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# Banner & Press

Inside this week



Curling for a Cure  
 Preview - Page 9

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## 'A push to keep going' for Carberry childcare

By Casper Wehrhahn  
 NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

The Carberry community is ready to take its next steps in a long-term project. On Jan. 8, the Carberry & Area Childcare Development Committee announced via a public statement that it is positioned to begin the next phase in bringing a brand new daycare to Carberry. The structure will be located west of the rink, north of First Avenue.

"It's been talked about for a number of years within our municipal government. However, significant forward momentum occurred within the last six months," explained Krista Strain, committee chair.

That work took the form of behind-the-scenes planning, fundraising, building partnerships and more. The coming six months will see the committee begin development, taking action on their plans and getting shovels into the ground. A milestone that is being marked with enthusiasm as the committee looks to the future.

"Childcare spaces are vital to our community, both for residents and businesses. Forward momentum is always rewarding," said Strain. "We understand the process is more of a marathon than a race, and we are committed to getting to the finish line. Getting



Submitted photo  
 Pictured: Karra Burney (Town of Carberry EDO), Bill Kalinowich (Deputy Mayor Town of Carberry), Shealee Smith (Committee Member) Neely Birch (Committee Member), Krista Strain (Committee Chair) and Dallis Olmstead (Deputy Reeve Municipality of North Cypress Langford) gathered for a celebratory "turning of the snow" recently.

to this stage has certainly given us a push to keep going, and increase the pace if we can."

While dollar figures for the project and a prospective ground breaking date could not be shared at this time, Strain made note of the generosity from Carberry

and area.

"We have enough to get the drawings and Class B cost estimate done so that we can apply for the provincial grant. This all came from donations," said Strain.


Donations in support of this project are still being welcomed.

Any who wish to support the development and construction of the up and coming daycare are asked to drop off or mail donations to the Town of Carberry with a memo stating that it is for the 'New Daycare'. The Town of Carberry is also accepting e-transfers via

town@townofcarberry.ca. E-transfers must also be marked with a memo stating 'New Daycare'.

The Neepawa Banner & Press will share additional news on this community development as further updates become available.

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# Spring opening planned for Best Western Plus in Neepawa

By Eoin Devereux  
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

We should be getting our first look at Neepawa's newest hotel a little ahead of the May long weekend. The latest update suggests that if work on the building's interior moves along as scheduled, the opening day for the new Best Western Plus will be on Wednesday, May 7. That is just under two weeks before the observance of Victoria Day, the unofficial start of summer for many Canadians.

Murray Parrott, who represents the local shareholders group who are bringing the hotel franchise to rural Westman, noted that for the fourth floor, all the rooms are painted, and the bathroom and entrance areas have been tiled. Next up will be the installation of the carpeting, toilets, and shower stalls.

Meanwhile, the third floor sees all the rooms sanded and painting underway right now. For the first and second floors, rough-in plumbing and wiring is complete, with taping and sanding well underway on the second. Rough-in is the stage of construction when the various mechanical, electrical, and plumbing lines are brought in.

The exterior work is basically done, with all the windows installed and the parking lot paved and curbed, as well as paving stones installed. The only items left for outside to be looked after are the back patio and siding along the east pool wall.

The pool is progressing, while the first flight of permanent stairs are installed and the elevator is operational.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

While the exterior of the new Best Western Plus hotel in Neepawa make it look like it's ready to open any day now, the interior continues to proceed behind the scenes. (Pictured) Construction work on the floors continues at this time, while the work along the pool area is also progressing nicely. Current expectations have a potential opening for May 7, just a little ahead of the Victoria Day long weekend.

### Employment hiring timeline

In the near future, hiring of staff will begin. Parrott indicated that Trish Hall, who is the General Manager, is planning a job fair for a little later in the year. Interviewing and training of staff will be announced at a future date.

Between 12 and 14 staff positions are expected to be created from the hotel. Some of the positions that need to be filled include: Maintenance manager, Front desk reception, accounting and night auditor, housekeeping and laundry, sales/marketing and revenue management.



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will be held during the **regular school hours** at the following schools:

- Hazel M. Kellington (Neepawa)**  
February 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7 All Day
- J. M. Young (Eden)**  
Feb 4 & 5 (Tues & Wed) Mornings only
- Brookdale**  
Feb 3 (Mon) Afternoon only
- R. J. Waugh (Carberry)**  
Feb 4 & 5 (Tues & Wed) 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**Please register at your school**

- To be eligible for Kindergarten, a child must be five years of age on or before December 31, 2025.
- A copy of your child's birth certificate is required for their school file.
- For Newcomer Families, copies of your child's passport and residency documentation are also required. If further assistance is needed you may contact Neepawa Settlement Services 204-476-2055.



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## 1975: Neepawa's 31st annual Ladies' Bonspiel

By Casper Wehrhahn  
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

his wife as to the business done."

**125 years ago,  
Wednesday,  
January 24, 1900**

*Note: The entries for 1900 are from The Neepawa Register, as The Press for that year is not fit for regular handling.*

Arden: Bert VanBlaricom lost a valuable horse last week from inflammation of the lungs.

The Carberry News says: The demand for dwelling houses is in excess of the supply, every available building being occupied.

A rather odd motion was passed at a recent board meeting in Brandon. It seems that members did not wish to have their resolutions made public, and passed the following motion, "That none of the members inform any person, as to any of the proceedings at this meeting until a time for making public be decided upon by this board, and further that no husband even inform

**100 years ago,  
Tuesday,  
January 20, 1925**

Arden: Miss Reta Roe went to Winnipeg on Tuesday to enter the children's hospital, where she will train for a nurse.

Arden: Val Halle, the man with the million dollar hands, paid a visit to Arden on Tuesday and gave a rather short entertainment in the hall. His program was somewhat better than on his former visit, but not of as lengthy duration.

Arden: The Arden Ever-Ready Tuxis Square met in the Sunday school of the Methodist church on Wednesday night. They met to disorganize the old Square and organize a new one. This was followed by election of officers which are as follows: Mentor, Joe. Foreman; praetor, William Morell; deputy praetor, Harry Bryant; secretary, Stanley McGhie; comptor, Harry Brown.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BANNER & PRESS ARCHIVES

Pictured here is one of the winning teams for the 31st annual Ladies Bonspiel, held in Neepawa. Pictured: Mrs. Bernice Zeke presents the top trophy to Donna Schmall's Neepawa foursome. The rink members are Donna Schmall, Lois Pelletier, Edith Martin and Marlyn Hargreaves. They also tied for Grand Aggregate honors.

*Note: The title 'praetor' comes from ancient Rome. According to Britannica Encyclopedia, a praetor was a judicial officer who had a broad authority. Typically, they were senior magistrates within the government.*

month, of the preliminary spending estimates for 1975. What is even more appalling is that the increases are due mainly to inflation and wage demands and not to increases in services and programs for the students.

Almost a year in planning, the Adopt-a-Grandparent program was started by the lodge's volunteer coordinator Sophia Rainka in December.

*Disclaimer: The information gathered and used each week in the Looking Back feature is directly taken from the original print*

*copy of the Neepawa Press and Neepawa Banner newspapers. Any errors or omissions from stories (Factually or otherwise) are the result of the original print and not the responsibility of the archivist for the current version of the Neepawa Banner & Press.*

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NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS ARCHIVES

This ad, which was placed in the Jan. 23, 1975 edition of The Neepawa Press by the Roxy Theatre, highlights an upcoming showing of the film 'The Sting'.

**75 years ago,  
Thursday,  
January 24, 1950**

Riding Mountain: Miss Kay Blowers, nurse in training at Winnipeg General Hospital, arrived home last week for a two-week visit.

**50 years ago,  
Thursday,  
January 23, 1975**

Two Yellowhead Manor tenants, Frank McConnell and Mabel Nebbs, have been chosen to sit on the governing body of the Manor for a period of one year.

