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Investing in Heritage and Economic Development Rivers, Manitoba's vision for the future



Municipal and Northern Relations Minister Glen Simard discusses Investing in the Rivers Train Station restoration on July 29, 2026 in Rivers

By Carolyn Phillips
RIVERS BANNER

The Manitoba government has unveiled an exciting initiative aimed at intertwining the community's past and future through a significant investment of \$98,000. This funding is provided under the From the Ground Up – Safe Healthy Communities for ALL program, targeting

the restoration and revitalization of the Rivers Train Station. Municipal and Northern Relations Minister Glen Simard emphasized the importance of this project in connecting the community's rich history with a vibrant economic future.

Read more about the investment on page 2...

Inside...



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P8

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Investing in the Rivers Train Station

Continued from page 1...

The Rivers train station is not just a building; it's a historical landmark that embodies the town's spirit, resilience, and heritage. By investing in its restoration, the Manitoba government is safeguarding this piece of local history for future generations. "Our government is proud to support a project that not only preserves an important piece of Manitoba's heritage but also creates new opportunities for local economic development," stated Simard. This dual focus on preservation and economic growth represents the holistic approach the government is taking to community development.

At the heart of this project is the Rivers Train Station Restoration and Heritage Committee, whose chair, Donna Morken, expressed her excitement over the funding announcement. She highlighted the significance of the rivers train station and its connection to a unique narrative involving the Sekine bicycle—a symbol of the town's legacy. The committee's plan is not just about restoring a building but about harnessing its history to inspire ongoing community development.

This ambitious project will collaborate with the Rural Development Institute at Brandon University to pilot research focused on building community economic development and digital capacity. A research partnership with Professor Junichiro Koji of Ryukoku University in Japan will also explore the Sekine bicycle story, bridging the cultural connections between Canada and Japan. Furthermore, the involvement of Professor Ray Silvius from The University of Winnipeg

reinforces the academic underpinnings of this initiative, aiming to yield valuable insights into community growth strategies.

Community-led planning plays a pivotal role in this project, as it emphasizes local history as a foundation for future development. By engaging with the train station as a historical site, residents will explore modern opportunities for cultural engagement and tourism, particularly with Japan, as they celebrate their shared history related to the Sekine bicycle.

One of the project's most innovative components is the development of a unique Sekine museum within the Rivers train station. This museum will house both physical artifacts and digital exhibits, blending the old and the new to create an engaging experience for visitors. Additionally, there are plans to expand recreational and interpretive bike trails, transforming the area into a hub for outdoor activities while heralding a renewed appreciation for the scenic landscapes around Rivers.

The From the Ground Up – Safe Healthy Communities for ALL program exemplifies a commitment to empowering local communities through accessible funding for revitalization efforts. With grants of up to \$100,000 available to support various initiatives like this, Manitoba is paving the way for a brighter, more connected future.

The restoration of the Rivers train station symbolizes a collective aspiration—to honour the past while boldly stepping into a promising future. It's a testament to the power of community, collaboration, and cultural heritage in fostering sustainable economic growth.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Donna Morkin identified as the project's driving force and local leader by Minister Glen Simard.

APPLE AND CHEESE OMELETTE

Make a quick sweet and savory apple and cheddar omelette by sautéing sliced apples in butter until tender, then pouring in whisked eggs. Top with sharp cheddar cheese, fold the eggs over, and cook until the cheese melts. This single-serving breakfast takes about 10 minutes.

Ingredients

- 2 large eggs
- 1 tsp water or milk
- 1 tbsp butter (divided)
- 1/2 apple (such as Gala or Granny Smith), peeled and thinly sliced
- Pinch of cinnamon and sugar (optional)
- 2 tbsp sharp cheddar cheese, shredded
- Salt and pepper to taste

Directions

1. Melt half the butter in a small non-stick pan over medium heat.
2. Add the apple slices. Cook for 3 to 4 minutes until soft and lightly browned.
3. Sprinkle with a pinch of cinnamon and sugar if desired. Remove the apples from the pan.
4. Whisk the eggs, water, salt, and pepper in a small bowl.
5. Melt the remaining butter in the same pan over medium-low heat.
6. Pour in the egg mixture. Let it cook until the edges start to set.
7. Lift the edges of the eggs to let any liquid run underneath.
8. Place the cooked apples and shredded cheddar on one half of the eggs.
9. Fold the omelette in half. Cook for one more minute until the cheese melts.



Have great photos of Riverdale?

The CDC wants to see them!

Submitted
BY RIVERDALE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The Riverdale Community Development Corporation (CDC) is asking residents to help showcase everything that makes our municipality special by submitting their favourite photographs for a new community tourism brochure.

Whether it's a breathtaking sunset over Lake Wahtopanah, a day on the golf course, children playing at Millennium Park, a favourite hiking trail, a local event, or the beauty of our community throughout the seasons, the CDC wants to highlight the people, places, and experiences that make Riverdale such a great place to live and visit.

"We know the best photos of our community are often the ones taken by the people who live here," says the CDC. "Our residents see the hidden gems, memorable moments, and everyday beauty that visitors might otherwise miss."

The organization is looking for high-quality digital images that feature outdoor recreation, parks and community facilities, local businesses, heritage sites, agricultural scenery, cultural murals, and community events. Photos from every season are welcome.

Selected photographs will be featured in the new tourism brochure, as well as on the Riverdale Municipality website and promotional social media platforms. Photographers whose images are selected will receive full photo credit.

If you have a favourite photo that captures the spirit of our municipality, now is the perfect opportunity to share it with the community.



CDC wants your best shot! FILE PHOTO

Photos should be submitted in high-resolution JPEG or PNG format and can be emailed to riversdalycdc@gmail.com or shared using a cloud storage link such as Google Drive or OneDrive. The submission deadline is August 31st, 2026.

Whether you're an experienced photographer or have captured a memorable moment, the Riverdale CDC encourages everyone to participate. Your photo could help tell Riverdale's story and inspire others to discover all our municipality has to offer.

Westman Communications Group brings live TV to subscribers' favourite streaming devices with connect TV app+

Submitted
By WCG

Westman Communications Group (WCG) is transforming the television experience for its subscribers. Starting today, customers can enjoy their favourite channels without the need for a traditional set-top box by downloading the new Connect TV App+.

