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Rivers 4-H Beef Club achievements



The Rivers 4-H Beef Club enjoyed a beautiful summer day, on July 3, for their Club show.

By Aklen Abey
 RIVERS 4-H BEEF CLUB

The Rivers 4-H Beef Club Show was on July 3, 2025. Here are the results from this great show.

Judging Class: Peewee Ch: Rhett Hunter, Res: Aysen Abey; Junior Ch: Madison Hillis, Res: Maverick Peters; Intermediate Ch: Kinley Peters, Res: Chase Airey; Senior Ch: Austyn Peters, Res: Karas Munz; Sponsored by Canada Malting Company.

Team Grooming Class: Champion Team: Nathan Hillis, Kinley Peters, Blake Airey, Madison Hillis (Sponsored by Hair Dynamics); Reserve Ch: Karas Munz, Chase Airey, Brody Basaraba, Rhett Hunter (Sponsored by Fusion Credit Union); 3rd: Austyn Peters, Tarron Basaraba, Corbin Munz, Jorja Manz; 4th: Shayden Manz, Aklen Abey, Maverick Peters, Aysen Abey.

Showmanship Class: Peewee Ch: Rhett Hunter, Res: Aysen Abey; Junior Ch: Maverick Peters, Res: Jorja Manz; Intermediate Ch: Chase Airey, Res: Blake Airey; Senior Ch: Austyn Peters, Res: Karas Munz; Sponsored by Ritchie Bros.

Overall Ch: Austyn Peters; Sponsored by Rivers Home

Hardware. Reserve: Karas Munz; Sponsored by Rivers Legion.

Cloverbud Showmanship: Weston Manz, Mesa Gerrard, Cavley Abey, Olivia Smith, Stella Hunter, Chloe Paradis, Wylder McDermitt; Sponsored by Shelly Hillis and Sons in Memory of Wayne Hillis.

Yearling Heifer Class: Split 1: Chase Airey, Shayden Manz, Jorja Manz, Brody Basaraba; Split 2: Austyn Peters, Blake Airey, Rhett Hunter, Aysen Abey, Aklen Abey, Kinley Peters; Sponsored by Doug and Brian Robins Memorial Award Sponsored by Ron & Sharon Basaraba.

Champion Yearling Heifer: Chase Airey; Sponsored by Jocelyn and Dale Beever. Reserve Champion Yearling Heifer: Austyn Peters; Sponsored by Rivers Super Thrifty.

Champion Continuation Female: Kinley Peters; Sponsored by HTA Charolais. Reserve Continuation Female: Austyn Peters; Sponsored by Hillis Livestock.

Overall Female: Chase Airey; Sponsored by Big Sky Simmental. Reserve Champion Female: Austyn Peters; Sponsored by Neale & Dayna Hockley.

see more results on page 7...

Inside...



**MADI VANDAL
 AT THE CANADA
 SUMMER GAMES**
P12



**HISTORY OF
 THE CLACK
 MUSEUM**
P2

Discovering history at the Clack Museum

A beacon of heritage for future generations



All are welcome to learn a piece of history at Clack Bros. Museum.

PHOTO BY CAROLYN PHILLIPS

By Carolyn Phillips
RIVERS BANNER

Nestled in the serene countryside of the Rural Municipality of Oakview, the Clack Bros. Museum is more than just a collection of artifacts; it is a heartfelt homage to the past and a bridge connecting generations. Established by Fred, Tim and Doug Clack, the museum stands as a testament to their dedication and passion for preserving history. Tim (John Vernon), born on October 30, 1918, ran the museum until his passing in 2014, continuously working to create an engaging experience for visitors of all ages.

The Clack brothers' journey began with Tim and Doug's fascination for history and their relentless efforts to document it. Doug's initial foray into museum work involved crafting miniature equipment to display the evolution of farming technology. Starting with a humble push saw, Doug's creations gradually became more intricate, encompassing a fanning mill, a two-year project binder, and a working threshing outfit completed in a year. His dedication to detail and craftsmanship brought to life the agricultural heritage that flooded the region.

In 1981, the vision of a community museum took a significant leap forward when the brothers partnered with Gooden Industries to build the first museum structure, which opened its doors to the public in 1983. Over the years, their passion led to the construction of multiple buildings, each dedicated to a unique aspect of history. Among them is a Victorian home display, a railway history exhibit, and even a children's museum. These spaces house an eclectic collection of artifacts sourced from local auctions

and generous donations from community members, all with a shared goal of safeguarding the past.

One particularly poignant structure is the halfway house, a homage to their family's history, where their father reportedly had his first meal upon arriving in Canada. Inside, visitors will find a vintage barber's chair, a Mountie in ceremonial uniform, and memorabilia from an old post office that encapsulates stories from days gone by.

Furthermore, for automobile enthusiasts, the museum presents vintage vehicles, including a 1919 Model T Ford truck, a Model A Ford car, and a 1924 Model 490 Coupe, each telling its own story about the evolution of transportation. Visitors can relish the experience of stepping into a bygone era, engaging with history in a tangible way.

A vital part of the Clack Museum's vision is community involvement and environmental stewardship. In 1989, recognizing the importance of

preserving natural landscapes, the Clack brothers donated a quarter section of land to the Manitoba Wildlife Federation Habitat Foundation. This act exemplifies their commitment not only to preserving human history but also to safeguarding our natural heritage.

Every August, the museum hosts an Open House Fundraiser, creating an inviting atmosphere for locals and visitors alike. This community event features an old-fashioned log-sawing contest, homemade pies, and ice cream, serving as a delightful rendezvous for history enthusiasts and families to connect over their love for the past. This year, the event is being held on August 10th from 10-2 with a bbq at 11 and the auction starting at 1pm.

Today, the Clack Bros. Museum thrives thanks to a devoted board of volunteers who carry forward the vision of Tim and Doug Clack. Open throughout the summer months, it remains a vital cultural hub between Oak River and Rivers, Manitoba. The legacy of the Clack brothers is not only preserved in the artifacts on display but also in the hearts and minds of those who visit, ensuring that history is celebrated, cherished, and passed down through generations.

BORSCHT

Ingredients

- 2 lbs pork neck bone
- 8 cups water
- 3 cups Campbells chicken broth
- 10 med. red beets
- 2 med. diced onions
- 1 clove diced garlic
- 2 tbsp brown sugar
- 2 tbsp butter
- 3 tbsp flour
- Salt and Pepper to taste

Directions

1. Place pork neck bone and water in Dutch oven. Add salt and pepper. Boil for 1 hour. Keep skimming off the fat while boiling.
2. Cut beets into French fry strips.
3. Add chicken broth, beets, onions, garlic, brown sugar, butter, and flour
4. Simmer for 1-1/2 to 2 hours.
5. Serve by adding 2 tablespoons of sour cream on top and a slice of bread.
6. Makes 6 – 8 servings. Can be frozen in freezable safe containers.



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The life lesson I want to share this week is one I have been learning since my mother passed away. It began when one of my aunts told me that I was now “one of the old people.” When I asked what she meant by that, she said: “Well, both your parents have died. You are their oldest child. Your job is to look out for your family. That makes you one of the old people.” I smiled then; but I have never forgotten those words.

