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Community come together at St. James Anglican Church supper



PHOTO BY CAROLYN PHILLIPS

Guests were able to choose from an impressive selection, allowing everyone to find something that appealed to their taste buds.

By Carolyn Phillips
RIVERS BANNER

On a warm, sunny Sunday, the St. James Anglican Church opened its doors to the community for a delightful gathering centred around a cold plate supper. The serene ambience of the church's lovely cool basement provided the perfect setting for friends and families to come together and relish a meal. It was an event that embodied not only delicious food but also the spirit of fellowship and community that St. James has long stood for.

As attendees arrived, they were greeted with the fresh scent of an array of tasty salads, alongside succulent servings of ham and turkey. The cold plate format of the supper emphasized a laid-back atmosphere that invited

conversation and connection. Guests were able to choose from an impressive selection, allowing everyone to find something that appealed to their taste buds. From crisp, garden-fresh salads to the savoury deli meats, there was no shortage of culinary delights to be enjoyed by all.

The layout of the meal encouraged social interaction; tables were arranged to foster conversation and connection. Friends greeted one another with warm smiles as they navigated the variety of food options. The event welcomed everyone from newcomers to long-time church members, creating an atmosphere of inclusivity and warmth. It was heartening to see families gathering together, children sharing laughter, and neighbours enjoying each other's company.

read more about the church supper on page 2...

Inside...



**FARMERS
ADVOCATE**
P7-10



**SWBL
SEASON IN
FULL SWING**
P11

Community church supper

Continued from page 1

The supper not only provided a delicious meal but also offered a chance for the community to reconnect. In today's fast-paced world, such gatherings remind us of the importance of fellowship and the simple joy of sharing a meal together. Conversations flowed easily, and laughter filled the air as stories were shared and memories made. Attendees were encouraged to take their time, savouring each bite as well as the time spent with loved ones.

For dessert lovers, the highlight of the evening was undoubtedly the array of sweet treats that awaited at the end of the meal. There was something sweet for everyone to enjoy. It was a fitting conclusion to a lovely meal, offering guests a chance to indulge their sweet tooth while continuing conversations with friends, new and old.

Community gatherings like the St. James

Anglican Church supper highlight the essence of togetherness. They remind us of the value of taking time out of our busy lives to connect with others and build relationships, all while enjoying good food. In a world that often feels divided, events such as this one offer a little slice of joy and unity.

As the evening came to a close, many guests lingered, reluctant to say goodbye. It was clear that the supper had not just filled their stomachs but had also enriched their spirits. As friendships were rekindled and new bonds formed, it was a testament to the power of community and togetherness. The St. James Anglican Church supper exemplified how food can bring people together, creating memories that last well beyond the final bite. With plans for more gatherings in the future, the sense of anticipation for the next supper already began to build.



PHOTO BY CAROLYN PHILLIPS

From crisp, garden-fresh salads to the savoury deli meats, there was no shortage of culinary delights to be enjoyed by all.

Lions BBQ Changes Location

The BBQ to be held on Saturday, June 6 for the Rivers and Area Lions Club has been moved from the Westoba parking lot to the Rivers Legion parking lot. The BBQ will still be on from 11am to 1pm. Be sure to get a tasty treat while out shopping for garage sale treasures!

A quick reminder, let's keep the town looking its best, and be sure to toss what is leftover after the Sunday FREE GIVEAWAY day.



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Facebook: A&B Dalrymple's country farm greenhouses
dalrymplesgreenhouse.com

CHEESY AMISH BREAKFAST CASSEROLE

This Amish breakfast casserole has bacon, onion, eggs, hash browns, and lots of cheese. My family loves this hearty dish! Try breakfast sausage in place of bacon if you prefer.

Ingredients

- 1 pound sliced bacon, diced
- 1 medium sweet onion, chopped
- 9 large eggs, lightly beaten
- 4 cups frozen shredded hash brown potatoes, thawed
- 2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese
- 1 1/2 cups small curd cottage cheese
- 1 1/4 cups shredded Swiss cheese

Directions

1. Gather all ingredients. Pre-heat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease a 9x13-inch baking dish.
2. Heat a large skillet over medium-high heat; cook and stir bacon and onion until bacon is evenly browned, about 10 minutes. Drain.
3. Transfer bacon and onion to a large bowl. Stir in eggs, potatoes, Cheddar cheese, cottage cheese, and Swiss cheese.
4. Pour mixture into the prepared baking dish.
5. Bake in the preheated oven until eggs are set and cheese is melted, 45 to 50 minutes. Let stand 10 minutes before cutting and serving.



Keepsake Graduation Edition

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Publication Dates:
June 12, 19, July 3



Manitoba RCMP launching new community notification system in select detachments

Submitted
By D MEDIA RCMP

The Manitoba RCMP is introducing a new community notification system aimed at improving how important public safety information is shared with residents.

Beginning May 21, 2026, the Manitoba RCMP will launch a pilot project using Rave Mobile Safety, a voluntary mass notification platform that allows local RCMP detachments to send timely and targeted alerts directly to community members by text message, email, or automated phone call.

The pilot program will be introduced in the following detachments:

- Thompson
- Norway House
- Dolphin
- Winnipegosis
- Oakbank / Beausejour
- Morris / Emerson

The system will be used to share important community-focused information such as public safety advisories, missing person information, requests for public assistance, traffic or road condition alerts, crime prevention messaging, and other urgent "need-to-know" notifications.

Rave Mobile Safety will complement existing

RCMP communication channels, including local detachment social media pages, by providing a more direct and accessible way for residents to receive timely updates.

"Strong communication is an important part of community safety," said Cpl Terry Sundell, RCMP Community Engagement Services. "This new system will help us share important information quickly and directly with residents so they can stay informed and take appropriate action when needed."

The platform is voluntary and designed with privacy and accessibility in mind. Residents can choose how they receive alerts and can update or remove their subscriptions at any time. Notifications will initially be available in English and French.

The Manitoba RCMP emphasizes that Rave Mobile Safety is not intended to replace the provincial Alert Ready system or emergency services. In an emergency, residents should still call 911 or their local police emergency line.

The pilot project is expected to run for approximately three months while the Manitoba RCMP gathers feedback and evaluates the program.

Residents interested in subscribing or learning more about the program are encouraged to follow their local RCMP detachment social media pages for upcoming registration information and launch details.

OLD SAYINGS



Here are a few more examples of the old sayings I started writing about last week.

•Red sky at night, red sky in the morning. This refers to red sky at night indicates dry, high pressure air moving in. Red sunrise suggests sunlight passing through incoming moisture.

Ed. note: I was taught a longer version- Red sky at night, sailor's delight, red sky in the morning, sailor's take warning. KW

•Don't get your knickers in a twist. This is a lighthearted way to tell someone not to overreact. This is a much more playful way to calm the situation by the modern "calm down". This phrase points a silly mental picture and often diffuses tension with a smile!

•Hold your Horses. This phrase reminds people to rein in the horse and their impatience. In other words take things slow and easy, do not get so excited.

•You'll catch more flies with honey than vinegar. Being kind and polite is much more effective in getting what you want than being harsh or rude.

•Don't count your chickens before they are hatched. This refers to someone who should not depend on something hoped for until they are certain that it will happen.

•There is no point in beating a dead horse. This simply means to keep talking about a subject that has already been discussed and or decided.

•I'm plum tuckered out. The meaning of this is you are completely exhausted or extremely tired. It is a phrase used to express extreme fatigue.

•And finally, the last one for this week is, and you heard it on the Beverly Hillbillies, "You all come back now you hear!"

