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Easter Basket Winner

This year's Easter Basket winner for the Annual Easter Contest in the Rivers Banner sponsored by the Rivers Banner and Heritage Co-op is 5-year-old Isabelle Lepp, from Brandon, MB. Isabelle Lepp is granddaughter to Al and Collette Lepp of Rivers, MB. The grandkids were out to visit on Easter weekend with their grandparents. Al and Collette had a few extra copies of the newspaper for their grandkids to colour the picture on the back and entered the contest. Congratulations Isabelle on being this years basket winner! Thank-you to everyone who entered the Easter Colouring Contest for 2026. We looked forward to seeing the pictures this year and are excited for next years contest.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Inside...



**NEW
KITCHEN IN
KENTON**
P4



**SPRING
BIKE RIDE**
P5

Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



Wishing and praying for good decisions

From the most ordinary of people, to the highest decision makers in the world, I am wishing and praying for good decisions. God made us all with a free will and, for the most part, the ability to decide what to do and not to do. Everything I have to say today may well apply to myself. As I have said many times, I try not to preach from a righteous pulpit, but write from a desk of observing what would be considered good decisions.

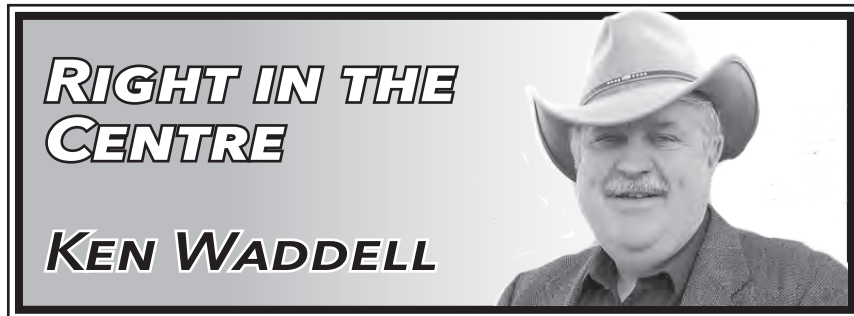
As ordinary citizens, we in Canada have tremendous freedom to make good decisions. Most people, but not all people, have enough money to live better than they do, as many of our financial decisions result in buying things where we could nicely thrive without buying them.

I won't give you my preferred shopping list, you make your own, but when we are short of money, there are almost always better decisions that can and should be made.

When it comes to life choices, we also have options and the same logic applies. Lots of things we are doing are not giving us the results that benefit us or others. Maybe we need to stop doing the less than helpful things.

For cities, towns, and municipal organizations, decisions are a bit more difficult as moving in a certain direction needs strong support from staff and a majority of votes on a council. Agreements must be reached.

Here's some examples of better decisions. Fervently pursuing recycling programs that actually accomplish little or nothing is a waste of money and human resources. Having raw sewage ending up in waterways is inexcusable and must stop. Not having clean drinking water in all our communities, no matter how remote, is a



travesty. In some cases, the facilities have not been built, in other cases the facilities have been badly maintained or even abused. Regardless, the situation requires better decisions by some people at some level, be it local or at a higher level.

At the provincial and national level, we have situations where people have chronically made bad decisions, and by that I mean perpetual criminals or abusers. There is no way on earth we should have "likely to be dangerous or re-offend" notices being necessary. People who habitually re-offend or abuse other people belong in an institution. In my mind, that includes murderers, rapists, drug dealers and drug users who refuse to stop. All of these people are a threat to others and themselves and to keep on playing cops and robbers, a high level game of hide and seek, catch and release amounts to one of the worst decisions we make as a society.

I am firmly against capital punishment, but I am in favour of long term institutionalization.

On the world scene, I have a few suggestions. To Russia's President Putin, grow up and go home. You have done more than a few lifetimes of damage. Quit already! Your country is already too big to successfully manage and you are nearing your life's end, you

don't have much time to amend your ways. Russia is too good a country to be wrecked upon the rocks of one man's ego.

To President Trump, please wake up and figure out that while you have a lot of support for some of your policies, your manners are poor, your ego is huge and your mouth sometimes makes no sense. You too are in your latter years and if you want a strong legacy, you need to smarten up.

To Prime Minister Carney, you are well educated, well trained and I think a smart guy. However, you need to start doing some things and not just muse about doing things. Like many countries, Canada is living way beyond its capacity to pay the bills and, quite frankly, Canadians are noting that a lot of your promises may well be benefitting your company more than the average Canadian.