Plumas: The Board of Trustees were alarmed and dismayed upon presentation earlier this

**20 years ago,  
Monday,  
January 24, 2005**

They've only known each other a short time, but 10-year-old Julianna Gasenzer has already brought a lot of joy into Ethel Moroz's life.

Moroz, a resident of Neepawa's East View Lodge personal care home, said she looks forward to Gasenzer's weekly arrival...

Gasenzer and 54 other Grade 5 students at Hazel M. Kellington elementary school are not only providing company for matched "grandparents" at the lodge— they're learning something too...

**Roxy theatre**

291 Hamilton St. Neepawa, MB  
www.neepawaroxxy.ca    (204) 476-3716

---

January 24 & 25 • SHOWTIME: 7:30 pm  
**Mufasa: The Lion King**

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January 31 & February 1 • SHOWTIME: 7:30 pm  
**And the Breadwinner is**

Host your birthday party at the Roxy! • www.facebook.com/neepawaroxxy

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Matthew 6:19-21 (The Living Bible)

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**Highlights of the week**

**Decision Makers - Cassandra Groen - Rec Director**  
Jan. 27 at 8:00 pm | Jan. 28 at 10:30 am | Jan. 30 at 4:00 pm  
Feb. 1 at 7:00 pm

**NMS Winter Band Concert**  
Jan. 27 at 12:00 pm | Jan. 29 at 4:00 pm | Jan. 30 at 8:00 pm

**Neepawa Ballers - Jr. Division - Rookies vs Airballerz**  
Jan. 28 at 7:00 pm | Jan. 30 at 4:30 pm | Feb. 1 at 10:30 am  
Feb. 2 at 8:30 pm

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## Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



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## Homebodies

RITA FRIESEN

# 'Beyond my ken...'

The universe is filled with marvels and mysteries, many of them well beyond my understanding or knowledge, 'beyond my ken'. Two incidents that occurred while residing on the acreage surfaced in my overflowing memory bank this week. I still marvel at the occurrences.

It was a grey early spring day as I glanced out the kitchen window. The view, though never changing- grass stretching back to a row of evergreens with an ancient granary as focus-was ever changing. This day, standing in the open doorway of the weathered outbuilding, stood a wolf. Our eyes met, neither one of us uncomfortable or challenging. After a few moments of simply meeting each other, I turned to the young adults sharing our home and asked one of them to take the gun, escort the creature off the main yard and release it from its pain and agony. There was a bit of uncertainty among the three young adults hearing my words, and after discerning who would be the better one at a quick and clean shot, my request was honoured. The grey animal of prey carefully walked off the house yard, into the field north of the home and stood on the crest of a slight rise. One shot, one clean shot, and the animal dropped. Examination showed that the wolf was riddled with mange, and gaunt. To this day I acknowledge that there was an unspoken request for help.

Looking out that same kitchen window, a different spring, I noted a vixen and her kits had taken up residence under that same granary. They provided entertainment as I watched the mother teach her young how to pounce and dodge. She would have two of them sit and watch as she gave one on one instruction to the other one. She taught them to run zig-zag through the row of evergreens. I'll admit that I left food scraps in the building, hoping to entice the young to show themselves while mom was away hunting. They never did, and the food was always gone the next day. As the kits became the size of my two little dogs, I had a chat with the mother. I explained how much I loved to watch her, how much I appreciated that there were no moles or snakes while she was on duty, but it was time for them all to find a new home. Within days I watched her teach the kits to cross the highway by using the concrete culvert. And within the week, they were all gone. And then a few days later I was woken by the cry of a kit, under the bedroom window. Opening the window, I explained that mom and siblings had found a new home and it was time for me to have the yard back, but thank you for saying good-bye. I never saw, nor heard from them again.

(As an aside, the snakes and moles were back with a vengeance in a week!)

I don't believe I am an animal whisperer. I do believe that all creatures think, and feel, and understand. I felt/feel honoured to have been entrusted with communication. Beyond my full ken.

# Let's just cut out the crap!

If anyone is offended by that headline, toughen up and hang on.

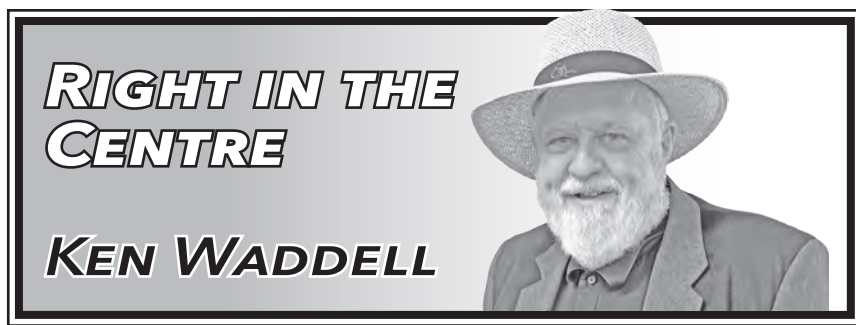
A couple of weeks ago Winnipeg (and Manitoba) was subjected to yet another notice to the public. It was one of many and likely won't be the last. A picture was posted in various media of a man who had a criminal record as long as your arm, a violent sexual re-offender and murderer who was, as they often note, "was likely to re-offend and would be dangerous to women and children." The man in question re-offended in a few days and ended up back in jail. That's likely good news but I have a few questions.

Why, with his 30 year record, was he ever allowed out of jail? What if during the four to five days of freedom, he had beat upon or killed another woman or child? How can the public interest be served by allowing this type of criminal to ever see the outside of a jail-ever? This particular notice was one of many that are posted every year.

Just last week, an individual, known to the police and who had an active arrest warrant at the time of a car crash. It was with a stolen vehicle and the crash killed a young woman near Portage la Prairie.

Why do we even have to tolerate this over and over again? Put them in jail, and yes, leave them there. It would save lives, maybe sometimes even the offender's life, save a lot of police time chasing around and hunting for people who seem intent on doing as much harm as possible to others and themselves.

I recently had a discussion with a wise man and we came to some poignant conclusions. We don't believe in capital punishment. The death penalty didn't seem to be an effective deterrent, many times there have been wrongful convictions and it can be argued that someone who commits murder should have to live



## RIGHT IN THE CENTRE

KEN WADDELL

“There comes a point in a criminal's life that jail, long term, forever jail is the only logical answer.”

with the consequences.

So what about the jail time. There comes a point in a criminal's life that jail, long term, forever jail is the only logical answer. When in jail, or an institution, if you like, they could be gainfully occupied in educational upgrades or working. We both agreed that closing down the federal prison farms was a big mistake. In the prison farm system, many prisoners improved their lives greatly, working with livestock was a great learning and living experience. Many prisoners helped themselves, helped other prisoners and were gainfully occupied raising food for the prison.

My wise man said let prisoners become authors, artists, teachers, skilled workers, basically anything they want but with one clear limitation. They will always be in jail.

So more jails, institutions, prison farms or even prison factories will cost money. But how do you put a price on saved police costs, efforts and even police lives. How do you put a price on the safety of dead kids and

adults. Or damaged and abused kids and adults. It seemed to us that we need major changes and we believe those changes would bring benefit to everybody.

The defenders of capital punishment, of the death sentence, will say that it eliminates repeat offenders. Executed criminals don't re-offend. That's true, but as noted above, what about wrongful convictions, there's been many?

And, there are many criminals out and about that committed crimes where today's courts would never get a death sentence but they are very dangerous to the public, to the police and even to themselves.

We need to expand our institutions and keep dangerous people off the street. Our population deserves much better protection than we have been offered. Put repeat violent offenders in jail and keep them there!