RAPID CITY COMMUNITY CHURCH
Sundays 10 a.m.
Children's Church during the message
Bible Study - Thursdays 7:30 p.m.

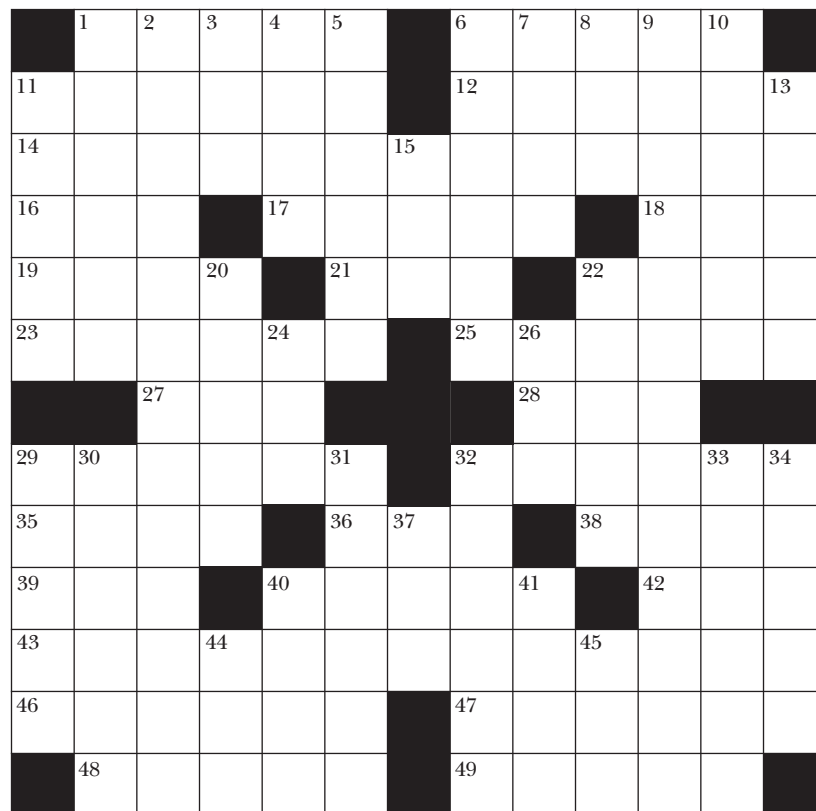
JESUS IS LORD

COLLEEN ROBBINS, MLA
Spruce Woods Constituency
(204).717.7000

BE ON TIME!
Advertising deadline:
12 noon Monday

Locally created crossword

- Across
1. James Bond, Daniel
 6. Gravel ridge formed by a glacier
 11. Jacket arm
 12. Injured, wounded
 14. Destined for landfill
 16. Utilize
 17. Clay pigeon shooting sport
 18. Consume food
 19. Pleads
 21. Start of count
 22. Highest adult male voice
 23. Rocks
 25. Two residences in one building
 27. 2000 pounds
 28. Temperature, Humidity Index acronym
 29. Bone heads
 32. Robberies
 35. Pile
 36. Consumed food
 38. Display
 39. Halloween's month abbr.
 40. Wall painting
 42. ___ tai-tiki drink
 43. Like Robinson Crusoe's island life
 46. Has memory problems (old age)
 47. Track meet contests
 48. Expression of surprise
 49. ___ gritty - Down to basics



Answers on page 14

Created by David Harris of Oak River, MB

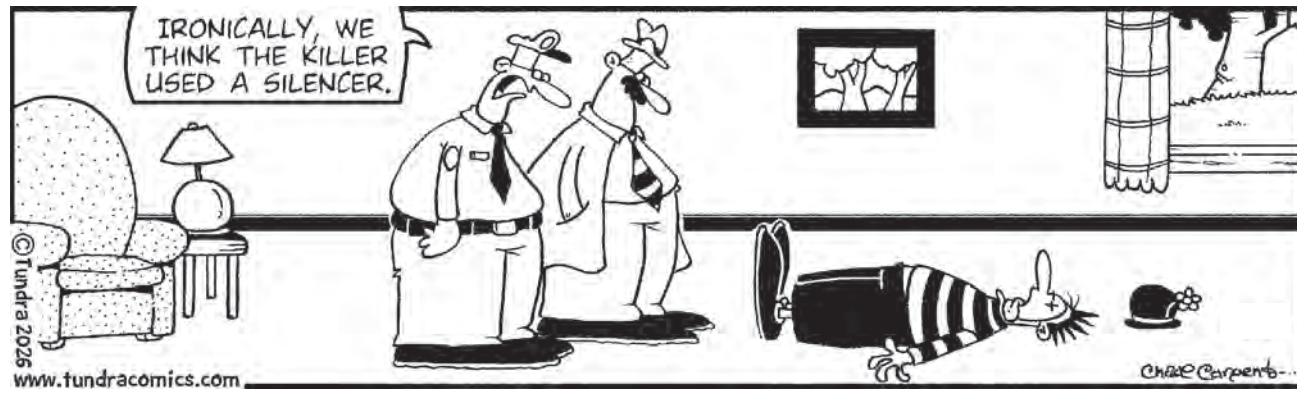
- Down
1. Coat storage room
 2. Changing agreed terms
 3. ___ Lingus Irish Airline
 4. "Holly Jolly Christmas" Singer Burl
 5. Geico's mascot plural

6. Hosted an event
7. Sodium Chloride
8. South Korean car maker
9. Enhancement
10. Associate with
11. Ignores, spurns
13. Body cleanse
15. Money of Japan
20. Nose about
22. Aphid's scientific name
24. J.R.R. Tolkien's tree-like creature
26. Utah's native

29. Pancake restaurants
30. An official order
31. Fries quickly
32. God's paradise
33. Comfortably warm
34. Family Robinson's nationally
37. Prefix meaning three
40. Gentle, soft
41. Blue jeans maker Strauss
44. Woody Allen's ex-partner Farrow
45. Take home share of the gross

Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



HOMEBOODIES

RITA FRIESEN

Ever changing...

There are a whole lot of things that change, daily, weekly, monthly, yearly... you get the picture. What caught my attention this week was farm grain storage. Travelling hither and yon this week I covered a lot of territory. The grain handling systems on many farms I saw have a larger capacity, by far, than the country grain elevator of my early years.

My earliest memories of granaries come from my grandparents' farms. My paternal grandfather was an advanced farmer for his time. The storage unit was a drive through system- huge doors on each end of a long building. Teams in one end, off load, and out the other. I have no idea of the capacity, to me it was really big! When my father chose to set out on his own, it was, at the beginning, hard scrabble farming. Heck, our home was a converted granary. The building storing the grain was a patched up possibly ten by twelve foot wooden structure. Tin cans had been flattened out and nailed over rodent holes, on the floor and on the walls. Turnbuckled rods kept the walls together. They were at the ideal height- to whack your head on when you were shovelling the grain out! I can bring to mind the itchiness of the oats and barley, the smooth sound of flowing wheat or flax...

I recognise that the wooden bins were indeed an appearance of progress. Painted bins added importance, and a row of bins was affluent. Then came the round metal bins, short, squat sentinels of the farmyard. They became larger, much larger, and then we saw hopper bins, white guards flanking the perimeter of the working farm yard. Then hopper bins with aeration fans.

Now the systems are immense, ginormous, monstrous! There are auger networks, walkways, antennas I assume for communication, aeration tunnels, and rows of bins, that again, probably hold more than the country elevator of the fifties did! I am impressed. That is a whole lot of changes!

