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Merry Christmas

and Happy New Year - Rivers Banner

Inside...




LETTERS TO SANTA
P9

HOLLY THE CHRISTMAS ELF PRODUCTION



PHOTO BY MARCI SHACHTAY

The Choir sang during intermissions of 'Holly the Christmas Elf' Production which was proudly presented by the Oak River School for their 2024 Christmas Concert directed by Mrs. Schoonbaert and Ms. Miller. Read more about the play on page 2.



RAPID CITY LIBRARY 50TH ANNIVERSARY
P14



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A FANTASTIC HOLIDAY SHOW



Santa came out to the Oak River Christmas Concert and brought a little gift for each of the Elementary school students for doing such a great job of showing holiday cheer.

By Marci Shachtay
OAK RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SECRETARY

On December 10, Oak River School presented Holly the Christmas Elf to many friends and family members. All 18 kids grade K-6 were involved and practiced hard. Holly the Christmas Elf is based on the movie Elf with Will Ferrell, with Brooklyn Stewart as Holly. They sang 8 different songs including the song Oakview, to the tune of Alicia Key's New York, which is where Holly's dad was from. The kids enjoyed making the play more personalized with the mention of their home municipality. There were lots of laughs to be had with all the students and the audience. During the 3 intermissions, with the help of their music teacher Christine Paddock, we had our music students playing songs to entertain the crowd, as well as the grade 4's telling jokes. It was a lovely night for all. Thank you to all the parents who helped make the play a success! A special thanks to Meaghan Froese who made so many things again this year, including a santa sleigh that could be moved around the gym. At the end, we even had a visit from Santa, who brought all the kids a little something, and got all their Christmas lists.



PHOTOS BY MARCI SHACHTAY

Santa played by Trace Froese, Papa Elf played by Grady Recksiedler and Holly Elf played by Brooklyn Stewart worked together to put on a great show.

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JOHN 3:16

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

O Night Divine

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Love illuminate your path at the
holidays and all year.

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patronage, and we wish you a blessed
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FAITHFULLY YOURS
NEIL STROHSCHNEIN

Words from a grateful heart



Baptist Church, you were the ones who invited me to become your minister in 1996; and who patiently watched me change from being a loyal Albertan (and a bit of a “redneck,” I suppose) to a fiercely loyal Manitoban.

When I left FBC at the end of December 1999; I had no idea what I would do next. I just felt strong urge to stay in Neepawa; and on the first Sunday of Lent, 2000, I began to understand why. I knew then that God was calling me to be a “Minister-at-Large;” to serve small groups of believers in small communities; and give them the best I could every week, whether attendance was 50 or five (which some weeks it was). To all the churches I have served in the past 24 years, my heartfelt thanks.

To the residents of Neepawa and surrounding area, thank you for the love and support you have shown to me and to my family. You were there 19 years ago when Kathryn had her stroke. Thanks to your prayers and encouraging words, she continues to get better. We are grateful for the twice-weekly visits from Home Care workers who help with her mobility exercises; and for the many who wave, smile and encourage her during the summer months when she and her scooter can be seen around town.

Finally, we thank you for the comforting words, hugs and acts of kindness you shared with us in the days following Kathryn’s son’s death. We always knew this was a loving and caring community. The past weeks have shown us just how loving and caring it really is. We love you all and are grateful for all you have done.

Now-you might think this is a farewell column. But it isn’t. It’s my way of saying “Merry Christmas” to people who have given me far more than I can ever give in return. This column will return in two weeks, as together we link faith to life in 2025.

I don’t know that I have ever done a column like this before; but I felt the need to share some personal thoughts with you this week. They are words from a grateful heart; to a community that has helped me become the person, partner and minister I am today.

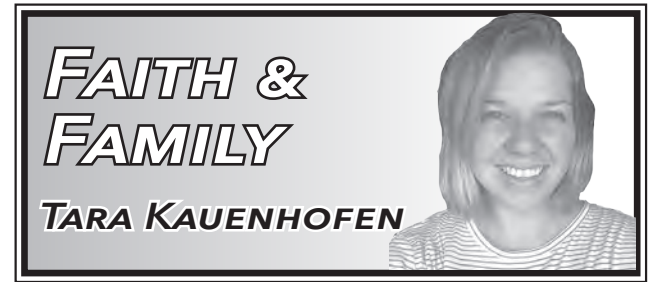
First, I want to thank Ken and Chris Waddell for the privilege of writing and submitting these columns each week. “Faithfully Yours” has been part of the Banner and Press for roughly 27 years; and I have greatly enjoyed the weekly challenge of putting my thoughts into a document of 600 words or less.

To the above, I must add my thanks to those who read this column each week. I know you also read the columns by Ken Waddell and Rita Friesen. I am very honored to share a spot on Pages 4-5 with them. We deal with different topics and we each have our own unique writing style; but we share three things in common. We love God, we love our community and we want to be an encouragement to you all.

Next to my family-especially my wife Kathryn. We have walked through good times and challenging ones together. Your affirmation of my calling and support of my work have never been in doubt. You have shown me the importance of loving and accepting people just as they are; and for that I will always be grateful.

Then, I want to thank the church congregations who have welcomed me into their lives since I moved to Neepawa. First

Abiding love!



We got our Christmas tree a couple of weeks ago.. early for some I am sure, late for others. This would be an early year for us but it is my favourite part of setting up for Christmas!

The smell of the pine growing stronger as each branch unfurls from being wrapped and the wet sap starts to drip and waft through the house.

The warm lights being wrapped around and around until they span the treetop to bottom.

The ornaments of choice, beaded strands entwined with the lights, pinecones and stars and, of course, my kids squealing with delight as the coveted position of putting the star on the top of the tree gets chosen once again.

This year our three-year-old was flown up to the top by my husband and we all clapped and cheered and ooo’s and aww’s rang out from my older boys as he placed it on top.

His face lit by the warm glow of the lights and a joyous grin spread across his face.

The next morning, I sat by the Christmas tree lights on one side and the fire on the other and I opened my Bible and put on the song Emmanuel by Hannah Kerr.

As I opened my bible and looked at the tree lights, the words ‘He was not the one we thought would come, we were looking for a king but he didn’t come in glory. The author of the oceans and the sun still he chose to be written in our story’ floated across the room and that morning, by the tree lights and fireside, the lyrics hit me deeper than they had before.

As I sat here enjoying my tree and my coffee, I was reminded and convicted of the true reason we celebrate.

Emmanuel, God with us. The High King of heaven, the Lord of lords, the creator of the world we live in, chose to come as a helpless baby in human form, vulnerable and needy to fulfill a promise long ago made to save us all.

This gift, this reminder, brought me to tears. As I was reminded of what a sacrifice was made on my behalf, on your behalf so we would have the opportunity to know his deep

Abiding love for us.

Christmas Wordsearch

L V Q Q J R P W R E A T H D J R U D C A
 E G N I L O R A C Y P B G U T O P W A N
 S Q T R R N G A R L A N D S Z L L J N M
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- Word Bank**
- | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1. Winter | 2. Ribbon | 3. Caroling | 4. Garland |
| 5. Tree | 6. Bow | 7. Reindeer | 8. Angels |
| 9. Festive | 10. Elves | 11. Wreath | 12. Bells |
| 13. Snowman | 14. Candy Cane | 15. Yuletide | 16. Spirit |
| 17. Santa | 18. Tinsel | 19. Greetings | 20. Jolly |
| 21. Nutcracker | 22. Ornaments | 23. Mistletoe | 24. North Pole |

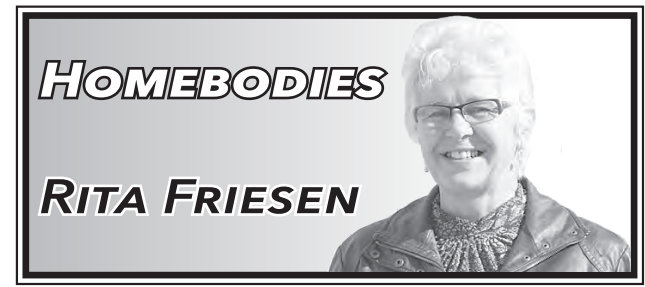
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“Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together.” Psalm 98:8

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JESUS IS LORD

Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



And just like that, it's Christmas

It comes as a surprise that as I age, time speeds up. I recall asking my father as he lived his days in a long term care facility if the time seemed long. He was puzzled that I asked and explained that the days bled into each other, the days, weeks, months, and then years all flowed, quickly.

I also recall being thankful; thankful that he wasn't anxious about the passing of time, or perhaps, aware of the passing of time. I understand better now.