*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.*

## NEEPAWA Banner & Press

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Telephone: (204) 476-3401 Fax: (204) 476-5073  
Toll-free: 1-888-436-4242 (within Manitoba) www.neepawabanner.com

Subscription Rates in Canada 1 Year: \$61.38 (including taxes) Online subscription \$36.00  
Customer Account 558680-99-Postage paid at Neepawa, Manitoba

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

AD DEADLINE: TUESDAY NOON PRIOR TO ISSUE DATE

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Circulation as of May 2024: 7,275

News Media Canada  
Médias d'Info Canada



Funded by the Government of Canada  
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada



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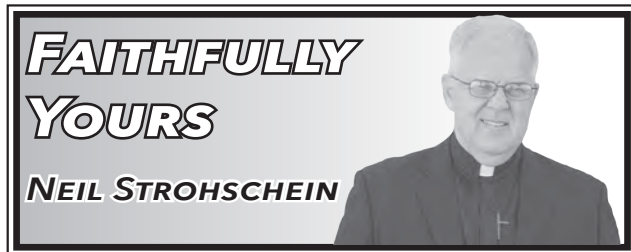
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## Living by the books

Over a two-day period three weeks ago, I watched roughly six hours of Jimmy Carter's State Funeral. I listened to the eulogies presented by members of his family, by his friends, and by politicians including President Joe Biden.

One statement will remain firmly embedded in my mind. It was made by Tony Lowden, Carter's personal pastor. "During his time as President," Lowden said, "Jimmy Carter lived by two books. The first book contains all of the policies and procedures he had to follow to carry out his responsibilities as President of the United States. The second book was the book on which he placed his left hand when he took the oath as a member of the US Navy, as a Georgia State Senator, Governor of Georgia and President of the United States; and whose teachings guided his conduct in public and private life." That book is the Holy Bible.

After hearing that statement, I thought of the



books that I live by. First on my list were the books of Laws—Laws of Canada, Laws of Manitoba and By-Laws of Neepawa (where I live). Then came the books published by the Presbyterian Church in Canada, that contain the Policies and Procedures I must follow as an officer in my church and in our local presbytery.

The third book is the Bible—the same book on which Jimmy Carter placed his left hand when he took his many oaths of office. It has been part of my life since I could read. I have been its student and it has been my teacher. It has been my inspiration during difficult times; my source of hope in times of despair and my final authority in all matters of faith and conduct. I owe my faith and future to the truths contained within its

pages. After identifying the books I live by, I thought of how the first two are related to the third.

The relationship was much closer than I could have ever imagined. The books of Law, Policy and Procedure show us how to conduct ourselves in the communities where we live and in the places in which we work. The third book, the Bible, shows us what kind of people we need to be to live with dignity and integrity in our world.

The books of LPandP show us how to solve problems in our relationships with others at home, on the job, or in the community. The Bible shows us how to think, speak and live so that our relationships with others are as harmonious and problem free as possible.

The books of LPandP show us how to respond when we offend others, when we are offended and how to restore, repair and rebuild broken relationships. The Bible tells us how to seek and find forgiveness and freedom from guilt when our actions offend God.

The books of LPandP prepare us to live honestly and honorably in this life. The Bible prepares us for the life that will follow physical death; and points us to Jesus Christ who said: "Truly I say to you, those who believe in me have everlasting life." (John 6:47)

The first step in securing the moral and spiritual revival we need is for all of us to begin living by the books. First, we must become the people God wants us to be by living according to the teachings of the Bible. Then, we allow the books of LPandP to show us how to live as responsible, caring, and productive citizens of our community, country, and world.

## Market report

By Tyler Slawinski  
GLADSTONE AUCTION

It was definitely feeling a lot like winter this past week, from snow and minus 40 in the howling wind, there is no one more dedicated to the industry than the Canadian cattleman!

Feed and bedding consumptions were up with these cool temperatures, and now with a stretch of mild weather ahead, we should start to see some easier gains.

This week saw a fair bit of uncertainty with a new USA President being sworn in, and all the "what if's".

The markets saw some easing up due to precautionary measures. Cattle are still in strong demand, and in fact the market today was higher in some spots than the record-breaking averages of the week before!

The way the futures work, we are seeing positivity further out, which has the lighter feeder cattle stronger and some of the heavier feeder cattle at ease.

We sold 846 head of cattle through the ring in Gladstone on Jan. 21! Cows and bulls are trending with stability. Feeding type cows and heiferettes are still selling stronger than yielding cows. Yielding cows still traded quite reasonable from 165.00 to 175.00 with sales to 180 looking like stable averages. Feeding type cows are ranging between 180 to 190. Bulls traded steady ranging between 195.00 to 214.00.

With these prices it's not hard to see why many of

these young feeding type cows aren't getting a second chance! The cow herd isn't growing very quickly, and we are finally starting to see some optimism in the industry!

Some highlights from the sale, Charolais steers weighed 345 traded for a whopping 676.00 per pound! Black and Red steers weighed 430 and traded for 611. Crossbred steers weighed 566 and brought 505.00. Crossbred steers weighed 645 pounds and they hit 460.00. Mixed steers weighed 770 and they checked out at 416.00. Cross bred steers 865lbs brought 370.00. Heifers, red heifers weighed 349 and traded for 604.00. Black hid heifers weighed 433.00 and brought 542.50. Crossbred heifers weighed 557 and made 433.50. Mixed heifers weighed 771 and traded for 369.00. And last but not least a big set of 886 pound Red and Black hid heifers that fetched 336.75.

### Gladstone Auction Mart

Cattle Market Report  
Jan. 21, 2025

#### Steers

3-400 lbs.	\$5.75 to 6.81
4-500 lbs.	\$5.15 to 6.19
5-600 lbs.	\$4.45 to 5.44
6-700 lbs.	\$4.00 to 4.71
7-800 lbs.	\$3.75 to 4.32
8-900 lbs.	\$3.50 to 3.90
900+ lbs.	\$2.90 to 3.40
Bulls	\$1.95 to 2.14

#### Heifers

3-400 lbs.	\$5.00 to 6.04
4-500 lbs.	\$4.45 to 5.50
5-600 lbs.	\$4.00 to 4.47
6-700 lbs.	\$3.50 to 3.95
7-800 lbs.	\$3.32 to 3.71
8-900 lbs.	\$2.85 to 3.39
900+ lbs.	\$2.81 to 3.40
Cows	\$1.80 to 1.90

846 head sold

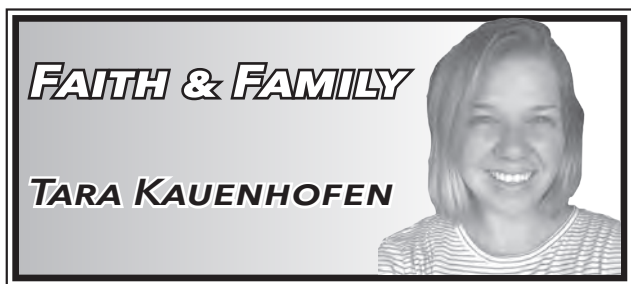
## True wealth

Sometimes I truly detest winter. Don't get me wrong, there are absolutely beautiful parts of it, but the -50 days that leave your bones chilled I could leave behind and never experience again!

But as my kids and I sat cozied up by the fire, tea in my hand, hot chocolate in theirs, a favourite movie playing on the tv, I was suddenly struck with overwhelming gratitude for the wealth we had.

### Wealth is more than cash

Money is a hard topic and hard thing to get our heads around. Especially with social media at the tips of our fingers ready to show us the next fancy car someone bought, the expensive vacation someone went on or the house someone built from scratch.



But what if we could shift away from looking at wealth as simply monetary and the 'I need more' mindset.

Wealth is so much more than a paycheque or cash in hand.