They took on additional significance after the deaths of my wife’s parents. At that point, we literally became “the old people in the family.” Now the family came to our house for special occasions. The cooking wasn’t as tasty as grandma’s (nothing will ever be) but the memories of those special days, especially Christmas 2023 will never be forgotten.

Then came October, 2024; and the news that one of our blended family’s four children had suddenly passed away. This wasn’t the first time I had stood with parents who were grieving the loss of a child. I heard their stories and felt their pain as they spoke of the huge hole that was left by their child’s passing. But last October, I wasn’t standing with someone else’s family. I was standing with my own.

Every member of our family (immediate and extended), changed radically the night our child died. We found ourselves dealing with a type of grief we had never faced before; and wondering

how long our broken hearts would take to heal, if they ever would.

Then about a month ago, I listened to an interview with grief counselor Megan Devine. She knows, having experienced it personally, how it feels to suddenly lose a loved one. She understands the inner pain and emptiness caused by this sudden change in family dynamics. She wastes no time in condemning the things friends and neighbors say that they hope will comfort those who mourn; but that often add to the pain they already feel.

In Chapter 2 of her book: “It’s OK That You’re Not OK,” she writes: “Grief is not a problem to be solved; it is an experience to be carried.”

Those are some of the most liberating words I have ever read. Thanks to them, I am no longer troubled when I hear people tell me that they may never fully recover from the loss of a child, a parent, a partner or a close friend. That’s OK. By God’s grace and with his help, each of us can carry our unique experience of grief with dignity and optimism; and allow ourselves the time we need for our broken hearts to heal.

As part of this healing, we need to strengthen the relationships that remain with those who, like us, are grieving the same loss; those who worked with our loved ones; those who were part of their social circles; and the new additions (close friends, partners, children) to their families that were being welcomed into our families and who need to know that they are still part of us and welcome to heal with us.

You and I will never go through life without feeling some form of grief. But we must never allow that grief to separate us from those we love. By strengthening the relationships that remain, we can help create a world in which all people, whatever their loss and however deeply they may be hurting, can receive the hope, help and healing they need.

Locally created crossword

- Across
- 1 – Transplant

6 – Less fleshy

11 – Woman’s barbershop (2 words)

13 – Fredericton’s province abbr.

15 – Open deck railway carrier

16 – Greenlight

17 – Automobile

19 – Like a legless reptile

20 – Homer’s neighbour Flanders

21 – Angered

23 – Ave. crossers

24 – Eat formally

25 – Germ killers

28 – Tent on the plains

29 – Separate the threads (A contranym)

30 – Pierre Poilievre’s group

33 – Raggedy Ann’s brother

34 – Soak flax straw

35 – Music example tape

36 – Guitar inventor Paul

37 – Dry out

39 – “2001: A Space Odyssey” computer (9000)

40 – Woman’s address

41 – Sandwich store (2 words)

43 – Negative response

44 – Musk to his niece (2 words)

46 – Repeal

47 – Reimbursed

- Down
- 1 – Gone bad

2 – 19th USA’s president’s initials

3 – Clumsy uncultured person

4 – Lubricates

5 – Can be moved from one account to another

6 – Tool for a hard to reach itch

7 – Oil of ____ skin care product

8 – Neither

9 – Not out

10 – The Colossus city of (one of the seven wonders)

12 – American division

14 – Middle-pitched singers

16 – Male version of lady

18 – Mails again

20 – Jonah’s destination Jonah 3:1-10

22 – The green Teletubby

24 – Singer Bowie

26 – Birth name

27 – Make lace

30 – More serene

31 – Bible sentence

32 – Flew a plane alone

37 – Hockey disk

38 – Pit in the ground

41 – Flavoured crushed ice cone

42 – Burst a balloon

44 – Sun’s radiation abbr.

45 – Sodium’s symbol on the periodic table

1		2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10
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46							47					

Answers on page 8

Created by David Harris of Oak River, MB

In my Opinion:

By Gerry Nolan
RIVERS BANNER

Tamara Lich and
Chris Barber who
lead the freedom

convoy have been charged and found guilty of mischief for their roles in the freedom convoy protest in January 2022. The crown is seeking a prison sentence of 7 years for Lich and 8 years for Barber. The lawyer for the two individuals is seeking an absolute discharge for them and no criminal record.

So apparently, freedom is not free. In another case, a sex offender from Winnipeg, who killed a boy with an axe and seriously injured another boy and also killed a man in prison was released from prison for day parole. The killings took place in 1973.


Just the other day, a 43-year-old sex offender was released from prison. He had sexually assaulted children. Hopefully you have read the article about the couple from Alberta. These stories about people killing other people, sexually assaulting people are horrendous. How does Lich and Barber face more of a sentence for a convoy than these perpetrators who are sick in the head. I have trouble with this one as you may have guessed. Barber has also had his truck taken from him.

The freedom convoy in Ottawa, well granted it was a long time, but did they kill anybody? The two are also accused of telling other people to keep on protesting. I thought that would be an individual decision. Did they get talked into it? If so, I guess they were just following orders from Lich and Barber, but I did not know they had that kind of power. The followers made their own decisions. Lich and Barber can not be held responsible for someone else’s choice. The great Vince Lombardi, head coach of the Green Bay Packers once said, “If you do not stand for something, you will fall for anything”. I think those that were following knew what they were doing.

The case is a direct result of Trudeau and his band of dis-honest people. By taking away Barber’s truck, is that not theft? The government says it speaks for the people, well I would say they do not speak for a lot of people. Unfortunately, Canadians voted in another Liberal government. So to make this right, why doesn’t Mark Carney stand up and put a stop to this. He is cleaning up the Trudeau mess, correct? Carney could order that all charges be dropped, give Barber his truck back and release Lich and Barber from this terrible decision and let them both go home and get on with life. My other question is why is the crown so determined to have these two people go to jail? Must be related to Trudeau I guess!

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“Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together.” Psalm 98:8

Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



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Homebodies

RITA FRIESEN



Rick Rack and Bias Tape...

While sharing a delightful cup of coffee with a friend the conversation turned, as it so often does, to long ago. Not long ago and far away, for in our memories, years long gone don't seem that far away! We were reminiscing about clothing- fashions and functions. When I was a child, a dress needed to last a long time. When crafted, a deep hem would be essential, and as I grew, the hem was let down. If the fabric had worn well it wouldn't look too obvious that several inches had appeared. Too often the old hem line was a distinct track around the entire skirt. Rick rack to the rescue! For those too young to understand, rick rack was a zig zag ribbon thing. The colour, if one was fortunate, would be co-ordinated to the dress material. In a pinch a carefully stitched strip of bias tape could be introduced. I can't recall that either myself or my peers kicked up a fuss about stretching a garment to last another year. Many of my generation grew up with hand-me-downs, from family member on down, and, if one was lucky, the line of descent could originate with a city kid. That was pure gold. My older sister and I are close in age, but weren't close in size; I relied on clothing from a skinny cousin and her family lived in town and her dad was a teacher – beautiful garments passed down to me. Our chatter recalled having a school outfit and home clothes. As soon as you returned from school you changed into your work garb. Often one year's outing outfit became the next year's work clothes. I can recall having a Sunday outfit and a little Sunday outfit. The second one was often last years model, too good for school or play, but not quite good enough for church!

