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Graphic Designer - Manager

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**RIVERS** **BANNER** GAZETTE-REPORTER

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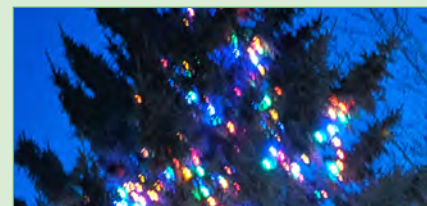
# GINGERBREAD HOUSES FOR ALL THE GINGERBREAD PEOPLE



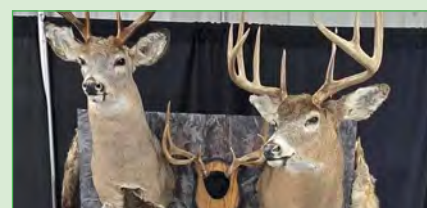
PHOTO BY SHIRLEY MARTIN

Some of the beautifully decorated gingerbread houses made at the Rapid City Library's Gingerbread House build on December 7. The kids had fun using their imaginations. They will be on display at the library until December 14 and then the builders can take them home to enjoy.

## Inside...



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TREES LIGHT  
UP**  
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BUCK  
NIGHT**  
*P2*



**Ho-Ho-Hope  
You Know  
How Much We  
Appreciate  
Your Business**

**We will be closed  
from Dec 21 - Jan 5  
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# 2024 Trophy Buck Night

## Submitted

By DONNA FALKEVITCH

Rivers and Area Game and Fish Assoc. held their 27th annual Trophy Buck Night Dec. 7 at Riverdale Community Centre using both Redfern Hall and Behlen Lounge. A record-breaking number of 89 heads were scored! Over 200 people attended the event and were treated to a bowl (or 2) of delicious chili served up by Richard English. Lots of hunting stories were shared over a few beverages while checking out the displays set up by Brandon Home Hardware Building Centre, Lone Wolf Taxidermy, Still Water Adventures, Trigger Finger Taxidermy and chats with our local MP Dan Mazier.

Our MC Tim Gompf kept the night moving along at a fast pace with the first gun draw for a Savage 17 HMR from all 89 heads entered being won by Alicia Vandermerwe. Trevor Taylor of Brandon won the card draw for the 22-250. Richie Joynt of Alexander won the full shoulder mount donated by Lone Wolf Taxidermy. Kent Michie of Rapid City was the winner of the Savage 30-06 Axis and James Wood of Newdale won the Mossberg Patriot BA 6.5 in the final card draw.

Over in Behlen Lounge a full range of raffle prizes stretched across the room. Many thanks to the members and businesses both local and further afield for donating such great prizes. There were several happy winners with early Christmas presents to take home.

The trophy winners were:

Ladies-Rifle-Member-Elizabeth Smith with a score of 123 1/8

Ladies-Rifle-non-member- Alicia Burnell with a score of 145 2/8



Buck night Trigger Finger Taxidermy.

Ladies-Muzzle-Member- Lynnette Beaudin with a score of 125 3/8

Junior-Member-Troy Lok with a score of 160

Junior-non-member- Drayson Sherian with a score of 170

Archery-non-member- Shae Kokorudz with a score of 164 6/8

Rifle-Typical-non-member- Scott Eisler with a score of 166 6/8

Rifle-non-Typical-non-member- Jayden Horrath with the highest score of the evening at a whopping 188 7/8

Rifle-Typical-Member- Kelvin Lamb with a score of 156 3/8

Rifle-non-typical-Member- Chris McCoy with a



PHOTO BY DONNA FALKEVITCH

Elizabeth Smith with a score of 123 1/8.



Jayden Horrath with the highest score of the evening.

score of 136 4/8

Muzzle-non-typical-non-member- Eric Thiessen with a score of 132 3/8

Muzzle-Typical-Member- Richie Joynt with a score of 159 3/8

Mule Deer-Typical-Member- Richie Joynt with a score of 134 3/8

Mule Deer-Typical-non-member- Luke Plett with a score of 121 4/8

Rivers and Area Game & Fish would like to thank all who attended, the 89 who brought head entries, those who donated prizes for the raffles, the hard-working volunteer members and the RCI Grad Class of 2025 who were tremendous workers! Hope to see you all next year at our 28th annual.

## Another great fall of hunting



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Garry and Holly moved into their parents farm in 1984.

By Gerry Nolan  
RIVERS BANNER

This story begins in the fall of 1955. An Air Force Controller who was stationed at the Rivers Air Force base was on his way to Virden. He could not help but notice the large amount of ducks, feeding in a field near Lenore. He stopped and asked the owner of the farm if he could hunt there. The farmer told him, you can shoot them all!

The Air Force Controller then drove to Lenore and purchased a double barrel shotgun and 2 boxes of shells. He drove back to the field and had a very successful hunt.

The Air Force Controller returned to his home after his leave from Rivers Air Force base to Carleton Place in Ontario, not that far from Ottawa.

In the fall of 1955 Bert and Molly Draper purchased

the farm that the hunter was drawn to. The next year 1956, 8 hunters drove out in 2 station wagons to the Draper farm. The hunters had driven 30 hours non-stop to get to Lenore. They asked Bert if they could hunt there, and the answer was yes they could. Bert told them, they were welcome to stay in a recent vacated house if they chose to.

The hunters agreed, so they stayed in the house. They slept on the floors in sleeping bags, ate cold meals and shot waterfowl to their delight.

In 1957, 17 hunters drove by car, the 30-hour trip to the Bert Draper farm.

Also making that trip was a high-ranking Air Force officer who flew to Rivers in a Fighter Jet. When arriving at the farm the officer asked where do we sleep.

The answer was a sleeping bag on the floor. The officer asked Bert if he and his grain truck were available for the afternoon. Bert said yes, they could do that.

With a trip to Rivers base, they returned with cots and mattresses for everyone. As well they brought back kitchen utensils, a propane stove and heater. One of the hunters was a gas fitter, so now the meals were hot and the house cozy!

After another great fall of hunting, they wondered how to get all these ducks back home. The Air Force Officer volunteered to take the ducks on the fighter jet where he was sure no one would bother with him.

To date over 1000 hunters have visited and hunted on the Draper farm. They still use the same cots although the mattresses have been updated.

One of the original hunters, Bill Bennett, made his last

visit to the farm at age 82. His buddies had him flown to Winnipeg then they travelled by car to the Draper farm. When he arrived at Drapers he stepped out of the car and stated in a loud voice, well we made it!