The elevators at Graysville, I think a Pool, and a UGG, had personality. So did the operators. That little dust filled office, with gosh awful coffee, had the moisture tester and the permit books. Yes, I really do remember permit books! Having no brothers, I was privileged to haul grain. This was with a half ton truck. You drove up the ramp, had your vehicle's front wheels on the lift mechanism, and stepped out. As the front end rose, you opened the tailgate and the operator sifted a handful of the grain, sometimes taking a chew of the grain, and when all was said and done, you waited for the truck to descend and drove home, ready to repeat the trip if there was room on your permit. As the trucks got bigger, and had their own hoist, the procedure was much the same. Even at the time I appreciated the fact the elevator man allowed me to clean the box, never offering to help the slip of a teenage girl. (And, yes, I was a slip of a girl!)

So many changes in farming. In almost everything. One can only imagine what comes next.

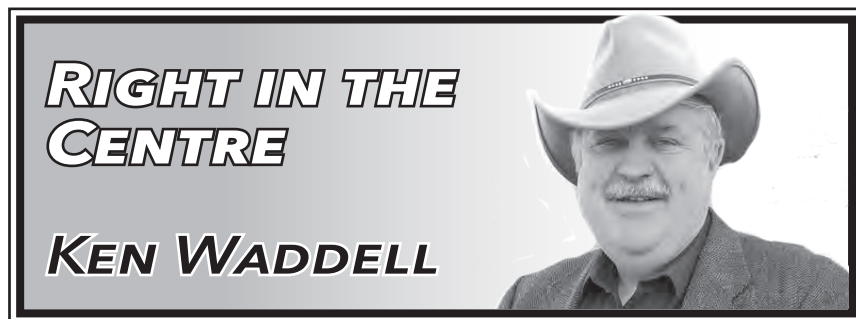
Summer is finally here, we hope

In our version of the newspaper business we get to take a measure of weather and travel conditions to our communities every week. Papers are printed on Wednesdays at Struth Publishers in Killarney, home of the Killarney Guide. That way we get a report on roads to the south every Wednesday. The Struth family owns the only newspaper printing plant in South-western Manitoba.

Our drivers head out each Thursday morning for one or two days of paper deliveries. We have four drivers and vans heading your way every week. With all our papers, staff and readers depending on the trips those days, we watch the weather forecasts very closely. I have three rules about deliveries. For the past 36 years, I have told my drivers that they make the call about road conditions. I will not make them go out in road conditions they don't feel safe about. I say, "I want you home safely, the vehicle home safely and the papers delivered safely and in that order."

Now that the weather seems to have turned to summer, there is some less stress. That said, two weeks ago when the big wind storms hit, the weather was warm enough but the dust and high winds made for some dangerous driving conditions. So after a few dicey days of driving over the last few months, we are looking forward to summer.

In our weekly travels, we see crop seeding, spraying, harvesting along with various aspects of the cattle business. We also see some wild-life activity just about every week. Last week, was a first for us as we are pretty sure there was a coyote chomping down on a moose carcass. We see lots of bald eagles, many



RIGHT IN THE CENTRE

KEN WADDELL

“ As we move into real summer we need to pray for more timely rains, protection from wind and hail. ”

different kinds of hawks, coyote and fox sightings are fairly common.

But most important, we see people and all the things that they do to make our area a wonderful place to live.

I find it gratifying to see all the activity across the communities we serve. So I am looking forward to summer. Even the lack of rainfall has been a blessing as the big air seeders have hammered in a lot of crop in the past three weeks. Some timely rains are making everything grow and with this week's heat, the world is becoming greener by the hour. Yes, summer is finally here, we hope.

As we move into real summer we need to pray for more timely rains, protection from wind and hail and protection for all our farmers and everyone associated with farming. This year, my wife Christine and I have reflected on our own farming

careers. We were both raised on traditional mixed farms, family owned at Scarth and Holland respectively. We both attended university and I worked as an Ag-Rep with the Manitoba Department of Agriculture for around 10 years. We went farming in 1975 and got caught up in the high interest rate inflationary years of the 1980s. We had to give up farming but we are pleased now that two grandchildren and a son are involved directly in the Ag industry. It makes us smile with a touch of gratitude.

So here's hoping and praying for a good summer of crops and safety for everyone. And please folks, don't be speaking words complaining about farmers when your mouth is full. Farmers feed us all.

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

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Nesbitt encourages Manitobans to support real affordability relief

By Greg Nesbitt
MLA - RIDING MOUNTAIN

Greg Nesbitt, MLA for Riding Mountain, is encouraging Manitobans to sign the Progressive Conservative Caucus petition calling on the

provincial government to increase Manitoba's Basic Personal Exemption to \$30,000.

The proposal would eliminate provincial income tax on the first \$30,000 Manitobans earn, providing up to

\$1,500 in annual savings for individuals and more than \$3,000 for many two-income families.

"Families in Riding Mountain are working hard, but every month feels more expensive," said Nesbitt. "Groceries cost more. Housing costs more. Transportation costs more. Mani-

tobans need relief that is significant."

The petition comes as Manitoba families continue to face rising costs across nearly every part of daily life, while the current provincial government is increasing income taxes and education property taxes.

"Increasing the Basic

Personal Exemption is practical, fair, and focused on working families," said Nesbitt. "This proposal would allow Manitobans to keep more of what they earn while helping local businesses and communities grow stronger."

The Progressive Conservative proposal would

create the highest Basic Personal Exemption in Canada and would return hundreds of millions of dollars directly back into the Manitoba economy.

Manitobans can sign the petition online at:

No Provincial Income Tax on the First \$30,000 You Earn

First-year medical students participate in 'Rural Week'



PHOTO BY PRAIRIE MOUNTAIN HEALTH

PMH Associate Chief Medical Officer Dr. Kyle Conrad,

By Blaine Kraushaar
PMH COMMUNICATIONS

An enthusiastic group of first-year medical students from the University of Manitoba's Max Rady College of Medicine will participate in Rural Week across the Prairie Mountain Health (PMH) region from May 25–29 and June 1–5.

Coordinated annually by the Department of Family Medi-

cine, Shared Health (Manitoba Healthcare Providers Network), and Manitoba's rural regional health authorities, Rural Week offers students valuable first-hand experience in rural and northern medical practice, while highlighting the benefits of living and working in these communities.

This year, Prairie Mountain Health is hosting 41 students

across 14 communities, including Brandon, Carberry, Dauphin, Deloraine, Grandview, Hamiota, Killarney, Minnedosa, Neepawa, Roblin, Russell, Souris, Ste. Rose, and Virden.

The program introduces students to both the clinical and community aspects of rural healthcare, often their first exposure to rural practice. During the week, students will

shadow physicians, connect with healthcare teams, and explore local services, while also engaging in community activities that showcase rural life.

PMH Associate Chief Medical Officer Dr. Kyle Conrad, a past Rural Week participant, understands the program's impact. Dr. Conrad is also a family practice anesthetist based in Brandon, while also supporting Minnedosa, Neepawa and Northern Manitoba.

"My experience with Rural Week played a significant role in shaping my career. I clearly remember how welcoming the community was and how proudly they showcased the care and services they provide. That experience has stayed with me, and I'm proud to continue providing care in rural and northern Manitoba. Rural Week is an essential recruitment initiative—it's about more than healthcare; it's about the strength of our communities and the people who make them thrive."

PMH extends sincere thanks to physician preceptors, healthcare professionals, and community volunteers whose dedication makes Rural Week possible. The program's success reflects the commitment and hospitality of participating communities.

Rural Week was introduced in 2003 as an optional experience within the University of Manitoba's first-year medical curriculum and became a mandatory component the following year.