Then we got giggling about footwear. She told of the year her feet grew so much that her father took the sturdy leather oxfords to the local shoemaker; he extended the toe and the sole- the ugliest shoe on record! But, warm, waterproof, and sensible. Just not attractive! There was the year my father took me to Mr. Fels shoe shop in Roland. *(It was so much more than shoes; clocks, leather works, repairs.)* The shoes I absolutely fell in love with were one full size too large, and they were the only ones I wanted. I stuffed the toe with paper until I grew into them, sadly aging them well before their time. And the rubber boots that we needed to wear over the shoes...

The last fit of laughter was about the sealer rings we used to keep our stockings up. Do I need to explain sealer rings? Rubber rings, red or white that were used to seal glass jars in the canning process. We wondered how skinny our legs were to have such a device keep up those lovely brown cotton stockings! Usually mended and darned....

Bottom line, we were fed and clothed. Warm and presentable. Mostly grateful. Not a bad measuring stick.

Repeating the mistakes is avoidable

For many months now we have been hearing lurid details about the five junior hockey players charged with sexual assault. I have no intention of trying to re-tell the story, we have heard enough about the details.

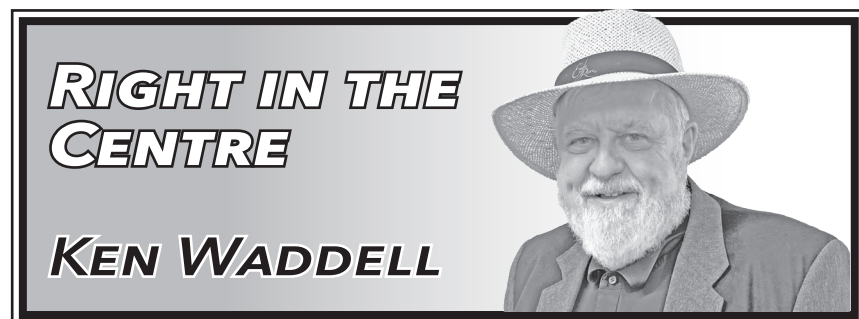
What we haven't heard much about is how did we get into this kind of situation and how can it be avoided in the future? There are some logical lessons to be learned, and while I don't expect some people to agree with these lessons, I do think that they still need to be strongly considered.

People need to understand that sex is not a spectator sport. Neither is it a right to have a sexual relationship, it's a privilege best left to married or committed couples. The men involved in this sex trial, should have learned that from a general observation of human history, along with stories from their hockey buddies, from high school friendships or their parents. While the activities of these five men were deemed to be not guilty (subject to the Crown Attorney filing an appeal), I doubt that anyone would put their actions in the "wise move" section.

Ahead of getting involved in the manner they did, they should also have learned that after consuming alcohol, or other substances, a person's judgement is impaired.

It's up for debate as to whether they will ever play NHL hockey again and they have not played for a period of time now. Even if the protests of the NHL Players Association prevail, it will be nigh unto impossible to remove the stain they put on their reputations. And then there's the psychological damage they have done to themselves.

The woman involved will certainly



be damaged in a number of ways. She threw caution to the wind by apparently over consuming alcohol. And not to pick on this particular woman, but is nobody teaching or learning about not placing yourself in potentially dangerous situations? There is no excuse for the players action. It's also difficult to find enough adjectives to explain how dumb their actions were, how stupid and selfish.

After thousands of years of human activity, one would think that people would have learned that personal safety should not be intentionally put at risk.

As I reflect on my years of experience and observation, society has never been successful in coping with sexuality and sexual activity. When I was young, some really dumb and naive people were pushing the "free love" idea. It sounded so good, but love or sex is never free, it comes with huge responsibilities and some risks. Then some of these same people pushed the idea of "safe sex". Again, that was dumb and naive. There is no such thing as "safe sex". There are always risks. Risk of pregnancy, risk of sexually transmitted diseases, the possibility high risk pregnancies for the mother and the baby. Sex doesn't always turn out the way one

might hope.

What I do know is this whole sordid hockey player mess could have been avoided. Neither the woman, nor the men, should have put themselves in the situation.

And speaking of situations, Hockey Canada completely botched handling the whole deal. They should not have settled out of court and definitely not without telling the hockey players.

The police did not initially charge the five men, and years later, the judge found them not guilty. But Hockey Canada decided they were guilty and that they, and Hockey Canada, needed to be protected by Hockey Canada funds, funds that every hockey boy and girl in Canada contributed to with their annual fees. Hockey Canada paid a lot of money to the woman involved to keep the situation out of the public eye. The woman and the players may never recover from this mess, neither will Hockey Canada. The woman and the players do have the option of repenting before God and being forgiven. It's a matter of opinion if God forgives organizations.

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 newspaper staff.

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Canada

Historic Queen's Hotel has new owners

By Ken Waddell
RIVERS BANNER

This summer was an eventful one for the new owners of the Rapid City Queen's Hotel,

As of June, Melissa McDonald and Justin Usunier took over as owners and operators of the historic hotel.

The Queen's has been a hub of activity in Rapid City for over a century.

The pub area is loaded with artifacts, memorabilia and memories. McDonald and Usunier report that business has been good. McDonald said, "We are very busy, working hard and learning a lot. It's great to be here."



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE WADDELL

New owners of the Queen's Hotel stopped their busy day for a moment to get a photo taken. Here Melissa McDonald and Justin Usunier pose with one of the most impressive wildlife pieces of many in the hotel. This large buffalo mount was done by Lone Wolf Taxidermy.

Woodworth Grazing Club have another successful tour

By Gerry Nolan
RIVERS BANNER

The summer tour of the Woodworth Grazing Club was held on July 21. The meeting place was the hall in Lenore, with 51 people registering for the tour. The bus left Lenore around one and got on the road.

They started off at the Dallas McDonald farm, where the tour group were introduced to solid seeding corn applied by an air seeder and also to a gravity water system.

The next stop for the group was at the Kyle Wright and Cameron Kent farm where they showed the results of bale grazing and gopher control options. Lord knows, any road be it gravel or highway there are a ton of gophers out there. This was very interesting as well. Next stop was the Robert Stevenson farm where the group learned about K-Hart Spyder drill as well as dam construction. They also learned about garlic planting.

After the tour it was back to Lenore to eat as the supper was sponsored by the Valleyview Co-op from Virden. This was a huge support to the group.

Virden Ag and parts sponsored the refreshments and had a Vermeer baler on display as well. Some of the other trades on display were Skyhawk Drone

Services, Neilson Seeds, Covers and Company and a solar display from Rocky Mountain Ranch.

All in all, it was a beautiful day and a very successful tour. Some new things were learned and also discovering where other farmers lived in the community. The tour participants also learned of the challenges that producers face on a day-to-day basis. Soils are very changeable in the Woodworth region. You may have soil that is light, could be sandy or clay too. It was also interesting to see the crops as they differ from area to area. Some parts of Woodworth have seen more rain than other farms have so obviously the crops can be quite variable.