Way back when I was an elementary school student we practiced writing the digits of the new year. It required thought. And then when the teachers told us that we would one day write 2000 as the year, we were a tad unbelieving. And now it takes no effort to think 2025. The 70's and 80's aren't far away in my thoughts. Preceding each new year we have celebrated Christmas, an event that surpasses the excitement and anticipation of the arrival of the new year. Perhaps because for Christmas we made wish lists and New Year lists were more 'got to do better lists!?' What I do recognise is how the celebration of the day of Christmas has changed over the span of my almost seventy-nine years. Childhood held mystery and dreams, meals at the grandparents and playtime with the cousins. In those early years our family exchanged gifts on the 24th, after the chores were done and all was ready for the big day. The custom allowed us time to enjoy the gifts we received before heading out, first to one set of grandparents, and then hours later to the other set. Fine times everywhere! As a young parent there was the work of finding out what the children really wanted, and was realistic. The whole gambit; train sets, lego, easy bake ovens, Holly Hobby dolls and then the Cabbage Patch creations, lots of Barbie stuff, model cars and craft supplies. So much excitement and anticipation! As the family grew in size and numbers there was the juggling act; which day or what part of a day is spent at the in-laws? How do we play fair with everyone? We made it simple for our children- no expectations for the day itself, we scheduled summer holidays with everyone joining us. We had great camping- Lake Louise, Drumheller, Blue Lake, Spruce Woods...It was the family time and memories not a particular day. Grandparenting was a gift in itself.

As we aged, the family became more concerned than we were about us being alone on Christmas Day, trying to make time for visits and certainly calls; friends and neighbours inviting us to join them. And it was good.

This year will be different again. Now there are great grandchildren to be all excited and ramped. Close friends will ensure – for their sake- that I am not home alone for the entire day. I appreciate that a great deal. I am also truly okay enjoying the comfort of my own home, good food and music, and memories. So many memories. A lifetime of memories. And so, just like that it's Christmas. Again. And I am thankful.

Blessing and peace to you all.

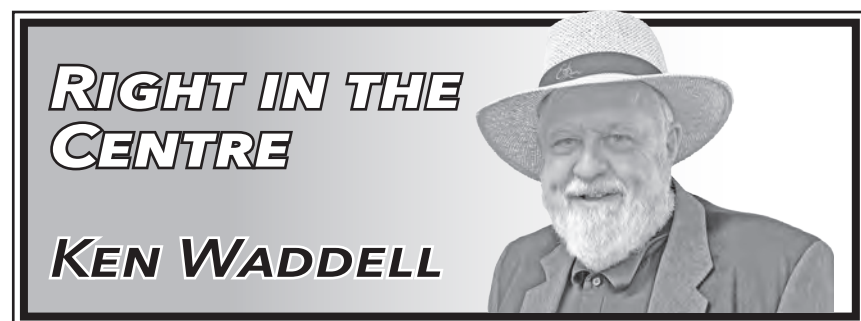
A year of turmoil and blessing

Towards the end of my Christmas column last year I wrote, "I also believe in prayer and have prayed for dozens, if not hundreds of people. I plan to continue to do so but as some of you know, my wife and I, but especially my wife would appreciate your prayers. We are grateful for all our medical people, but they can only do so much. Prayer is needed for sure."

Last fall and Christmas season, my wife Christine was in pretty tough shape. She had been dealing with various symptoms for a couple of years by then with Sjogren's Syndrome, intermixed with an outbreak of Shingles. Then last December, she was diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer and faced a Whipple Procedure surgery on Jan. 4/24 at Health Sciences Centre. It was a six hour surgery and about a 14 day stay in hospital. There were some after surgery setbacks but we finally got her out of a difficult hospital stay and after the surgery healed up, she was put into a very rigorous chemotherapy treatment.

The good news is the diagnosis was fairly early, as was the surgery and chemo sessions. It was a tough go with Christine losing a lot of weight and she certainly caught up on her sleep. Many, many days were spent in her lift chair, sleeping and trying to eat. It took months for her appetite to come back to a point where her weight stopped dropping.

There were blessings along the way including many visits from friends. Together, we made the decision that I would keep on working and so I was not with her every day all day. Our office is only five minutes from our home. I re-learned how to do laundry, some shopping,



cooking and housekeeping. Our son Rob, lives close by and he kept an eye on us. Son Mike phoned every day. Friends and staff kept checking in on us.

There were little bright spots. We bought the Virden Empire-Advance in June, which seems a little silly, but that whole deal brightened Chris's days as we renewed some connections and made many new connections in her home community of Virden. On many of the weekly paper delivery trips to Virden, Christine has been able to make the trip with me to meet with staff and customers.

Our last drop off on the way home is in the village of Alexander and the place we stop is at Dundee Designs which is owned by Shirley Lloyd-Davies. It was a cool re-connect with Shirley as she did some of our earliest computer work for our newspaper back in 1989 through a publishing company in Brandon. She has a little cafe in her store and one of the items she sells are delicious egg salad sandwiches that are supplied by the Honeyhouse in Rivers. Ever since childhood, Christine has loved egg salad sandwiches and those ones hit the appetite re-set button and were one of the first foods she actually enjoyed after months of battling an upset digestive system caused by the cancer and then the chemo. Another

store that has nice snacks is Hi-Way Grocery in Virden, a place where we also drop off papers. Some of their offerings appealed to Christine's taste buds as well.

Chris had her chemo stopped in the late summer, tests showed that she was on the mend and although it's been a long haul, she is getting much stronger. The walker got put into storage a while ago, the cane often gets left behind and I have been pretty much kicked out of the kitchen and somewhat out of the laundry room.

We are very thankful for her returning health, support from staff, family and friends. There was a lot of prayer by many people, some of whom we do not even know. Christmas might be a little less stressful this year.

In poor health, even in sickness unto death, we must remain thankful to God for his provision and mercy. Christmas is a great time to think upon God and his Son Jesus.

We are born, we live and then we die. God is good through it all and it is incumbent upon us all to live in His blessing and pass it along whenever and wherever we can.

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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STAFF

Owner/Publisher/Editor
Micah Waddell

Sales/Media
Jessica Coulter

Members of:
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Season's Greetings from the CAO of Riverdale Municipality

Message from Riverdale Mayor, Heather Lamb

As 2024 comes to a close, we are mindful with gratitude of our community who treats one another with kindness, looks out for one another and volunteers. We appreciate our Rivers Volunteer Fire Department who commits their time in trainings and practises and eagerly comes to the need of our community when called upon.



We are thankful for our RM staff who do their best for the betterment of our community.

We give thanks to our doctors, nurses, health care workers and ambulance attendants in our community who do an amazing job with the care that they provide. We are thankful for all the businesses in our community who offer products and services to serve our needs making a positive difference.

We are thankful for the schools, early learning centre, daycares, local organizations and churches who play an important role in both the development of our youth and positive relationships within our community. We are very blessed! Thank you all.

On behalf of the Riverdale Municipality, we wish to extend a very Merry Christmas and all the best in 2025 from Mayor and Council.

As we wrap up a year filled with growth and change, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributes to making Riverdale a truly exceptional place to live, work, and raise a family.

2024 has brought many changes, and through it all, the dedication of our municipal team and the spirit of our residents have been inspiring. As we look ahead to 2025, I'm excited about the opportunities that lie ahead and confident in the strength of our community to embrace them together.

From all of us at the municipality, I wish you a joyous holiday season filled with love, laughter, and cherished memories. May the new year bring health, happiness, and prosperity to you and your families.

Warmest holiday wishes,

Marci Quane

Chief Administrative Officer

Riverdale Municipality



PEACE Be with you

May the company of loved ones and treasured memories bring you peace as you celebrate Christmas this year.

May the new year bring continued peace, joy, and happiness.

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A Saviour is Born

"And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger." —Luke 2:7

May you keep the spirit of Christmas in your heart all year round. We are thankful for your continued support and we look forward to serving you in the new year.

Best wishes from Heather and Larry,

Hair Dynamics

Peace On Earth



It may be cold outside, but our hearts are warmed by the thoughts of the many good people we've had the privilege to meet and serve. Merry Christmas and sincere thanks to all of you.

From Eric, Marnie and the team at



Message from Greg Nesbitt, MLA

As the festive season approaches, let us take the time to appreciate what we have as Manitobans.

On a daily basis, we hear stories of severe weather events, natural disasters, political strife and the horrors of war in other regions of the world. Too often, we tend to dwell on negativity rather than rejoicing about the positive things in our lives right here in the Province of Manitoba.

The Christmas message speaks of faith, peace, hope and love, which brings with it the anticipation of all things new, a brighter future, and hope for a better tomorrow.

The holiday season isn't easy for everyone. I urge you to take the time to call or visit your loved ones, your elderly neighbours and be kind to each other. I urge you to take the time to slow down and enjoy all that life offers.

I am proud to continue to represent the residents of the Riding Mountain constituency in the Manitoba Legislature, where I take seriously the role I play in passing legislation to enrich the lives of all Manitobans, not just for today, but for future generations.

I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and all the best in 2025.