Bill was very excited and happy to have one final hunt.

In 1968, the old house was run down and so the hunters stayed in the Drapers basement and still do so to this day.

Drapers have hosted hunters from Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia. They have also had guests from the United States such as Minnesota, Georgia, Wisconsin, Michigan, Arizona and Florida.

The hunters stay from anywhere from 4 to 7 days. Hunting season runs from September 24 to October 24.

Garry and Holly moved into their parents farm in 1984 and have continued to host these special hunters from all over North America.

In return, Drapers have gone to visit these hunters at their homes and have met more wonderful people, who they would not have met except for that day in 1955.

Next year will be the 70-year anniversary of the hunters coming to the Draper farm.

Usually about 4 to 6 hunters come at a time. Of course the time of year they come is harvest time so things can get hectic taking off the harvest.

Just a couple of stories but there are many more.

One of the hunters was told not to have another drink unless company arrived. The hunter went out to the highway and was waving down cars to stop and look at all the ducks they had with the sole purpose of having another drink! Pretty crafty I would say.

One of the first trips to Lenore, the hunters were told not to drive down dirt roads but stay on gravel. Well they did not listen! They thought it would be like the roads back home. Wrong! The prairie gumbo is a very special type of earth when it gets wet. Spending the better part of an afternoon pushing and pulling their vehicles and walking in the clay they discovered that they had a different boot size. Walking was cumbersome and difficult with all that clay on their boots.

Over the years the Draper family have become very close with many of the hunter friends, as Garry and Holly said, they are just like family!

Over the years sons and grandsons of those original hunters have come to stay and hunt, relax and have a holiday!

**FAITHFULLY YOURS**

**NEIL STROHSCHNEIN**  
A peacemaker's code



In the days preceding the recent US presidential election, Candidate (now President-Elect) Donald Trump confidently stated that he could end the war in Ukraine within 24 hours of becoming President. My first reaction to those words was: "He probably could; but at what price? And is he the one we should trust to produce a lasting peace?"

That second question lead to a third-how can we recognize someone we can trust to help warring factions negotiate a lasting and sustainable peace? I came up with five character traits that a trustworthy peacemaker should possess.

First, moral integrity. The beliefs of trusted peacemakers are based on Holy Scripture; and they live by the standards they seek others to adopt. When leaders do not live by the rules they seek to impose on others, they should not

be surprised when those they lead break the rules and use the leaders' actions as their excuse for doing so.

Second, a commitment to truth and justice. Trusted peacemakers know that there are three sides to every story-your side, my side and then the truth. Before justice can be served in any situation the "whole" truth must be revealed and those on each side of a dispute must acknowledge their role in starting the fight and resolve to change their behaviors so that a lasting and sustainable peace can be achieved.

Third, trusted peacemakers have no desire to get involved in wars of words. That's how most conflicts begin People hurl insults at one another, make false accusations and utter threats. Before long, others get involved and the conflict can divide families, communities countries and nations. In extreme cases, wars of words can escalate into violent actions that, left unchecked, could lead to civil or world wars.

Trusted peacemakers choose their words carefully. They do not add their inappropriate words to those already spoken in the dispute they are asked to mediate. But neither will they allow themselves to be intimidated or weakened or demeaned. That's because...

Fourth, trusted peacemakers know where compromise is possible and where it isn't. As noted above, trusted peacemakers are committed to

doing what is just and seeking a just settlement to all disputes. They know that there are some things one cannot put to a vote. They are wrong, or they are right and trusted peacemakers must have the courage to take a stand for justice and righteousness, even if it means that the two sides in a dispute will reject them and their efforts will fail.

Finally trusted peacemakers seek to find and build on common ground. Those words are easy to write and easy to read. But the most talented and trustworthy peacemakers on earth will, at times, find those words difficult, if not impossible to achieve. But they keep trying, hoping for a breakthrough that will lead to the lasting peace they desire.

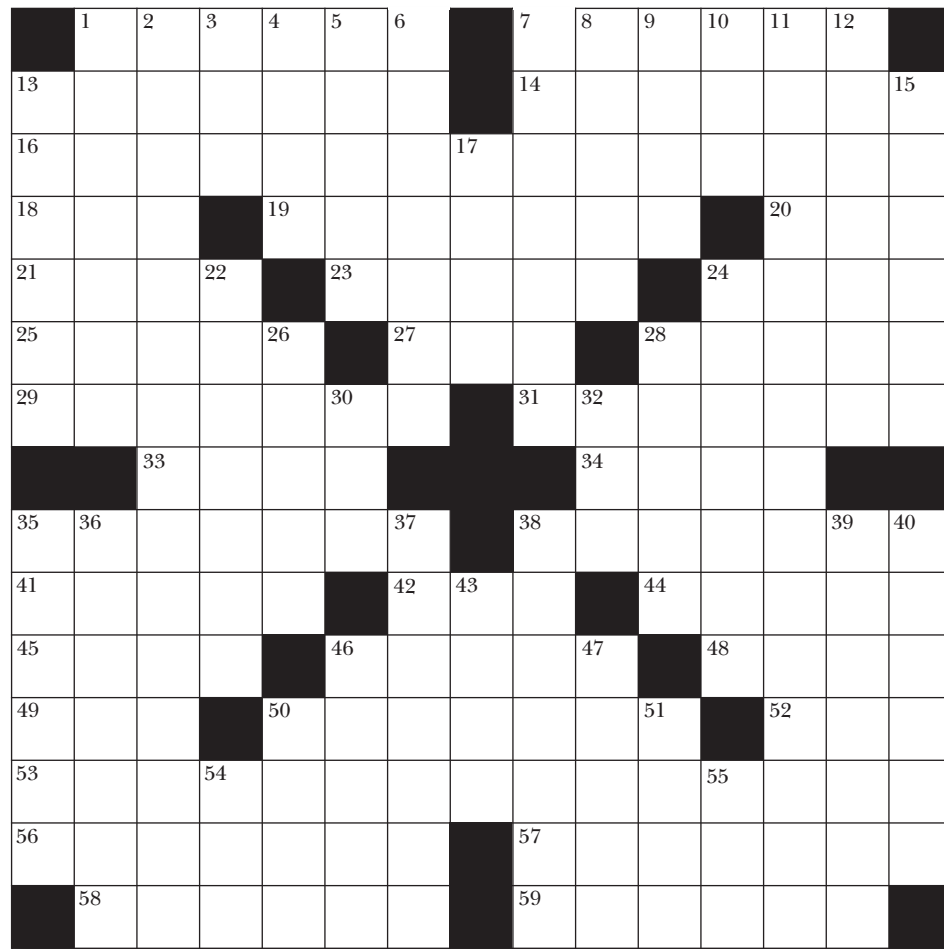
As people of faith, we can (and should) applaud the efforts of all those who try, in one way or another, to bring warring parties to a negotiating table and urge them to settle their disputes there. But we should not be surprised if their efforts fail.