Wealth is healthy kids, wealth is heat to stave off the -50 days, wealth is a meal on the table, wealth is tiny giggles and snuggles from our babies, wealth is looking across the room and seeing our spouse smiling at us.

Wealth is having friends and family who love and champion us, wealth is being able to worship God

in a country that doesn't send us to jail for doing it.

Wealth is cozy blankets, it's food in the fridge, it's clothes on our backs, it's a book to read and curl up with when it's cold, it's clean drinking water,

vehicles to drive to the store in.

When we start looking beyond a paycheque, To see the amount of wealth we truly have that has NOTHING to do with money, we can switch from a never enough mindset to a thank you God for all You've blessed me with mindset and find contentment and peace with what we have and start to believe it is truly enough.

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Jeanette and Garry Henderson  
Gladstone, MB

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## HELEN DRYSDALE

## OUT OF HELEN'S KITCHEN

## Puffed wheat

Some prairie wheat history: In 1928 the price of wheat was \$1.03 and by 1932 it was worth 29 cents a bushel and would go down over the next few years. Over 70 per cent of Canadian wheat was exported to other countries that put taxes on the wheat making it expensive. As the Depression progressed over the world the wheat prices dropped further and Canada held back its wheat and waited for the prices to improve. Unfortunately, the prices didn't improve for a number of years leaving Canada with a huge supply of wheat and no one to buy it.

The year was 1933. Sam Yeske a new immigrant to Canada was running the grain separator for a farmer. As he worked he tried to come up with other ways to empty the farmers' loaded granaries. At home he experimented with heating the wheat under pressure to puff it. After time, a few blown out windows, and some investors he built a puffed wheat plant in Edmonton. The plant was soon selling a train car load of puffed wheat a day across the prairies. A wonderful success story for the dirty 30s. Puffed wheat production soon became a major industry on the Prairies in the 1930s to the 1960s. In Manitoba, I understand Portage la Prairie had a plant and Winnipeg had the Prairie Maid Company which was closed in 2013.

Now, the idea of eating puffed grains did not originate on the Canadian prairies. On December 1901, botanist Alexander Pierce Anderson of Minnesota created puffed rice. By 1905 Quaker Oats sold their product as a breakfast cereal called Puffed Rice. In 1907, Quaker added Puffed Wheat to their line of readymade cereals. The demand for puffed wheat was higher in Western Canada than other parts of the country as the wheat growing provinces needed to make use of the abundance of prairie grain.

Did you know that puffed wheat cake originated in the Prairie Provinces and is not well known in other parts of the country?

In 1913, Maritimer Alfred Russell settled in Red Deer and opened a candy store making fudge, fondants, toffees, an all-day sucker and more. We have Alfred Russell, a self-professed "maker of good candy," to thank for the sweet and sticky treat we know as puffed wheat cake.

With the start of World War I in 1914, Canadians needed to find substitutes to using wheat in their everyday use. With a large majority of Canadian wheat crops shipped to troops overseas, many bakers and confectioneries were left with a limited use of wheat to make their goods. Rationing in the war forced Russell to become inventive with his recipes. The use of puffed grains, such as rice and wheat, became increasingly popular because it took less product to make more finished goods. Russell came up with the idea for the puffed wheat square. His version initially used molasses, a common WWI alternative to sugar. His initial bar was more of a molasses brittle with added puffed wheat. According to his family the puffed wheat squares eventually became much softer and gooier than Russell's original recipe.

Puffed wheat cake is a classic, easy treat that always reminds me of my childhood. In a pinch it can be made up quickly to be ready for school lunches the next day. The most important part of making this cake is avoiding over-boiling the chocolate sauce. Boil it for exactly one minute once it hits a rolling boil then remove from heat immediately after! Over boiling can lead to rock hard treats that are tough to eat. If the sauce is under cooked, the squares will be crumbly and not hold together. Fear not, it's not that tricky! For easier removal and cutting of squares, use parchment paper to line your baking sheet.

Fun fact: Puffed Wheat Squares was one of the most commonly searched recipes on Google Canada in 2015.

I customize my puffed wheat cake by adding 1/3 cup of peanut butter, use honey instead of syrup and add chopped peanuts, or leave out the cocoa and add raisins or other dried fruits to the puffed wheat.

**Chocolate puffed wheat cake**

8 cups puffed wheat cereal	1/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
1 cup brown sugar	(or more to taste)
1/2 cup butter	1 tsp. vanilla
2/3 cup corn syrup	

Grease a 9x13 inch pan or line your pan with parchment paper. Measure out puffed wheat into a large bowl. Set aside. Combine brown sugar, butter, syrup, and cocoa powder in a heavy-bottomed pot. Over medium heat bring to a boil; cook, stirring constantly, for one minute. Add the vanilla. Pour this mixture over the puffed wheat cereal in the bowl; stir until the cereal is evenly coated. Transfer mixture to prepared baking dish. Press the mixture firmly into the pan to avoid crumbly squares. Refrigerate until set. Cut into squares. Enjoy with your favourite people.

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## Is there too much self-in mental health?

Self-maintenance, self-compassion, self-love...self-care. Self-care is a foundational element of any good mental health care plan. It is the cornerstone of wellness clinics, spas and gyms. It is a massive cultural movement toward self-love and positivity. It's part of workplace initiatives, education practices, religious and spiritual practice and advocacy to name a few. Self-care is a multi-billion-dollar industry that only continues to grow and doesn't show any signs of stopping. So, something this wonderful, this groundbreaking, this important couldn't be bad right?

I wonder if you've noticed a lack of human connection as of late. Have you noticed that people don't genuinely ask you how you are for no reason? Have you noticed that folks are less likely to volunteer for community events? Do people just seem to be less.... Giving? Why is this happening?

We live in an individualistic culture which is one that values independence, autonomy and personal decisions are made based on what is best for the individual. We are a group of humans who are overtaxed, over-scheduled and downright exhausted. These are all good reasons why people haven't been giving to others. There are even more reasons though. The rising cost of living has made life a heck of a lot more expensive to live in than our parents' generation making people feel like they have zero resources to give. It makes us feel like we must be more focused on survival than generosity. Due to the digital world

**YOUR  
LISTENING EAR  
DELSIE MARTIN**

we live in there is much less in person community engagement and it creates a comparison culture where we all come out feeling inadequate leading us to give less.

Is it possible that our culture of self-care and prioritizing self is making us less community minded? Are we worst friends because of it? Are we losing our connection with our families because of it? Prioritizing self-care might lead you to decline babysitting a family member's child, which could negatively affect that family member and potentially strain your relationship. An increased focus on self-care might result in fewer individuals volunteering for community events, potentially affecting the success of these events or leading to a shortage of volunteers in some communities. If all we are thinking about is ourselves then who is thinking about you? Are our relationships transactional? Maybe those people pleasers who made the chicken soup for the sick friend even though

they were exhausted, who attended the family reunion even though they didn't really want to, who decided to go and clean their friends house even if it was their only day off, maybe they were doing something right.

This is not to say that self-care is a bad thing. Self-care is a wonderful and very necessary thing, I just wonder if we are putting too much emphasis on it and forgetting those other important influences in our lives, friends and community. To nourish our friends in the way they deserve, to nourish our community in the way it needs requires ordinary acts of selflessness, not something that is part of your typical self-care routine. The question I ask is, how do we balance self-care with selflessness? How do we prioritize ourselves while taking care of our friends and community?

*Delsie Martin (BA, MSW, RSW), is a Registered Social Worker working out of The Wellness Clinic in Brandon. She can be reached at dmartin@wellnessclinicbrandon.ca.*

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# 'This is truly a dream come true!'

## Gladstone family marks official opening of their new bakery

By Casper Wehrhahn  
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

The smell of fresh baked goods permeated the air in Gladstone last week. That community welcomed with open arms the soft opening of the brand new bakery, Follow the Crumbs, on Jan. 14. Follow the Crumbs is owned and operated by Judi Parker and is located in the former Gladstone Bakery & Eatery at 5 Morris Street North.