Greg Nesbitt
MLA Riding Mountain



MLA Grant Jackson Christmas Message

As the Christmas season approaches, I want to extend my warmest wishes to you and your loved ones. Christmas is a time of joy, love, and togetherness, and I hope your home is filled with all these wonderful things. May the spirit of Christmas bring you peace and happiness, and may you create beautiful memories that will last a lifetime.

This time of year, is perfect for reflecting on the blessings we have received and the people who make our lives special. I want to especially send good cheer to all the Spruce Woods constituents.

Let's spread joy and goodwill, reaching out to those who may need a little extra cheer this season. A simple act of kindness can make a world of difference.

Let's cherish these moments and look forward to creating even more in the coming year, always keeping the meaning of Christmas, the birth of God's son at the center of our hearts.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! May your days be filled with laughter, warmth, and love.

Here's to a wonderful festive season and a bright and prosperous year ahead.

MLA Grant Jackson
Spruce Woods



ANOTHER YEAR IS MOVING ON!

Here's hoping your holiday is filled with excitement from beginning to end. Thanks to all our good friends and customers; you're the driving force behind our success.

Mark and Crew
send you our very
best wishes this season.



GREETINGS OF Holiday Cheer

*Merry Christmas and many thanks
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Best wishes for 2025.

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Season's Greetings from the Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba

The festive season is now upon us, a time that traditionally inspires exceptional kindness, charity and goodwill among Manitobans. Our shared community spirit, and willingness to work together for the common good shines especially brightly during the holiday season, a reminder of just one of the reasons we are so fortunate to call this province 'home.'

It is such a simple pleasure to see businesses and neighbourhoods aglow with seasonal lighting and decorations, offering a sense of holiday fun along with a colourful salute to the season. Warmed by a shared spirit of community, our province truly becomes a winter wonderland at this time of year.

As the King's representative in Manitoba, I am pleased to express season's greetings to all citizens, along with my best wishes for a safe and happy holiday. May the warmth of the season fill your hearts, your homes and your communities now, and throughout the coming year.

The Honourable Anita R. Neville, P.C., O.M.
Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba



Message from Dan Mazier

Dear Neighbour,

Christmas is a time to give generously and cherish blessings with those closest to you.

It is also a time to reflect on the year that is soon to pass – for all our community achieved – and to recharge for a new year upon us.

During this time, I also want to extend my wishes to our men and women serving in uniform – we will be forever grateful for your service to our nation, defending our cherished freedoms.

It is because of them we can celebrate the most wonderful time of the year, and relish in excitement for 2025.

Christmas is also a time when our hearts are drawn closer to God's greatest gift to the world – his Son, Jesus Christ.

This season, I encourage you to raise a glass, gather with your loved ones, and enjoy a memorable holiday feast. Moments like these are what make the holiday season special.

From my family to yours, I want to wish you a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!



The History of Levée

Today, the word Levée describes the receptions (usually – but not necessarily – on New Year's Day) held by the Governor General, the Lieutenant Governors of the Provinces, the Military, and others, to mark the advent of another year and to provide an opportunity for the public to pay their respects.

The Levée has a long tradition in the Canadian Forces as one of the activities associated with New Year's Day. In years past, Military Commanders garrisoned throughout the vast expanse of Canada held local Levées since, as Commissioned Officers, they were expected to act on behalf of the Crown on such occasions.

Today, as in bygone years, members of the various Canadian Forces units and Headquarters across Canada receive and greet visiting military and civilian guests in the convivial spirit of the first day of the New Year. The Royal Canadian Legion in many areas, including Rivers Branch #75, carry on this tradition by hosting the community on January first each year.

From the rather boisterous celebrations of early times to the somewhat more sedate, if informal, event of today, the Levée has evolved into an occasion to call upon representatives of the Sovereign, military, and municipal governments, to exchange New Year's greetings and best wishes for the coming year, and to renew old acquaintances and meet new friends in a convivial atmosphere. It is also an opportunity to reflect on the events of the past year and to welcome in the challenges and opportunities of the New Year.

For a more complete history of the tradition go to <https://manitobalg.ca/history/new-years-day-leeve-history/>



joy to the world

To our customers, neighbours and friends, we would like to extend our best wishes for a very Merry Christmas. It's been a privilege and a pleasure serving you. We look forward to your continued patronage.

FROM ALL OF US AT



and

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Merry CHRISTMAS and Happy New Year!

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The word advent

Every year, the word ADVENT is heard in many Christian churches around the world.

For many non-church attenders that may lead to many questions: what is Advent? What is its purpose? Is it about an event? A person? Who knows?

Firstly, the word ADVENT itself gives us a clue. It is made up of two Latin words: ad---meaning toward and the verb venire meaning to come. So that tells us the purpose is to prepare us for a something in the future. But what is that "something"?

In present day church calendars, Advent is celebrated for four consecutive Sundays before Christmas. Each Sunday has a particular focus being Hope, Joy, Love and Peace. The purpose of these four "gifts" is to prepare us for the coming of Jesus, the Messiah, that Christians celebrate on December 25th.

Advent is about the birth of Jesus who came as a baby to be the saviour of the world.

John 3:16-17

"For God so loved the world that he gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life . For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him"

He started a movement with 12 men that now has spanned the world with about 2.3 billion followers.

His coming caused quite a stir in His day and as an adult, he was unjustly accused,

betrayed, crucified, died and placed in a tomb on Friday. On Sunday (Easter) he was miraculously resurrected. He was seen by his followers for 40 days after that and went up to heaven to be with God the Father.

But at his departure, He told his followers: "I'll be back"

True followers of Jesus know He will be back someday—nobody knows the day nor the hour, but we are all to be ready.

So, it could be said that ADVENT points us to a time in the future when Jesus will reappear to take to heaven with Him all who have professed Him to be Lord and Saviour.

If you have not done that yet, now is the perfect time to talk to a follower of Jesus about what you need to do before taking your final trip.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Rapid City Community Church.

Denis Rondeau, Rapid City Community Church



Christmas in our hearts

Christmas for Filipinos like me in Canada starts Christmas when the "ber" months arrive? Yes, your read it right because as early as Septem-ber in the Philippines, we start hearing Christmas carols on the airwaves, we begin hanging and tacking our homes with Christmas decorations, as we are known to have the "longest" holiday season that goes till January. Our Filipino hearts are Christmas crazy, and I am pretty sure Filipinos here in Manitoba and other provinces in Canada share that very same feeling.

Christmas for Filipinos will never be Christmas without food and gatherings. Family traditions are significant for us, and so family-get-together which we call Noche Buena, the midnight dinner on Christmas eve; and tables will be laden with pancit (noodles), lumpia (spring rolls), suman (glutinous rice wrapped in banana leaves) and puto (rice cakes) and lechon (roasted pig). The manito manita (exchange gifts) follows afterwards!

In this celebration, I am asking myself the quintessential question: is there something more for us other beyond the food and the glitter that can be somehow be a reason for the season? We have been so used to something that is so familiar year after year, yet at times we feel so empty handed after the holidays!