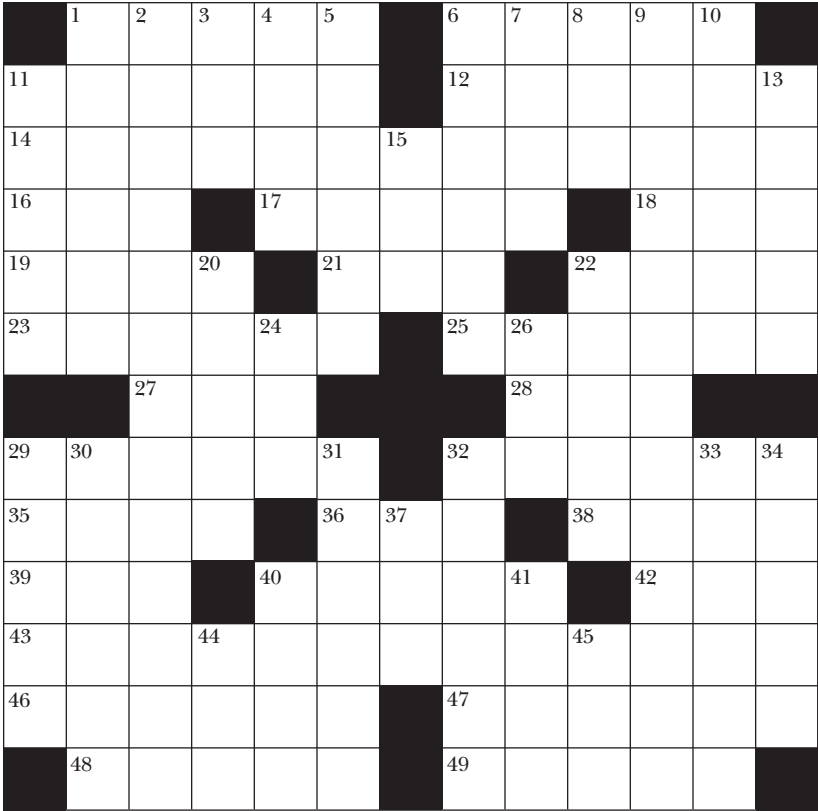
This launch offers subscribers the flexibility to watch live local news, network television, sports broadcasts, and access over 300 free channels through TiVo+ and Plex, directly on the devices they already own. The app is compatible with a wide range of platforms, including Smart TVs, Amazon Fire TV Stick, Apple TV, Google Chromecast, and mobile devices. By integrating seamlessly into your existing home entertainment setup, WCG eliminates the need for additional hardware and reduces monthly equipment rental costs.

"Our goal is to make live television fit naturally into how our customers already watch content, and the Connect TV App+ delivers exactly that," said John Quail, WCG's Chief Operating Officer. "We aren't asking our subscribers to change their habits - we're simply bringing live TV into their existing streaming lineup. It's their TV, their way, with no box required."

The WCG Connect TV App+ features an intuitive interface, effortless self-installation, and comprehensive channel guide integration. The app is available for immediate download in all major app stores. For package options or registration details, visit [Connect TV App | Westman](#).

Locally created crossword

- Across
- 1. Charming, sophisticated
 - 6. Faithful horse
 - 11. Occur, take place
 - 12. Crew of a plane
 - 14. Difficult or impossible to carry out
 - 16. Fish eggs
 - 17. Bird on the dollar coin
 - 18. Night before
 - 19. Make wages
 - 21. Period
 - 22. Lost blood
 - 23. Enclose
 - 25. Burn with steam
 - 27. Has lighting
 - 28. Onasis to friends
 - 29. They grow on trees
 - 32. Coat of arms symbols
 - 35. Something different
 - 36. Kwik-E-Mart operator 'The Simpsons'
 - 38. Fired a gun
 - 39. Torso muscles (briefly)
 - 40. Splash about
 - 42. Woody Allens ex-partner
 - 43. In a manner trying to win over others
 - 46. Zimbabwe city formerly known as Wankie
 - 47. Sheep
 - 48. Golfer Sam (82 PGA wins)
 - 49. Cuts of animals
- Down
- 1. Person from Apia
 - 2. Senior in college
 - 3. Month for fools abbr.
 - 4. Calf meat
 - 5. Encrypt
 - 6. Catholic heroes
 - 7. Minor spasms



- Answers on page
- 8. Age of, period of time
 - 9. Elaborate details to make more interesting
 - 10. Studied deeply
 - 11. Company employee
 - 13. Requirements
 - 15. Also
 - 20. Lacks experience, innocent
 - 22. Strips
 - 24. Catholic heroine abbr.
 - 26. Automobile
 - 29. Homophone of leech
 - 30. Arm joints
 - 31. Like cracker tops
 - 32. Is the rational way of doing something
 - 33. Sheer cotton fabrics
 - 34. Remains
 - 37. Hawaiian foods made from taro root
 - 40. Japanese video game company
 - 41. Bees home
 - 44. Vancouvers exhibits and attractions event abbr.
 - 45. By way of
- Created by David Harris of Oak River, MB

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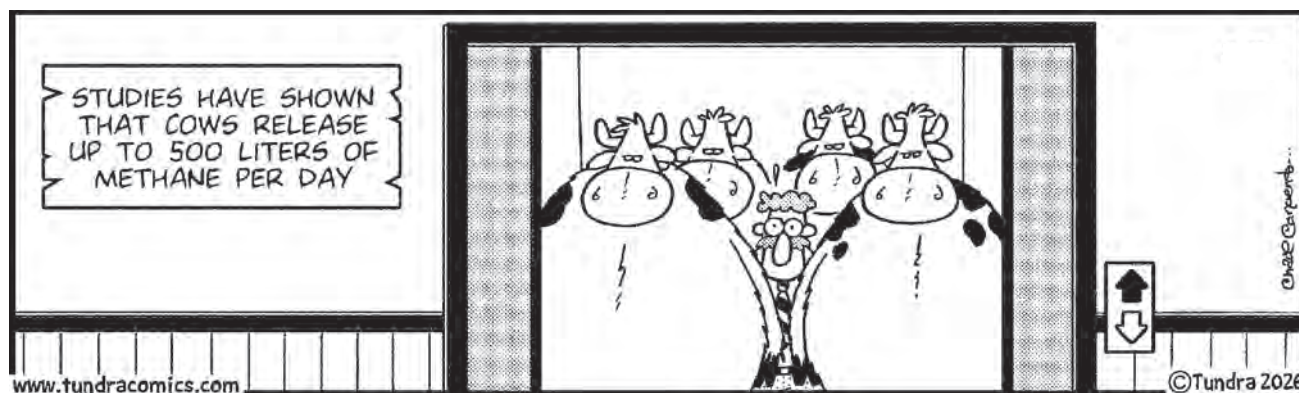
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Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