Why annual well water testing is essential in Manitoba

By Tracy Lockhart

CENTRAL ASSINIBOINE WATERSHED DISTRICT

For many rural Manitobans, a private well is the primary source of drinking water. While groundwater is often clean and reliable, it is not automatically safe. Unlike municipal water systems, private wells are not routinely monitored by government agencies—meaning the responsibility for ensuring safe drinking water falls entirely on the landowner.

One of the biggest risks with well water is that contamination is often invisible. Harmful bacteria, nitrates, and other contaminants typically have no taste, smell, or colour. Water may appear perfectly clean but still pose serious health risks to you and your family.

Well water can become contaminated by bacteria such as coliforms and E. coli, which often come from human or animal waste. In Manitoba, contamination is especially likely:

- After spring snowmelt
- Following heavy rainfall or flooding
- If a well is older or improperly sealed

For this reason, Manitoba health guidelines recommend testing private wells at least once every year, ideally in the spring.

Nitrates and Other Contaminants Pose Serious Health Risks

Nitrates—commonly from fertilizers, manure, or septic systems—can seep into groundwater. High levels are particularly dangerous for infants, potentially causing "blue baby syndrome," which reduces the blood's ability to carry oxygen.

Other contaminants that may be present in well water include:

- Bacteria and viruses
- Parasites
- Chemicals from agriculture or industry

Regular testing helps identify these risks before they impact your health.

Water Quality Can Change Over Time

Even if your well has tested safe in the past, conditions can change. Factors like weather, nearby land use, and aging well infrastructure can all affect water quality. Manitoba experts emphasize that wells located close to each other can have completely different water quality, so you cannot rely on a neighbour's test results.

The Central Assiniboine Watershed District is offering a well testing program on Wednesday, June 10th and Wednesday, June 24th. Landowners can pick-up testing supplies and drop-off samples at various locations within the districts (see the advertisements for more details). The Watershed Districts then takes care of getting the samples into the lab in Winnipeg at no additional cost to the landowner.

Midwest art center plant sale



PHOTO BY CELIA NOLAN

The Midwest arts center council hosted their annual plant sale on Thursday, May 21. A huge thank you to everyone who donated a great selection of plants. The tables were full! Several varieties of tomatoes, peppers, broccoli, brussel sprouts, herbs and perennials and annuals were available for purchase.

One customer told us that the perennials she purchased 2 years ago were the only ones that had survived our harsh winters.

Congratulations everyone for supplying us with such hardy plants. Another comment was that the prices were so affordable that she could purchase several.

It was a very successful day, thanks everyone!

Spruce Plains RCMP investigating after vandal spray paints security cameras



PHOTO FROM MANITOBA RCMP MEDIA RELATIONS UNIT

Submitted
MANITOBA RCMP MEDIA RELATIONS UNIT

On May 23, Spruce Plains RCMP received a report that a convenience store in Rapid City had been vandalized overnight.

The incident occurred about 4 a.m. at a store on Second Avenue in Rapid City, when a suspect wearing a disguise spray-painted over the store's outdoor security cameras. The suspect appeared

to be wearing a long smock, gloves, a face mask, glasses, a hat and either had long red hair or a wig. It is not known whether they were male or female.

There was no attempted entry to the store and no additional damage occurred.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call RCMP at 204-867-2916, Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or leave a secure tip online at www.manitobacrimestoppers.com.

Update on Oak River Country Store

By Anne Davison
RIVERS BANNER

Oak River Country Store is on track to open, possibly before end of May, or in early June.

However, plans for the management of the store changed since last week's story as Tyler Reid had second thoughts.

and phone service is planned for later in the week

These details and the refurbishing of the building are important pieces, but the human factor is paramount.

Finding a capable manager has taken months. Going forward, support from the local people will be the key to make the store a success and keep Oak River supplied with its own grocery business.

The store will open and begin functioning as soon as possible. Stay tuned for a formal opening in June.

Since then, another man has stepped up to take on store management.

As of Monday, May 25, Ken Jaworski began his employment with the Community Development Corp.'s newest venture, Oak River Country Store.

Stocking the store is up next and Internet

Brandon-Westman Christmas Cheer donations

By Synthia Wright
CHRISTMAS CHEER

The Brandon-Westman Christmas Cheer Registry, Inc. would like to thank the Honorable Glen Simard, MLA for Brandon East, and the Manitoba Government for its recent \$500,000 donation from US liquor sales and for targeting food insecurity in Westman. The provincial donation was received on May 1, 2026. Since then, the Registry has disbursed \$275,000 to seven local charities and \$125,000 to 38 rural Christmas Cheer Boards and food bank organizations.



We sourced this information from our list of Christmas Cheer Boards and a list of food banks from Prairie Mountain Health. The rural portion of the funding was distributed based on the recent number of families served in each case. It is worth noting that more than 20,000 families in the rural area receive food hampers from

Christmas Cheer and food banks annually. On behalf of the provincial government, the Registry congratulates each organization on receiving this additional funding and wishes them success in their missions.

Visit their website at www.brandonwestman-christmascheer.ca to review the payout reports.

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\$99,000 dedicated to sustainable sustainable greenhouse research

Submitted

ASSINIBOINE COLLEGE

Dr. Poonam Singh's research on more environmentally sustainable ways to grow greenhouse plants has received a \$99K boost from the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (S-CAP).

Ornamental and nursery plants—which include things like outdoor perennials for home beautification and flower, vegetable and fruit crop production—use peat moss as the primary growing component. Dr. Singh, a faculty researcher in the Russ Edwards School of Agriculture & Environment, is leading an applied research project to help growers reduce environmental impact without compromising plant performance. Her project, 'Exploring potential of biochar and sheep wool waste in ornamental and nursery plant production' has also received nearly \$20,000 in industry investment.

"This most recent funding allows us to turn sustainability research into practical solutions growers can actually use," Singh said. "It gives us the time and scale needed to properly test new materials before they reach commercial production."

An environmental priority

Peat moss is used for its consistency and growing properties, but is harvested from peat bogs, which play a critical role in carbon sequestration, water retention and biodiversity, so the harvesting of peat is problematic for the en-



PHOTO COURTESY OF ASSINIBOINE COLLEGE

Pictured: Assiniboine College's Dr. Poonam Singh inspecting plants within a greenhouse. Dr. Singh's research has recently received a major funding boost from the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership.

Inset photo: Dr. Singh showcasing how sheep's wool waste is being utilized as part of her sustainable greenhouse research.

vironment.

"Peat bogs store enormous amounts of carbon and water, so reducing peat use is an environmental priority," Singh said. "Even replacing a small percentage of peat can make a meaningful difference when you consider how widely it's used in horticulture."

Singh's research will evaluate whether biochar can partially replace peat in container growing systems.

Biochar is a carbon-rich material similar to charcoal. It is produced through

the high heat and low oxygen processing of organic waste like wood chips, and crop residue. By doing this, the waste materials will not be reduced to ash and can be converted into carbon rich solids. It also helps soil breathe more efficiently, hold water effectively during drier phases, and makes nutrients easier for plants to use, all while storing rich carbon in a stable, long-lasting way. Singh's research will explore potential of biochar made from cattails (wetland plants) to

be used as a peat extender in soilless media mixes.

The project will also look to sheep's wool waste as a potential replacement. Wool has properties that support moisture retention and slow nutrient release, and early trials have shown encouraging results, including strong plant growth and reduced reliance on synthetic fertilizers.

"This most recent example exemplifies our college's highly successful, unique, signature approach to applied research" said

Dr. Deanna Rexe, Vice President, Academic at Assiniboine College. "We proactively work with business and industry to identify priorities for their work, and then we partner to access funding, mobilize our faculty expertise, and include our students in the applied research process as part of our 'Learn by Doing' philosophy of education. This knowledge mobilization and training ecosystem works because of our commitment to sustaining quality partnerships that help

to strengthen Manitoba's advantage."