I know talking with fellow staff from the Virden Farm and Ranch center, they were thrilled by the tour and all the things they never had really seen, face-to-face ever before. They said it was a grade A time and can not wait for next summer's tour.

They also continue to look forward to working with the club in future years.

Congratulations to the Woodworth Grazing Club on such a successful tour and all the work that goes into preparing a tour. Thank you to all the sponsors and the producers for sharing what you added to the day, hopefully it will continue to grow and have great success!

Keep Calm with the "5 5 5 Rule"

A Fun Way to Outsmart Anxiety

PUBLISHED AUTHOR, HOLISTIC WELLNESS CERTIFIED HYPNOTIST (C.H.)
MARIE EVELYNE GINGRAS

Anxiety has a way of barging in like an uninvited guest at a perfectly good party. One minute you are doing just fine, and the next, your heart is racing, your thoughts are bouncing around like popcorn, and you are convinced the sky is falling. But before you let stress steal the spotlight, let us introduce you to your new best friend called the "5 5 5 Rule".

Yes, it sounds like a secret code or maybe the latest dance craze, but it is actually a simple and surprisingly effective trick to help calm those anxious thoughts and bring you back to earth. The 5 5 5 Rule is a grounding method that works by getting your senses involved. It is quick, easy, and you can do it anywhere and no yoga mat, candles, or fancy breathing apps required.

Here is how it works. First, name five things you can see. It can be anything around you like the colour of the walls, a picture frame, a crack in the floor, your shoes, even the snack someone left behind on the counter. Noticing these details shifts your brain away from panic mode and into observation mode.

Next up, name five things you can hear. Maybe it is the sound of a ticking clock, the buzz of a fridge, birds chirping outside, a car passing by, or your own breath. Focusing on these little sounds helps pull you further away from the anxiety spiral and gently brings your attention back to the here and now.

Lastly, move five different parts of your body. Wiggle your fingers, roll your shoulders, stretch your legs, raise your eyebrows, and rotate your ankles.

Moving your body like this reminds your brain that you are safe and not in any real danger. No sabre-toothed tiger is chasing you down the hallway!

The beauty of the 5 5 5 Rule is how simple and flexible it is. You can do it sitting in traffic, lying in bed, standing in a long grocery line, or even during a stressful meeting (just keep the toe wiggling subtle). It works because it pulls your attention away from your racing thoughts and plants it firmly in the present moment.

Now, will the 5 5 5 Rule solve all of life's problems? Probably not. But it is a great sidekick when your brain is throwing a tantrum. Think of it as your personal reset button, a quick way to turn down the volume on anxiety and get back to feeling like yourself again.

So, the next time your nerves start to take over, give the 5 5 5 Rule a try. See it, hear it, move it and watch that wave of calm start to roll in. Your future self (and your nervous system) will be grateful you did.

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What is happening at Hamiota's Heritage Arts Centre you ask?

By Gerry Nolan
RIVERS BANNER

This month's featured artist is Holly Darwin. Her beautiful works of art are amazing and have to be seen. Holly is a member of the art club at the centre, and she comes from Redvers, Saskatchewan.

The gift gallery is full of lovely, handcrafted items for the perfect something for that hard to buy special person. Items such as Dianna Airey's beautiful bags, Brin Thornitt's bracelets, Shirley Hudson's all occasion cards and Doreen Angus's hand quilted sweaters are all on display plus many other items.

The Tea at the Old Bank take place every Thursday from 2-4 pm until the end of August. Drop in and try one of those delicious desserts, tea, coffee, or iced tea. Home deliveries are offered by the centre. All you have to do is call the centre at 204-764-2400 and ask for Allison by the end of Monday to be put on the list for a Thursday afternoon delivery.

So this summer, come and visit the extraordinary art centre in the heart of southwestern Manitoba at Hamiota. The centre is open Monday, Wednesday and Fridays from 12 noon until 3 p.m. They also offer bookings for private functions, and you are all welcome to drop in and enjoy the view.

The Arts Centre is located on main street in Hamiota beside the library, you can not miss it. Also this fall, watch for updates of happening's going on at the centre as from



PHOTOS BY CELIA NOLAN

Top: The Hamiota Heritage Art Centre is currently featuring the beautiful artwork of Holly Darwin.

Left: Spectacular handcrafted items are available for purchase at the art centre including this beautiful bag designed by Dianna Airey.

time to time they have live music nights. Come on out and support the centre. It's a vital part of the community and draws people from all over Manitoba. I heard that one

weekend a visiting sports team had some free time on their hands and they dropped into the centre and purchased many items for those special someone in their lives.

Provincial byelection is called in the Spruce Woods electoral division

Voters encouraged to update or register online

Submitted
BY MANITOBA GOVERNMENT

A provincial byelection has been called for voters in the Spruce Woods electoral division to choose a new MLA.

Election day is August 26. Advance voting begins August 16.

Information for voters

Eligible voters can vote anywhere — at any advance poll, or on election day.

Voting hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily, except

Sunday noon to 6 p.m.

You can find all polling locations online at www.electionsmanitoba.ca.

Register to Vote

Voters can save time at the polls by updating their registration — with any name or address changes — before heading to a polling place.

Eligible voters can visit www.electionsmanitoba.ca/register to register or update their information by August 7. Alternatively, voters can contact the local election office.

All registered voters will receive a voter information card. Voting is faster and easier when registered before the election, but Manitobans can still register at the poll when they vote. Just bring ID.

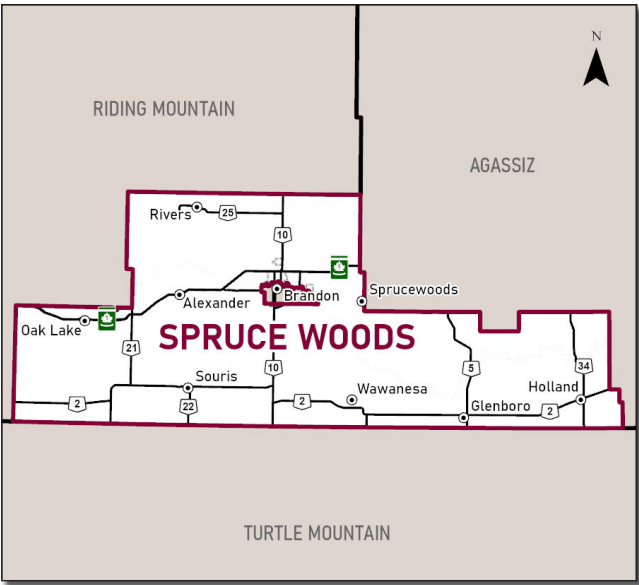
Who Can Vote?

Residents of the Spruce Woods electoral division who:

- Are Canadian citizens;
- Are at least 18 years old on election day; and
- Have lived in Manitoba for at least six months immediately before election day.

Bring ID

All voters must show ID to register or vote, and there are many options. For a complete list



Map of Spruce Woods electoral division.

of acceptable ID, visit www.electionsmanitoba.ca/downloads/Acceptable_ID_En.pdf.