We look forward to the return of Jesus Christ, the "Prince of Peace," the ultimate peacemaker, who will put an end to all war and violence and establish an eternal kingdom of righteousness and peace. In nine days we will celebrate his birth. Let us welcome him as the one who brings peace to our lives, to our homes, to our communities and to our world.

# Locally created crossword puzzle

**Across**

- 1 - Ye olde store
- 7 - Easy
- 13 - Livingstone's seeker
- 14 - Beet juice de-icer
- 16 - Brinks truck
- 18 - Test area
- 19 - Connects copper plumbing
- 20 - Tear
- 21 - Burden
- 23 - Gets close
- 24 - Strong cord
- 25 - Shrek's family
- 27 - Ship's chain
- 28 - Assassinated Renault CEO
- 29 - Nullifies
- 31 - Gowns
- 33 - Pitcher, vase
- 34 - Soft Cheese
- 35 - Life professions
- 38 - Drum stroke
- 41 - Escort to a seat
- 42 - Bookkeeper abbr.
- 44 - Shorthand writer abbr.
- 45 - Garden storage
- 46 - Rhyme writers
- 48 - Killed
- 49 - Al's father (Pacino)
- 50 - Made guttural sounds
- 52 - 1101 in Rome
- 53 - French leader (1804-1814) (2wds)
- 56 - Appearing to be
- 57 - Identity badge
- 58 - Hard, menial worker
- 59 - Most cunning



**Down**

- 1 - Odd
- 2 - Makes ground beef a meal
- 3 - Beatle Lennon's wife
- 4 - Add on
- 5 - Argentina's husband or wife president
- 6 - Holes for laces
- 7 - Cut off
- 8 - Cake decorators
- 9 - Hardness scale
- 10 - Tire pressure scale abbr.
- 11 - Canada's sport protections (2wds)
- 12 - Oval
- 13 - Old-fashioned bar
- 15 - Prairie tents
- 17 - June 6, 1944
- 22 - Kelp
- 24 - Oppose, withstand
- 26 - Control the course
- 28 - Levees
- 30 - Human mistake
- 32 - Baseball stat.
- 35 - Swears
- 36 - Embarrassed of oneself
- 37 - Unwanted pest
- 38 - Chair weaving materials
- 39 - Needs no primer
- 40 - Dragging
- 43 - Sean who was married to Madonna
- 46 - Tine
- 47 - Calyx, flower covering petal
- 50 - Parallel crossing framework
- 51 - Mapleleaf enforcer Tie
- 54 - Australian flightless bird
- 55 - Confederate Robert E.

Created by David Harris of Oak River, MB

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

Join us Sundays at 10:30 a.m.  
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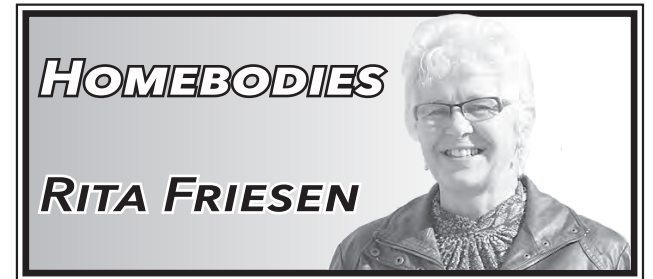
**Westman Canadian Reformed Church**  
Worship Services  
Sundays at 10:00am  
*"Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together." Psalm 98:8*

# Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



©Tundra 2024



## Simpler times?

What were the 'good old days'? And were the times truly simpler? This week I was encouraged to think a bit more deeply into my concept of the good old days. I had a relatively average childhood; two parents, three sisters, scads of aunties and uncles and cousins, two sets of grandparents and one complete set of great grandparents. We were an average farming family in an average community. There were relatively few decisions that I was required to make; obey parents at home and teachers at school. I had enough to eat and clothing, often hand-me-downs, to wear. In my eyes those were simpler times and the good old days. I realize that for my parents who worked hard and long to provide those comforts and necessities, well, they might not have used those words!

Many of these reflections came in regards to Christmas decorations and celebrations. I never attended a one room school house, but friends did. Even in our rural four room brick schoolhouse we had our classroom decorated for the holiday seasons. The students with artistic ability were allowed creative expression on the blackboards, using coloured chalk and stencils, or freehand if they were really good. I recall the stencil, perforated paper that one dusted with a chalk filled eraser. Remove the paper and there was the image of Santa, or candy canes or snowmen. I don't know where the stencil came from, it just magically appeared. Simple. There were often streamers of crepe paper, or chains made out of coloured paper. Truly simplistic but details that added to the festive season. But there was a teacher who prepared the ideas and supplied the material.

And which country school child could ever forget the Christmas concerts? The details involved, the excitement with having family and friends attend and witness our abilities! Crepe paper costumes for pattern dance, wigs and gowns and crowns for the nativity story, singing and the wonderful monologue. There was a great deal of pressure on the performers! There would be a gift exchange, having drawn names in the classroom, praying for the right name to be drawn, by you and by whoever got your name! High stakes. The concert always ended with Santa Clause, ho-hoing his way through the crowd, distributing the goodie bags; a brown paper bag with peanuts, a Christmas orange, some hard candies- raspberries, curly ones, some with printing on them! and in a great year- chocolates. Those treats were savoured and treasured, a gift from the school trustees if I remember correctly.

I hold close these memories. They instilled in me a sense of community, of taking a part in an event bigger than my everyday, of striving and attaining. These events in a crowded school gymnasium, with the excitement level off the charts, surrounded by supporters, gave me courage to speak in public (there was the trusted prompter behind the curtain!) and to be grateful, aware of the wonder of working together.

Thanks to family, friends and community, those were, for me, a portion of my good old days, and again, for me, those were a simpler time.

# Triumph over trials

I don't think I can remember a busier December. The Christmas month is always busy for peoples' personal lives and for us that is no exception. Christmas parties, family gatherings and staff parties are all part of the expected activities for any given family in any given December.