For her part, Singh said the research recognizes that peat is unlikely to be fully replaced in the near term, but evidence-based reductions could have significant environmental benefits.

"It's not just about replacing peat," she said. "It's about understanding how alternative materials perform and how they can realistically fit into existing production systems."

Continued on third Advocate page

Thank you for keeping up with the agricultural industry and reading the Farmers' Advocate feature!

'Critical weed-free period' update

Farmers' Advocate Staff
FARMERS' ADVOCATE

The Manitoba Canola Growers have released the result of beneficial research for the province's producers. A study was conducted by researcher Robert Gulden, University of Manitoba, on the 'critical weed free period' (CWFP). Researched from Apr. 1, 2022 to Mar. 31, 2026, the project re-evaluated the prior recommendations for the canola crop's CWP, which was developed in 2001.

"CWFP is the time during the crop's growth is the time during the crop's growth stage when weeds must be controlled to prevent significant yield loss," the release explained. "Herbicide applications applied too early, too late or too frequently, can reduce return on investment of herbicides, cause yield loss, and accelerate resistance issues."

The importance of updating the CWFP information was attributed to canola hybrids having improvements in the early season, herbicide options, and farmers beginning to push the limits for seeding rates of canola.

"As a result, there was a need to examine the relationship between canola crop density, herbicide systems, and the CWFP for current canola hybrids," said the release.

The CWFP update project saw 15 trials conducted across western Canada from 2022 to 2025, with three canola plant stand densities being tested (Three, six and nine plants per square foot). Additionally, two herbicide systems— glufosinate and glyphosate— were used.

"A stacked trait hybrid, tolerant to both herbicides, was used for this trial for consistency when testing herbicide timing and plant density. Weed measurements included emergence timing, species present, and density. Final canola seed yield was collected for all treatments," the release added.

Research results

Gulden's research has found, overall that the average CWP in canola is from emergence to the five to six leaf stage.

The report also stated that weed density had the greatest influence on the CWFP.

"The higher the number of weeds in one area, the longer the canola crop needed to be kept weed-free to protect yield," the research findings explained. "In areas where there was extremely low weed density, the canola crop required very minimal in-crop weed management to maintain yield. Highly competitive weed species, like creeping thistle, lengthened the CWFP even if the overall number of weeds were low."

Delving further, the report added, "A plant stand of 6 plants/ft² provided the strongest crop competitiveness against weeds. A plant stand lower than 6 plants/ft² had a longer CWFP by one to two leaf stages, meaning that the crop had to be kept weed-free for longer, up to the seven to eight-leaf to maintain yield."

The study also found that glyphosate requires earlier applications compared to glufosinate due to the herbicide's slower activity.

More can be learned about this project by visiting the project's Canola Research Hub page, located at <https://www.canolacouncil.org/research-hub/updating-the-critical-weed-free-period/>.

Keystone Agricultural Producers vigorously serving farmers

Advocate Staff
FARMERS' ADVOCATE

Jill Verwey, formerly of Neepawa (Springhill District) is President of Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP). Verwey farms at Portage La Prairie and she was guest speaker at the May 13 meeting of the Neepawa Rotary Club.

Verwey said "KAP is Manitoba's general farm policy organization, we represent all Manitoba farmers and 18 commodity associations. I want to start by saying that there's no better place to talk about agriculture than Neepawa. You understand, probably better than most, just how important farming is to this province."

KAP is a non-profit organization founded in 1984 and it currently has over 5000 direct-paying farmer members, who produce a wide variety of agricultural products.

KAP's vision is a prosperous future for all Manitoba farmers.

Verwey said. "Agricultural issues in Manitoba are diverse and impact different commodity sectors and a wide range of stakeholders. Our mission is to be the unwavering voice for farmers, addressing the most pressing issues facing our industry with tenacity and resolve."

As a grassroots, farmer-driven organization, KAP's policies and advocacy direction is set by our members."

KAP relies on producers who are passionate about agriculture to get involved to make the organization better and more effective.

Verwey explained that, "This includes drafting resolutions, attending meetings, voting at our Annual AGM or running to represent one of our 12 districts (Neepawa is in District 7), or running as a group member director or getting elected to KAP's



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE WADDELL

Neepawa Rotarian Sophie Collier (left) invited Jill Verwey (Baker), KAP president to speak at the May 13 Rotary luncheon. Verwey was raised near Neepawa in the Springhill District

executive as President or Vice-President. KAP has a strong focus on advocacy, engagement and outreach, as well as regulatory modernization. Agriculture is facing more pressure and more public scrutiny than ever before. Concerns include environmental expectations, animal care standards, land-use discussions, labour regulations, and trade uncertainty continue to be top issues."

In recent times, supply chain disruption has meant higher costs - with fertilizer and fuel prices increasing.

"We continue to advocate for the needs and priorities of farmers to ensure the business and trade environment reflects those needs. That's why we released KAP's Manitoba Agriculture Trade Action Plan, focused on the key areas which the province of Manitoba should prioritize when looking at trade and how agriculture is impacted by government policies and initiatives. We support stable, rules-based trade, and strategic relationships, all of which are essential for long-term success of farm operations."

KAP has delivered on a number of wins for Manitoba

Farmers. At the federal level, one of the most significant shared successes for agriculture was the removal of the federal consumer carbon pricing regime, eliminating added costs for producers related for drying grain and regulating temperature in livestock buildings.

There has been important progress with the passage of Bills C-244 and C-294, advancing right-to-repair and interoperability which focused on right to repair and interoperability, issues that directly affect farm efficiency and costs.

Here at home in Manitoba, KAP was proud to help deliver on several outcomes that benefit producers across the province, including: \$500,000 in additional money for the Sustainable Agriculture Manitoba (SAM) program

- Changes to the Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) program focused on the removal of the complex ownership requirement and the increase of the maximum yearly gross revenue and compensation rate to reflect modern farm operations.

- Securing the inclusion of marked gasoline & diesel in the 10 per cent permanent reduction in fuel tax

- Renewed multi-province funding agreement with Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVI) for 5 additional seats, for a total investment of \$8.3 million from Manitoba

- Increases to Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC) lending limits and also Young Farmer loan limits

- Opening of 2 new MASC service centres in Shoal Lake and Virden

- Release of a provincial Economic Development Strategy

- Appointment to Manitoba's US Trade Council, advising province on CUSMA

- Continued investment in and prioritization of the Port of Churchill

- Appointment of Manitoba's Trade Representative in Washington, DC, and

- \$100,000 in funding for the Career Pathways Program to develop an online portal that highlights career pathways in agriculture and works to solve labour shortages

Continued on fourth Advocate page

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Supporting real-world research adoption

Continued from first Advocate page

The project is supported by industry and community partners to ensure the research reflects real-world production conditions, including Carbon Lock Tech, Manitoba Nursery Landscape Association, Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers Ltd., Sioux Valley Dakota Nation, and Vanderveen Greenhouse.

Partner involvement supports testing across a range of products and growing practices, while also helping identify pathways toward commercialization and adoption.

“This work only happens because industry, communities and researchers are moving in the same direction,” Singh said. “Our partners help develop and process these materials, and we work together to test and refine them so growers can adopt them with confidence.”

Support for applied re-



PHOTO COURTESY OF ASSINIBOINE COLLEGE
Pictured: Dr. Poonam Singh.

search in horticulture and ornamental production is a growing area of focus for the S-CAP funding program as an important part of broader sustainability efforts.

Singh said recognizing the environmental footprint of intensive growing systems such as greenhouses and nurseries is an important step in advancing sector-wide sustainability.