To Premier Wab Kinew and Opposition Leader Obby Khan, please learn to shut up. For God's sake, we don't care about your cheap shots against each other or against the other parties. All we want you to do is govern and while you are both capable of good decisions, we could surely use a bit more evidence.

May God bless everyone with wisdom, tempered by reality and clear thinking.



I'm sorry...

Perhaps it goes with the territory: the aging, diminished physical strength, the lapses in the memory, but this week I heard myself apologise for too many things. I needed help with opening a jar, and prefaced my request for assistance with 'I'm sorry but I can't get this stupid thing open'... For what was I really apologising? The stupid jar? My ineptitude? I know I am not inept, old injuries have affected the strength in my thumbs. I tell myself they still have a real purpose— they keep my gloves on!

It's no secret that those longer lighters that we use to light the Christ Candle in our Sunday morning service have proved to frustrate me. More than once I have turned my back to the congregation as I struggle to flick that bic. Most times I can smile it away, appearing okay with my frustrations. This past Sunday, I picked up the lighter and, knowing the procedure, pulled the trigger. And pulled it again. Then looked for help. A kind soul came and gently showed me exactly how to do it, just the way I had tried!!! Handing it back to me, I tried, again, and handed it back to her! My trigger finger could not exert enough pressure to get the job done. Watch, next Sunday that I lead worship service there, they will kindly ensure that I have an authentic candle lighter. And, of course, I said 'I'm sorry.' And, again, sorry for what? Getting old and worn out? It does not portend well for my future.

As part of the family gathering, we play table games. More than once I heard myself quietly apologising, for not catching on to the rules of the game as quickly as I would have liked to. For not always correctly following all the moves and plans of the other players. Like, give myself a break! I'm eighty for goodness sake! You can teach an old dog a new trick, it simply takes longer...

I'm sorry that it takes me longer to get ready and get out of the house than it used to. I'm sorry that it takes more intention and time to prepare a balanced meal. I'm sorry that I don't sleep as well as I want to.... man, the list could go on and on.

I hereby resolve to be gentler with myself. Instead of apologising for taking too long, I will thank others for waiting. 'Thank you' sounds so much better than a litany of 'I'm sorry'. To be fair, it is not often said in a whiny voice, no snivelling or grovelling. I simply hear those words too often, too often unnecessarily. I understand that I am not alone in the struggle to accept and adapt to change, especially uninvited and unexpected changes. They are coming. Some of them are already here! I will continue to rejoice in the abilities that have not diminished. My speech, thank God. My thinking— should perhaps have come before speaking? I'm sorry? For the privilege of growing older? May I be ever grateful for the helping hands and loving hearts that surround me. For that I am not sorry!

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Owner/Publisher/Editor
Micah Waddell

General Manager
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Nearly two decades of dedication in Neepawa Farm & Leisure Lotto winner from Rivers, Manitoba

By Eoin Devereux
RIVERS BANNER

For the past 18 years, local volunteers with the Neepawa & District Medical Committee Farm & Leisure Lotto have started their spring working the phones to make our community a little bit better. And for those same 18 years, you've been on the other end of that phone call opening your heart and your wallet or purse to do the very same.

The Neepawa Town Office was frantic with activity on Mar. 26 to 28, as a portion of the space was taken over by members of the Beautiful Plains Community Medical Committee. Each year around this time, that group assembles to operate the lottery, whose proceeds help to fund improvements to Neepawa's medical services. This year's support will aid in renovations to some office space to assist with the Doctor's residency program.

Leisure Lotto Coordinator Mary Ellen Clark noted that it takes an incredibly dedicated group of people to make this local fundraising effort work. She thanked those workers who volunteer their time to make those calls. Clark also thanked those on the other end of the line, for seeing value in supporting them.

"The money goes to a great place, and we've received support from not only around the community, but across the province and even beyond those borders," explained Clark. "We have regular [lottery] buyers that purchase from us year after year, that have never even used our medical facilities. But they see what we're trying to do as a community and they're so happy to help."