Parker began Follow the Crumbs in 2022, baking for markets. This experience, she told the Banner & Press, is one she truly enjoyed.

"I have learnt a lot from other vendors and my customers," Parker said, adding, "Baking is truly my passion. As they say, if your job is something you love to do, then you don't work a day in your life! I am so excited that I get to just bake the world into a better place from now on."

### A dream since 2006

Parker grew up living between Gladstone and Austin on Highway 34, coming to the Gladstone Bakery & Eatery to pick up some delicious long johns any chance she got. The work of the bakers there was inspiring.

"I remember watching the women in the back and being in awe of them! I started baking myself when I was about 10 and since then my love for baking has just continued to grow," Parker enthused. "I have been in the Neepawa area for the past 22 years and have dreamed about owning my very own bakery since 2006."

While Parker had origin-



PHOTOS FROM FOLLOW THE CRUMBS'S SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow the Crumbs, a bakery located in Gladstone, is officially open for business!

Pictured right: Owner Judith Parker standing outside the the Gladstone Bakery & Eatery prior to its conversion into Follow the Crumbs.

Above: A portion of a fresh batch of bread, made at the new bakery. Yummy!

ally looked at purchasing the old bakery in Neepawa when it went up for sale, it wasn't something she was able to do at the time. The right time did come, however, in 2024 with the official acquisition of the Gladstone bakery on Sept. 15 that year.

"When we came to check it out, instantly it felt like home and the idea of being able to move into a small community again all just felt so right," Parker enthused. "Then to hear the story of the oldest building in Gladstone drew me to it even more! Part of the story that I love so much is that it was moved from its original location to where she stands today by a team of horses. And you can almost envision the amount of people and the hard work that such a great task would have been!"

Leading up to the grand opening, Parker and her

family put in hard work of their own. They spent three months prior to the opening cleaning the bakery from top to bottom, fixing the roof, re-drywalling where necessary and painting. This work was done for the bakery itself, as well as the attached living quarters, where the Parker family proudly makes their home.

"We have even rebuilt the old oven," Parker noted. "I love the fact that this bakery is still using old machines; and sure they all needed a little TLC, but if it's an old school bakery that I am after, then the old Gladstone Bakery is exactly where I need to be."

Sharing a final statement, Parker said, "This is truly a dream come true! I thank everyone that has believed in me and supported me along my journey! This is going to be so much fun!"



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# Inspiration from within the unexpected

## Carberry artist debuts new exhibition in Dauphin

By Eoin Devereux  
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

A Carberry based artist is sharing his fusion of graffiti style pop art with western Manitoba, and hoping it inspires others to pursue their own creative dreams.

Clemente Villamayor, who goes by the moniker 'Tengnamoe', opened his new art display at the Watson Art Centre in Dauphin last weekend. Previously, his work has been shown at art exhibits in Brandon, Neepawa and Wasagaming. To help commemorate the Dauphin showcase, a special open house was held on Saturday, Jan. 18, with Tengnamoe in attendance to talk about his work.

### Making something out of nothing

As for his style of art, it could best be described as a mixture of spray paint and stencil, with elements



Clemente 'Tengnamoe' Villamayor has exhibited his art at galleries in Brandon, Neepawa and Wasagaming. His latest exhibition recently opened in Dauphin at the Watson Art Centre.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

of his own experiences and culture intermixed within the messaging. Tengnamoe told the Banner & Press that another important part of the process is finding the

inspiration from within the unexpected.

"My style is mixed media focusing on found, neglected and no value objects and transforming it into art and making something out of nothing," stated Tengnamoe. "Being an artist here in Canada especially if you are just starting, you won't get nothing..won't put food on the table, won't even pay bills. If you have no funding or grants, artists won't survive. That's why most of my canvases are made of unwanted boards, sometimes I buy on thrift stores those unwanted paintings and I'll just cover it with white or black base and start a new subject in it."

Tengnamoe's style is a blend of spray paint and stencil with culture and experiences mixed within the messaging.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



### A history of art inspiration

Art has always been a part of Clemente Villamayor's background. he noted his uncle is Nemi Miranda, a well known Filipino painter and sculptor. As well, Cle-

mente's mother made sure he was a part of the artistic world at a young age, though always allowing him to follow his own path of inspiration.

"My mom, a school teacher, used to bring me to his

place where [Nemi Miranda] paints and I always watched him work. His artist friends also hangout with him and the memories of my childhood with these people made me who I am as an artist," he expressed. "Plus Angono, the town, where I was born is well known for visual arts and music. That's where I get my inspiration."

### Exhibit on display until late February

Having lived in Canada for just over a decade, Villamayor has continued to foster his artistic ambitions, going to school to finish his degree in Fine Arts, with plans to eventually pursue a Masters degree and teach art as a career.

The Tengnamoe Exhibition will be at the Watson Gallery in Dauphin until late February. Additional information on Clemente Villamayor's work can be located on Facebook or by Googling the word 'Tengnamoe'

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# Curling for a Cure a five-year sell-out

## Minnedosa-based charity poised to smash 100k milestone, makes 10 year commitment to Neepawa

By Casper Wehrhahn  
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

A Minnedosa-based initiative is once again off to a tremendous start. Curling for a Cure, an annual fundraiser supporting cancer care resources, is a full sell-out for the fifth year in a row. This sell-out took place within the first week of the event being announced— a fact that blew away the Curling for a Cure team.

“We are overwhelmed with the support and it continues to grow every year. We encourage everyone to come down to the curling club for the weekend to come check it out,” said event organizer Chad Yanchycki. “Honestly people think it’s just curling going on, but when you come to the curling club, see all the signage, the amount of sponsors, the 50+ raffle and grand prizes plus silent auction and the huge amount of people it really blows you away just what this event has grown into.”

This year’s event will take place on Feb. 14 to 16 at the Minnedosa Curling Club, featuring a grand total of 24 teams. Forty per cent of the teams are from Minnedosa and area, with the rest being from the wider region.

### A 10 year partnership

All funds raised from the event will be split 50/50 between Candlelighters



PHOTO COURTESY OF CURLING FOR A CURE

Seen here are a large portion of those who participated in and spectated at the 2024 Curling for a Cure event. The initiative has seen significant growth over the year and expects another good run in 2025.

Childhood Cancer and the Neepawa Community Cancer Program. This marks the start of a 10 year pledge commitment to the Neepawa program, which will aid in purchasing items such as equipment, furniture and comfort items for individuals in the community who are battling cancer.

“Chad Yanchycki approached me to help raise awareness about Curling for a Cure and its impact on Neepawa’s Cancer Program as the funds will be donated to support our current Cancer Program and will be vital in equipping the Cancer Care area in Neepawa’s new hospital,” said Neepawa councillor Yvonne Sisley.

Sisley added, “After I spoke with Chad, I immediately reached out to four incredible community champions who understand the importance of this event and are dedicated to

getting the information out there and rallying support from local businesses and residents, those champions Mary Ellen Clark, Tara McCarty and Marsha and Gary Fergie. So, if they or I contact you, please take a moment to learn about this fantastic initiative and how it will benefit our community.”

### Substantial growth

With the immense support Curling for a Cure receives, this partnership is sure to have a lasting, positive impact on the local care program. Highlighting the support the event has received over the past five years, is that the event is set to smash an overall fundraising milestone.

“[We] are excited to break the \$100,000 mark raised and donated this

year. [As of Dec. 13, 2024], in our first five years, we have raised and donated \$94,551,” said Yanchycki. “Our event has grown substantially over the past few years and we are excited to continue this growth.”