“Assiniboine’s recognition as one of Canada’s Top 50 Research Colleges reflects the applied,

industry-focused work our faculty are doing,” said Chris Budiwski, Dean of the Edwards School. “Dr. Singh’s research is a strong example of how public investment and industry partnerships can support innovation that benefits both producers and the environment.”

As the project moves forward, Singh plans to share findings with growers, industry partners and other researchers to help support real-world adoption.

Manitoba crop report

Farmers’ Advocate Staff
FARMERS’ ADVOCATE

Note: Written with information courtesy of Manitoba Agriculture.

There is plenty to consider when growing crops as an agricultural producer. Thankfully, as of May 21, Manitoba Agriculture has received no reports of disease issues.

Additionally, annual weed growth is reported to be slow due to cool weather.

However, recent rains and warming weather are expected to bring a flush of new growth. Winter annuals such as shepherd’s purse and stinkweed are noted to be starting to bolt and flower. Perennials such as dandelions, as can be seen on lawns throughout the region at this time as well, are also flowering.

The pest perspective

On the pest side of things, due to the cooler spring weather and many fields yet to have crops emerge, Manitoba Agriculture has yet to receive reports of “economic populations or levels of crop damage from insects”.

Of note, however, is that some cutworms, wireworms, and flea beetles are being noted—albeit at small levels thus far.

What to know about cutworms

Cutworms are nocturnal, feeding at night. The dingy and redbacked cutworm are often the two most abundant species

in Manitoba.

To check for cutworms while scouting your fields, producers should dig around damaged plants. They can also sometimes be found hiding under stubble or plant debris.

The depth at which cutworms may inhabit the soil is dependant on how old the larvae are, and the moisture level of the soil.

Manitoba Agriculture reports that a study from Ontario on darksided cutworm found younger larvae were generally six to 13mm deep near the base of the host plant.

Alternatively, older larvae were just under the soil surface in wet weather, but were found in dry weather at a depth of eight to 10 cm (three to four inches).

It should also be noted that cutworms may be more abundant in patches, or a specific area of a field.

Producers are advised to make note of the size of cutworms discovered as well. Small larvae are reported to pose the greatest potential for damage, as they still need to feed and grow. With the cool spring we have experienced, larvae are anticipated to likely still be small.

Species that overwinter as partially grown larvae may be larger than other species that overwinter as eggs. For example, the dingy cutworm (larval overwinter), and the redbacked cutworm (egg overwinter).

The full Manitoba crop report can be found at www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/seasonal-reports.

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HyLife named one of Canada's Best Managed Companies

Pork company honoured by Deloitte for 22nd year

Advocate Staff FARMERS' ADVOCATE

HyLife has received a significant honour for a 22nd year. Last week, the Canada-based international pork processing and shipping company was named by Deloitte as one of 'Canada's Best Managed Companies'. Canada's Best Managed Companies is noted to be the country's leading business award programs, which recognizes "excellence in private Canadian-owned companies".

According to Deloitte, eligible companies are evaluated based on strategy, culture and commitment; capabilities and innovation; and their governance and financials.

"Our company thrives because of our people. This recognition reflects their dedication, passion, and



PHOTO COURTESY OF HYLIFE

HyLife's credits its success to all who work at the company.

commitment to delivering excellence every day," said Karan Sangfai, president and CEO of HyLife. "From our farms and feed mills to our processing, logistics, sales, and support teams, each person plays an important role in helping HyLife continue to grow as a premium pork company. We are proudly rooted in Canada and trusted around the world."

At the local level, Neepawa representative Lindsay

Hextall, senior director of human resources, stated, "Being recognized with Platinum status for more than two decades really comes down to how we support and grow our people. At HyLife—and here in Neepawa—we've worked hard to build a culture where employees can grow their careers and play a part in our long-term success. That focus on our team is what helps us keep performing at a high-level

year after year."

While the global pork company's story began with a small prairie farming operation in rural Manitoba in 1994, HyLife now employs more than 2,600 people and delivers to more than 20 countries worldwide.

HyLife is headquartered in Southeast Manitoba, and also includes associated facilities both in and just outside of Neepawa.

When farmers succeed...

Continued from second Farmers' Advocate page

KAP has joined several initiatives nationally and internationally to advance ag priorities, including:

- In 2025, KAP partnered with CFA on the Summer meeting and Federal-Provincial-Territorial meetings and farm tours with representatives from across Canada (in July and September).
- Participating in the Midwest Legislative Conference in Saskatoon in July 2025, meeting with and building relationships with Canadian and American legislators
- Attending the Tri-National Agriculture Accord in October 2025, which took place in Morelia, Mexico
- We cross-border events including SARL in New Orleans a few months ago in January.
- We continue to work closely with the Manitoba government on expanding trade and other delegation opportunities

Verwey noted that, "KAP had multiple appearances before House of Commons and Senate committees. We're also deepening our partnerships across government and industry and continuing to grow KAP's presence and ensure agriculture remains top of mind for government. Moving forward, our priorities include a heightened focus on young farmer engagement, because the next generation is the future of this industry.

We will continue to prioritize trade, labour, business risk management, economic development, and building strong partnerships.

Farms and the broader agri-food sector generate billions of dollars for Manitoba each year.

And every farm family supports local businesses, local schools, and local communities like this one. We know that when farmers succeed, Manitoba succeeds.

That's why what we do at KAP matters."



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SPORTS

SWBL: COMETS CLIP CARDINALS, DODGERS START STRONG

By Robin Wark
RIVERS BANNER

The Rivers Comets gave their fans plenty to cheer about at their home opener.

The local senior team shut out their South West Baseball League foe, the Souris Cardinals, 8-0 on May 22. The Comets outhit the visitors 7-2.

"The win Friday was awesome - a huge confidence booster for our guys," Comets player Layton Veitch said. "We had a tough game in Hamiota to start the year, so to bounce back with an 8-0 win was massive for our group."

He led the Comets with two hits and two runs scored. Rivers hurlers Hayden Mackedenski and Nolan Wright combined to shut out the Cardinals. Mackedenski got the start, struck out seven, and allowed only one hit in five innings. Over two innings, Wright allowed one hit and fanned five.

"They both threw really well," Veitch said. "It's great as an offence to have that confidence in our pitchers. It's great that they are both young guys too, so they will hopefully be a part of our group for a long time."

The Comets fell 12-0 on the road to Hamiota. They visited the Brandon Cardinals on May 26 after the Banner deadline. The Rivers squad hosts the Oak River Dodgers on May 30 and the Reston Rockets on May 31.

Oak River Dodgers

The Dodgers have started the season 2-0. They opened the campaign at home by beating the Hamiota Red Sox 5-3 on May 22. Anthony Friesen struck out seven Red Sox while allowing only two earned runs. Duncan Paddock drove in two runs for the Dodgers.

On May 24 in Brandon, the Dodgers scored three runs in both the fifth and sixth innings to overcome an 8-4 deficit and beat the Cardinals 10-8. Paddock drove in four runs. Kaden Rozdeba and Dylan Schroeder had two RBIs each.



PHOTO BY DALE DAVISON

Rivers Comets #16 Rivers' Nolan Wright pitches to Hamiota batter.

The Dodgers were to host the Virden Oilers on May 26 after the Banner deadline. The Oak River team travels to play the Comets on May 30.

Hamiota Red Sox

The Hamiota Red Sox entered this week with a 2-1 record. On May 20, the host Red Sox shut out the Comets 12-0. Brady Waddell started on the mound, struck out five, allowed three hits and earned the win. In two innings of relief duty, Carter Loewen struck out three and allowed

one hit. Bryce Kyle led Hamiota with two RBIs.