The early bird draw wrapped up last weekend. In terms of those sales, the early pace of ticket purchasing was slightly behind previous years, but picked up in a noticeable way just before the deadline on Saturday, Mar. 28. The winner of the early bird draw was Crystal

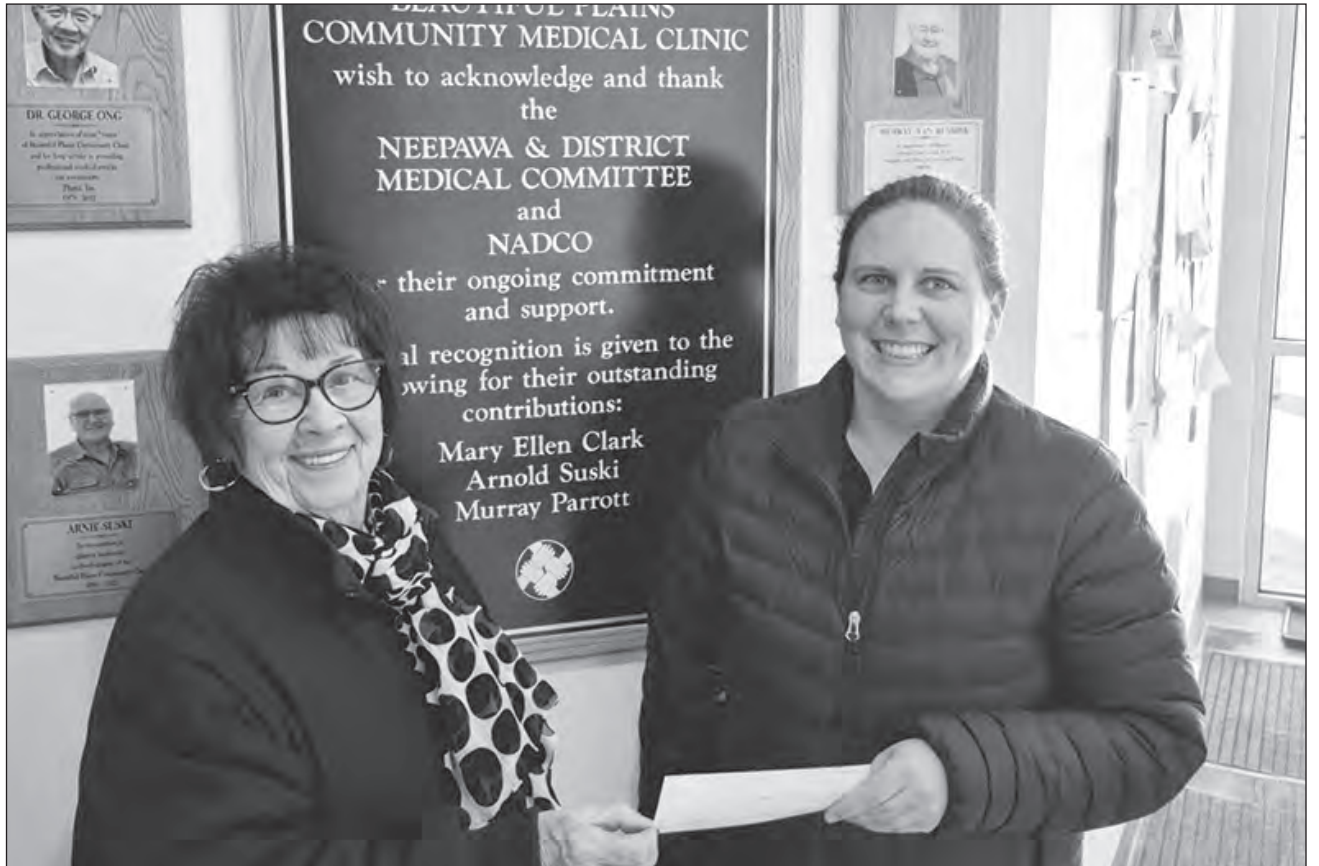


PHOTO BY EOIN DEVEREUX

Mary Ellen Clark presents Crystal Stewart of Rivers a cheque for \$10,000, the prize for the early bird draw for the 2026 Neepawa & District Medical Committee Farm & Leisure Lotto.

Stewart of Rivers, MB.

Tickets are still available for purchase for the main lottery, which features \$130,000 voucher from Enns Brothers (Option #1), a pair of \$55,000 credits from both McLaughlin G.M. and Four Seasons R.V. Sales (Option

#2) or \$100,000 cash (Option #3). As well, there is the 50/50 add-on draw, which as of the publication deadline was sitting at \$59,410.

To purchase tickets, call toll free 1-877-876-8555 or order online at www.neepawalotto.com.


From last weeks front page

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JESUS IS LORD

Kenton Community Enterprise



Triple stainless steel commercial sink is going to clean everything quick and easy.

By Gerry Nolan
RIVERS BANNER

The Kenton Community Enterprise is very excited about the completion of a brand new kitchen in the Kenton Hall. The project began late last fall and has just recently been completed. As you can see by the pictures, it is very well done, fabulous really!

The counter tops are stainless steel. There is an island in the middle and

two big coolers for food and drink.