Challenging climate change

I usually write original material but a friend sent me this piece and I truly believe it deserves close examination. Just like Allister Heath—the Editor of The Sunday Telegraph, who is quoted below, I believe that we have been duped by the climate change people. Not that the climate isn't changing but that we should spend our time, energy and money on adapting because we don't have the ability to change the directions of a climate.

“We’ve lost the war against climate change. Time to scrap net zero
By Allister Heath – The Editor of The Sunday Telegraph

Climate change is real, but Britain can do almost nothing about it. The war against global warming has been lost, with only grievous collateral damage to show for it. We have crippled British industry, hammered consumers and pushed the grid to the brink of black-outs, all with no discernible impact on global emissions and the climate. It's time to accept this sobering reality, cut our losses, cease tilting at (and building) windmills, ditch the despicable con that is net zero, and learn to cope with, and whenever possible, even enjoy, a warmer, drier, more volatile Mediterranean climate, if that is indeed to be our fate.

Hubris has ruined us, a tiny nation accounting for 0.8 per cent of global CO2 emissions from combustible fuels. We were fooled into believing that we could single-handedly lead the way in saving the world, a futile gambit if there ever were one...

Britain's re-embrace of collectivism, of energy rationing, our advanced case of suicidal empathy, have achieved little other than putting us at the mercy of China. The Communist state accounts for 32.1 per cent of emissions, pumps out 262 per cent more CO2 than it did in 2000 and is making the most of net zero in Britain and Europe

RIGHT IN THE CENTRE

KEN WADDELL



to bolster its own industry and its grip over crucial commodities.

All of our efforts at carbon reduction (and those of the European Union) have been offset many times over by the increase in Chinese emissions; Britain could return to the stone age and cut our GDP to zero, and it would still make only a trivial difference.

Net zero represents the pinnacle of arrogance, a case study in the illusion of control, a landmark in human vanity and, in Britain's case, exposes a ludicrously exaggerated view of our own importance given the UK's negligible economic and environmental footprint in 2026.

Above all, we need to rid ourselves of the green energy subsidies and grid integration costs that will exceed £40bn a year by 2030-31, according to the Prosperity Institute, as well as the entire apparatus of net zero, from the Climate Change Committee to binding carbon budgets, restrictions on the North Sea and other compulsory targets to cut CO2 or change behaviour...

Yet fuelled by a neo-Victorian moral revivalism, the UK's cross-party elites, having lost an empire and searching for a role as international central planners, convinced themselves that we should lead by example and through self-sacrifice, and bet the house on net zero. Ordinary people are paying the price for this delusion.”

To relate the above to Manitoba and misguided efforts, let me offer a short

and local Manitoba history lesson. In the 1960s, our modern day Watershed Conservation District model was developed. It actually works but a lack of funds and commitment has hampered its effectiveness. It actually began with work at the Rosedale farm north-west of Neepawa. This piece of land had been ravaged by over-cropping and erosion. A massive tree and forage planting effort took place. Then in 1971, the Conservation District program was launched and the first one was the Whitemud Watershed district around Neepawa and Gladstone. I know this to be a fact, because I was there and saw it all come into place. My boss at the time, Ag-Rep Allan Nebbs had tried to compliment the watershed's work by applying to the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act (PFRA) for funding water retention dams, about 50 in total. Great idea but PFRA refused to approve any of them. That refusal was a mistake, as I maintain that water retention, flood control, conserving and storing water could all be done at much higher rate than is currently being done.

The point is, as the above Sunday Telegraph column states, we also in Manitoba need to find ways to adapt to a changing climate because we will never control it. When drought periods or even drought years come back, we will be a lot better off if we have prepared for them.

Homebodies

RITA FRIESEN



Well, they never caught that on camera!

There were a number of incidents in my life that truly were noteworthy and they never were captured on camera. The images, I assure you, remain vivid in my mind.

There were witnesses as I glided over the handlebars of the rental bike in Amsterdam! It was the second day of the bike and barge tour. We had covered a fair distance so my legs were tiring. Nearing the canal we shifted from the path, over a slight curb to ride on a cobblestone sidewalk. The front wheel caught the curb, twisted violently to the right and I continued to proceed directly forward. Hands outstretched I sailed onward, skidding to a halt with my face to the stones. My inward prayer in the journey was “not my teeth, not my teeth, dear God, not my teeth!”. (My teeth have been a major investment and while I carry an eyeglass prescription with me on my travels, there is no replacement for my two front teeth.) The tour guides called a halt as they checked on the condition of the bike first! Then checked me. I was able to continue the ride and the tour, I do have pictures of the colourful multitude of bruises! One of the riders that had been following me described by dismount as graceful as though the angels were carrying me. They may have been.

The bike incident was when I was seventy years of age. And as I mentioned there are no pictures of the fall, just of the bruises. When I was much younger, in my teens, the cow headed over to the neighbours. She had gone for male companionship and when I wanted her to come home with me, she was unwilling. I had the rope around her neck, in the corral, and things should have progressed well. They did not. She galloped one way and somehow my right thumb got between the rope and a post, there were opposing forces. To this day the knuckle on my right hand thumb is slightly enlarged, slightly arthritic and definitely a weather forecaster. Would I have wanted a picture of a sweating, frustrated, angry young girl gallumping around a corral? Not really. I am thankful there was no one capturing that moment! The sorry thumb tells the story.