The Red Sox lost 5-3 on the road on May 22 in Oak River. They bounced back to defeat the Virden Oilers 9-5 on May 24. Tyler Wood started for Hamiota and earned the win after allowing four hits over five innings. Matt Rhiel and Kaden Sutherland also pitched in the victory. Jordan Edwards drove in four runs.

The Hamiota team is in Reston on May 29 to face the Rockets.

WOOD HELPS WARRIORS TO FIRST NATIONAL TITLE

By Robin Wark
RIVERS BANNER

"Special" is one of the words Kennedy Wood uses to describe her second season with the Midland University women's hockey team, and it certainly fits.

The daughter of Rivers' Ted and Jodi Wood helped the Fremont, Neb., school win its first-ever American Collegiate Hockey Association Women's Division I championship. The No. 2-seeded Warriors claimed the title in epic fashion by defeating the top-seeded Liberty University from Virginia, 4-3, in triple overtime in the St. Louis suburb of Maryland Heights, Mo.

"It was pretty special," Wood said. "We have a really close group that works hard, and I know a lot of the seniors have put a ton of work into the program to bring it to what it is today so it was nice to win it for them as well."

This past season, the forward scored four goals and recorded six points in 28 games, according to achahockey.org.

"Kennedy has grown a lot since her first season," Midland University head women's hockey coach Jason White said. "Her confidence as a player has grown immensely, which led to point production increase and overall more success on the ice. Kennedy is a strong leader that shows up every day ready to compete in the gym or on the ice."

In addition to winning a national title, one of the things Wood enjoyed most about last season was the team's travel schedule. The Warriors travelled to six states to compete.

"We spent a lot of time on the road this season, so a big highlight was bus trips and getting close with everyone," Wood said.

Family has played a huge role in Wood's hockey career. She praised her parents for their support over the years.

"I wouldn't be where I am today playing hockey if I didn't have such supportive parents," Wood said. "I am so fortunate to have them and all the time and money they have put into me to be able to play this sport. They play a huge role in my hockey career, and I am grateful for that every day."

Her brother, Briley, has also had a big impact on her career. He had a successful junior career in the Western Hockey League and the Manitoba Junior Hockey League before heading to the pro ranks. Briley played for the ECHL's Rapid City (S.D.) Rush last winter.

"I have always looked up to my brother playing hockey and seeing the success he's had in his career," Kennedy said. "I remember skating with him growing up, and just seeing everything he's overcome in his career is something I look up to and someone I know I can go to when I have questions about the game."

At Midland University, Wood is pursuing a major in exercise science with minors in psychology and nutrition. She was a member of the Dean's List in the fall of 2025.

"The thing I enjoy most about my classes is how small they are and how you can gain a relationship with your professors, which really helps me excel in school," Wood said.



PHOTO BY MIDLAND UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

Kennedy Wood contributed to the Midland University's national women's hockey championship.

Life in the slow lane

By Gerry Nolan
RIVERS BANNER

Wintertime life on the farm was basically doing barn chores. You would pick a nice day when we would crush oats or barley as we fed chop to the livestock twice a day, along with hay and straw. Each morning, we harnessed up the horses as we loaded the manure onto the stone boat by pitch fork and it was taken out to the field and spread. Real good fertilizer! The livestock were untied and herded down to the well for water. We also hauled water up to the barn by a 50-gallon drum to water the pigs. This would take all morning. At night it was back out to milk and feed the cows again. It was work, but it was fun.

There was also time for recreation, mainly hockey to be played in the winter. Gordon Bond lived about a mile from our house. Gordy had a big pond just north of his house. He would take the tractor with the blade on it after the pond which, was probably frozen right to the bottom, and he would clear a section of ice off to play hockey.

The Bonds would phone the neighbourhood boys to come and skate and play on the pond. Ken Bond lives in the same house that his Mom and Dad lived in on the same farm. The Gray boys Donald and Murray, the Carter boys, Denis and Donny plus myself would show up and it was hockey day at the Bonds!

We would play away

for hours, then it was up to the house to get our skates off and warm up. Doreen Bond would have mugs of hot chocolate for us to drink. After a brief pause it would be back to the pond to play just a little longer before heading home to do the evening chores.

The Nolan family was so fortunate and blessed to have such great neighbours like Gordon and Doreen Bond, Wally and Dora Gray and Allan and Catherine Carter. In the winter as well, sometimes the adults would get together to play cards which meant the kids got to hang out and play as well.

A number of years later, Ken Bond, Donald Gray, Murray Gray, Donny Carter and myself all played for the Kenton

Sabers recreation hockey team. How's that for a great memory? Denis did not play hockey but was a pretty good curler.

Interesting how a hockey day at Gordon and Doreen Bonds would produce 5 kids within a couple of miles of one another, playing on the same hockey team, all around the same time! Thanks, Gordy, for clearing the pond so we could play hockey.

When we all played for the Sabers, after the game, the parents would come down to have a drink with the team and tell some stories. You should ask Ken Bond about Allan Carter telling Amos and Andy jokes! Great times folks, great times!

In my opinion: RE: Woman Killer

By Gerry Nolan
RIVERS BANNER

Michael Bridges' request for a full parole was denied, though he has been on day parole since 2024.

In 2002 Michael Bridges strangled and drowned his girlfriend, Erin Chorney (who was 18 years old) in a bathtub, then buried her body in another person's grave in the Brandon Cemetery. Michael was arrested after police set up a Mr. Big sting operation in 2004 where he confessed to an undercover police officer what he had done to her.

In 2005 Michael Bridges was convicted of first-degree murder and was sentenced to life in prison without a chance of parole until 2029. Michael appealed and claimed he was an innocent victim of police entrapment. At a faint hope hearing in 2021, a jury decided he could be allowed to apply for parole in 2026.

In 2024, the parole board of Canada granted Michael Bridges day parole for six months, with leave privileges included, which has been in six-month increments since then. He has been working full time and has been allowed weekend passes to stay in his own apartment.

In December of 2025, Michael failed a drug test for cocaine though he denied using the drug. He was tested again but it seemed to be manipulated by flushing his system with water. The third test came back negative.

A report also said that Bridges, negative attitude toward women and his behaviour changes to the worse when dealing with female parole officers compared to male staff.

Michael Bridges will continue his day parole for a period of six months. His conditions include not to consume, purchase or possess alcohol or drugs and report all sexual and nonsexual relationships

and friendships with women.

If you are reading this, I hope you are as upset as I am.

I knew Erin Chorney. Erin was a member of the youth group that I had the privilege of leading in Oxford Assembly Church. Erin, as most teenagers, had some problems that she was working through. Erin was back in Brandon the last time I saw and talked with her. I talked to Brandon Police when they had sent out a request for information to the general public about Erin. I talked to an officer mostly about her character, what she was like when she was in the youth group. Erin was a beautiful young teenage girl who was sorting some things out in her life and just wanted to be loved and accepted for who she was. Erin was gaining ground.

Unfortunately, Michael Bridges took her life. On whose authority did Michael have to end Erin Chorney's life? Michael Bridges is a murderer, a manipulator and a liar! I wonder how many people on the parole board would allow him some freedom if it was their daughter that was brutally murdered? The answer to that would be NONE! So why release this woman killer at any time back into society? We hear about so many women who are brutally murdered, abused, sold and the courts doing nothing. Our government does nothing. Michael Bridges does not deserve to ever get out of jail. In fact, like in this case where he confessed to murder why is he not given the death penalty? An eye for an eye! (Ed. Note: Capital punishment was eliminated in Canada in 1976. KW)

The fact that he continues to treat female parole officers badly should be warning enough that this man, Michael Bridges may very well kill again. This story is right in our own backyards! Erin will never be forgotten.