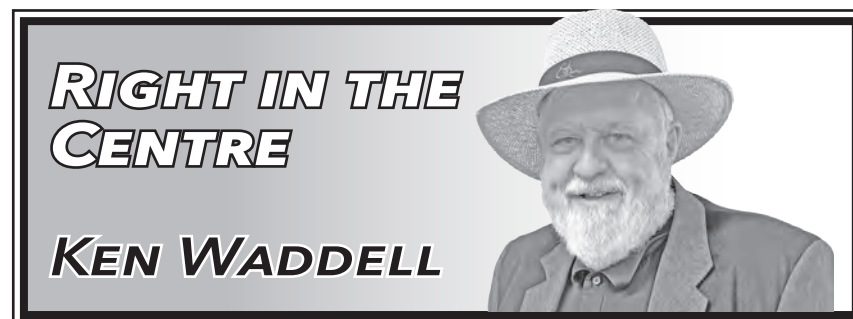
This year has all of that but it seems that from a business point of view, times are busier this year. In part it's due to the absolutely stupid Canada Postal strike.

As of the date of this writing (Dec. 8, 2024), Canada is under siege of a postal strike. Letters, parcels and most importantly cheques, are not moving. The strike is costing Canadians millions of dollars a day, CUPW people aren't being paid. Thousands of postmasters at rural post offices are being paid to do nothing and are mandated by Canada Post to do nothing. Even the local mail is forbidden to move.

There's also a dirty little secret in Canada Post, that some post offices have been ignoring, but even local letters are supposed to be shipped to a regional centre to be sorted and then sent back. If you drop off a letter at a local post office for a box holder in the same post office, that letter is supposed to be handled and sorted by the regional centres.

It's hard to not to curse when one contemplates that much stupidity.

Lots of blame to go around the affairs of Canada Post. The federal government has never modified the Canada Post model, it's still stuck in the 1930s or somewhere even earlier than that. It's mandated to send First Class mail (letters basically) to any place in Canada for a dollar or so. I am really old, I can remember when it was five cents but most people



“ We need to harken to the ‘Faith of our Fathers’. ”

today won't believe that. Both the federal government and Canada Post have ignored the changes that have taken place in the past 60 or so years. In fairness to the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) they have made some suggestions but to no avail.

So, safe to say, amid all the other December busy season stuff, the woes Canada Post has inflicted on us all is very stressful.

As a newspaper, we are so thankful, that except for subscriptions, we simply don't use Canada Post any more. We made our final stop on that trail last week, albeit with a bit of sadness.

I also don't remember a December when there was so much war and rumours of war. The US political scene is in turmoil, world affairs seem to produce a new crisis every day. Syria, Ukraine, Russia, local regional wars, famine, travel and shipping problems, you name it, there's enough stress out here to keep everyone uptight.

However, we have been going

through stresses like this for decades. Mankind has been going through these stresses for centuries. Of all the months that we need to harken to the "Faith of our Fathers", December is the month and the stresses should point us in that direction big time.

My parents and grandparents, just like yours, went through many trials and tribulations. But through the decades, throughout the centuries, we can reflect on God and what He has done for us and continues to do for us. Let's not forget that Christmas is the time when we express a little more gratitude for the baby in the manger, God's gift to us. No matter how tough things get, we can rest in the blessings of God on us and our country. In spite of all the problems there is no other country I would rather live in and with faith in God and Jesus as our Saviour, we will triumph in life and in death.

*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.*

**Rivers Banner**  
Est. 1908

204- 328-7494  
www.riversbanner.com  
info@riversbanner.com  
Drop box @ 529 Second Ave•Rivers, MB  
Circulation: 2,200  
Yearly Subscription Rates (excluding taxes): \$52.03 in Manitoba, \$59.08 elsewhere in Canada  
Canadian Publications Mail Sales Product Agreement #40012782

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY  
AD DEADLINE: TUESDAY 12 PM PRIOR TO ISSUE DATE

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**News Media Canada Médias d'Info Canada**  
Funded by the Government of Canada  
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# Hamiota United Church Christmas show



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Hamiota United Church Sunday School presented their version of the Nativity scene at the White Gift service Dec. 1. Back row: Myles Knight, Karl Borra, Piper English, Matreya Knight, Ivan Labasan, Xavier Salmi, Jazmin Rivera. Front row: Malia Knight, Isla English, Jaina Clarke, Annaka Clarke, Everett Salmi.

## Tiny shifts, big wins: How to sneak wellness into your busy life

**HOLISTIC WELLNESS**  
**CERTIFIED HYPNOTHERAPIST**  
**MARIE EVELYNE GINGRAS**

Wellness can sometimes feel like a giant to-do list written in glitter, unattainable perfection. But guess what? It doesn't have to be. Wellness is not about flipping your life upside down; it's about making small, simple tweaks that feel good and stick. Think of it as planting tiny seeds. A little water here, a little sunlight there, and suddenly you've got a thriving garden of good vibes. Ready? Let's dig in!

You don't need to move to a mountain-

top or master the art of "om" to calm your mind. Try this proven breathing technique: breathe in for four counts, hold it for four, and then exhale for four. Do it a few times, and BOOM! You've hit the mental reset button. Feeling fancy? Do it somewhere peaceful. But honestly, even a stolen moment in the bathroom stall works wonders. No judgment here!

Hydration is your body's love language, and water is basically

the Beyoncé of beverages. Start your day with a glass (yes, before the coffee!), and keep it going. Bored of plain water? Toss in some lemon slices, a cucumber twist, or a handful of mint. Congratulations, you just made spa water. Look at you, living the luxury life.

When life feels like a tangled mess, step outside. Seriously, go now! Walk barefoot in the grass, sit under a tree, or just stand there and channel your inner sunflower by soaking up the sun. In our case right now, I would sit on a chair outside with boots and jacket to soak up the sun! Nature has this sneaky way of making everything feel... less extra. Plus, fresh air is

free, so grab it while it lasts.

Forget hardcore diets and kale smoothies that taste like regret. Just add a little color to your plate—add juicy berries, crisp veggies, or grilled chicken that are seasoned. It's like turning your meal into an edible rainbow. A hearty soup, a bright salad, or even a handful of nuts (NOT chocolate covered!) can work wonders without sacrificing flavor (or your will to live).