I was in my forties and we had a family camping trip at Camp Moose Lake. My oldest grandson was just past three years of age. Water skiing was important to the family and I was game to try. And try. And then try one more time. The grandson was standing on the dock, watching his beloved grandmother being dragged almost under water, until she/me was smart enough to let go! After several attempts, I gave up. Standing there with my little alli, I was comforted as he turned to me and said ‘bad boat! That’s a bad boat!’. I didn’t have the heart to inform him that it wasn’t the boat, it was all my fault. No photo in an album tells that story, the grandson doesn’t remember but I treasure my knight on a white charger that defended me!

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Japan honours former Manitoba Agriculture Deputy Minister with Decoration of the Order of the Rising Sun

Submitted
By MANITOBA 4-H

BRANDON, MB — Former deputy minister of Manitoba Agriculture and 4-H alumna Dori Gingera-Beauchemin has been recognized by Japan for her commitment to fostering exchange and friendship through the York-Benimaru Foundation (YBF) at a Japan consul conferment ceremony today at her family’s farm in Ile des Chênes.

Consul General of Japan Takehiko Wajima conferred a Japanese Imperial Decoration, the Order of the Rising Sun, on Gingera-Beauchemin as 4-H Manitoba welcomed 20 students and 2 chaperones for a two-week stay under the YBF Japan Homestay Program, which she was instrumental in helping to establish 39 years ago while serving as Chief of the Manitoba 4-H Program.

The Japanese Imperial Decoration is presented to foreign nationals who have made significant contributions to relations, defence cooperation, or cultural exchange between their home country and Japan.

Since the YBF Japan Homestay Program began in 1987, it has provided amazing cultural experiences and provided a global perspective on agriculture for hundreds of Manitoba and Japanese youth.

4-H Manitoba Executive Director Shannon Carvey said, “Dori Gingera-Beauchemin has been, and continues to be, an exceptional advocate not only for agriculture in Manitoba but also for 4-H. Her vision in establishing the remarkable

partnership between the York-Benimaru Foundation, Manitoba Agriculture, and 4-H Manitoba has created opportunities that have transformed countless lives. Our 4-H family is eternally grateful for the chance to connect with youth in Japan. The friendships and cultural understanding fostered through this exchange are truly life-changing and create bonds that last a lifetime.”

This is not the first honour Japan has bestowed on Gingera-Beauchemin, who was inducted into the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame in 2025.

She received the Japanese Foreign Minister’s Commendation in 2018 in recognition of her contributions to strengthening Manitoba-Japan relations and her leadership of the homestay program over more than three decades.

About 4-H Manitoba

4-H is an international youth and volunteer organization that empowers members to choose projects and work alongside volunteer leaders to develop both project-related and essential life skills. Members gain knowledge, confidence, and leadership abilities that prepare them to thrive, lead, and create positive change in their communities.

In Manitoba, youth can choose from more than 80 hands-on projects, including gardening, food preservation, entrepreneurship, sustainable living, small machines, and fitness. Today, over 1,500 4-H members and 400 dedicated volunteers represent 4-H in Manitoba. 4-H Manitoba values its strong partnership with Manitoba Agriculture, which supports 4-H clubs across the province.

For more information, visit <https://4h.mb.ca>



SUBMITTED PHOTO

4-H alumna Dori Gingera-Beauchemin recognized by Japan.

Summer in Spruce Woods with Colleen Robbins



Spruce Woods MLA Colleen Robbins

FILE PHOTO

Submitted
By THE OFFICE OF COLLEEN ROBBINS

As summer continues across Spruce Woods, it has been wonderful to see our communities come alive with celebrations, local events, and opportunities to connect. From community fairs and agricultural gatherings and Canada Day celebrations in every corner of Spruce Woods, this season has once again highlighted what makes our region so special - the people who volunteer, organize, and contribute to building strong, welcoming communities.

One of the highlights of the summer was joining residents across the constituency to celebrate Canada Day. These events provided an opportunity to reflect on our shared history, celebrate our communities, and recognize the many volunteers whose hard work makes these celebrations possible. Thank you to everyone who helped organize festivities and to all those who came out to celebrate with friends, family, and neighbours.

Summer also provides valuable opportunities to meet with local stakeholders, municipal leaders, agricultural producers, business owners, and industry organizations. I am always amazed to see the innovation and creativity right here in our own backyard. I have also been fortunate enough to be able to attend events at C.F.B Shilo such as the Change of Appointment for the Base Warrant Officer. It is truly an honour to be C.F.B Shilo’s representative in the Legislature and to champion their dedication every day.

Supporting our seniors has also remained a top priority this summer. I know many residents have expressed concerns about the future of seniors

housing in Souris, and I share those concerns. Seniors deserve access to safe, high-quality housing close to the communities they have called home for decades. It is disappointing to hear how the quality of these buildings has dramatically worsened over the past few years.

I have been actively meeting with local leaders, stakeholders, and government officials to advocate for protecting seniors housing in Souris and to ensure the voices of residents and families are being heard. Our Progressive Conservative team will continue advocating for you in Winnipeg when the Legislature resumes in September.

While the Legislature may not be sitting during the summer months, the work of serving our communities never stops. I am especially proud of the announcement by our Progressive Conservative team to work with the government to implement the 13 recommendations laid out in the Equality, Dignity, and Belonging Report. These recommendations will ensure that all Manitobans have access to equal opportunities to live the dignified lives they deserve. It is vital that all those in the Legislature, regardless of political affiliation work towards making these recommendations a reality.

As we enjoy the remainder of the summer, I encourage everyone to support local businesses, attend community events, and take advantage of everything our beautiful region has to offer. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your MLA. It is always a privilege to represent the people of Spruce Woods, and I look forward to continuing to work with you in the months ahead.

Wishing you and your family a safe, enjoyable, and memorable rest of the summer.

Local Artist at Mid West Art Centre

By Zoe Priest
MID-WEST ART CENTRE

Mid West Art Centre for the month of July featured Hamiota artist Ken McMillan. Ken grew up in Hamiota and worked for a long time at TJ's as a mechanic before he took up his welding art which helped him with his recovery from a brain tumour.

McMillan has created such awe inspiring work, which drew in hundreds of visitors who admired his meticulous attention to detail. He has a few items that were not for sale, a train engine he spent hundreds of hours making as well as a reproduction tractor of the one he travelled with for tractor shows over many years.