Local contractors were hired to do the project, another feather in the cap for local tradesmen doing what they do best. They worked diligently to get the hall back up and running as quickly and efficiently as possible. Job well done guys!

The first time the new kitchen will be put to the test is the Kenton Firefighters fundraiser which

is this coming weekend. It is already a sell-out.

Congratulations to the men and women of the Kenton Community Enterprises who saw the need to move forward and keep our hall in super shape. I am sure the user groups are going to love the new kitchen. There will be an update on this project in the future so stay tuned. Congratulations Kenton, you have done a first class job again!



PHOTOS BY CELIA NOLAN

Stainless steel countertops, two ovens, and rangehoods, this Kitchen is ready.

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Ingredients

- 3 cups bread flour
- 1 cup warm water 45°C
- 5 tbsps white sugar, divided
- 2-1/4 tps active dry yeast
- 1-1/2 tps salt
- 3 quarts water for boiling
- 1 tbsp cornmeal
- 1 large egg white, beaten
- 3 tbsps poppy seeds (or other topping)

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C).
2. Place flour, water, 2 tablespoons sugar, yeast, and salt into a bread machine in the order listed or follow the order recommended by the manufacturer if different. Run 'Dough' cycle. Remove dough from the machine after the cycle is done, about 90 minutes.
3. Turn dough out onto a lightly floured surface: let rest for 10 to 15 minutes.
4. Cut dough into nine equal pieces. Roll each piece into a small ball and flatten into a circle. Poke a hole in the middle of each circle with your thumb. Place back onto the floured surface. Cover dough with a cloth and let rest for 10 minutes.
5. Meanwhile, bring 3 quarts water to a boil in a large pot. Sprinkle cornmeal onto an ungreased baking sheet.
6. Stir 3 tablespoons sugar into boiling water. Transfer two bagels at a time to the boiling water, working in batches, turning halfway through, about 1 minute. Drain briefly on a clean towel. Arrange on the prepared baking sheet. Brush with egg white: sprinkle with poppy seeds.
7. Bake in the preheated oven until golden brown, 20 to 25 minutes.



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SPORTS

REF MEMORIES

REF TO WRITER

GERRY NOLAN



The Kenton Cougars Senior Hockey team was formed in 1972. They played in the North Central Hockey League for some 30 plus seasons. The team was composed of players mainly from Kenton and Lenore in the beginning. Later players came to Kenton from Oak Lake, Virden, Reston, Oak River, Brandon and Hamiota to form a team.

The best description of the Kenton Cougars hockey club was that it was a social group who just happened to play hockey in the winter and fastball in the summer.

In the 1974-75 season, the Kenton Cougars defeated the McAuley Tigers to win the league Championship. Although they played in other final series, this would be the only time they would win the league championship trophy.

Where the Kenton Cougars really shone the most was in the Intermediate Provincial

Hockey Championships of Manitoba. The Cougars won a total of 9 Provincial Championships, a number surpassed by no other town that had a senior hockey team and that record, this stands today!

When Craig Whyte came back to Kenton from college and took over Whyte's Lumber and Insurance, he put a stamp on the Kenton Cougars hockey and ball team. The hockey team was formed. Craig played with the Cougars, coached them, managed them, and lived the Cougars and does so until this very day although the hockey team folded a few years ago. The Kenton Cougar hockey team, really brought the community together with the great fan support they had. Fans followed the team through thick and thin.

As I mentioned earlier, all the Provincial Championships they won, all 9 of them were special,

including a 3 year run of winning their division. The Cougars enjoyed playing someone other than league teams, travelling by bus to other towns and had a huge following from the locals who also had a bus trip or two over the years. What happened on the bus, stayed in the bus, except when, do you remember when?

The bus trips and the playoff series they played in against these other teams just seemed to bring out the best in the team. Perhaps travelling together was a huge part of that.

There were 4 gentlemen from Kenton who would travel by car to follow the Cougar Provincial run in the playoffs each spring. The thing was they would leave in the early afternoon to go to an 8 or 8:30pm start for a game whether it was in Holland, Elgin or Glenboro or any other town you could think of. I guess they just did not want to be late and miss getting the best seat in the rink, except the rink was probably not open that early in the day. Can you name the Fab 4 from Kenton?

Next week, I will talk about the Kenton Cougars a little bit more and throw out some names you may remember! Until then, happy trails!

Bike riding to breakfast



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE WADDELL

Spring is in the air in Rapid City, MB! The Barclay family were out for early morning breakfast at the Rapid City convenience store riding their bikes. It is a great place for breakfast!