Spoiler alert: exercise doesn't have to stink. Put on your favorite throwback jam and dance like it's 1999. Or take a walk, stretch those stiff shoulders, or try a random workout video that's less "beast

mode" and more "let's not pull a muscle." I use an awesome app, it works great! The point is, move in ways that feel good. If it makes you smile (or laugh at yourself), you're doing it right.

Sleep isn't just for when you're exhausted; it's your secret weapon for conquering life. Create a cozy vibe—dim the lights, grab a soft blanket, or sip on some chamomile tea. Can't sleep? No problem. Start with 10 minutes of quiet time before bed. Call it a "pre-nap warm-up". Whatever works, because beauty sleep isn't just a myth, it's your glow-up partner in crime.

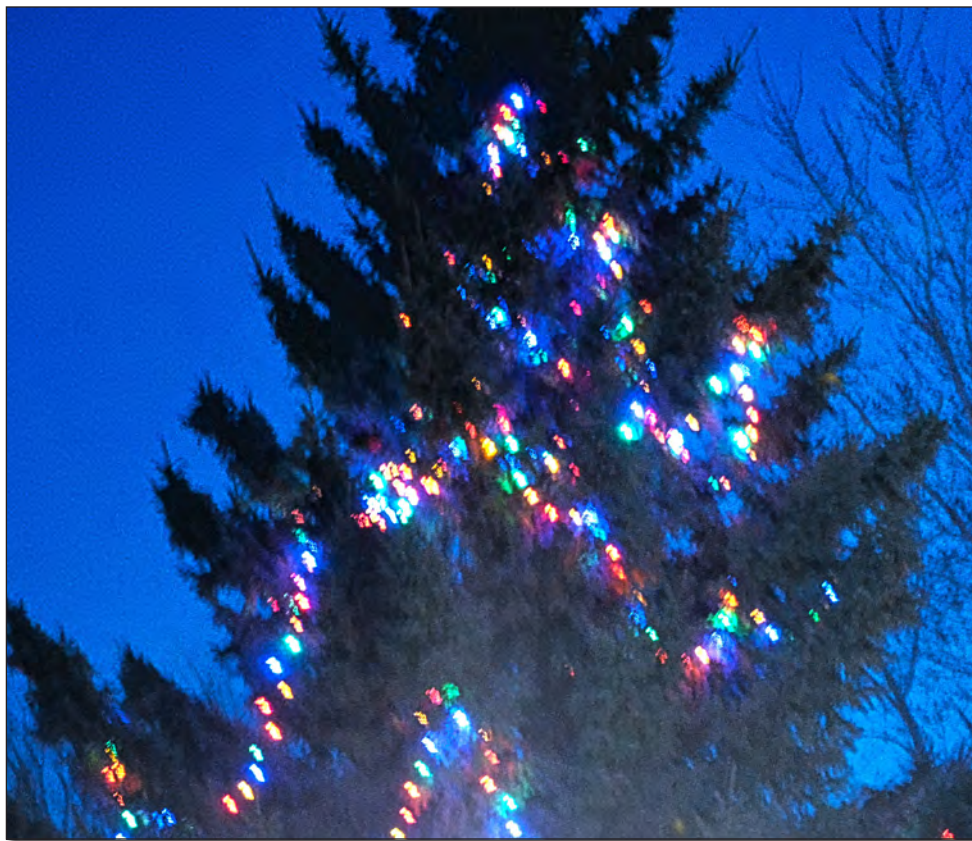
Before you crash, think of three things that made you smile

today. Was it a meme that had you wheezing? Crushing that presentation? Or maybe your dog finally learned not to knock over your drink. Write them down, say them out loud, or just hold onto them. Instant mood booster, guaranteed.

Why do it alone when you can make wellness a team sport? Share your goals with your crew. Go on walks together, swap recipes, or just hype each other up. Trust me, everything's more fun when you've got your squad cheering you on and you'll stick to it longer, too.

Holistic wellness isn't about chasing perfection. It's about embracing little habits that make you feel good and treating yourself with kindness along the way. So, start small, laugh often, and watch those tiny changes grow into a life you love. You've got this!

# Oak Lake Memory Tree and hayrides night



PHOTOS BY OLIVER NOLAN

On Saturday, December 7, the town of Oak Lake enjoyed a night of old-fashioned hayrides and hotdog supper bonfire. Hayrides were provided by Emily and Ken Jasper. The hotdog supper was sponsored by the Valleyview Co-op and Oak Lake and Sifton fire department.

Oak Lake and area Garden Club hosted the Memory Tree Lighting at 5:30pm. Oak Lake and Sifton Fire Department attended. They had a 2024 quad raffle and a bonfire in the street. Approximately 55 people came out on the nice clear night.

# Lenore W I Christmas party



PHOTO BY HEATHER HUNTER

Sara Curtis gave an appreciation donation to the Woodworth Legion for hosting the Christmas supper. Gerry and Celia Nolan accepted on behalf of the Legion.

By Gerry Nolan  
RIVERS BANNER

The Lenore W I institute held its annual Christmas party at the Woodworth legion club room in Kenton on November 30. A total of 16 people were in attendance for supper which was catered by Brierwood Creek Cafe.

Next year, 2025 the Lenore ladies will celebrate 110 years of volunteer service for their community.

Some of the events these ladies host to help out with are the Lenore Christmas party, potluck suppers in the Lenore Hall and park, movie and games evenings.

The ladies donate to the wood worth firefighters, Christmas cheer, the Virden Hospital Auxiliary and the Hamiota Foundation, just to name a few.

The ladies also host guest speakers at the monthly meetings with subjects ranging from nutrition to fire safety, gardens and pairing wine with the correct appetizers.

Currently they have 8 members but are in need of others to step up and help keep this organization strong, which is a huge part of the Lenore Community.

At one time there were more than 20 members. If you serve for 20 years you become a life member. At the party this year there were several life members present.

Sara Curtis is the president of Lenore W I. If you want to join the group, give Sara a call.

If you call Lenore home, get involved in your community, volunteer some time and have some fun while doing it! You will not be disappointed!



**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
December 17, 2024, 6pm  
**LEE'S RESTAURANT**  
All are welcome to attend.

*We're Engaged!*

Who is getting married?  
Tell us!

The Rivers Banner wants to help you tell the community about your big news!

Let everyone know your love story!