Employment Opportunities

Elections Manitoba is hiring Spruce Woods residents to work at polling places. Apply online at www.electionsmanitoba.ca.

Spruce Woods Local Election Office

Unit 3, 811 18th St., N in the Corral Centre
Brandon, MB

Telephone: 204-726-6111 | Toll-free: 1-833-891-1011

SpruceWoods@electionsmanitoba.ca

Hours: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily except Sunday, noon to 6 p.m.



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For over 35 years, MHC has been partnering with landowners and providing financial compensation to support conservation that benefits you, your land, and the environment.

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Amanda Hopcraft

(431) 542-1150
ahopcraft@mbhabitat.ca

Rivers 4-H Beef Club show results

continued from page 1

Market Steers Top 6 Class 1: Aklen Abey, Austyn Peters, Aysen Abey; Class 2: Karas Munz, Chase Airey, Blake Airey; Sponsored by Kroeger Backhoe Services.

Champion Market Steer: Chase Airey; Sponsored by Westoba Credit Union. Reserve Champion Steer: Karas Munz; Sponsored by Raven Trucking (Derek & Meaghan Froese & Family). 3rd Place: Blake Airey; 4th Place: Austyn Peters; 5th Place: Aklen Abey; 6th Place: Aysen Abey

Best Homegrown Steer: Aklen Abey; Sponsored by: Dennis and Beth Wilcox.

Highest Gaining Steer Champion: Aysen Abey; Sponsored by D&P Rooke Farms Ltd.

Reserve Champion: Tie - Madison Hillis and Jorja Manz; Sponsored by Jack and Dorothy Beever.

ADJ Prediction: Karas Munz; Sponsored by Melody Acres

Digger Award: Kinley Peters; Sponsored by Hepson Equipment.

Rising Star Award: Rhett Hunter; Sponsored by Hepson Equipment.

Breed Association Awards - Manitoba Angus Association - Manitoba Charolais Association - Manitoba Shorthorn Association - Manitoba Simmental Association

Stall Sign: Ch Cloverbud: Rhett Hunter, Res: Aysen Abey; Ch Junior Maverick Peters, Res: Jorja Manz; Ch Intermediate Blake Airey, Res: Kinley Peters; Ch Senior Austyn Peters, Res: Karas Munz; Sponsored by Heritage Co-op.

Additional Sponsors: Roblin Ford, Gill's Plumbing and Heating, Titan Livestock, Jody's Welding & Repair, Whyte's Lumber,

Beef Supper Sponsored by: MNP, Heritage Co-op



Champion Female - Chase Airey.



Champion Market Steer - Chase Airey.



Reserve Champion Female - Austyn Peters.



Reserve Champion Steer - Karas Munz.

Fusion Credit Union awards \$18,500 in scholarships to local high school students



Peyton Tolton receives a \$500 Fusion Scholarship from Greg Facey Hamiota Branch Manager

By Marla Johnston
FCU COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

Fusion Credit Union is proud to announce that \$18,500 in scholarships has been awarded to graduating high school students as part of their ongoing commitment to supporting youth and education in their communities.

Each year, Fusion proudly invests in the potential of youth by recognizing students who not only excel academically, but also show strong leadership, community involvement and a desire to make a positive impact. This year's recipients represent a wide range of communities, schools and future career paths and Fusion is proud to support their educational journey.

"At Fusion, we believe in investing in the future, and that begins with our youth," says Darwin Johns, CEO of Fusion Credit Union. "These scholarships are more than financial support. They are a celebration of the hard work, values and aspirations of graduates who are making a

difference in our communities."

The Fusion Scholarship Program is open for applications between April and May each year and the criteria considers aspects such as community impact, leadership, and achievements in academics, athletics, and/or the arts. This year, 37 applicants from 11 communities were awarded a \$500 scholarship at their graduation ceremony. Since its inception, the Fusion Credit Union Scholarship program has awarded over \$118,000 in funds to graduating students who are pursuing post-secondary education.

"We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all of this year's scholarship recipients and wish them continued success as they begin this exciting new chapter," states Johns. "Helping students take the next step in their education is one of the most meaningful ways we can give back and we can't wait to see what their future holds."

For more information, please contact marketing@fusioncu.com

Harding Fair results reveal enthusiastic competition



Champion Light Horse - Ken Grainger



Champion Pony - Melissa Atchison

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

By Wenda Best
HARDING AG SOCIETY

Competition at Harding Fair, July 18, drew about 550 through the gate.

It was Bea Janssens Saskatoon pie entry that captured the Grace Kent Memorial class and Best pie award. She donated it to the Ag Society to auction off as a fundraiser. The syndicate of Cam & Bonnie Kent, Cam & Shelley Ramsey and Dana & Megan Johns purchased the prize-winning pie for \$400 and donated it back for a second sale. Levi Best of Clay Hills Livestock purchased it the second time around for \$325.

2025 Harding Fair Results
Grains & Grasses

Judge Brian English of Rivers

Best Sheaf 15 years & over - Richard Stevenson, Kenton.

Best Junior Sheaf - Thompson Charlton, Kenton.

Children's Sheaf - Rhett Hunter, Kenton.

Vegetables & Fruits

Judge Karen Fontaine of Winnipeg

Most Points: 1. Richard Stevenson, Kenton; 2. Hal Elliott, Kenton.

Flowers & Plants

Judge Karen Fontaine

Eldon Robinson Memorial: Most Points - Jean Ryall, Rivers.

Edna Sangster Memorial: Best Arrangements of Lillies - Beatrice Janssens Dodds, Kenton.

Campbell Flower Special: Arrangement of Roses - Marianne Whyte, Kenton.

Green Spot Special: Garden/Deck Planter - Marlene Hunter, Kenton.

Harding Ag Society Special: Horticultural Arrangement - Jean Ryall, Rivers.

Whyte's Special: Outdoor Planter - Beatrice Janssens Dodds, Kenton.

All About Flowers Special: Garden Planter - Marlene Hunter, Kenton.

Junior Flowers

Judge Karen Fontaine

Garden Flower Arrangement: Gloria Wilson, Kenton.

Cooking & Home Products

Judges Leanne Goetz & Ann Mandziuk (both from Minnedosa)

Cargill Oakner Special: Most Points - Lisa Gardner, Lenore & Sara DeGagne of Dryden, ON.

Valleyview Co-op Special: Best Loaf White Bread - Loree Wedderburn, Alexander.

Ellis Farms Special: Muffins made with honey - Lesli Burke, Miniota.

Directors Special: Cinnamon/sticky buns - Lisa Gardner, Lenore.

Lenore WI Special: Cake containing vegetables - Loree Wedderburn, Alexander.

Grace Kent Memorial Special: Saskatoon Pie - Beatrice Janssens Dodds, Kenton.

Judges Favorite: Best pie entry - Beatrice Janssens Dodds, Kenton.

Pickling & Preserves

Most Points: Winnie Wolfe Memorial - Lisa Gardner, Lenore.

Fun With Canning - Candace Tolton, Kenton.

Ready to Make Kit in a Canning Jar - Sara DeGagne of Dryden, ON.

Junior Cooking

Lenore WI Special Most Points (13-16 years) - Caleb McKinnon, Virden.