McMillan can turn the ordinary into extraordinary, such as his soup or beverage can flowers to decorate the garden. Spark plug tractors and planes, nut and bolt owl and horseshoe butterflies and dragonflies were some of the favourites.

If anyone has horseshoes, he would like to make more, but they are hard to find. The visiting crowds bought almost everything that he had for sale and others have left requests for commission work. McMillan has been a regular at the Art Centre, Thursday teas and was interviewed for a feature on Prairie Public television, which should be coming soon.

At the July 15 Show 'n Shine, McMillan 's Best in Show/ Fan Favorite trophy was proudly received by Kaden Green and was much coveted by the local car collectors.

Great work Ken, we look forward to seeing what you come up with next!



Hamiota artist Ken McMillan displays his beautiful welded art at the Hamiota Mid-West Art Centre.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

In my Opinion: Highway 24 is a disgrace

By Anne Davison
RIVERS BANNER

A couple of years ago, Big Daddy Tazz visited Hamiota bringing his own brand of humour—it was everybody's brand—keeping the audience in stitches. Highway 24 was fodder for this quick-witted prairie comedian's banter – he had his audience with those jokes. It was kind of embarrassing, Tazz couldn't believe the hole riddled Manitoba road he drove on to Hamiota.

Nothing has changed. The road is, if anything, worse and just lately an appeal to start a petition to repave the road showed up on a local Facebook page. It received about 100 thumbs up and 50 comments in two days.

Does the traffic warrant an investment?

Hwy 24 links Miniota at Hwy 83 to Hamiota where it intersects with Hwy 21, links Oak River to the rest of the world, intersects Hwy 250 to Rivers and carries on through Rapid City before ending at Hwy 10 north of Brandon. It's a Provincial Trunk Highway (PTH).

It's the only PTH to connect Hwy 10 to Hwy 83 between Trans Canada Highway 1 to the south and Trans Canada Highway 16 to the north. The only one.

PTHs are main routes that connect major cities, towns, and interprovincial routes.

Why is a PTH allowed to be filled with potholes so big they could damage your car or even cause an accident?

It's a concern for ambulance emergency traffic that seeks to take the shortest route from Hamiota to Brandon hospital. The recent closure of Hwy 21 through Sioux Valley points out why Hwy 24 is critical.

Hamiota Mayor Randy Lints and a team of councillors and advocates have worked hard to ensure Hamiota health centre is a hub of health care for the area. Have you ever been sick or injured and travelled in the back of an ambulance over Hwy 24?

Hwy 24 was paved nearly 70 years ago after it was named in 1956. Shortly after that, Canada retired much



PHOTO BY ANNE DAVISON

Evening drive on PTH 24, a large silage truck navigates the pavement full of bumps and broken out edges.

of its rail system. Agricultural equipment and all delivery trucks have grown by weight, exponentially.

Now, 24 is trash. It's a rock and roll ride filled with humps, hollows, uneven pavement edges and pothole after pothole. It's a dangerous road to meet traffic on.

If you know the road, drive below the speed limit, in daylight, the only vehicle on the road, you can swerve around, avoiding the holes. Not drunk. Just navigating Hwy 24 hole-ville.

If there's snow cover, icy conditions, if it's dark, if you're meeting a vehicle – it's a different game.

There's a bigger picture. I'm going to suggest that good leadership in Canada, in our provinces, and municipalities should look around and realize that good roads are related to much more than they seem.

It's kind of like letting trash build up in a restaurant – used napkins and bits of food on the floor, weeds at the front door and servers with smudges of dirt on their faces. Even if the cook is a master chef, the environment would ruin the reputation of the diner. And a great chef wouldn't stay.

That's what I'd liken Manitoba roads to. And I'm sorry to say that, because this didn't happen overnight. The government in power has inherited a problem along with the power to act.

I believe that just as a shoddy restaurant is bad for business, so are Manitoba's roads bad for our economy, bad for our sense of worth, bad for tourism, and costly for every motorist who runs a vehicle over these roads.

It seems we've gotten used to it – but it's time to wake up. Priorities need to change. And yes, PTH 24 needs an entire re-do. The sealcoat on Hwy 83 between Birtle and Miniota is an example of a great job. It has filled small holes and smoothed existing patches, but Hwy 24 is not 83. It needs more than a facelift. Although Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure staff are doing their best with what they have to work with, it is not enough.

It's time to get this done.

Squeeze the day

Summer Day Camp at Riverdale Community Centre

By Carolyn Phillips
RIVERS BANNER

This year, the Riverdale Community Centre ran its Summer Day Camp, running from 8 AM to 4:30 PM, designed for children ages 5 to 12. With a vibrant lineup of themed weeks and fun outings.

The camp operates at an affordable cost of \$25 per day, with field trip days at \$30. Parents looking for a full-week experience can take advantage of the weekly rate of \$100. This flexible pricing makes it easier to fit into family budgets while offering children a chance to explore, learn, and socialize.

Themed Weeks of Fun and Learning

One of the standout features of the day camp is the carefully curated themed weeks, designed to inspire creativity and foster a love for learning. Each week is packed with daily activities that align with the theme, ensuring that campers remain engaged and entertained throughout their time at the camp.

Kicking off the last month, the day camp hosted “Squeeze the Day” offering made with love lemonade. Perfect for a hot sunny morning. Crowds gathered early to sample this frosty beverage.

Still lots happening for August.

Art & Creativity Week (August 4-7)

This week is a canvas for artistic expression. Children will explore various forms of art, from painting to sculpture, allowing their creativity to flourish in a supportive environment.

Kids in the Kitchen Week (August 10-14)

Young chefs will get hands-on experience in the kitchen, learning essential cooking skills while having fun preparing delicious snacks and meals. This week emphasizes the importance of healthy eating and culinary creativity.

Around the World Week (August 17-21)

Campers will embark on a virtual journey exploring different cultures, cuisines, and traditions from around the globe. This themed week fosters cultural understanding and encourages curiosity about the world around them. This week will include a field trip on Friday, adding another layer of excitement to their experience.

Survival Week (August 24-28)

Children will learn essential outdoor skills, such as teamwork and problem-solving, while engaging in activities that promote self-sufficiency and a connection to nature. From building shelters to outdoor cooking, campers will develop a sense of adventure and resilience.