### Fun for all

The draws for the event are all open for public viewing. They are scheduled as detailed below:

- Feb. 14: Three draws, starting at 5:00 p.m.
- Feb. 15: Six draws, be-

ginning at 8:00 a.m. with a horserace draw to the button competition at 2:00 p.m. Final draw starts at 2:00 p.m.

•Feb. 16: Five draws, starting at 9:00 a.m., with the final draw scheduled for 6:30 p.m.

In addition to curling, the event also includes live entertainment from Bull Ruckus on Saturday night, starting at 7:30 p.m., and a variety of other opportunities for people to support and enjoy the event. This includes raffles, auctions, luminaries to honour people who have or are battling cancer, and more.

“Even if you’re not curling, please come down and watch some curling... Honestly we would just love to see people come out and support this event,” Yanchycki enthused.



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## Neepawa Tigers split recent WHSHL games



PHOTOS BY EOIN DEVEREUX

Kellen Hockin (#4) opened up the scoring for Neepawa on Wednesday, Jan. 15, in their home game against Sandy Bay. This was the first of many goal celebrations for the Tigers, as they cruised to 10-2 win.

**By Eoin Devereux**  
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

The Neepawa Tigers had mixed results in their most recent pair of games, winning big at home, but falling to defeat on the road.

The first of these two games saw a four goal night from Cohen Kulbacki power Neepawa to a dominant 10-2 win over Sandy Bay on Wednesday, Jan. 15 at the Yellowhead Centre.

One of Cohen's goals, his first of the night, was due to a tremendous team effort, which created a scoring chance with just one-second left in the first period. Pressured in their own zone with about 13 left before intermission, Neepawa was able to clear the zone and push the puck down to the other end of the ice. Instead of just coasting into the break, Neepawa worked the puck from out of the corner. Ian Foster pushed a pass out to Kulbacki, who didn't hesitate to direct it into the back of the net. This chance came barely before the sound of the horn to signal the end of the period, making it 2-0 for Neepawa. Earlier in the period, Kellen Hockin opened up the scoring, off a power-play opportunity.

In the second, Kulbacki scored twice more, while teammates Wyatt Njegovan, Kane Lapointe and Brock Pasloski also picked up goals. Sandy Bay answered back with just one, making it 7-1.

For the last 20 minutes of regulation, the Tigers controlled possession and tallied another

three, to ultimately make it 10-2 final. Zach Plett, Ian Foster and Kulbacki were the contributors in the period.

As for the game stats Kulbacki (4 goals - 1 assist) and Plett (1G -4A), lead the way with five point nights, while there were six other multiple point players pushing Neepawa towards the win. Harley Smith-Bellisle is credited with the win, stopping 25 shots in goal for NACI.

### Defeated by Reston

A few nights later on Saturday, Jan. 18, the Tigers travelled down the road to Reston to face the Raiders. These two teams traded goals all evening, with Reston scoring first, and then within minutes being answered by Neepawa. The game was decided in the final minutes of the third period, as Reston's

Korbin Forster collected the game winner with about six minutes remaining in regulation. The Tigers pressed hard for that equalizer, but could not find it, ultimately falling 4-3. Cohen Kulbacki scored twice in this game, for his 34th and 35th goals of the season. Ian Foster picked up the other for NACI, his 22nd of the year.

With these recent results, Neepawa's regular season record in the Westman High School Hockey League sits at 13-7-1. That puts them in a tie for sixth place overall in the standings, with the Crocus Plains Plainsmen. The Vincent Massey Vikings are top team in the league, with a perfect 23-0-0 record.

The next home game for the Tigers is Thursday, Jan. 23 versus Killarney.



## Plumas Curling Club host Bonspiel



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The Plumas Curling Club has officially announced the winners of its first open bonspiel of the season. The First Event Winners against the Frank Porada Rink: Al Paramor, Marg Orton, Joan Paramor, and Harvey Jackson.



The Second Event Winners against the Brandon Smith Rink: Justin Walker, Jolene Walker, Shane Walker, and Jenna Walker.



The Third Event Winners against the Brady Walker Rink: Kevin Paramor, Hans Peterson, Pat Paramor, and Christine Peterson. The mixed doubles bonspiel for this club is taking place on Feb. 14 and 15. Good luck, curlers!

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## MJHL Standings

Western Division	G	W	L	OTL	SOL	Pts
Dauphin Kings	36	26	9	1	0	53
NorthernManitobaBlizzard	37	23	13	0	1	47
<b>Neepawa Titans</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>44</b>
Wayway Wolverines	39	15	22	2	0	32
Virden Oil Capitals	38	15	23	0	0	30
SwanValleyStampeders	38	9	25	3	1	22

Eastern Division	G	W	L	OTL	SOL	Pts
Winkler Flyers	38	29	6	3	0	59
Steinbach Pistons	39	28	8	2	1	59
Portage Terriers	38	27	10	0	1	55
Niverville Nighthawks	39	23	13	2	1	49
Selkirk Steelers	38	20	16	1	1	42
Winnipeg Blues	35	7	24	2	2	18
Winnipeg Freeze	37	4	30	1	2	11

### Game results

#### Saturday, Jan. 18

##### Neepawa 6-5 SO Steinbach

###### First Period

09:00 NPA T. Lewis (6)

ASST: T. Wallis (8), J. Kohut (6)

19:49 NPA T. Lewis (7)

ASST: T. Tychonick (18), B. Knox (7)

###### Second Period

14:35 STN B. Berg (14)

ASST: Unassisted

17:12 STN C. Paronuzzi (14) PP

ASST: B. Kaiser (16), L. Bogart (9)

17:37 STN G. Hoffman (9)

ASST: C. Paronuzzi (41), S. Penner (13)

###### Third Period

08:20 NPA D. McCann (9)

ASST: M. Hartley (18)

15:07 NPA C. Kasprick (8)

ASST: T. Tychonick (19), J. Kohut (7)

15:42 NPA T. Tychonick (7)

ASST: T. Lewis (9), C. Hegarty (10)

18:43 STN C. Paronuzzi (15)

ASST: S. Zagari (20), R. Gault (21)

19:47 STN G. Hoffman

Overtime - No scoring

###### Shootout

Neepawa: D. McCann - Goal; L.

Paquette - No goal; T. Tychonick - Goal.

Steinbach: M. Laplante - No goal; G.

Hoffman - No goal; B. Kaiser - Goal.

**Scoring 1 2 3 OT SO Total PP**

NPA 2 0 3 0 1 6 0/2

STN 0 3 2 0 0 5 1/3

###### Goaltender

NPA KC. Couckuyt - (W) 52/57 saves

STN R. Leslie-Toogood - (SOL) 24/29 saves

Attendance: 470 - HyLife Centre

#### Tuesday, Jan. 21

##### Neepawa 4-3 OT Winkler

###### First Period

00:21 NPA T. Tychonick (8)

ASST: Unassisted

02:48 NPA J. Clark (2)

ASST: Unassisted

###### Second Period

07:58 NPA J. Clark (3)

ASST: K. Weisgarber (14), R. Gower (4)

10:19 WKR I. Peters (6)

ASST: B. Craik (14)

13:31 WKR B. Matheson (8) PP

ASST: N. Mckee (20), A. Morton (5)

###### Third Period

06:44 WKR N. Mckee (18)

ASST: M. Lavoie (15), L. Carlone (8)

###### Overtime

04:20 NPA D. McCann (10)

ASST: C. Hegarty (11)