Lenore WI Special Most Points (12 & under) - Oscar Boynton, Lenore.

Harding Ag Society Cooking Directors Special: Rice Krispie Creation - Rhett Hunter, Kenton.

Needlework & Homecrafts

Judge Roberta Bailey of Lenore

Cargill Oakner Special - Cecile Fisher, Elkhorn.

Harding Ag Special - Dianna Airey, Kenton.

Midwest Arts Council Special: Best Overall Quilt - Margaret White, Oak Lake.

Adult Handicraft

Judge Joan Trott of Hamiota

Keith Bennett Special: Open Photography - Sara DeGagne of Dryden, ON.

Adeline Merke Special: Photography people or animals - Beth Campbell, Douglas.

Whyte's Lumber Special: Wood Craft - Erica Lowe, Hamiota.

Woodworth Ladies Legion Aux. Special: Original Artwork - Beth Harris, Oak Lake.

Marlene Hunter Creative Memories Scrapbook Special - Leith Corney, Kenton.

Junior Handicraft

Judge Joan Trott

Pauline Campbell Memorial Special: Most points - Avery Routledge, Lenore.

Whyte's Lumber Special: Woodworking Project - Avery Routledge, Lenore.

Guild Insurance Special: Craft Item Made in School Age 6-12 - Bowen Thornitt, Kenton.

School Work

Judge Joan Trott

Erica Lowe Special: Map of Make Believe Place - Gloria Wilson, Kenton.

Cargill Oakner Special: Most points in Schoolwork - Myla McCahon of Surrey, B.C.

Miniature Horses

Judge Daryl Horn of Virden

Grand Champion Miniature 34" & under - Glenda Goerzen, St. Andrews.

Reserve Champion Miniature 34" & under - Lainey Betteridge, Minnedosa.

Grand Champion Miniature over 34" to 38" - Kim Dinwoodie, Portage la Prairie.

Dinwoodie, Portage la Prairie.

Light Horses & Ponies

Judge Terry Fehr, Glenboro

Grand Champion Pony - Melissa Atchison, Pipestone.

Grand Champion Light Horse - Ken Grainger, Brandon.

Betty Best Memorial Costume Class - Leah Miskiman, Rocanville, SK.

Jackpot Pole Bending - 41 entries

Pee Wee - 1D - Riley Denbow, Hartney; 2D - Sadie Rampton, Cromer; 3D - Kora Thompson, Oak Lake.

Open - 1D - Danika Smith, Hamiota; 2D - Leah Obach, Kenton; 3D - Jessica Wright, Rapid City.

MBRA Jackpot Barrel Racing - 45 entries

Pee Wee - 1D - Riley Denbow, Hartney; 3D - Sadie Rampton, Cromer.

Youth - 1D - Jessica Wright, Rapid City; 3D - Sophie Priestly, Miniota.

Open - 1D - Chelsey Glasman, Russell; 2D - Janet Rankin, Lenore; 3D - Katie Wright, Rapid City.

Commercial Cow/Calf Pen Show - 29 pens

Judges Keith Overand, Elkhorn; Michael Draper, Lenore; Rob Curtis, Lenore

Nora Curtis Memorial: 2yr Old Commercial Cow/Calf Champion - Cam Ramsey, Oak River.

Kevin Routledge Memorial: Top Commercial Pair with Heifer Calf - Kassadee Wright, Kenton.

Marty Ramsey Memorial Overall Commercial Cow/Calf Winner - Cam Ramsey, Oak River.

Commercial Cattle

Judge Angus Smyth, Roblin

Grand Champion Heifer - Tristen Tober, Oxbow, SK.

Dylana Aarond, Alexander.

Beef Cattle

Judge Angus Smyth, Roblin; 123 Head

Angus: Grand Champion Bull - Brooking Angus Ranch, Radville, SK; Reserve Champion Bull - Freyburn Angus Farms, Oxbow, SK; Grand Champion Female - Freyburn Angus Farms, Oxbow; Reserve Champion Female - Bar H Land & Cattle/Taylor Makey, Langenburg, SK; Breeders Herd - Freyburn Farms, Oxbow.

Limousin: Grand Champion Bull - Clay Hills Livestock, Harding; Reserve Champion Bull - Diamond T Limousin, Kenton; Grand Champion Female - Eden Meadows Limousin, Zehner, SK; Reserve Champion Female - Diamond T Limousin, Kenton; Breeders Herd - Eden Meadows Limousin, Zehner.

Simmental: Grand Champion Bull - Horner Cattle Co., Minnedosa; Reserve Champion Bull - KCH Cattle Co., Rapid City; Grand Champion Female - KCH Cattle Co., Rapid City; Reserve Champion Female - Steppeler Farms Ltd., Miami; Breeders Herd - Oakview Simmentals, Darlingford.

All Other Breeds: Grand

Champion Bull - Longview Cattle Co./Serhienko Cattle Co., Grenfell, SK; Reserve Champion Bull - JMB Charolais, Brookdale; Grand Champion Female - Longview Cattle Co., Grenfell; Reserve Champion Female - Maple Lake Stock Farm Hartney.

Jackpot Heifer Bonanza - 33 entries

Judges Keith Overand, Elkhorn; Michael Draper, Lenore; Rob Curtis, Lenore

Grand Champion - Brookings Angus Ranch, Radville, SK; Reserve Champion - KCH Cattle Co., Rapid City.

Jim Wilson Memorial Supreme Champion Breeders Herd

Freyburn Angus Farms, Oxbow

Ron Sangster Memorial Supreme Champion Bull - entry into Agribition CN Beef Supreme

Longview Cattle Co. & Serhienko Cattle Co., Grenfell, SK

Ron Sangster Memorial Supreme Champion Female - entry into Agribition CN Beef Supreme

Freyburn Angus Farms, Oxbow

1	R	E	R	O	O	T	6	B	O	N	I	E	R			
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21	I	R	E	D		22	S	T	S		24	D	I	N	E	
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46	R	E	V	O	K	E		47	R	E	P	A	I	D		

Created by David Harris of Oak River, MB

CLASSIFIEDS

Notice



NOTICE OF VOTERS LIST / PERSONAL SECURITY PROTECTION

Notice is hereby given that a copy of the VOTERS LIST may be revised at:
670 – 2ND Ave, Rivers MB on Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30am and 4:30pm.

At this time the Senior Election Official (S.E.O.) will be available to update the voters list by:
(a) adding the names of voters who are entitled to have their names on the list;
(b) deleting the names of persons who are not entitled to have their names on the list; and
(c) making such other correction of errors to the list as required.

VOTER ELIGIBILITY:

A person is eligible to have his or her name added to the Voters List if he or she is:
1) a Canadian citizen and at least 18 years of age on election day; and
2) a resident of the local authority for at least six months prior to election day, OR a registered owner of land in the municipality for at least six months prior to election day.

APPLICATION FOR PERSONAL SECURITY PROTECTION:

A voter may apply in writing to the S.E.O. (at the address / fax number below) no later than September 3rd, 2025 to have his/her name and other personal information omitted or obscured from the voters list in order to protect the voter's personal security. The application may be submitted in person, by mail or fax and must include your name, address and include proof of identity.