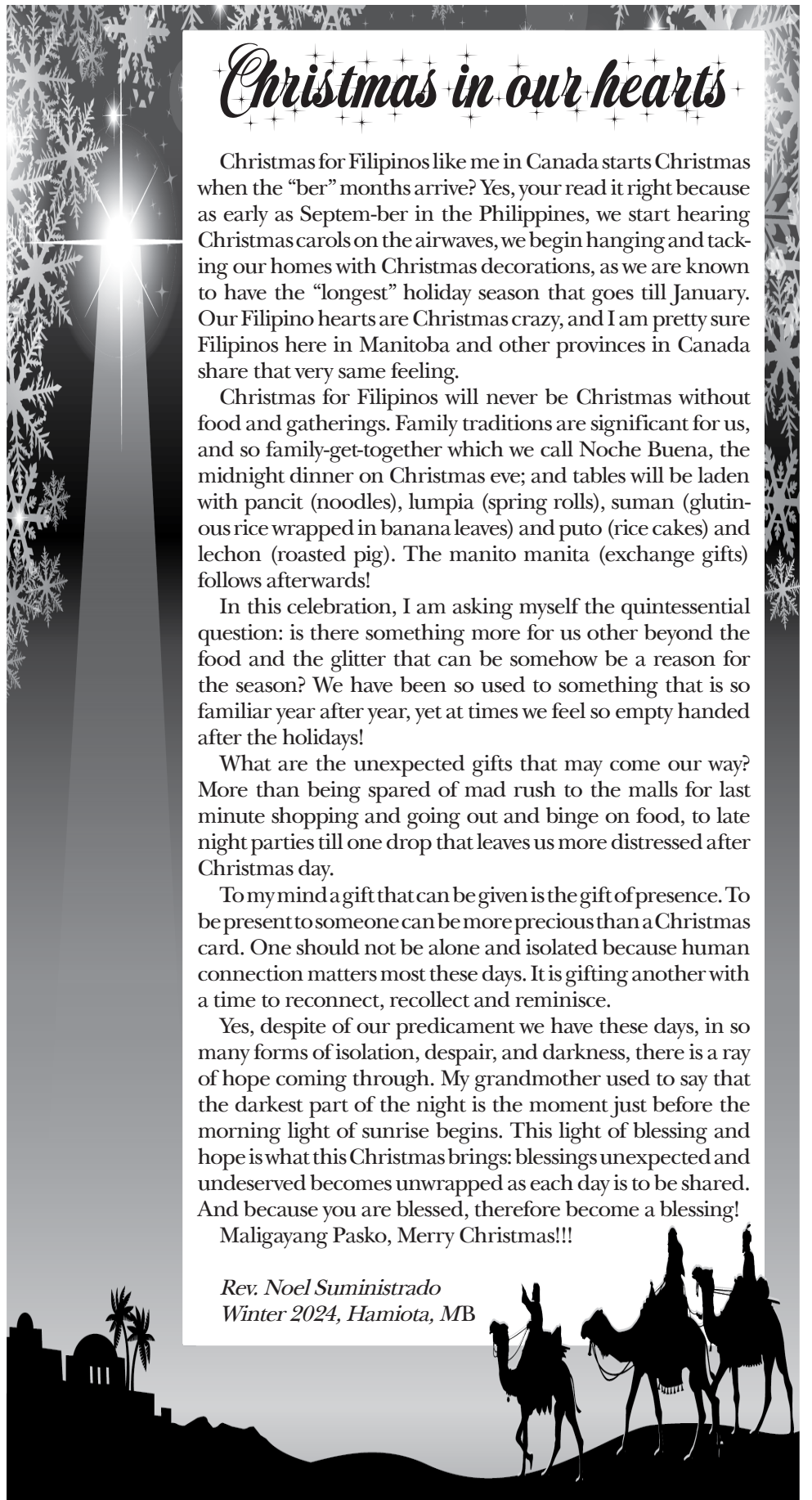
What are the unexpected gifts that may come our way? More than being spared of mad rush to the malls for last minute shopping and going out and binge on food, to late night parties till one drop that leaves us more distressed after Christmas day.

To my mind a gift that can be given is the gift of presence. To be present to someone can be more precious than a Christmas card. One should not be alone and isolated because human connection matters most these days. It is gifting another with a time to reconnect, recollect and reminisce.

Yes, despite of our predicament we have these days, in so many forms of isolation, despair, and darkness, there is a ray of hope coming through. My grandmother used to say that the darkest part of the night is the moment just before the morning light of sunrise begins. This light of blessing and hope is what this Christmas brings: blessings unexpected and undeserved becomes unwrapped as each day is to be shared. And because you are blessed, therefore become a blessing!

Maligayang Pasko, Merry Christmas!!!

Rev. Noel Suministrado
Winter 2024, Hamiota, MB



Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year

HI-WAY
COLLISION 1984
204-764-2451

From East to West
We wish you the best!

Merry Christmas
and Peace throughout the year.

From the Falkevitch Family
Kassia & Derek Clendenning, Heartland, NB
Dave & Donna Falkevitch, Rivers, MB
Kirstie & Mike Lafollette, Juneau, AK

Merry Christmas

FROM:
JESS, TARYN & STAFF
AT

Fountain Tire
1866 - 18th Street North, Brandon, MB R7A 1A 5
204-725-1523 www.fountaintire.com

MERRY
Christmas
& HAPPY NEW YEAR

Hunt, Miller & Co. LLP
Rivers, MB ~ 204-727-8471

Letters To Santa

From the students of Oak River Elementary School

Dear Santa,
I would like an RC car,
guitar and a tiger book.
- Maddox ~ K

Dear Santa,
Can I have an RC car,
clothes and socks?
- Mason ~ K

Dear Santa,
I would like a guitar, a
locking book and a teddy
bear.
- Barrick ~ K

Dear Santa,
I want a real puppy.
- Kennedy ~ 1

Dear Santa,
I want a baby.
- Anna ~ 1

Dear Santa,
I want a real baby kitty.
- Alyssa ~ 2

Dear Santa,
I want Dork Diaries for
Christmas.
- Sienna ~ 3

Dear Santa,
I would like a big big teddy
bear, bigger than me!
- Islamae ~ 3

Dear Santa,
I would like Heely's for
Christmas.
- Aurelia ~ 3

Dear Santa,
This year I want a pillow.
- Jessa ~ 4

Dear Santa,
I have been good and would
like a fluffy blanket.
- Lennon ~ 4

Dear Santa,
Can I have a Santa suit
and hat, and maybe a
snowmobile 50cc?
- Liam ~ 4

Dear Santa,
I would love to have a
bunny.
- Camrynn ~ 5

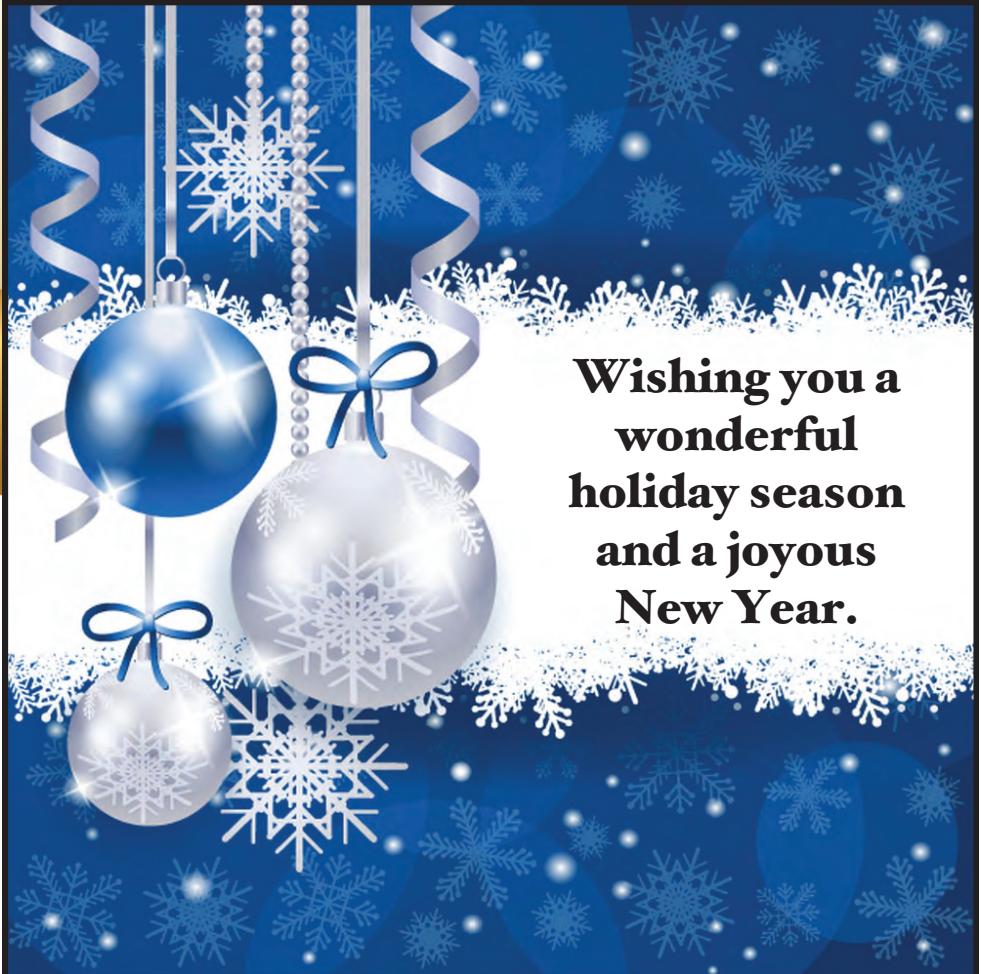
Dear Santa,
This year I want bracelet
charms.
- Brooklyn ~ 5

Dear Santa,
I would love to get chickens
for Christmas.
- Bridgette ~ 5

Dear Santa,
I would like a PS5, a VR
headset, and an elf.
- Lawson ~ 5

Dear Santa,
I would like an RC car.
- Grady ~ 6

Dear Santa,
This year I would like
cowboy boots and PS5
games like NHL '25 and
farming simulator '25.
- Trace ~ 6



**Wishing you a
wonderful
holiday season
and a joyous
New Year.**

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
FROM YOUR TRUSTED LOCAL REALTOR®

I'm so grateful for the opportunity to help my clients find the homes where they create cherished memories and spend the most meaningful moments with their loved ones. May your home be filled with warmth, laughter, and love during this special time of year.