Exciting Activities and Field Trips

Every other Friday, campers can look forward to field trips that complement the week’s theme, enhancing their experience with real-world applications and exploration. One memorable event to mark on your calendar is “Friendly smiles, Sunny vibes, Made with love lemonade” taking place on July 31st from 10 AM to 12 PM. This event is all about community and brings a sense of joy as children enjoy a refreshing drink while socializing with their peers.

With daily games, crafts, and outdoor adventures,



PHOTOS BY CAROLYN PHILLIPS

Kicking off the last month, the day camp hosted “Squeeze the Day” offering made with love lemonade.



The lemonade was enjoyed by many in the Rivers Community. Fun was being had by many of the kids as they played outside.

Squeeze the Day ensures that children are constantly active and engaged in a controlled environment. The camp staff is dedicated to creating a safe, welcoming atmosphere where kids can learn, grow, and make lasting friendships.

Riverdale Day Camp at Riverdale Community Centre is the perfect summer destination for children eager

for fun and learning. With engaging themed weeks, creative activities, and exciting field trips, you can rest assured that your child is not only enjoying their summer but also making the most of every moment. Secure your spot today and prepare for an unforgettable summer experience!

Touring to Hamiota singer songwriter with haunting vocals

By Anne Davison
RIVERS BANNER

Listening to samples of Orit Shimoni’s albums, knowing her concert is coming up mid-August in Hamiota’s Heritage Art Centre, the first thought that came was of Leonard

Cohen.

Orit’s gently resonant guitar strings grounded in bass notes accompany poetic vocals laden with meaning, not unlike Cohen, Joni Mitchell or Bruce Cockburn.

This performer has transversed Europe and

North America and like Cohen, there’s a hint of faith and plenty of room for your own.

From her album, If Love is a Religion, she sings, “I met a traveler, said he was a fighter. Our causes and our star signs matched, he said...” its

flavorful folk.

She’s toured internationally for over a decade and has produced 12 highly acclaimed albums and garnered a devout, and diverse following.

In her Blog, Orit shares a conversation she had with a friend: “Frankly,

these days, hardly anyone is paying the artists for their work. But songs that are out in the digital and physical world have their way of trickling along, touching hearts and souls, messages come in from time to time, from people I don’t even know,

from countries around the world, ‘thank you for your music, it helped me.’”

Orit Shimoni will be in concert Tuesday evening, Aug. 18, at Hamiota’s Heritage Arts Centre – the Old Bank. It’s an affordable treat.

Nurse Practitioner serves in Oakview Clinic

Manitoba Health needs to step up and cover necessary medically necessary care

By Anne Davison
RIVERS BANNER

While Manitoba's healthcare system is overwhelmed, in the RM of Oakview an experienced nurse practitioner is alleviating some of that pressure for the system, and importantly, for the people she helps.

Oakview Clinic in Rapid City is where Nurse Practitioner Michelle Weighell provides comprehensive healthcare, focusing on preventative care, chronic disease management, and wellness promotion for patients of all ages across Manitoba.

When Weighell made the decision to open her own clinic, it was a big step, one that she thought the province would soon support.

Recent changes indicated they would. In an interview she explained that under the original Canada health act, only physicians were recognized as medically necessary care providers, but last January, the federal government included within the definition nurse practitioners, pharmacists and midwives as providing medically necessary care, to be covered by the universal health system.

The provinces were to create funding models to include the additional medical care providers. Saskatchewan has, but Ontario and Manitoba haven't yet.

In a CBC story by Amina Zafar, Mar 31, 2026 headlines read: "Most people across Canada will no longer need to pay nurse practitioners for primary care. Federal directive aims to relieve pressure on family physicians...."

Oakview Clinic Begins

Just over three years ago, Weighell moved back to Rapid City where she was born. Through involvement in the community, she heard discussion about aging population and the struggle to find healthcare. With the federal directive to the provinces to pay for NPs services it seemed timely for Weighell to start her own clinic.

She said, "I left my role, which was almost full-time within Prairie Mountain Health to do this clinic. I know people asked me like, 'why would you do that?'"

Prior to her move to Rapid City, her home was in Rivers. She traveled to Birdtail Sioux First Nation working there as an NP. But she said her career was in jeopardy if she didn't make a change. "I was feeling like I wasn't going to be able to continue much longer."

"Really, it was such a difficult decision to leave (Birdtail) because I know the need is so heavy up there. But, the drive was just - I was exhausted and trying to be home for my son, I just needed to make some changes."

She approached the RM of Oakview about her desire to practice in the community as an NP. However, Manitoba still had no funding for private NP services, so clients would have to pay.

"I really wasn't keen to have to charge people out of pocket, but the council really urged me to move forward with it," she said.

"So, I kept my rates low. There are private NPs in other areas, not just Manitoba, but across Canada, and they do set their rates higher."

To supplement her income, Weighell also picks up shifts at a Brandon Minor Injury and Illness Clinic on 6th Street run by Prairie Mountain Health and she's paid by Manitoba Health.

Her Oakview Clinic started with one day per week and quickly grew.

"I have people traveling two hours to see me, because they can't get a provider in their area. We usually try to keep same day appointments, so anybody's welcome to come, just bring your Health Card."

In a recent report on her practice, 50 per cent of her

new patients have been on 'doctor finder' for over two years, Weighell says adding, "And they have very complex care needs most of them - diabetes, hypertension, mental health issues, cancer. It's been very challenging, but stuff that I dealt with in my prior practice as well."

She even makes house calls to seniors in town. "So then, some of our older folks don't have to try and arrange rides with their family members to get to their physician. And we try to work with their physicians, update them. Some opted to transfer their care to me just because it's so convenient, which is fine... it's a partnership."

Community Support

Community support has been important.

"I am not paying for a building. Rapid City community church provides me an office space right now."

The clinic had to move from its initial home in Rapid City's library basement due to water damage, but a church office was available. (Coincidentally, decades before that building was renovated to become Evangel Worship Centre, it was a medical office for two different doctors over the years.)

Weighell also works in Oak River. "I hope to start again this fall to travel to Oak River once a month or twice a month to serve that community because it's within our RM and the Oakdale Seniors Lodge was providing me space there as well, which was quite lovely." So, a low overhead makes her services more affordable.