Rivers Legion Ladies Auxiliary

By Lisa Smith
PUBLICITY

The regular meeting of the Rivers Ladies Legion Auxiliary was held February 24th, 2026 in the Rivers Legion upper hall.

There were no new applications for member-

ship this month.

A donation was made to the Rolling River Festival of the Arts, as well as a donation to Deer Lodge Foundation Hospital.

The winner of the free 2026 membership draw was Marilyn Halliday. Congratulations!!

The auxiliary will help

with the Meals on Wheels program for the month of April.

Year end reports were read.

A Green Team application has been submitted.

There will be ten banners put up for the Banner Project when weather permits.



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GAZETTE REPORTER



Life in the slow lane

Childhood Memories

By Gerry Nolan
RIVERS BANNER

By the late 1950's our old barn was getting pretty much run down so plans were made to build a new barn. This was probably the last barn in the area to be built, as more and more cattle shelters were being built so animals were not tied up in the barn. In the spring of 1961, the project began. Ed Gray who farmed north of Oak Lake oversaw the building of the foundation. He carefully measured, then built the forms to hold the cement. After he completed this part of the job it was time for cement. Gravel was hauled and cement purchased to pour into the foundation. There were no cement trucks back at that time in the area. Gravel, cement and water were mixed in a cement mixer and a wheelbarrow, then hauled it to where it was unloaded and returned to be filled up again. Sounds like fun, eh? It was hard work!

Lorne McNiven from Hamiota was hired as the carpenter and oversaw the erection of the barn. When the rafters were made, they were too long and when attached to the barn, it was really high. The decision was made to carry on.

I have said it before and I will say it again, farmers are just the greatest people you could meet. While the barn was built on my dad's property, farmers from all around the community came and helped build the barn. There was lots of nail pounding to be done by hammer, as well as a wee bit of stories with lots of laughs and all round great banter. Pip Lonsdale was a neighbour who came over to help and taught me how to hammer nails. From then on whenever, I met Pip, he called me spike.

We were still milking 9 or 10 cows at that time, but



The barn built in 1961 on the Nolan farm near Kenton.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

the cows got milked after dark. They were milked in the old barn. The hydro had been disconnected and hooked up to the new barn by this time. It was really a cool thing for me, as we used a lantern to see properly. I thought this is what it was like before the days of hydro. My grandparents had done this years earlier.

Finally in the fall of 1961 the barn was finished. We had a bit of snow by that time, as I remember the loft doors had not yet been hung, so some snow had come into the loft.

The first time the milk cows came into the new barn, they did not know where to go or which stall to go into. They trained quickly. After a time or two they knew which was their stall. It never took much to entice the cows, as we fed chop back in the day. After the cows were put in their stall, we milked with lights for the first time since early spring. YEA!

Barns are not built like this any more. There are

calving barns and shelters built, but not like where all the animals were put inside for the winter. The new barn was great. In fact, in the winter it would get too hot and the windows in the barn had to be left open. It was nice to be warm on those cold winter nights, as the old barn had a lot of open ventilation.

I remember all the neighbours who would come and donate their time. I do not think there are too many of them left who came and helped out, but we thank them in our memories again for being such great neighbours and friends.

I said earlier that farmers are just the greatest, helping one another out. That is one thing in my lifetime that I have noticed, farmers helping farmers when in need.

If you see a farmer today, thank them and bless them as they feed the world. Without farmers, the world goes hungry!

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Apr 10

11

Rivers Lions Fish Fry 4:30-6:30pm **12**



Rivers Legion Bingo 11:30am

13

50 + Card Games 1pm



14

50 + Club Pool 1pm



15

50 + Club Cribbage 1pm
Darts Rivers Legion 7pm



16

Rivers Legion Cribbage 7pm
50+ Floor Games 1pm



17

Prairie Crocus Library Storytime in Rivers 10am



Chase the Ace Rivers Legion 7pm
Kenton Legion 7pm



18

Bless the Fields Breakfast Rapid City Community Church 8:30 - 10:30 am



19

Rivers Legion Bingo 11:30am



20

50 + Card Games 1pm



21

Oak River School Bingo and Pie Auction 6pm



50 + Club Pool 1pm



22

50 + Club Cribbage 1pm
Darts Rivers Legion 7pm

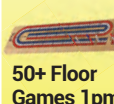


23

Rivers Food Bank 9:30 - 11:30am



Rivers Legion Cribbage 7pm
50+ Floor Games 1pm



24

Prairie Crocus Library Storytime in Rivers 10am



Chase the Ace Rivers Legion 7pm
Kenton Legion 7pm



25

Rivers United Church Thrift Sale