A person whose name has been obscured will receive a Personal Security Certificate and identification number. In a civic election, that person may only vote by Sealed Envelope Ballot and cannot vote in person at the regular or advance voting places.

All changes to the voters list must be completed on or before September 3rd, 2025.

To implement the above, a written request must be submitted to the Senior Election Official, in person, by e-mail, fax or mail to:

Riverdale Municipality
Address: Box 520, Rivers MB R0K 1X0
Fax: (204) 328-5374
E-mail: cao@riverdalemb.ca

The next General Election takes place on October 9th, 2025.

Dated at Rivers in the Province of Manitoba, on July 21st, 2025.

Marci Quane, CMMA
Chief Administrative Officer
Riverdale Municipality

<https://riversdaly.ca/> | 204-328-5300 | cao@riverdalemb.ca



NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

OF PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATE FOR MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Please be advised that a municipal by-election will be held on October 9, 2025.

Prospective municipal election candidates must register with the Senior Election Official (SEO) during the registration period before they may begin to accept contributions, incur expenses, fundraise or borrow money for their campaign.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I will be receiving candidate registrations:

For the office of councillor: Between August 2, 2025 and September 3, 2025

at the Riverdale Municipal office, 670 – 2nd Avenue during the regular hours of business.

To obtain a registration form contact the SEO at the telephone number listed below.

MARCI QUANE, SEO
Telephone: (204) 328-5300
Fax: (204) 328-5374
Email: cao@riverdalemb.ca

Dated at Rivers MB on July 21st, 2025.

Riverdale Municipality
Chief Administrative Officer
Riverdale Municipality

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www.rrsd.mb.ca

Select Employment link then Support Staff Positions link.



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Rapid City Elementary School Rapid City, MB	7 hours per day 7:00am - 10:00am 2:00pm - 6:00pm (split shift)

Rate of Pay as per CUPE Collective Agreement
Benefits package

For more details and application information, please visit our website at www.rrsd.mb.ca, select Employment link, then Support Positions.

Visit our website
www.riversbanner.com

Thank-you

Thank-you
Thank-you
Thank-you

There is no way to express our heartfelt gratitude to our family, friends, neighbours, and community for the support and concern we have received during Lyle's recovery!! The visits, cards, soups, calls, text's, gifts, prayers, and well wishes have helped in so many ways!! We have felt all the love and it has been so uplifting and greatly appreciated!!

Lyle is continuing to recover and looks forward to resuming life as usual!! Thanks again and best wishes to each and every one of you!!

Thank-you from Lyle and Shauna Paddock



Tender

Rolling River School Division



Commercial Buildings For Sale By Tender

The Rolling River School Division is selling by tender, the following two buildings in Minnedosa, Manitoba, that are surplus to its' needs.

Transportation Garage and Office Building

154 Main Street South, Minnedosa, Manitoba

The building is 11,306 square feet, two stories plus mezzanine, slab on grade and has a fenced compound. The parcel has frontage along Main Street South of 252.0' and depth of 132.0'.

Maintenance Shop / Armory Building

21-1st Avenue SW, Minnedosa, Manitoba

The building was originally an armory and is 10,106 square feet, two stories plus mezzanine. The parcel has frontage along 1st Avenue SW of 83.65' and depth of 265'.

Both properties are zoned CC – Commercial Central Zone.

As per provincial guidelines, reasonable consideration will be extended to proposals /bids whose objectives are to meet educational, recreational, or cultural needs within the community.

The properties are to be sold as is, where is, with the purchaser to assume any and all legal costs incurred.

The highest or any tender is not necessarily accepted.

Tenders close at 12:00 Noon, September 2, 2025.

Visit <https://www.rrsd.mb.ca/division/tenders> for property profile information / summary documents and the process to view the properties and submit a bid.

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OAK RIVER, MB

SPORTS

DODGERS ADVANCE TO SWBL FINALS

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Oak River Dodgers are battling the Boissevain Centennials for the South West Baseball League championship.

The Centennials took game one, 24-3, on July 28 in Oak River. The visitors out-hit the hosts, 25-6. Dylan Schrader, Kaden Rozdeba, and Ty McKenzie dove in runs for Oak River. The Dodgers sent five hurlers to the mound.

Game two was slated for July 29 in Boissevain after the Banner's deadline. Due to the teams playing an unbalanced schedule, the Centennials earned home field advantage by virtue of winning game one. They were to host game three on July 30. The Dodgers hope to force a game four, which they would host on Aug. 5. Game five would be in Boissevain on Aug. 13.

The senior Dodgers advanced to the SWBL finals by defeating the Rivers Comets, 3-1, in the best-of-three North Division championship series. Rivers won the opening contest before Oak River took the next three, including two last week.

"Scotty (Beever) is a really good pitcher," Oak River manager Derek Shamray said. "It started with beating Scotty in game three and just sort of snowballed. Our bats stayed hot in game four. Hopefully we keep it going against Boissevain. They are going to be tough to beat though."

The Centennials swept Brandon's RFNOW Cardinals, 3-0, in the South Division finals series. The Boissevain team has won the last three SWBL championships.

"We have a nice little rivalry with them," Shamray said. "It's been a couple of years but we used to meet in the finals ... We're familiar with everybody."

The schedule for the SWBL finals was not available at the Banner deadline. The Dodgers fell 12-1 in the lone game they played against the Centennials in the regular season. When asked about key to playing the Boissevain team, Shamray said:

"We got to play good defence. They are going to hit the ball. They put the ball in play. ... They got very good pitching. Our bats have got to stay alive."

Rivers Comets

A young Comets team posted an 8-7-0 record in the regular season. They finished third in the SWBL North Division. In the playoffs, the Rivers team upset the No. 2 Brandon GW Vacuum Service Young Guns, 2-0, in the first round. Rivers player/organizer Mike McFadden said the development of the team has been fun.

"Get in the mix of playoffs and get the feel of it. It makes the boys want more. Not the finish we wanted, but it's a level to build off of."

The team appreciates those who backed it all season long. "The fans and community are our heartbeat," McFadden said. "We can't put a team on the field and financially support ourselves without the fans."

SWBL North Finals

Game Four - Dodgers 12, Comets 1

On July 25, the visiting Dodgers led 2-1 after three innings. They racked up 10 runs in the next three on their way to the win.

Oak River had eight hits and took advantage of nine Rivers' errors. Five different Dodgers drove in a run. Kaden Rozdeba was two-for-three at the plate and drew two walks. He also earned the pitching win. He struck out six and allowed one run on three hits. Riley Shamray threw a shutout inning in relief.



PHOTO BY CELIA NOLAN

Oak River Dodgers warm up and get ready for the game.

Game Three - Dodgers 8, Comets 7

In the first two contests of the series, the Comets shut out the Dodgers, 12-0, and Oak River won 7-4. In the third game, the host Dodgers led 3-0 after the first inning and were up 4-3 after three. The Comets scored four runs in the fifth. The Dodgers responded with four in the sixth to take the lead 8-7.

For Oak River, Ty Paddock hit two home runs and drove in five runs. The Comets' Fred Hrycak went yard and three RBIs.