**Rivers Banner**

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# PUMPKIN CARAMEL CHEESECAKE

**Ingredients:**

**For the Crust:**

- 2 cups graham cracker crumbs
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, melted

**For the Cream Cheese Layer:**

- 8 oz cream cheese, softened
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1 tsp vanilla extract

**For the Pumpkin Cheesecake Mixture Layer:**

- 16 oz cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup pumpkin puree
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp ground ginger
- 1/4 tsp ground nutmeg
- 1/4 tsp ground cloves

**For the Topping:**

- 1 cup caramel sauce
- Whipped cream, for garnish

**Directions:**

**Prepare the Crust:**

- Preheat your oven to 325 F (165 C).
- In a medium bowl, combine the graham cracker crumbs, granulated sugar, and melted butter. Press the mixture into the bottom of a 9-inch springform pan.
- Bake the crust for 10 minutes, then set aside to cool.

**Make the Cream Cheese Layer:**

- In a mixing bowl, beat the softened cream cheese and sugar until smooth. Add the egg and vanilla extract, and mix until fully incorporated.
- Pour the cream cheese mixture over the cooled crust, spreading it evenly.

**Prepare the Pumpkin Cheesecake Mixture Layer:**

- In a large bowl, beat the softened cream cheese until smooth. Add the pumpkin puree, sugar, eggs, vanilla extract, cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg, and cloves, and mix until well combined.
- Gently pour the pumpkin cheesecake mixture over the cream cheese layer.

**Bake the Cheesecake:**

- Bake the cheesecake in the preheated oven for 60-70 minutes, or until the center is just set. Turn off the oven and leave the cheesecake inside with the door slightly open for 1 hour.
- Remove the cheesecake from the oven and refrigerate for at least 4 hours, or overnight.

**Add the Topping:**

- Before serving, drizzle the caramel sauce over the top of the cheesecake.
- Garnish with a generous swirl of whipped cream.



# Thank-you from Curtis and Haley Wiebe



SUBMITTED PHOTO

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the wonderful community of Rivers, our family and friends who have supported us after our home burned down in October. We can't thank everyone enough for what they have done for us. ~ Haley Wiebe

GAZETTE-REPORTER

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# RIVERS KARATE DOJO FINISHES UP FOR 2024



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The last couple of classes have been fantastic as the students were handed their certificates for achieving their next belt levels as well as they did some board breaking to end their last class for this year at the River's Karate dojo. "I'm truly proud of how far all the students in the club have come along and can't wait for us to start up again in the new year," Ben Thompson, the chief instructor of a dojo.

## NDP's speech lacks vision or strategy for future

### Submitted

By GREG NESBITT MLA

As we head into the Christmas season, Manitobans are fortunate to have organizations and businesses in their communities collecting donations of money, food, clothing and toys for families in need during the holidays. Whether it be to a hamper, a food bank or Christmas dinner, I hope Manitobans consider making a donation so everyone can share in the joy of the season.

The Manitoba Legislature has recessed until March after the fall legislature sitting, which included the government's annual Speech from the Throne. The speech was the NDP's preview of their plans for the year ahead, and it showed very little spirit of giving without a vision or strategy for Manitoba's rising crime, increasing health-care wait times, and overcrowded schools. And the speech was a short-sighted failure in matters of affordability and our province's economic health. Despite his talk, Wab Kinew is offering nothing to lower grocery prices, reduce taxes or grow the economy, other than leaning on projects and investments launched by our previous Progressive Conservative government.

The NDP's Throne Speech pledge to reduce grocery prices by ending supermarket companies' anti-competitive contracts is especially hollow for consumers. The premier promised last year to decrease prices at grocery stores, and Manitobans know that has not happened. Manitoba now leads all provinces in food inflation and more families are putting food back onto store shelves because they can no longer afford it.

An upcoming hydro rate freeze mentioned in the Throne Speech is a promise the NDP have recycled for years, and it's coming from the government that has no plan to pay for it. The NDP have also given themselves the power to raise hydro rates at the cabinet table after increasing them by one per cent this past spring. Manitoba Hydro is \$25 billion in debt while

continuing to incur losses, and needs to renew its aging infrastructure. Meanwhile, Manitobans pay 33 cents of every dollar on their hydro bills to cover interest on that debt. A rate freeze today would bring rate shock and surging prices tomorrow, and any savings for consumers through a hydro rate freeze would be wiped out by the NDP's upcoming fuel tax increase.

It's the same lack of accountability from the Kinew government on other taxes. Instead of investing properly in education this year, they are giving school divisions funding increases of less than inflation and have hit homeowners with a \$148-million education property tax hike. The NDP will eliminate the school tax rebate on property tax in 2025 and put an end to the education property tax phase-out. At the same time, they have cancelled plans for construction of nine schools that were to include more than 770 daycare spaces. Manitobans are paying more and getting less from this government and are wondering where all their taxes are going.

It's a good question. Our previous PC government left Kinew with a surplus of more than \$250 million last year and federal transfers are increasing, as Manitoba has received \$4.3 billion in equalization payments that began in April. However, just a year after forming government, the NDP have pushed the province into a \$2-billion deficit.

With their mention of economic development in the Throne Speech, the NDP are giving Manitobans more false hope. In fact, this government has put Manitoba into an economic tailspin while driving up unemployment from four per cent to 5.9 per cent this year. Kinew's first order of business in government was to shut down the provincial Economic Development Board, and Manitoba has lost more than \$5 billion in direct foreign investment during the NDP's first year in office.

This Christmas season, people across the province are getting optics rather than action in the premier's smoke-and-mirrors approach to affordability, taxation



FILE PHOTO

Greg Nesbitt, MLA

and the economy. The session will resume in early March, and I will continue to work with my colleagues on the opposition side of the House to push the Kinew NDP government to do much more, and much better, for Manitobans.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Greg Nesbitt is the Member of Legislative Assembly for the Riding Mountain constituency. He can be reached at 204-759-3313, toll-free 1-844-877-7767 or by email at gregnesbittmla@mymts.net. When contacting MLA Nesbitt, please provide a phone number and address.



# CLASSIFIEDS

## Obituary

IN LOVING MEMORY  
DONALD "BRENT" HAGGARTY  
MAY 14, 1954 - SEPTEMBER 5, 2024



Donald "Brent" Haggarty, beloved husband of Diane; father of Steve (Kari), Scott (Shannon), Ryan, Shawn (Terri); Grandpa of Quincy, Paisley, Olivia, Drew, Lillian, Colton and Nathan. Passed away at the Assiniboine Centre at BRHC after a courageous battle with cancer with family by his side on Thursday, September 5, 2024, at 70 years of age.