Ken Kirk
REALTOR®
204-764-2904
kenkirk@royallepage.ca

Greg Nesbitt
Member of the Legislative Assembly
Riding Mountain Constituency



Constituency Office: #7 - 515 - 4th Avenue P.O. Box 100 Shoal Lake, MB R0J 1Z0
Phone (204) 759-3313 Toll Free 1-844-877-7767
E-mail gregnesbittmla@myrmts.net

**SERVING HAMIOTA &
SURROUNDING AREAS**



Grandma's Cornbread Dressing

Use your favourite cornbread mix to make a batch of cornbread, and then crumble it for use in this family-favourite recipe.

Ingredients:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 3 cups crumbled cornbread | 2 tbsps butter |
| 1 small onion, diced | 1/2 cup chopped celery |
| 2 large eggs, beaten | 2 cups chicken stock |
| 1 tbsp dried sage, or more to taste | salt & ground black pepper to taste |

Directions:

- Gather all ingredients.
- Preheat the oven to 350°F. Grease a 7x11-inch baking dish. Place crumbled cornbread in a large bowl.
- Melt butter in a large skillet over medium heat. Add onion and celery and sauté until soft, 5 to 7 mins.
- Add sautéed onion and celery to the crumbled cornbread. Stir in chicken stock, eggs, sage, salt, and pepper until well combined. Pour dressing into the prepared baking dish.
- Bake in the preheated oven until dressing just starts to turn golden brown around the edges, about 30 mins.
- Serve and enjoy!



The snow didn't stop the fun at the Kenton Lions Santa brunch

Submitted

By VALLEYVIEW CO-OP

What need has your organization addressed in the community due to Valleyview Co-op's support

All profits from the Santa Brunch are earmarked for the Legion Playground Development Project. It was also a wonderful way to have young and old interact and have pictures taken with Santa!

Please describe the support received from Valleyview Co-op and the impact it has made

Valleyview Co-op team members hosted the activity centre for the children to create Christmas ornaments, play with Hey Clay, draw and interact with other children in a really fun environment. The kids loved it! The parents also had time to interact while the children were busy at the activity centre. Valleyview Co-op also contributed food items to the event as well which was much appreciated by all.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

What support is still needed and how can people learn more or get involved?

The Kenton Lions Club plans on making the Santa Brunch an annual event for the Community and as the club is fairly small, other volunteers from the community were involved and we hope that this wonderful event can continue for years to come. Volunteer assistance is key to making this event a success and donations from individuals and corporate entities is always greatly appreciated.

A Note Of Thanks To Our Loyal Patrons At Christmas

Wishing you a holiday that overflows with love, happiness, friendship and good fortune. Thanks for hanging in there with us this year. We truly appreciate your business!

From Jim, Richard and staff of

Jim Hillis Trailer Sales

4 miles west of Brandon on Hwy. 1 then 2.5 miles north on PR 270

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204-729-7455 (cell)

CO-OP Heritage

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Merry Christmas
From all of us at

R C HAIRSTYLING

Theresa Blaauwijkl
Hairstylist/Owner
RAPID CITY, MB
204-826-2974

MAY THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS

Warm Your Heart & Lift Your Spirit

RAPID CITY COMMUNITY CHURCH

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Baked Stuffed Brie with Cranberries & Walnuts

This baked Brie with cranberries is beautiful. One of the most common mistakes people make when serving cheese is not letting it come to room temperature first so all the flavours can be fully realized. This stuffed Brie takes that principle to the next level.

Ingredients:

- 1 small wheel of Brie (about 6 to 8 inches), chilled
- 1/4 cup dried cranberries
- 1/4 cup chopped walnuts
- 1 sheet frozen puff pastry, thawed, plus extra for design
- 1 large egg
- 1 teaspoon water

Directions:

- Use a sharp paring knife to score the side of Brie all the way around, cutting directly on the equator through the rind. Wrap string or dental floss around brie on the scored cut. Loop one end of the string over the other to make a half knot. Pull the ends of the string in opposite directions to cut Brie in half.
- Lay Brie halves, cut-side up, on a flat work surface. Spread cranberries over one half and walnuts on the other, pressing down gently into cheese. Quickly put the 2 sides back together with cranberries on top of walnuts. Press together and stuff back in any cranberries or walnuts that fell out.
- Roll out puff pastry on a floured surface to about 1/8-inch thickness. Place Brie in the centre of pastry. Gently pull up edges to ensure there is enough dough

to entirely wrap Brie. Trim off the corners if there is too much dough.

- Mix together egg and water in a small bowl. Brush egg wash over dough. Fold one edge of dough over Brie and then the opposite side. Fold over the remaining edges to completely encase Brie. Trim off excess dough as needed. Flip Brie over so the seam is at the bottom; gently press in the sides to snug dough against Brie. Brush the top and sides of wrapped Brie with egg wash.
- Cut out decorative pieces from remaining puff pastry and place on Brie. Lightly brush decorative pieces with egg wash. Place Brie in the freezer for 1 hour.
- Preheat the oven to 425°F. Line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper.
- Place Brie on the prepared baking sheet and bake on the centre rack in the preheated oven until it is browned and leaking cheese, 20 to 25 mins. (Only rarely does Brie not leak through.)



Easy Cinnamon Rolls

These easy cinnamon rolls are simple to make using prepared bread dough and are super yummy. They are gone in a flash at my house!

Ingredients

- 1 lb loaf frozen bread dough, thawed
- 3 tbsps butter, melted
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1/3 cup heavy whipping cream
- 2/3 cup sifted confectioners' sugar
- 2 tbsps milk
- 2/3c brown sugar
- 1 tsp water
- 1 tsp vanilla extract

Directions

- Gather all ingredients and lightly grease 2 round cake pans with butter.
- Roll bread dough out to an 6x18-inch rectangle. Brush with melted butter.
- Combine brown sugar, walnuts, and cinnamon in a small bowl; sprinkle over butter.
- Roll dough into a log, starting at the long edge. Moisten edge with water and seal.

- Cut log into 20 slices; arrange rolls, cut sides down, in prepared cake pans. Cover with a towel and let rise in a warm place until doubled in volume, about 90 minutes.
- Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Pour heavy cream over dough.
- Bake in preheated oven until golden brown, about 25 minutes.
- Mix confectioners' sugar, milk, and vanilla extract in a small bowl; drizzle over warm cinnamon rolls to serve.



WOODWORTH
CHRYSLER DODGE JEEP RAM

Wishing you a Merry Christmas

KENTON, MB
877-739-5840

Season's Greetings

from the team at



(204) 483-3986 ~ MWMEEnviro.ca ~ Admin@MWMEEnviro.ca

MERRY CHRISTMAS
and Happy New Year!

From the crew at

204-328-7112 or 204-729-7770

Classic holiday films the whole family can enjoy

Submitted
BY METRO CREATIVE

Celebrants owe the joy of the holiday season to various components. Decor and gift-giving go

a long way toward making December a joyous time of year. Holiday films also do their part to make the season so special.

Many people have their own favourite holiday films, and the following are some that can engage viewers who are young or simply young at heart.

A Christmas Story

Released in 1983, this warmly nostalgic, humorous film is a perennial favourite among families. It follows the story of Ralphie, who has his heart set on a very specific Christmas present: a Red Rider BB gun. Amidst wintry exploits and family drama, the true spirit of Christmas manages to shine through in this beloved film. Some of the subject matter can be off-colour, and there are some bullying scenes. So, this is a movie best watched with children who are mature enough to make it through without being scared.

Little Women

Based on the Louisa May Alcott novel of the same name, the 1994 telling of this classic follows the March sisters, who confront financial difficulties, romance and family tragedies in mid-nineteenth century Massachusetts. While it's not a traditional Christmas movie, the importance of spending time with family around Christmastime is a

core theme in this coming-of-age tale.

Klaus

Perhaps not as well-known as other animated holiday flicks, "Klaus," released in 2019, has a personality all its own. Postman Jesper, who is not making the grade at the postal academy, is sent to work in a frozen town in the North, where he discovers a reclusive toy maker named Klaus. The unlikely duo ultimately team up to make and deliver toys and bring smiles to children's faces.

Meet Me in St. Louis

Starring the irreplaceable Judy Garland, this movie musical focuses on four sisters who are awaiting the 1904 World's Fair in their hometown but learn that their father has accepted a new job, and the family must move to New York beforehand. A Christmas miracle occurs, and all is right in the end. Garland sings a memorable version of "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" in the film, solidifying this as a holiday classic.



PHOTO BY METRO CREATIVE

The Santa Clause

This Disney film came out in 1994 and remains a family favourite. When divorced dad Scott (Tim Allen) accidentally kills a man in a Santa suit, he magically becomes the next Santa. He must learn to cope with the ways the transformation to the man in red interrupts his normal life, eventually giving over to the magic of Christmas.

Films are a popular component that help to make the holiday season so special.