"The Lions Club have provided donation towards cryotherapy equipment and supplies." (Cryotherapy is therapeutic use of extreme cold, often liquid nitrogen, to remove skin lesions - warts, precancerous spots and more.)

"The Rapid City Legion Ladies Auxiliary provided a donation which I've used towards women's health (cervical screening) and then the remainder of that fund, I've put into a savings to put towards some more equipment, new exam table that just would be beneficial."

She says local motorcyclists have planned an Iron Butt Challenge fundraiser for Oakview Clinic.

Riders will take a 400-km ride for Aug. 15, leaving Rapid City, touring through the Parkland, the Narrows (between Lake Manitoba and Winnipeg), and circling back to Rapid City where Councillor Gavin Reynolds has planned a smoked pork fundraiser supper.

"I'm so overwhelmed by that support," says Weighell. She says without community supports "we'd be struggling for sure. Those funds will



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Michelle Weighell, Nurse Practitioner.

be going directly towards equipment to benefit our patients." She adds, "I just really love what I do, it's so rewarding, I like being able to be here for my community."

Lobby for Coverage

The sting - while private nurse practitioners like Weighell are filling an important gap in their communities, Manitoba's medical system isn't yet funding this and unless a client has private insurance that will cover the cost, users pay.

Weighell presented the situation at the Western Caucus meeting of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities, asking the AMM to lobby on behalf of private NPs.

At the July 14 RM of Wallace-Woodworth council meeting, Couns. Val Caldwell and Mark Humphries reported the discussion at Western Caucus, highlighting the importance of getting Manitoba to comply with the federal decision and create a funding model to cover private NPs.

Weighell is asking people to request Manitoba health to cover private NPs care. "We encourage everyone to send a letter, we have a form letter that was done by the nurse practitioner association. We provide that to anyone that wishes to send it."

Letters need to go to the Manitoba Minister of Health, the Honourable Uzoma Asagwara.

For Oakview Clinic hours and to contact Michelle Weighell, NP, see www.oakviewclinic.ca

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OLD SAYINGS

REF TO
WRITER

GERRY
NOLAN



Here are a few more sayings that I hope bring back a smile or a chuckle from days gone by and hopefully, at least, puts smile on your face.

“Full steam ahead”, means to proceed with maximum speed, energy and determination toward a goal or task. You would often hear this phrase used by a captain on a ship.

“Hold your horses”,

means to wait, slow down or to be patient. It tells a person not to rush or make a quick, bad decision. Motor vehicle drivers could certainly use some of this advice! Maybe there would not be so many fatal accidents on the highway.

“Keep your shirt on”, means to stay calm, be patient or stop rushing. It is also an informal way to tell someone not

to get angry, upset or overly excited about a delay or mistake.

“Costs an arm and a leg”, means something is extremely expensive or costs an unreasonable amount of money. Like going to the grocery store these days, or the gas pump. It really suggests that the price is so high it feels like you are giving up a vital body part.

“Best thing since sliced bread”, means something that is extremely good, useful, innovative or a wonderful new invention or idea. This phrase can also be used in a sarcastic or in a mocking type of way to describe

something that is hyped up to be something that is amazing that is actually quite ordinary or even useless.

“Not all that and a bag of chips” means a person or thing is not as great, special or impressive as they think they are. It is often used to describe an arrogant person who is actually quite ordinary.

“Smoke and mirrors”, means an illusion, tricking or a false display used to hide the truth, confuse people or make something look better than it really is. An example of that is the Canadian federal government! See ya next week!

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Rapid City Community Hall

Please come ready to share your memories with us!

Notice



PUBLIC NOTICE
BOARD OF REVISION

Public Notice is hereby given that the 2027 Assessment Rolls for Riverdale Municipality have been delivered to the Municipal Office at 670 – 2nd Avenue, Rivers, Manitoba and will be open for public inspection during regular business hours. Applications for Revision may be made in accordance with Sections 42 and 43 of the Municipal Assessment Act.

APPLICATION FOR REVISION

42(1) A person in whose name property has been assessed, a mortgagee in possession of property under Section 114(1) of The Real Property Act, an occupier of premises who is required under the terms of a lease to pay the taxes on the property, or the assessor may make application for the revision of an assessment roll with respect to:

- (a) the liability to taxation;
- (b) the amount of an assessed value;
- (c) the classification of property; or
- (d) a refusal by an assessor to amend the assessment roll under subsection 13(2).

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

43(1) An application for revision must

- (a) be made in writing;
- (b) set out the roll number and legal description of the assessable property for which a revision is sought;
- (c) state the grounds on which the application is based; and
- (d) be filed by
 - (i) delivering it or causing it to be delivered to the office indicated in the public notice given under subsection 41(2), or
 - (ii) serving it upon the secretary, at least 15 days before the scheduled sitting date of the board as indicated in the public notice.

The Board of Revision will sit on **TUESDAY, September 15th, 2026** at 6:10 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Riverdale Municipality located at 670 – 2nd Avenue, Rivers, Manitoba to hear applications. The final date on which applications must be received by the Secretary of the Board is **Monday, August 31st, 2026.**

Dated this 14th day of June, 2026.

Marci Quane, CMM
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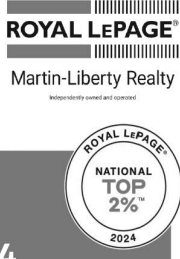
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SPORTS

DODGERS TURN ATTENTION TO PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

By Robin Wark
RIVERS BANNER

The Oak River Dodgers will not have much time to dwell on their South West Baseball League championship series loss. Instead, they will quickly shift their focus to another title chase at the Baseball Manitoba Senior AA Provincial Championship this weekend.

The Boissevain Centennials captured their fifth straight

SWBL championship by winning the first three games of the best-of-five final over the Dodgers. Both squads will compete at the Senior AA provincial championships Aug. 7-9 in Winnipeg.

The Dodgers earned their provincial berth by winning the SWBL North Division with an 11-4-0 record. In the SWBL playoffs, they swept the Hamiota Red Sox 2-0 in the first round and got past the

Rivers Comets 3-1 in the divisional final.