**Scoring 1 2 3 OT Total PP**

WKR 0 2 1 0 3 1/3

NPA 2 1 0 1 4 0/2

###### Goaltender

WKR L. Ekblad - (OTL) 25/29 saves

NPA KC Couckuyt - (W) 39/42 saves

Attendance: 259 - Yellowhead Centre

### MJHL Player stats

#### Leading scorers (MJHL)

1. Connor Paronuzzi (STN) 17 41 58

2. Adam Vigfusson (NIV) 25 26 51

3. Cayden Glover (DAU) 31 19 50

4. Cam Bullinger (POR) 14 34 48

5. Luke McCarthy (SEL) 20 26 46

#### Leading scorers (Titans)

1. Mason Hartley 12 18 30

2. Tim Tychonick 8 19 27

3. Caden Hegarty 15 11 26

4. Colton Alexander 10 15 25

5. Cooper Kasprick 8 13 21

### Tiger Hills Hockey

#### East

1. Killarney 12 11 0 1 23

2. Rivers 13 11 2 0 22

3. Minnedosa 12 7 3 2 16

4. MacGregor 13 5 8 0 10

5. Neepawa 12 3 8 1 7

6. Carberry 12 2 10 0 4

#### West

1. Virden 13 10 2 1 21

2. Boissevain 13 8 4 1 17

3. Hartley 11 6 4 1 13

4. Melita 12 6 5 1 13

5. Deloraine 13 3 10 0 6

6. Souris 12 2 10 0 4

## Club 55 Bowling

#### Jan. 16, 2025. High Single:

Elsie Slimmon 194. Ladies'

**High Triple:** Carole LeBou-

tillier 514. **Men's High Sin-**

**gle & Triple:** Darrell Gabler

204 & 585. **Other Good**

**Scores:** Elsie Slimmon 158,

158; Chuck Morden 164;

Carole LeBoutillier 189, 167,

158; Darrell Gabler 201, 180;

Eleanor Scott 177; Caroline

Harding 160; Judy Gabler

169; Vivian Oswald 152,

158, 174; Laurie Kohinski

159, 192; Frank Porada 155;

Russ Taylor 182, 160.

## Titans snap Winkler's 12 game win streak



The Neepawa Titans have become a team no one wants to face as of late, defeating the best two clubs in the MJHL. First, Neepawa beat the Steinbach Pistons 6-5 in a shootout. A few nights later, they'd end the Winkler Flyers 12 game winning streak, with a 4-3 win in overtime on Tuesday, Jan. 21. Jack Clark (pictured) scored a pair of goals for Neepawa, to help lift the Titans to victory.

PHOTO BY EOIN DEVEREUX

## Darryl Gerrard reaches the podium at Fittest in Manitoba competition in Winnipeg



Darryl Gerrard of Neepawa finished in second place for the Men's Masters category (40+) at the Fittest in Manitoba competition, recently held in Winnipeg. Gerrard has been involved with Crossfit style training for several years. While he has competed in team style events previously, this was his first individual competition. Expanded details on Gerrard's journey will appear in a future edition of the Banner & Press

SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Neepawa Farmers defeat Minnedosa Bombers

### By Eoin Devereux

NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

The first goal of the game was also the only goal of the game between the Neepawa Farmers and Minnedosa Bombers on Saturday, Jan. 18 in the Tiger Hills Hockey League. Both clubs would go scoreless for 65 minutes of action, until the Farmers finally found the back of the net during the shootout, winning 1-0. Goaltenders Devon Fordyce and Nate Braun both put in exceptional performances for their teams, with Braun ending up with the win.

This victory improved the Farmers' regular season record to 3-8-1, while Minnedosa stumbled to 7-3-0.



Goaltenders Nate Braun (Above left) and Devon Fordyce (Above right) each put on exceptional performances on Saturday, Jan. 18. Braun stopped all 37 shots he faced, while Fordyce saved 32. This game would ultimately be decided in a shootout, with Neepawa winning 1-0.

PHOTOS BY EOIN DEVEREUX





# Opinion: Community tragedy requiring action

*Editor's Note: This submission from the Mayor of Portage la Prairie expresses the concern of many citizens within the community and the province.*

I write to you not only as the Mayor of Portage la Prairie, but as a deeply grieving community leader. On Jan. 15, 2025, our community lost a vibrant, promising young woman, Kellie Verwey, in a senseless and preventable tragedy. This loss has shaken our city to its core, and it demands immediate attention and action.

The incident that claimed Kellie's life is both devastating and infuriating. According to the RCMP, a stolen vehicle driven recklessly by James Lorne Hilton caused the chain of events that led to her death. This individual, known to the police, had an active arrest warrant at the time of the crash. He should have been in custody, not behind the wheel of a stolen truck on our highways. This is a systemic failure, plain and simple, and it cost an innocent young

woman her life. Her dreams, her future, and her contributions to our world were stolen in an instant.

Kellie was not just a name in a report; she was a cherished member of our community. As our Tourism Coordinator, Kellie was a driving force behind initiatives that showcased the beauty and vibrancy of Portage la Prairie. Her dedication went far beyond her professional role. She was an active community volunteer, always ready to lend her time and talents to make our city a better place. Beyond her public service, Kellie was an entrepreneur, passionately building a future alongside her fiancé, Travis, with their business, Roast and Toasts. Together, they created not just a business, but a vision for connection, warmth, and community spirit.

She was full of life, ambition, and hope, with a future as bright as the morning sun. Her family, her friends, and her city are now left to grapple with the unbearable pain of her absence, all because our justice system

failed to protect her and others like her.

I cannot overstate the frustration and anger felt by our community. This tragedy exposes glaring deficiencies in our system:

- 1. Repeat Offenders Allowed to Roam Free:** James Hilton, a known offender with an active arrest warrant, was free to wreak havoc on innocent lives. How can this be acceptable? The lack of accountability for individuals with a history of criminal behaviour is appalling.
- 2. Failure to Prioritize Public Safety:** The current system allowed a dangerous individual to evade justice repeatedly. This prioritization of bureaucratic inaction over public safety is unacceptable and must change.
- 3. A Broken System Lacking Courage for Reform:** For too long, our justice system has enabled individuals like James Hilton to slip through the cracks. Where is the courage to stand up and say, "Enough is enough"?

I also ask, how can we keep putting our frontline responders our RCMP, police, firefighters, and paramedics through the trauma of dealing with these preventable tragedies, knowing that the consequences for those responsible are so often inadequate? These dedicated individuals bear the weight of these horrific situations, only to feel as though their efforts are met with systemic inaction.

Kellie's death is a call for urgent, systemic reform. Our community demands answers and action. We demand a justice system

that prioritizes the safety of law-abiding citizens over the convenience of leniency for repeat offenders. This cannot and must not be allowed to happen again.

I implore you, Minister, to act decisively and immediately:

- Strengthen enforcement mechanisms to ensure individuals with active warrants are apprehended and kept in custody.
- Prioritize public safety in sentencing and parole decisions, especially for repeat offenders.
- Increase resources and accountability within the justice system to prevent known criminals from endangering innocent lives.
- Consult with communities and families affected by crime to develop meaningful, impactful reforms.

As leaders, it is our duty to protect the people we serve. Kellie Verwey and her grieving family deserved better. Our community deserved better. It is now on all of us to ensure her death is not in vain.

This letter is more than a plea for change; it is a demand for justice. I ask you to stand with us, to take the necessary steps to reform a broken system, and to honour the life of Kellie Verwey by ensuring no other family has to endure this pain.

**Sincerely**  
**Sharilyn Knox**  
**Mayor, Portage la Prairie**

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**TIMBER HARVESTING**  
We buy standing Spruce and Poplar timber

## RCMP charge two in stolen vehicle

By Sgt David Taggart  
SPRUCE PLAINS RCMP

On Jan 20, at approximately 8:00 a.m., Spruce Plains RCMP received a call that a vehicle stolen out of Winnipeg was tracked to a location in Neepawa.

Officers attended, but the vehicle was no longer there. An update received placed the vehicle travelling towards Onanole. Dauphin, Spruce Plains and Wasagaming RCMP officers as well as Manitoba RCMP Police Dog Services (PDS) began to make their way to that location.