Brent was born on May 14, 1954, in Hamiota... a birthday present for his dad! Brent was the second of 8 children for Bill and Kay Haggarty. Brent grew up involved in sports. Hockey and baseball were his favourites.

Brent married Diane Chernos on June 8, 1974, and their 4 boys kept them busy running the road to their many sports activities. The rink became a second home for our family!

Brent farmed with his dad and brother Ray for 22 years and then went to work for Walt and George Froese and later for his niece and nephew for 25 years. To say he loved farming would be an understatement! He loved doing it and he loved talking about it!

Brent drove the school bus for 34 years and worked for the municipality at the Water Plant for 16 years. His numerous jobs got him out and about and he loved to socialize at the coffee shop!

Brent's family became complete with the addition of his magnificent 7 grandchildren. He enjoyed watching them do the sports and activities they love.

With his diagnosis of cancer, we sold our land and home near Oak River of 45 years and made the move to Brandon to be closer to family.

Brent is survived by his siblings Pat (David Greenaway); Ray (Kay); Penny (Walt Froese); Nancy (Rod Koscielny); Kelly (LeeAnn); Shelley; and brother-in-law Jeff Morton. He was predeceased by his parents Bill and Kay; his sister Joan Morton, and nephew Torey Haggarty

Brent was laid to rest in a private ceremony officiated by Linda Clark on October 26, 2024, on a beautiful fall day in Oak River cemetery.

For those wishing, donations in Brent's memory can be made to Oak River Memorial Rink, payable to the Oak River Community Association, Oak River, MB R0K 1T0

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Discover full details about the position in the Job Description on our careers' website at [www.assiniboine.net/careers](http://www.assiniboine.net/careers).

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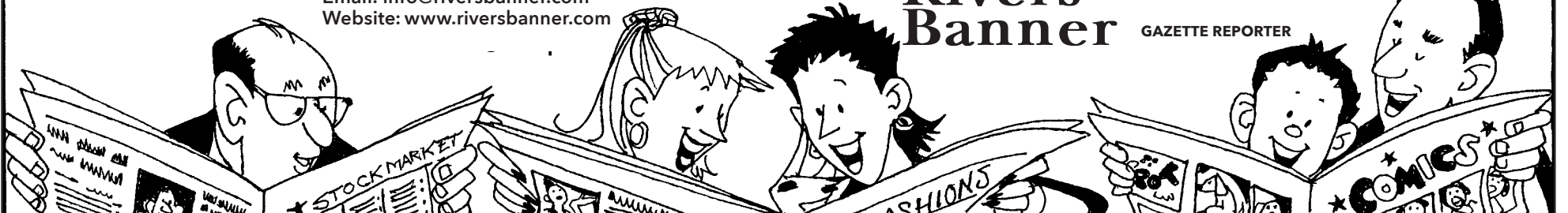
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# Manitoba Government delivering holiday cheer

Submitted  
By MANITOBA GOVERNMENT

The Manitoba government is increasing funding for two cheer boards in the province ahead of the holiday season, Premier Wab Kinew and Families Minister Nahanni Fontaine announced today.

“This year, we’re investing in Christmas,” said Kinew. “Manitobans who need a little extra help around the holidays rely on the good work of cheer boards and we want to make sure everyone has a happy holiday this year.”

The Manitoba government is providing the Christmas Cheer Board of Winnipeg with \$100,000 and Brandon-Westman Christmas Cheer with \$25,000 for a total of \$125,000 to help community-based organizations that deliver food and toys to families in need throughout the holidays.

The Department of Families has also provided five staff to support the Christmas Cheer Board of Winnipeg as it accepts a growing number of hamper registrations for Winnipeg families.

“I know first-hand what it means for a family to receive a hamper delivery during this time of year,” said Fontaine. “We’re doing what we can to make sure that holiday cheer is available to more Manitoba families by supporting the Christmas Cheer Board of Winnipeg and Brandon-Westman Christmas Cheer.”

The premier encouraged Manitobans attending the Holiday Open House tomorrow from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Manitoba Legislative Building



Premier Wab Kinew and Families Minister Nahanni Fontaine (centre) visit the Christmas Cheer board warehouse in Winnipeg.

PHOTO BY WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

and join in sharing the holiday cheer by bringing non-perishable food items for Harvest Manitoba.

The Manitoba government will also be accepting cheques, addressed to Manitoba charities, at a

number of locations set up for mail pickup during the postal disruption.

A full list of cheque drop-off locations can be found at [www.manitoba.ca/postaldisruption/](http://www.manitoba.ca/postaldisruption/).

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# SPORTS

## RICHMOND BROTHERS TEAM UP ON JETS

By Robin Wark  
RIVERS BANNER

The River Jets' Ryder Richmond was the first player to light the lamp on Dec. 6.

The defenceman from Forrest's second goal in as many games helped the Jets beat the host MacGregor Wild, 4-1, in Tiger Hills Hockey League play. The victory kept the Jets undefeated with a league-best 7-0-0-0 record.

This week the Rivers squad hosts the Minnedosa Bombers on Dec. 14. While the Jets top the THHL Eastern Division, the Bombers are third with a 5-1-0-1 record, as of Dec. 9. Killarney was second at 6-0-1-0, with that overtime loss coming at the hands of the Jets.

Scoring against the Wild was just one of the positives so far in a unique season for Ryder. This is the first campaign he and his brother Rowin - a newcomer to the Jets - have ever been teammates. Ryder played in 2022-2023 for the Jets before spending a year at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology. At the Calgary school, he was teammates with his brother Reece. Of teaming up with Rowin on the Jets, Ryder said:

"Getting to play on the same team with yet another one of my brothers is a very cool experience for me as the oldest of four. I have always wondered if Rowin and I would get the chance to play with each other, considering there is a six-year age difference, and to have it happen is awesome."

There are four Richmond brothers. The youngest, Redden, is in his first season with the U18 AAA Yellowhead Chiefs. Rowin said:

"I've never been able to play with any of my brothers before because the age gaps never really allowed me to,

so having the chance, now to play with Ryder is pretty cool. I've watched him play my entire life and not a lot of guys can say they get to play with their brothers so it's pretty special."

Through seven games, Ryder has scored twice and collected eight points. He said, "The thing I enjoy about playing with the Jets are the guys in the room. It's so much fun coming to the rink and playing with 20 boys you get along with so well, and playing the game we love."