SWBL Finals Game 3 Centennials 6, Dodgers 0

Boissevain earned the championship sweep with a 6-0 shut-out victory in Game 3 on July 30. Cents pitcher Connor Martin only allowed two hits over seven innings. Boissevain scored six runs on 10 hits and took advantage of two errors. Riley Shamray,

Dylan Schroeder and Mitch Battersby all pitched for Oak River.

Game 2 Centennials 7, Dodgers 5

After trailing 3-0 in the first inning on July 29, the Dodgers battled back. They scored two in the second inning and added one in the fourth to knot things up at 3-3. In the top of the sixth inning, the Centennials pushed three runs across to take a

6-3 lead. The Dodgers responded with two in the bottom of the frame to pull within one at 6-5. Boissevain added one run in the seventh inning.

Oak River pitcher Anthony Friesen went the distance. He allowed two earned runs on seven hits. Friesen struck out seven. Max Paddock led the Dodgers with two runs batted in.

The Centennials utilized four pitchers

with Skylar Canada earning the win in relief.

Game 1

On July 27, Centennials pitcher Zane Sawyer limited Oak River to five hits in the shutout win.

Kaden Rozdeba started for the Dodgers and allowed four runs on five hits over 2 2/3 innings. Dylan Schroeder surrendered one run on three hits in 3 1/3 innings.

RIDERLESS HORSE



PHOTO FROM FACEBOOK

A riderless horse is a single horse, without a rider, and with the riders boots reversed in the stirrups, which sometimes accompanies a funeral procession

REF TO
WRITER

GERRY
NOLAN



The Riderless Horse is a traditional ceremony that dates back to the days when armies relied on four-legged power rather than motorized transportation. The ceremony honours the memory of men and women, as in the case I refer to the rodeo.

Horsemen and women know there is a special bond between horse and rider. This

relationship cannot be duplicated with mechanical equipment. Over the years the horse and rider learn each others movements, body language and moods which strengthen this unbreakable bond. When the rider passes away, the bond is broken, the horse must adjust to life without its familiar partner.

The Riderless Horse

Ceremony is intended to honour all the loved ones who are no longer with us. Reversed boots placed in the stirrups backwards show that the rider has passed away.

The Riderless Horse Ceremony is an honour usually reserved for someone who has worked for the community or for the rodeo itself. They represent the fact that life goes on with new people taking up the fight for a fallen comrade.

If you watched the funeral proceedings for the late President Ronald Reagan or President John F. Kennedy, the horse walked riderless behind the casket that carried the President's body.

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August in the Garden

Submitted
By PATRICIA HANBIDGE

When August rolls in, the garden is at its best! Produce is rapidly being produced and the colours of what is in bloom is endless. However, for the gardener, life is busy as this is the month where a lot of harvest happens. Although nature begins to remind us that fall is near, there is still time to enjoy some warm sunshine during daylight hours.

The manic days of summer have passed and our chores involve that endless tie-up of floppy flowers and tomatoes; harvesting what is ripe and removing the odd tenacious weed. Deadheading perennials and annuals that have finished blooming is a good chore and produces more blooms to enjoy. It is also a good time to replant lettuce and spinach that have gone to seed as the cool weather that is coming is perfect for these crops. Prune back annual herbs to ensure that the bounty continues. My basil crop has been rejuvenated once again and will sure to continue to grace our table for the next couple of months.

During August it is important to pay special watering attention to tomatoes and corn. Water corn, tomatoes and eggplant regularly and ensure they are getting enough nutrients. If you do not pay attention to ensuring these crops are evenly watered the result will be poor and reduced yields.

Harvest fruit when it is at its peak to ensure happy eating and that if you are processing or storing the products, they are in the best form. Prairie cherries should be ripening so get them before the birds do. Early season apples may also be ready so keep an eye on what is ripening.

Prune back the tips of vine crops and indetermin-

ate tomatoes to force the plants to put their energy into sizing up and ripening the fruit that is present. It may be possible to gently take some new potatoes from the edges of the potato patch. Nothing beats freshly harvested potatoes with fresh dill and a creamy, buttery sauce.

Spent annuals and bolted greens can be removed and ensure the compost pile is being utilized. Don't forget to keep turning the compost to make the most of the heat in August. Manage your weeds to ensure that they do not go to seed and create future problems. If weeds have gone to seed, choose not to put the seedy parts in the compost as it is unlikely your compost pile gets hot enough to kill the weed seeds.

Keep an eye out for sales as you are sure to need supplies for next spring. As long as you have space to store the product, you will save some time and money by buying what is available at a preferred price. I like to stock up on anything that is still available as I always am short of stakes, and other structures for plants to climb on. If there is some left in the stores, they are usually at a price that is extremely attractive.

In August, I also like to continuously pick flowers.



And so Harvest begins!

SUBMITTED PHOTO

It encourages more growth, more bloom and nothing beats fresh cut bouquets in the house. I look at it as a continuation of the garden into our indoor spaces. To me a house that has fresh flowers really makes your home beautiful.

I do a fair amount of canning in August. Although I certainly need less food throughout the year due to the children living elsewhere as adults, I know that what I have canned makes amazing gifts. It is also handy to have some quality food available when unexpected guests come to visit. I just had a couple of weeks with my grown children, their partners and grand children visiting and they all loved raiding my cold room. Putting food by might be a dying art but it is for sure very appreciated.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
COMMUNITY CALENDAR					Aug 7	8
					Chase the Ace Rivers Legion 7pm	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Rivers Legion Bingo 11:30am	50 + Card Games 1pm 	50 + Club Pool 1pm 	50 + Club Cribbage 1pm Darts Rivers Legion 7pm 	Rivers Food Bank 9:30 - 11:30am Rivers Legion Cribbage 7pm 50+ Floor Games 1pm 		The Lemonade Stand for Hope 10am - 2pm Iron Butt Challenge Ride fundraiser for Oakview Clinic with Supper
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Rivers Legion Bingo 11:30am	50 + Card Games 1pm 	50 + Club Pool 1pm 	50 + Club Cribbage 1pm Darts Rivers Legion 7pm 	Rivers Legion Cribbage 7pm 50+ Floor Games 1pm 	Chase the Ace Rivers Legion 7pm	Newspaper is closed for one week