Paddock started on the mound for Oak River. He allowed six runs on six hits in 4.33 innings. Mitch Battersy earned the win in relief. He allowed one run on two hits in 1.66 innings. For Rivers, Scott Beever struck out six and surrendered eight runs on nine hits.

UMPIRE MEMORIES



I have enjoyed sharing some umpiring memories I have had and there will be more, but this one deserves to be written and shared for sure. I have shared some about Bob Senff and Dwayne Barkley as we worked a number of games together. Both these men were really good umpires. At times out on the field, Dwayne got me started doing this. Mimic the way Major League Umpires called strikes and calls especially at first base. My favourite major league umpire was Ron Luciano. Go to YouTube and check him out.

One particular umpire that in my opinion exceeded all the rest of the umpires and no disrespect to anyone here, but the best was Ron Shewchuk. Ron worked games all over Canada, doing high level baseball. I feel if Ron had

chosen, he would easily make the major leagues of baseball.

Why do I say that? When Ron stepped out onto the ball diamond he brought a presence out onto the field of play. I never saw that with any other umpire I worked with. Ron was a very humble individual, but when he stepped out on the diamond there was like a halo around him. He was so calm, cool and collected. Nothing seemed to faze him. It was almost like the games slowed down for him. Every pitch he called must have looked like water-melons coming at him. Thanks to Ron he made all of us better umpires. My regret was not working with him more as he was a tremendous teacher!

His strike zone was so consistent, and it never wavered from game to game. I never saw him miss a pitch. His strike zone was just so darn good. As an umpire the one thing that will get you respect is if your strike zone is the same every game you work behind the plate. Ron had a great rapport with the players, they simply respected him! If you did

not like Ron, well maybe you should not have played baseball.

Umpiring on the bases, Ron would set up and move so little out on the field. He shifted only his feet a little to be looking directly at any base he was responsible for calling.

It was a lot of fun working with Ron. He was also so positive to help out other umpires. He was in so much control of each game and his on-field command of all situations was simply a lot of fun to watch as he worked the games. The game looked like it just came easy for him. He set the bar high for the rest of us to try to get to just from his work on the diamond. Again, he was always encouraging us, willing to share his experiences with us to help us develop into better umpires. One regret I have is not being able to work more games together, he made them fun!

I do not know if Ron still umpires games or not, but one thing I do know for sure that Mr. Ron Shewchuk was by far and away the best umpire I ever saw in all of Manitoba!

SPORTS RAMBLINGS



We are almost at the end of July which means the dog days of August are almost here. Baseball leagues around here are winding down and the major leagues have about one third of a season left to play. This can mean fall is close by already.

Locally, the Oak River Dodgers and the Boissevain Centennials will compete against one another for the South West Baseball Crown.

The Toronto Blue Jays have been on some kind of roll the last couple of months. As of today the Jays are in first place in the American baseball league, it is the first time at this late date since 1992. They were World Champions that year. The first time for Canada, so there is a lot of excitement for those who cheer for them. The Jays success is from good

defence, good pitching and timely hitting. They do not live by the home run this year. This just shows you that you can compete with anyone hitting singles and doubles.

The Bombers season is underway and they are a sellout every night. We will see if that remains if they start to lose some games. The Rough Riders look like they are for real and are sitting on top of the CFL standings. It would be nice to see them selling out Mosaic again.

The Winnipeg Jets need only to sign Dylan Samberg again, and they will have their team set for the upcoming season which is still a little ways away.

The National Football League training camps are underway which is another sign that fall is coming. Hopefully my Niners have a better season!

The courts ruled on the 2018 World Junior players case the other day and they were found not guilty. In truth, in my opinion there were no winners in this case. All of them will carry what happened in

that room for the rest of their lives. There will be no escaping that which was made public for any of them and any future that may have, be it marriage and children, plus any career path any of them choose. This applies to the lady as well. I hope they all get the counselling and support they need to try and live some kind of normal life. This just does not get stuffed under the rug, this will be an ongoing trial within themselves for the rest of their days. Again, I say, no winners.

In less than a month the Manitoba Junior Hockey League training camps will begin, and another hockey season will get underway, so stay tuned for that as exhibition games will begin about a month from now. The Brandon Wheat King season will also begin with training camp next month.

I am going to be away for about a month. Taking a holiday but will return in September with more memories on the ice and on the ball diamond. Have a great summer everyone, see you in September!

Vandal ready to tackle Summer Games

By Robin Wark
RIVERS BANNER

When Rivers’ Madi Vandal started playing rugby in 2021, she did not know where the sport would take her.

The daughter of Megan and Keith Vandal has committed to play rugby for the Brandon University Bobcats. The 2025 Rivers Collegiate graduate plans to study psychiatric nursing. Before she embarks on that academic and athletic path, Vandal will represent her province at the Canada Summer Games in rugby sevens. She will be a member of Team Manitoba competing at the Aug. 8-25 event in St. John’s, Newfoundland and Labrador.

“I look forward to competing against stronger teams and seeing how our team does against these new teams,” Vandal said. “I am also excited to further bond with my team on and off the pitch.”

Two of her teammates will be Oak River’s Karas Munz and Elle McLean. Last summer, the trio helped Team West Green win the gold medals at the 2024 Manitoba Summer Games in Dauphin. Minnedosa’s Kathleen Muirhead led that team, and she is in charge of this

year’s provincial squad. Last summer, Muirhead described Vandal as “fast and can make smart decisions while on the field.”

The prestigious Summer Games provide a unique, national-level, multi-sport event. It is expected to draw more than 4,000 athletes, coaches and managers from 17 sports.

For Vandal, it is also an opportunity to travel further east than she has before. Vandal said, “I am excited to sightsee in St. John’s, and the boat tour we plan to take.”

This is her fifth season playing rugby. She said, “I am very motivated to keep playing by the coaches I have and the teams I play with. As my rugby career goes further, I am also motivated to push myself to be a better player.”

Throughout her time playing the sport, Vandal has been strongly backed by her parents. She said they “have always supported me as a rugby player and have pushed me to be better every game. They have especially been supportive with this provincial rugby team with helping to pay to get me places and driving all over the country and just motivating me in general to keep going.”



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Madi Vandal will represent Manitoba in women’s sevens rugby at the Canada Summer Games.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Aug 12

Chase the Ace
Hamiota Hotel 7pm

3

Lucky Break Ranch
Trail Ride with
Cowboy Supper
3pm

4

5

Council Meeting

50 + Club
Pool 1pm

6

50 + Club
Cribbage 1pm

7

Darts Rivers
Legion 7pm

Crib Rivers
Legion 7pm

8

Chase the Ace
Hamiota Hotel 7pm

9

Rivers Grad
2026
Fundraiser
Mini Golf
Tournament
11am - 6:30pm

10

Clack Brothers
Museum Fun Day
10am - 2pm

11

50 + Club
Rummy
1pm

12

50 + Club
Pool 1pm

13

50 + Club
Cribbage 1pm

14

Riverdale Harvest
Food Bank
9:30 to 11:30am.

Darts Rivers
Legion 7pm

Crib Rivers
Legion 7pm

15

Chase the Ace
Hamiota Hotel 7pm

16