Police located the suspect vehicle at a business on Wapati Drive in Onanole with

two male occupants. The officer was able to place the driver under arrest without incident, but as he was placing the suspect in the police vehicle, the passenger fled on foot.

PDS was able to track and locate the suspect a short distance away and he was placed under arrest.

Christian Morin, 28, of Saskatoon, SK has been charged with Possession of Property Obtained by Crime Over \$5,000.

Brendan Neufeld, 25, of Steinbach is charged with Possession of Property Obtained by Crime Over \$5,000.00, Resist Arrest and was found to have an outstanding Warrant of Arrest out of Winnipeg.

Both were released for a later court date.

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## The Cold Facts

An overnight snowstorm is big news in Deersprings Valley. Scarlett Squirrel and her team of reporters at *The Treetop Tribune* have to separate **FACT** from **OPINION** to tell the story. And they need some help from **YOU** to do so!

A **FACT** is something that can be proven true. An **OPINION** is how someone feels about something.

### Reporter's Notes

Roscoe Rabbit is a new reporter at the Treetop Tribune. He made a list of facts about the big storm in his reporter's notebook, but is he correct? Circle the **FACTS** in green crayon. Underline the **OPINIONS** in red crayon.

**The heavy snowfall caused several tree branches to break.**

**The sound of the howling wind was scary.**

**Chuck Chipmunk's family had to seek shelter in a different tree when their nook started filling with ice.**

**The storm brought four feet of snow and temperatures fell to 4 degrees Fahrenheit.**

**The deep snow looked beautiful in the morning.**

**There will never be another storm like this in the Valley.**

**Parts of Critter Creek were frozen solid by 3:30 a.m.**



The Treetop Tribune

## OVERNIGHT STORM LEAVES VALLEY COVERED IN SNOW

By Roscoe Rabbit, Staff Reporter

DEERSPRINGS VALLEY – An overnight winter storm brought frigid temperatures to the valley last night. A low temperature of 4 degrees Fahrenheit was recorded by Oswald Owl at 3:35 a.m.

Icicles in the entry way of the Chipmunk family caused them to seek shelter in a neighboring tree.

"It was the scariest storm ever," said Chuck Chipmunk. "The winds sounded like an angry, howling wolf!"

The storm blew in from central Canada and knocked out power in the town of Riversburg for several hours. But by 10:00 a.m., winds had stopped and sunshine was slowly returning to the valley.

Once the storm ended, a team of woodpeckers began to chip away at the icicles covering the Chipmunk family's doorway, and the family was able to move back home in their tree before nightfall.

LAN AND

Green me and the lake with on Wed

Local trou would be s for the en without a

Water leve rainfall an ponds wi tributari streams who are a

Warr

### Just the Facts

Scarlett knows how important it is to include as many facts as possible in a news story. These facts give readers more understanding of what happened and why.

Look at this article about the storm. Does it tell **WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE** and **WHY**?

WHO: \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT: \_\_\_\_\_

WHERE: \_\_\_\_\_

WHEN: \_\_\_\_\_

WHY: \_\_\_\_\_

Extra! Extra!

### Fact Finder

Find three facts and three opinions in the newspaper. Have three friends take turns deciding which statements are facts and which are opinions. Each correct answer earns 1 point.

Standards Link: Students correctly identify the differences between fact and opinion.

### Take a Survey

A **survey** is a way to gather opinions about something.

Ask your friends and family members which of these veggies they like best. Complete the graph by coloring in a square each time someone selects that vegetable. Share your findings with everyone who took the survey.

CARROTS	POTATOES	TOMATOES	CELERY	BROCCOLI	GREEN BEANS

### Kid Scoop Puzzler

Deliver the Treetop Tribune to Oswald Owl's home.



### Double Double Word Search

- BLEW
- BREAK
- FACTS
- FRIGID
- ICE
- LOW
- OPINION
- SEEK
- SNOW
- STORM
- TREE
- VALLEY
- WIND
- WINTER
- WOLF

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.

A F Y W L C I W T M  
 Q B A J I R V M R O  
 D L M C R N V O E P  
 I B E Y T M T W E I  
 G R W X W S E E K N  
 I E G O J I S L R I  
 R A V Q L Y N B W O  
 F K A B I F O D U N  
 V A L L E Y W J P S

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

### Kid Scoop Together Missing Words

Replace the missing words to complete the article below.

UNDERSTAND COVERAGE  
 MORNING WEATHER BURROW  
 EVENT CORRECT NAMED

Early in the \_\_\_\_\_ every February 2, attention turns to Gobbler's Knob, Pennsylvania, and a groundhog \_\_\_\_\_ Punxsutawney Phil.

Legend states that if Phil sees his shadow when coming out of his \_\_\_\_\_, it means he predicts six more weeks of wintery \_\_\_\_\_. But if he doesn't see his shadow, it means Phil predicts an early spring, according to the legend.

It's a big \_\_\_\_\_ that began in the late 1800s and gets lots of \_\_\_\_\_ in the news. Phil's predictions are not always \_\_\_\_\_. But that's okay, because it's all in the spirit of fun.

A group of people called the "Inner Circle" dress up in long black coats and top hats for the big Groundhog Day announcement of Phil's prediction. The president of the Inner Circle is said to speak *groundhogese* and is the only one who can \_\_\_\_\_ what Phil says.

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### Write On! What's Your Scoop?

Write a sentence or short paragraph that tells the who, what, where and when about news at your school.

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# Pine Creek to host first ever job fair

By Casper Wehrhahn  
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

The Pine Creek School Division (PCSD) is marking a first on its calendar. This coming Monday, Jan. 27, it will be hosting the inaugural edition of its Recruitment Job Fair. The fair is being held within the gymnasium of the Division's central location, the Gladstone Elementary School, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

PCSD superintendent Sandra Meilleur noted that the interest in holding the fair arose from a "Casual Employee shortage in all employee groups, especially teachers, custodians, and bus drivers", as well as other additional factors.

"We want more local interest (local support) for positions such as custodians, educational assistants, mechanics. We continue to have vacancies in two teaching positions, a mechanic, bus drivers, and education assistant," said Meilleur.

Meilleur added, "Our location is more remote and thus going to Career Fairs in Brandon and Winnipeg are somewhat good for teaching positions, but not for all other positions. Professional leadership succession is also important to note. In the next few years, we will be going through a cluster of potential retirements, so we need to be proactive in our succession strategies."

Information available at this fair will pertain to positions such as those Meilleur mentions above, which are currently available or are expected to be available in the future.

### Supporting local

A valuable resource, Meilleur noted, will also be available on-site. This is the inclusion of school bus demonstrations for those interested in those positions.

"A school bus will be available for touring and for discussing operations, which may include routes or

possibly a drive, and/or how a bus operates," Meilleur explained. "We also support bus driver training if there's interest. We will have our transportation supervisor available for any questions."

Other resources will also be available, such as: CUPE and PCTA Union representatives for any union-related questions; offerings for a two-year educational assistant program; and the assistant superintendent of Student Services will also be available to answer questions.

Providing a final comment, Meilleur further emphasized the goal of attracting local interest to the PCSD.

"PC is between Brandon and Portage La Prairie so often this is where local people commute for work," said Meilleur. "We want to support our communities and get the news out there that we do have some available positions, and we support local."

# Sun dogs shimmer and shine



PHOTO BY ROB WADELL

Rob Waddell captured a photo of the phenomena known as 'sun dogs' in the area recently. Sun dogs are an atmospheric phenomena that appear on either side of the sun. The outside portions are typically white, with the insides closest to the sun appearing in reddish or orange hues.

For those who may be unfamiliar, this phenomena can occur when either the sun or the moon shines through a thin cloud of ice crystals.

Thank you for reading the Neepawa Banner & Press!

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