA NIGHT Queens Hotel Music Trivia Night
29 Rivers Legion Bingo 11:30am	30 50 + Card Games 1pm RCC Spring Break Camp- March 30th – April 2nd 8:30am-4:00pm	31 50 + Club Pool 1pm	Apr 1 50 + Club Cribbage 1pm Darts Rivers Legion 7pm	2 Rivers Legion Cribbage 7pm 50+ Floor Games 1pm	3 Good Friday	4	
5 HAPPY Easter	6 50 + Card Games 1pm	7 50 + Club Pool 1pm	8 50 + Club Cribbage 1pm Darts Rivers Legion 7pm	9 Rivers Food Bank 9:30 - 11:30am Rivers Legion Cribbage 7pm 50+ Floor Games 1pm	10 Prairie Crocus Library Storytime in Rivers 10am Chase the Ace Rivers Legion 7pm Kenton Legion 7pm	11	