Thank you to our community for supporting our 45th Annual Seniors Supper! Rivers and Area Lions Club



PRAIRIE CROCUS LIBRARY

May this Christmas bring you and your loved ones all the joy and magic of the Season

- Sherri, Bethany, Michelle & Library Board Members



Seasons Greetings

There's just no place like it — home — especially at Christmas time!

From all the members of your hometown business district: Thanks for supporting local this year. We'll see you all in 2025!



INFO@RIVERSCHAMBER.CA

Greetings of the Season

Whether you're home for the holidays or on the move, we hope you're surrounded by the cozy warmth and good feelings of a real old-fashioned Christmas. Have a very happy and prosperous new year.

Riverdale Municipality

MAYOR: Heather Lamb

COUNCILLORS: David Creighton, Everett Smith, Christa Veitch, Shawn Mason, Tyler Pod, Tyson Peters.

ADMINISTRATION: Marci Quane, Laura Gill, Jena Ratz, Lindsay Arsenault.

MUNICIPAL WORKS: Darrel Link, Jeff Worth, Mark Freeman, Derrek Kolesar, Ian Brennan, David Dickenson, Jason Verboom, Savannah Wedgewood, Byron McMURACHY

RIVERDALE COMMUNITY CENTRE: Christine Walker, Mel Gross, Steven Hay, Jen Howarth

RIVERDALE COMMUNITY CENTRE: Christine Walker, Steven Hay, Mel Gross and Jen Howarth

WASTE DISPOSAL SITE ATTENDANT: Norm Johnson





Essential Tips for a Safe Holiday Season

By Lewis Smith
CANADA SAFETY COUNCIL

The holiday season is a time for celebration, bringing families and friends together to enjoy memorable moments and festive cheer. However, this time of year also comes with increased risks of fire due to the widespread use of candles, fireplaces, and other open flames in homes across Canada.

November 24 – 30 is National Home Fire Safety Week, and the Canada Safety Council encourages Canadians to be mindful of fire hazards to ensure a safe and joyous holiday season.

Residential Fires

With dry trees, decorations, and flammable materials around, even a small open flame can quickly escalate into a dangerous fire. According to Statistics Canada, open flame is one of the two leading causes of residential fires, behind only cooking equipment. Further, home fires accounted for three quarters

of the 202 fire-related deaths in the country in 2021.

“A little caution goes a long way,” said Gareth Jones, President and CEO of the Canada Safety Council. “Taking the time to secure open flames and adopt safe practices can prevent tragedy and allow families to enjoy a safe holiday season.”

Tips to Safeguard Your Home from Fire Hazards

1. Place Candles Carefully

Keep candles in non-flammable holders and away from combustible items including curtains and holiday decor. Extinguish them when leaving the room or before bed. You can also consider using battery-operated candles instead of traditional ones to reduce the risk while still retaining that ambient glow.

2. Practice Fireplace Safety

Use a screen to contain sparks, and never leave a

fire unattended. Ensure the fire is fully out before going to bed. It is also a good idea to arrange for annual chimney cleaning if using a wood-burning fireplace, as creosote buildup is a common cause of chimney fires.

3. Water Your Christmas Tree

A dry Christmas tree can ignite in seconds. Water it daily to reduce flammability or consider an artificial tree if you're unable to keep it hydrated. Place it away from heat sources like fireplaces and space heaters.

4. Inspect Holiday Lights

Check for frayed wires or broken bulbs. Avoid overloading outlets, which can lead to electrical fires, and ensure outdoor lights are weatherproof and rated for outdoor use.

5. Keep an Accessible Fire Extinguisher

Have a fire extinguisher near areas with open flames, such as the kitchen or fireplace. Familiarize

yourself with its use and check it regularly.

6. Test Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms

Functional alarms are critical lifesaving tools. Test monthly, replacing batteries as needed and ensuring that one is installed on every floor and outside each sleeping area.

7. Supervise Children and Pets

Kids and pets are often drawn to the allure of open flames, so it's essential to supervise them closely. Establish a “kid-free zone” around fireplaces, stoves, and candles to prevent accidental contact.

The Canada Safety Council wishes all Canadians a safe and happy holiday season, filled with warmth, celebration, and the peace of mind that comes with a fire-safe home. Taking a few extra steps toward safety can help everyone enjoy the season while preventing avoidable accidents.



Christmas Greetings & Salutations



From executive and members of
**Royal Canadian Legion
Branch No. 75,
Rivers**



May your holiday season be bright with joy and happiness!

From all of us at

SPRINGLAND MFG.

Rivers Phone 204-328-7358

Cherish the Memories
past & present

Michelle, Scott, Lawana, Kayla, Samantha and Kerri of Memories Chapel hope you will take the time to enjoy all this holiday season has to offer.

*May the spirit of Christmas bring you Peace,
the gladness of Christmas give you Hope
and the warmth of Christmas grant you Love.*

Memories Chapel

Cherish the Memories

A golden year at the Rapid City Library



Daryl Andrew, Shirley Martin, Vera Kolesar, Dan Mazier, Lloyd Evans, Bob Christie, Donna Anderson, and Raeleen Vassart.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Sally Evans with one of the founding members Joyce Lewis.

By Shirley Martin
RAPID CITY HEAD LIBRARIAN

2024 was a very special year for two organizations in our community; The Rapid City Regional Library and the Rapid City Nursery School both turned 50! On September 22, 2024 the Nursery School celebrated with a come and go party at the Rapid City Beach. There former teachers and assistants met up and reminisced as they looked through old photographs. The Nursery School was founded by Lyla Fedak, Joyce Lewis and Margie Sylvester with Lyla being the first nursery school teacher. Over the years there have been many teachers besides Lyla; Lorna McFaddin, Louise

MacDonald, Virginia Miller, Dianne Brown, Jackie Peckover, Heather Smith, Barb Stone, Sharon Westwood, Jeannie Bos and that brings us to the current teacher Sally Evans. There have been even more assistants (too many to name) and even more children, but they have all been a part of the Nursery School history. The Nursery School began in the basement of the United Church and moved to their new home in the Library basement in 2010 when the library had completed their expansion.

The Rapid City Regional Library had its grand opening on November 2, 1974, and 50 years to the day the library celebrated its 50th Anniversary with a Celebration Dine and Dance.

The festivities took place at the Rapid City Legion Hall and the table centers consisting of pumpkins made from book pages were all handmade by some dedicated volunteers. Chairperson Donna Anderson thanked everyone for coming and former Mayor and Library staff member Terry Christie said grace. A wonderful meal catered by the Legion Ladies Auxiliary was enjoyed. Following the meal a small program was held with speeches from MP Dan Mazier, MLA Jelynn Dela Cruz brought greetings from the Premier, Reeve Bob Christie and Friends of the Library Chairperson Margo Eckberg. MLA Greg Nesbitt also sent his regards and congratulations. The Library board

surprised librarian Shirley Martin with acknowledgement of her 25 years of service and the speeches ended with a speech from Shirley.

Everyone was ready to dance the rest of the night away with the Mike Sacharko Band. The band played two sets full of favorite songs that had everyone up on the dance floor! It was a wonderful evening celebrating the 50 years of the library but also celebrating the community that has built and supported the library over the last 50 years. As librarian Shirley Martin says, we couldn't do what we do without the community. Chairperson Donna Anderson put it best – Here is to the past 50 years and here is to many, many more years to come!

Rapid City Christmas Cheer



SUBMITTED PHOTO

RCES and helpers (including Santa) after their food drive!

By Shirley Martin
RAPID CITY HEAD LIBRARIAN

The Cadurcis Community United Church's Christmas Cheer Board and Volunteers have been busy getting the hampers ready for delivery. It is definitely a group effort as the Rapid City School's Grade 3 & 4 Class did a Trick or Treat for Non-Perishables on Hallow-

een Day collecting items for the hampers. The Rapid City Emergency Services also did a big canvas for items on December 5th which also helped to fulfill the needs.

We cannot stress enough how grateful we are to these two groups for the excellent help

they give us!! The hampers will be delivered on December 19th and a big thank you goes out to everyone who donated, helped collect and/or has helped in any way to make others in our community have a Merry Christmas. Blessings to you all!

*It's a
Winter Wonderland*

In the spirit of the season, we'd like to extend our best wishes for a holiday that's filled with harmony, contentment and joy.

Thank you for your business and we look forward to serving you in 2025!

From all of us at:

Redfern
FARM SERVICES
Rivers, Phone 204-328-5325

REF MEMORIES

REF TO WRITER
GERRY NOLAN



Dec 13 - The first time I worked the 3-man system as the head referee was in Shoal Lake. The Shoal Lake rink had boards that stood as tall as I was at 6 foot plus. Even on the players benches side they were tall, you had to take a big step down out of the players box to get to the ice surface.

Positioning with the 3-man system was different than what I was accustomed to. I found, I skated on the faceoff dots and tried to stay away from the boards as much as I could. I also tried to stay away from the players benches because at times there was a lot of traffic with line changes. The more that I worked the 3-man system the better I liked it. I also still did the 2-referee system in senior hockey as there were not enough officials to go around, as many of us worked a lot of minor hockey as well.