Rowin has three assists over four contests. He joined the Jets this season after playing for U18 AAA for Yellowhead. Of adjusting to senior hockey, Rowin said:

"The first thing I noticed between the two was that it was a little more physical and quite a bit chippy compared to AAA, but I thought that'd be pretty obvious jumping into a men's league. I do think the pace of it is fairly similar to AAA, it can be faster and a bit slower at times, but the adjustments have been pretty easy."

### Jets 4, Wild 1

The Jets sent 60 shots at Wild netminder Niklas Anderson. He managed to turn away 56 of them. Richmond and Kayden Sutherland got the puck past him in the first period to take a 2-0 lead. Jaxon Elmes collected



PHOTO BY JESSICA COULTER

Rivers Jets # 21, Ryder Richmond, has the puck and is looking for the play.

his first two points of the season as he assisted on both of those markers.

In the second session, Luke DeCorby made it 3-0. For MacGregor, Drake Sheppard answered that goal to make the score 3-1. On a third period powerplay, the Jets' Riley Boles capped the scoring. Boles and Elmes each had two points on the night.

Rivers goalie Riley Lamb made 22 saves. As of Dec. 8, he was second in the league with a 1.39 goals against average and a .950 save percentage. Shamray was sixth in the THHL with 13 points in seven games. Joben Smith sat seventh with 12. Sutherland paced the Jets with six goals.

## GETTING A CHANCE

REF TO WRITER

GERRY NOLAN



I had been doing minor hockey and with a move to live north of Oak Lake, there were many more opportunities to officiate. I started officiating hockey games in Oak Lake, Elkhorn, Kenton, Hamiota and Oak River. There were lots of games to officiate and there were not a lot of officials, so I could be kept as busy as I wanted to be.

Some of my first partners to ref with in Oak Lake were Kerry Smith and Wally Essie. Both were good officials and we got along real well.

Around that time Wallace Henderson had been watching me do minor hockey. I believe Wallace was Referee-in-chief of the North Central Intermediate Hockey League and he also was Referee-in-chief for the Tournament-of-Champions in Oak River.

In Oak River I got to meet other officials that I had not met before. One of the first volunteers to meet and greet me in Oak River was Mrs. Paddock. She had a friendly smile and welcome to Oak River. I worked in the old Oak River arena, summertime they held dances there which were a lot of fun!

Wallace Henderson called one day and asked me to work a game in Kenton as a linesman for a N.C.H.L. game. I was so excited I said yes, as I was

hungry to do more officiating. I was very nervous before that game. Usually throughout my career I would get a little nervous before games, it was my way of being ready to go to officiate.

My first NCHL game and my first linesman partner was Mr. Gary Crampain from Oak Lake. I could not have asked for a better man to start doing senior hockey with. Gary was great with me, encouraging and supportive. Thank you Gary! He knew I would have

some jitters being a first for me, but he was so calm Gary made it like a walk in the park!

The head Referee that night was Mr. Bill Little of Decker. I had met Bill before and knew he was a good official. One of the things he taught me that night was to pick up the rule book and just go over some specific rules, which I did throughout my career!

The game went off without any problems, game one was in the books!

Gary Crampain and I were paid \$6 for the game and Bill was paid \$12 for the game. Big dollars back then. Bill Little after the game pulled out a mickey of rye for a toast after the game! I could not have asked for anything more from that first night!

Thank you to Gary and Bill, who are also in Hockey Heaven, rest well men!!!

Other linesmen I worked with that first year were Ivan Crampain and Donald Lindsey. Man that seems like such a long time ago, it is close to 50 years ago and my how times have changed!

Referees I met coming to Kenton to do games were Gordy Lyall, Lloyd Little, Red McConnell, Rick Seminuk, Brian Hogdson and Bob Thompson

who lives at Oak Lake beach.

Bob Thompson was from Brandon, a school teacher I believe. He skated straight up and could really skate. Bob was one of my favourites to work with. He was always so positive and encouraging with me. Wish I could have worked more games with him, Bob was that good!

The guys I mentioned previously all deposited something to me. I respected all of them and looked to them for guidance. Thanks guys!

One of my favourites was Gordy Lyall from Hamiota. I liked the way he officiated and decided to try and call my game similar to his. So one day I said to Gordy I hoped to be able to referee like him. His response to me was this, "Find yourself, your game! Call it because it is you, you can incorporate little things from other officials but Be You Not Them!"

Great advice from a fellow official and advice I would pass on to other officials!

Going back just a bit, Bob Thompson, Bill Chapple and Doug Lund who were from Brandon ran the referee clinics at the start of the fall. They were great educators! They were all passionate about hockey and you could just feel it. They knew the rule book and encouraged us to get into it even before a game. Something Bill Little had told me at my first senior game!

These guys who lived in Brandon, but all were from Westman area were terrific officials. They did not forget their roots and is probably why we or they could relate to each other. Thank you so much to these men for sharing their experiences and foresight. They made hockey and refereeing fun!

They were really good officials, and I know other officials were proud to work with them!

Coming up for the next edition, I will call Spreading my Wings!

# Rapid City Community Church concert



Praise and Worship team: From left to right: Steve van der Wal (drums); Eddy Vanderdeen (Bass); Linda Jager (Vocals); Stan Runions(vocals); Donna Baker (Vocals); Denis Rondeau(guitar); Sheila Runions(piano)



Brad Laidlaw, Narrator of the Christmas story.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

**Food Bank Will Be Closed on December 19 and December 26.**  
It will re-open on January 2, 2025.

**BE ON TIME!**  
Advertising deadline:  
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<b>COMMUNITY CALENDAR</b>						<b>Dec 13</b>  Woodworth Legion Christmas Party Potluck	<b>14</b>  Kenton Buck Night
<b>15</b> 50 + Club Tile Rummy 1pm	<b>16</b> 50 + Club Tile Rummy 1pm	<b>17</b>  50 + Club Pool 1pm  RIVERDALE Council Meeting 6pm	<b>18</b>  50 + Club Tile Rummy 1pm  Rivers Elementary School Christmas Concert @ Collegiate 6:30pm	<b>19</b> 50 + Club Floor Curling/ Carpet Bowling 2pm Crib Night Rivers Legion 7pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  Rivers Jets vs Minnedosa Bombers 7:30pm <b>Newspaper is closed for the holidays</b>	
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  Christmas Eve	<b>25</b>  MERRY Christmas	<b>26</b>  BOXING DAY	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	
<b>Newspaper is closed for the holidays</b>							