Rest in peace Erin! We miss you!

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Obituary

IN LOVING MEMORY PAULA MAY PEARL HAYDEN SEPTEMBER 14, 1974 - JANUARY 10, 2026

With deep sadness the family announces the passing of Paula Hayden on January 10, 2026 in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

She was born September 14, 1974, the first child of Bonnie (nee:Sheppard) and Van Hayden. She was born in Brandon and raised in Rivers. Childhood summers meant time at the lake with family and friends. Many Sheppard / Hayden families had trailers at the Provincial Park at Rivers Lake, which led to lots of fun filled summer days.

In the winter she participated in figure skating and also coached younger skaters.

After graduating high school she headed west and worked in the hospitality industry. She worked in Alberta and B.C. , with her last job being in Revelstoke. When Covid hit and everything closed, she moved to Winnipeg and lived with Van and Sandra. She was finally able to get a job with Dollarama and she really liked the work. There she met Jason Brown and together they moved to Thunder Bay

Paula was a very talented artist. Whether it was painting, jewelry, or just turning something she found into a piece of art she loved and enjoyed making new things.

Paula was predeceased by her Mom Bonnie Taylor, grandparents, and several Aunts and Uncles.

Left to mourn her passing is her Dad Van (Sandra), sister Pamela, brother David, stepfather Ron Taylor, boyfriend Jason Brown, and many Aunts, Uncles, cousins and friends.

A private family burial will take place at a later date.

Obituary

IN LOVING MEMORY JOYCE MILVINA ESPEY MARCH 20, 1935 - FEBRUARY 11, 2026

The Celebration of Joyce's Life will take place at Rivers United Church, 347 Main Street, Rivers, Manitoba on Friday, June 12, 2026, at 1:30 p.m.

A reception will follow at Redfern Hall-Riverdale Community Centre, 101 Main Street, Rivers.

Expressions of sympathy may be made at www.memorieschapel.com.

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EVENTS

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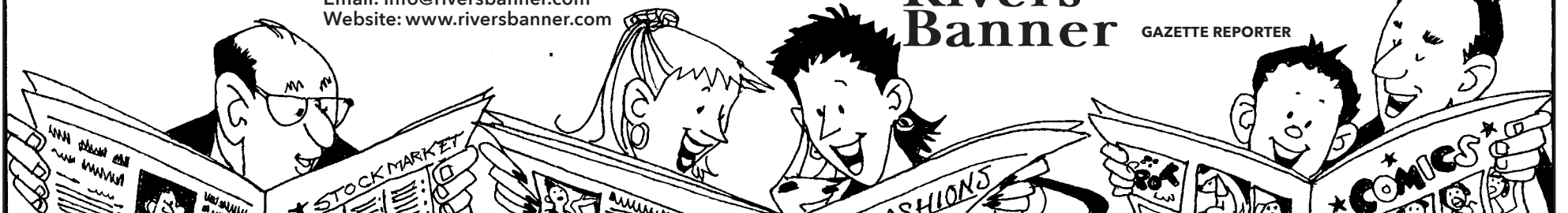
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SPORTS

MHSRA SEASON TOTALS FOR LOCAL MEMBERS



PHOTO BY NANCY JO MOLLER

Jessica Wright of Rapid City riding in the High School Barrel Racing.

By Jessica Coulter
RIVERS BANNER

Manitoba High School Rodeo Association (MHSRA) regular season finished up this past weekend, in Oak Lake. Results to the right are from the MHSRA website.

Finals for Junior High (JH) riders will be May 29 – 31 in Gilbert Plains. High School (HS) finals are scheduled for June 12 – 14 in Virden. All details are from the MHSRA website.

BODEN BOND ~ KENTON, MB

Event	Place	Points
HS Team Roping	1	98
HS Tie Down Roping	5	54
HS Trap Shooting	1	77

EASTON BEERNAERTS ~ RAPID CITY, MB

Event	Place	Points
HS Barrel Racing	25	4
HS Breakaway Roping	10	22
HS Goat Tying	15	27
HS Pole Bending	13	29

EMERSON BEERNAERTS ~ RAPID CITY, MB

Event	Place	Points
JH Barrel Racing	19	3
JH Pole Bending	17	9

HUDSON BOND ~ KENTON, MB

Event	Place	Points
HS Barrel Racing	2	98
HS Breakaway Roping	9	23
HS Pole Bending	6	46

JESSICA WRIGHT ~ RAPID CITY, MB

Event	Place	Points
HS Barrel Racing	29	1
HS Goat Tying	1	92
HS Pole Bending	15	26

JORJA ROBINS ~ RAPID CITY, MB

Event	Place	Points
HS Barrel Racing	11	27
HS Breakaway Roping	16	14
HS Goat Tying	13	39
HS Pole Bending	4	51

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Local riders competed at MADESA MX Motocross Park



Ethan Lepp from Rivers, MB hits the finish line jump and catches some air.



Rider # 22 Ethan Lepp rides in the Supermini 9-16 Years race on Sunday, May 24.



PHOTOS BY JESSICA COULTER

MADESA MX Motocross Park is located just outside Virden. The track has been around since 1991.

By Jessica Coulter
RIVERS BANNER

On Sunday, May 24, MADESA racetrack just outside of Virden, MB held their first race of the season. The weekend event brought riders from all over Manitoba to compete. Many riders showed up early and camped out for the full weekend. The races are part of the Manitoba Motocross (MBMX). Races run all summer at multiple tracks across the province. MADESA is host to two of these races. They had a very larger crowd this year and the weather was perfect for a good solid ride on Sunday.

The weekend begins with practice runs on Saturday and the scheduled races on Sunday, 29 races in total. Racers were as young as 4 years old up to the Plus 60 category.

The May 23-24 race round two of the summer schedule. Next weekend will be round three and will be held at the MADESA track again on May 30-31.

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

May 29



Rivers Comets vs Oak River Dodgers in Rivers 7pm

30

Hamiota Art Club Show & Tea at the Heritage Art Centre 1 - 4 pm

Prairie Crocus Library Storytime in Rivers 10am



Chase the Ace Rivers Legion 7pm
Kenton Legion 7pm



31



Rivers Comets vs Reston Rockets in Rivers 6pm

Rivers Legion Bingo 11:30am

Jun 1



Oak River Dodgers vs Reston Rockets in Oak River 7pm

RIVERDALE Municipality Council Meeting

50 + Club Pool 1pm



2

3



50 + Club Cribbage 1pm

Darts Rivers Legion 7pm



4

Rivers Food Bank 9:30 - 11:30am



Rivers Legion Cribbage 7pm

50+ Floor Games 1pm



5

Prairie Crocus Library Storytime in Rivers 10am



Chase the Ace Rivers Legion 7pm
Kenton Legion 7pm

6



One Day Community Garage Sale in Rivers 9am - 2pm

Lions Club BBQ Westoba parking lot 11am to 1pm

7

Rivers Legion Bingo 11:30am

8

50 + Card Games 1pm



9

50 + Club Pool 1pm



Oak River Dodgers vs Rivers Comets in Oak River 7pm



Hamiota Red Sox vs Young Guns in Hamiota 7pm



50 + Club Cribbage 1pm

Darts Rivers Legion 7pm



11

Rivers Legion Cribbage 7pm

50+ Floor Games 1pm



Hamiota Red Sox vs Reston Rockets in Hamiota 7pm

Prairie Crocus Library Storytime in Rivers 10am



Chase the Ace Rivers Legion 7pm
Kenton Legion 7pm

13