I worked games locally with Blair Fordyce, Craig Whyte and Kerry Smith who was from Oak Lake. Blair and Craig were still playing Senior Hockey with the Cougars, so we worked minor hockey together.

Hamiota had formed a AAA midget team and were playing out of Hamiota. They had the better players from around the region and played against Brandon and Winnipeg teams. Elgin McConnell, nicknamed Red, called me one day and asked if Blair, Craig and myself would do some lines at their games. They wanted to spread around the games and get more people involved in this type of hockey.

What a huge thrill for the Kenton guys to go and participate at this level of hockey. We eventually would all be the head referee of some of these games.

One thing that stuck out for me the first time all 3 of us worked together, was a phrase I can remember as clear as day. Craig said, there are 3 of us getting paid for this, we had better be hustling our butts at all times. Our goal as a group was this, if there was an icing call, go pick up the puck and beat the other teams centre man to the face-off dot. Be back, ready to go at your blue line.

This was such a huge boost for our confidence. Thank you to the Hamiota guys who made this possible, Red McConnell, Gordy Lyall who sharpened our skates and Wallace Henderson who watched from the gondola in the old Hamiota rink. They helped us spread our wings.

Barry Delmage of Minnedosa called me one day and wondered if I would do some refereeing in the south-west hockey league in the north division. I think you know what my answer was.

Brian Franklin from Deloraine called as well and asked me to officiate in the south division which I agreed to.

The doors were really opening up to go to different towns to referee. I made a habit of reading my rule book. A referee relies on positioning themselves on the ice and rule application. There were a couple of things that happened over the course of a season or two that changed the way I refereed games, especially in the Southwest hockey league. I carried that for the rest of my career.

The Southwest league had a number of ex Junior players and University players as Brandon had a team at that time. This hockey was definitely a higher caliber of hockey than I had worked before.

My game assignments were going down and I was not sure why, so I gave Brian Franklin a call to see what I was doing wrong. He said I was calling too many penalties. A real gentleman. Brian told me, call the stick work. Slashing, High sticking and cross checking but only if it was excessive. Call the blows to the head but ease up on holding, hooking and interference unless a scoring chance was available.

I began to call the games as he had instructed me, and my assignments went up in a hurry. In the end I worked games in the league final as well as intermediate playoff games, so I guess I got it right!

Teams would comment and I heard this many times, Nolan is refereeing tonight, and this is what he calls so we will adjust our game to his style.

Ken Tibbatts from Foxwarren, Mr. Hockey to the north called me for a few seasons asking me to do their Intermediate playoff games. Teams could call for their own officials back then. One night I asked Ken what it was that had him ask me to officiate their games. It was a one-word answer. Ken said that I was the most consistent official, a penalty in the first period was still a penalty in the third period and my calls were the same each night!

That for me was the biggest compliment I ever got because it came from a man that I deeply respected! Another warrior

in Hockey Heaven.

Somewhere around this time we were working Elkhorn Canadian games in the southwest hockey league. Blair, Smitty and I heard that Souris did not have any linesmen, so I gave Gerry Williams a call asking if they would be interested in the 3 of us coming to Souris to work their games. I would assign and rotate the 3 of us. Gerry said yes right away so we started working Souris Elks games as well. We were spreading our wings further and further, and there was still more to come. Next week I will share about some of the good guys we met. Hockey Guys are always all good, there are just some who were special to our development as officials and as people!

Dec 20 - There are lots of good guys in the towns we officiated in. I cannot begin to name them all. Here are a few of those guys we meet.

Gerry Williams was the coach of the Souris Elks of the Southwest Hockey League. Gerry was also a referee. Gerry let us start doing linesman duties. I was already officiating in Southwest League so many nights Blair, Smitty and I were together. Scott Clark of Oak Lake also did some games with us as well.

Gerry Williams was a straight shooter and we all appreciated his direct approach because it helped us develop as officials. He was truthful, direct and did not sugar coat anything. Gerry was not afraid to give you a kick in the butt then, invite us for a brew after the game. He would come in to our dressing room and we would talk about the game. Gerry was also quick to praise us so there was always a balance, even keel.

After 5 years of going to Souris, they were developing some young officials. We worked with them and soon it was time to move on. They still invited us down to the tournament of champions weekends which was a lot of fun. Souris produced some really good officials under the watchful eye of Gerry Williams.

Gerry, I do not know if we could say thank you enough. Going to Souris was always a blast and you were so fun to talk hockey.

As an official there are certain guys you work well with and liked to work with in big games, especially playoff games. Blair, Smitty and I worked a ton of games together so there was always a level of comfort. Morley Butler, Terry Haney, Donny Jago, Cory Flecknor, Randy Kalynuk, Warren Hale, Glendon Short, Lawrence Ruddick to name a few.

Later near the end of my career I worked games with Grant H Man, could these guys skate. Both of these gentlemen worked in Western Hockey League. They were that good! Blair went into business and left Virden to go to Moosomin. Grant decided I think to get on with life and so did more local hockey. I always thought Grant was the best linesman I ever saw. Could he have worked professionally? I think so, but that was just my opinion, he was good!

Some guys from Minnedosa that I liked working with were Ron Shewchuk, Barry Brooking, Billy McVie, Bruce McNabb, Charlie McNabb and Frank Taylor.

I will talk more about Frank in a later edition. Frank was one of my favourite officials. Absolutely one of the best!

A little story here. One night I am in Minnedosa as head referee and they were playing Ste Rose. There was a really close call at the blue line so Billy blows his whistle for offside. Brian Hopfner did not like the call so he was questioning me and Billy about the call. Here comes Billy toward us and he could hear Brian ranting about the call. As Billy is skating toward us, maybe 10 to 15 feet away Billy said I had my eyes on it all the way, it was close but still offside. The funny thing about it as Billy is saying I got my eyes on it, he crossed his eyes, while explaining the call. I started to laugh looking at Billy as it was humorous. Hopfner just skated away shaking his head. I guess he figured these guys are not changing the call. These moments where we could have a chuckle were always good for the soul.

There are tons of other stories but I thought I would share this one as it really showed me we should have some fun on the ice as well. Thanks Billy!

There were also a number of players who were quite the characters. Another little story. One night in Elkhorn I am working lines and was over by the boards in front of the Elkhorn player bench waiting as there was a face-off on the other side of the ice. The puck is dropped and as I start to skate toward centre ice, Kevin McLean grabbed the back of my referee pants and when I went to skate away he gave a little tug. I almost fell flat on my face! We had some laughs about that.

I could go on and on but, last little story. The Kenton Junior Cougars had an opportunity to go play in the old Winnipeg Arena against a team from Glenboro. They were to face off against each other before the Jets versus Leafs game. Each town was to bring an official with them. What a thrill for me that the Junior Cougars would ask me to go. Well we hopped on a bus that Sioux Valley had and the driver Terry Pratt got us to Winnipeg and back safely.

When we arrived at the Arena we were ushered into this

small room across from the Jets dressing room. They told us we were not to speak to the Jet players. What a bummer, that close yet so far. All of a sudden the dressing room door opens and in walks Tie Domi! He spoke to the players, had a handshake with some of the guys and wished us best of luck in the game. I have been a fan of Tie Domi since that moment! Good on you Tie, you made our day.

The ice surface was like I never skated on, you could just glide forever on it. The corners were so curved, much more than the rinks around here.

We stayed and watched the Jets versus the Leafs game which the Leafs won. The guy besides Tie who impressed me was Glenn Anderson of the Toronto Maple Leafs. I never had seen anyone skate that fast, he had wicked speed.

I just want to thank the Cougars for giving me a thrill of a lifetime. Thanks to Johnny Finnie and Mike Boyle for taking me along for the game. You gave this old guy one of the best memories ever. Imagine me skating on a National Hockey League ice surface! I am going to stop here and wish everyone a Merry Christmas. We are going to be away over the holidays but will catch up to you in New Year and share some more hockey stories with you. One last thought, the man that got me started to officiate Mr. Ted Little of Decker called me to thank me for mention his name in my column. We had such a great visit, I was really touched that he would reach out to me. That is a great Holiday Blessing for me!

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December 24th - Closed at noon
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December 31st - Closed at noon
January 1st - Closed

Riverdale Health Services District Foundation Update 2020-2024



FILE PHOTO

Riverdale Health Centre

By Gary Pomeroy

CHAIRMAN RIVERDALE HEALTH SERVICES

The purpose of the Riverdale Health Services District Foundation is to enhance health care within the community. Any money given to the foundation is controlled and spent locally. Affairs of the foundation are handled by a volunteer-based board of directors; members are local residents who represent the Riverdale Municipality.

In 2020, the foundation provided funding to the Riverdale Fire Fighter Association for the purchase of a UTV stretcher carrier. The UTV allows the department to better serve the Community when accidents, fire, search and rescue calls come in and are in a remote area not easily accessible by regular means. The contribution for this purchase was \$4500.

In 2021, the foundation provided funding to the Riverdale PCH for 30 resident chairs. These chairs are of metal construction and include advanced health care vinyl coverings to allow for cleaning. As well, 10 of the chairs came with a wheel feature that allows the resident to be moved while seated. The total cost of the chairs was \$10 688. Also in 2021, the foundation provided funding to the Riverdale EMS for a La-Z-Boy recliner. The recliner provides comfort to the EMS staff while on-call at the station. The total cost of the

recliner was \$1500. A second chair was also provided by the Ladies Auxiliary.

In 2023, the foundation provided funding to the Riverdale Health Centre Lab & Imaging Department for the purchase of a counter top blanket warmer. The blanket warmer is used during blood tests to increase blood flow and to dilate blood vessels to make the process easier. The warm blankets are also used to make x-ray patients more comfortable. The cost of the blanket warmer was \$5227.

In 2024, the foundation provided funding to the Riverdale PCH for the purchase of 20 over-bed tables. The tables allow for adjusting height and can be used for multiple purposes within the resident's room environment. The approximate cost for this project was \$10 000.

Local residents have an opportunity to invest in healthcare in many ways, such as a personal donation, memorial gift, estate legacy or to make a special occasion gift for events like birthdays or anniversaries.

If you wish to support the foundation in the form of a bequest or a donation, the mailing address is RHSD Foundation, Box 7, Rivers, MB R0K 1X0. Charitable receipts for income tax purposes will be issued. Remember, all monies received are controlled and spent locally. We appreciate your ongoing support.

December 13 fire extinguished

Submitted

RIVERS/DALY FIRE DEPARTMENT

December 13 at 16:32 Rivers Fire was paged to a garage fire in Rivers. Upon arrival a quick interior attack was made. The fire was under control by 16:50 and they began overhaul and remained on scene until 18:30 to make sure all hot spots were extinguished.

Note from Rivers/Daly Firefighters:

We would like to remind the public that if you see a hose laid across the road at an emergency scene, please do not drive over it. Several vehicles drove over the hydrant supply hose we had laid to provide water if needed (the hose was not charged due to the cold temperatures). The hose we use is extremely expensive and if damaged, can jeopardize the safety of the firefighters and the property they are working to save.

We ask for the public's help as on fire scenes we do not always have enough personnel to be able to stop traffic in and around the entire fire scene.



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Thank you to our customers for your support in 2024. We wish you and your family a safe and healthy Holiday Season and looking forward to serving you in 2025.

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Thinking of you at Christmas

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Oak River and Rapid City offices close
Noon December 24th 2024
Reopen January 2nd 2025

CLASSIFIEDS

Harding Ag Society AGM

By Gerry Nolan
RIVERS BANNER

Harding Agricultural Society held their Christmas Potluck, and Annual General Meeting at Harding Community Hall, December 11, 2024.

An hour of visiting and laughs started the evening, followed by a delicious potluck supper. Everything from "Soup to Nuts"! Supper was followed by the year end meeting. Ten members were present, President Trav Hunter, newly elected Vice President Richard Stevenson, Treasurer Merrilee Bond, and Secretary Wenda Best, as well as several directors.

Reports were given on July 1, 2024 supper, which was very successful, and the 120 year Harding Agricultural Fair held July 19, 2024. Plans are being made to host next years fair on July 18, 2025.

The evening ended with Christmas wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy Prosperous 2025.

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Correction:

RE: Thank-you Ad from Immaculate Conception Church in Rivers

Immaculate Conception Church in Rivers submitted a correction for their ad about the penny raffle winners at Immaculate Conception tea of November 23. It was Roger Beaudin who won scissors, cards and church ornament, not Roger Dupuis and Mary Mason won Watkins product, not Marcy.

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Buck Night in Kenton

By Gerry Nolan
RIVERS BANNER

Kenton Legion hosted its annual Buck Night on Saturday, Dec. 14 in the legion clubroom.

A capacity crowd of around 90 hunting enthusiasts were on hand for the event.

There were lots of youngsters on hand which was great to see. A total of 36 heads were on display, making this one of the largest buck nights in the legion. Everyone enjoyed the evening and viewing at the trophy heads on display.

The winners of the categories were as follows.

The ladies typical head winner was Taylor Good. The Mens typical winner was Michael Wright.

Youth typical winner was Cruz Dyshnikey. The non-typical winner was Derek Hodgins. The winner of archery was Tim Gompf. The mule head winner was Josh Baker. The winner of the Darcy McGregor memorial trophy was Darrah Kent. The winners all received a plaque presented by John Bothe.

Sponsors were Joe Brook Firearms, Jody Airey Repair



PHOTO BY CELIA NOLAN

and Service, Redferns, Agland Farms, Starcraft Cabinets, Cargill, Whytes Lumber, J.S. Henry seeds, Diamond T Limousin and Jessica Coulter.

There were door prizes that were won by having the winning ticket. Darwin Johns was the winner of the rifle.

We thank all the volunteers who helped in measuring and judging the heads as well as all those who

transported all the heads to the legion clubroom.

Crock pots of chili and buns were served to all the people present. What a great evening! There were many door prizes that were donated by the sponsors. Woodworth legion would like to express thank you to all who joined in for the evening. Congratulations to all the winners and hope to see you all next hunting season!

Gnome for Christmas

By Gerry Nolan
RIVERS BANNER

Tuesday December 10, 2024, was a fun evening at the Kenton Legion Clubroom. Rilla Hunter instructed a group of ladies in the art of Gnome making. Using a tomato cage as a base, spruce and cedar boughs were strategically placed around the cages and secured with zip ties. Touques which had been made by Rilla from old, repurposed sweaters, were placed on their "heads" and embellished with pinecones, bells, and greenery. Imaginations ran wild! Styrofoam and fuzzy balls were hot glued in place as well as beards made from yarn. To finish off their ensembles, little mitts were added as well. A delicious buffet of appi's followed with lots of laughter and chatter, as only friends can, in this great little town!



PHOTO BY CELIA NOLAN

*Celebrate
the
Birth of Christ*

At this time of reflection, we give thanks to the Lord for the many blessings we enjoy, including the gift of your friendship. Merry Christmas!

To all our Riverdale friends, from Warren and Maggie Smallwood

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Believe

Merry Christmas

MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

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DECEMBER 26:	CLOSED
DECEMBER 31:	9:30AM – 5:00PM
JANUARY 1:	CLOSED

SPORTS

JETS FALL TO BOMBERS, REMATCH COMING SOON

By Robin Wark
RIVERS BANNER

Last Saturday night the Rivers Jets suffered their first setback of the Tiger Hills Hockey League season.

In a battle between two of the top three teams in the THHL's Eastern Division, the host Minnedosa Bombers prevailed, 2-1. As of Dec. 15, Killarney led the Eastern Division and the league with a 7-0-1-0 record while Rivers was right behind at 7-1-0-0. Regarding the contest versus the Bombers, Jets coach Ryan Lamb said, "I thought we controlled the game, we had a lot of Grade A chances and just couldn't beat Argue."

That would be Bombers goalie Jason Argue, who made 44 saves. Jets netminder Riley Lamb allowed two goal on 21 shots.

In the first period, Minnedosa's Bryson Werbicki-Mallett scored shorthanded to put his team up 1-0. Keaton Moore knotted things up at 1-1 13 seconds later. Neither team lit the lamp in the second period. With 18 seconds remaining in the third, Werbicki-Mallett scored his second of the night to lift the Bombers to the 2-1 win.

The Jets play in Hartney (2-3-0-0) on Dec. 20. The next night they have a rematch with the Bombers (6-1-0-1) in Rivers.

"It's going to be a tough back to back for sure," Ryan Lamb said. "Hartney and Minnedosa both like to play physical, but if we use our speed and take care of our end I like our chances."

The team's first game of 2025 is against the Carberry Plainsmen in Rivers on Jan. 4.

As of Dec. 15, Riley Lamb topped the THHL with a 1.49 goals against average. The Jets' Joben Smith and Riley Shamray were tied for seventh in the league in points with 13 each.



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Dec 20

21


 Rivers Jets vs
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 7:30pm

Newspaper
is closed
for the holidays

22

50 + Club Tile
 Rummy
 1pm



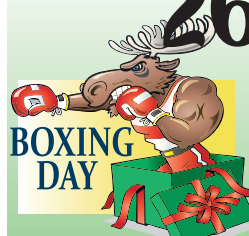
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50 + Club Tile
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30



31



2



Kenton
 Legion
 Curling
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3



Kenton Legion
 Curling Bonspiel
 Rivers Jets vs Carberry
 Plainsmen
 7:30pm

4

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