

The Carman-Dufferin **STANDARD**

VOLUME 5
EDITION 49

THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 11, 2025

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Festive deals

STANDARD PHOTO BY DENNIS YOUNG

Holiday Hoopla drew shoppers into local businesses for festive deals, displays and giveaways across Carman. Monica Halbesma and Sheena Nackonechny received holiday shopping advice at Evensong Shoppe as residents supported the shop-local initiative.

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Carman Collegiate students launch LYNK to boost community volunteerism

By E. Antonio

Carman Collegiate students are helping strengthen local connections through a new volunteer initiative called Local Youth Nurturing Kindness (LYNK).

Grade 12 students Nathan Froebe and Mackenzie Dyck formed the group this fall to inspire volunteerism and create opportunities for their peers.

"It's about linking the gap between generations and connecting to our community," Froebe said. "We want to help take the weight off older community members who have given their life and soul to the community and make things a little bit easier for them."

LYNK has grown to about 20 members — some working toward their 10 volunteer hours for Independent Phys. Ed., others pursuing the 110-hour volunteer credit, and some simply looking for ways to lend a hand.

Although the program only launched in November, students have already been active around Carman and plan to help at community dinners, shovel properties, and assist with event organization at the Active Living Centre this winter. Froebe said students are willing to take on most

tasks as long as they can be completed safely, though activities involving blades or motors are restricted.

"To me — as someone who has seen the impact that it can make — seeing students who have had that opportunity to make a difference makes me very happy, whether it is in just one person's life or more," he said.

He added that small communities rely on volunteerism, and he hopes LYNK will help foster that culture.

"It is my goal to create a better sense of community and to display that strength. I want people to be able to say, 'I am from a small town and I am proud of it.'"

Dyck said the initiative gives students a firsthand look at how helping others strengthens a community.

"LYNK gives me the opportunity to make a real difference," she said. "It's a way for me to give back, support people in need, and show that even small actions can have a big impact in a small town."

She hopes the group will continue connecting students with diverse service opportunities to support organizations and ease the load on com-

Continued on page 8



Nathan Froebe and Linden Findlay of Carman Collegiate's LYNK (Local Youth Nurturing Kindness) group help to hang pine on the Main Street bridge for Communities in Bloom.



STANDARD PHOTOS BY DENNIS YOUNG

Carman Cougar Hockey members help hang pine on the Main Street Bridge for CIM.

Safe Winter Walking Tips

- Wear proper clothing and footwear**
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- Be visible**
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- Avoid distractions**
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Stay safe this winter!

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<https://parachute.ca/en/injury-topic/winter-outdoor-safety/>

2025 Holiday Events

- Wed. Dec. 10** Ecole Carman Elementary School Christmas Concert 2:00pm and 6:30pm
- Fri. Dec. 12** Dufferin Christian School Christmas Concert 7:00pm
Carman West Church
- Fri. Dec. 12** St. Claude School Christmas Concert 1:30 and 7:00pm
- Sat. Dec. 13** Breakfast and Skating with Santa - 9:00am Miami Arena
- Wed. Dec. 17** Elm Creek School Holiday Concert 6:30pm

Community fills shelves for Genesis House drive

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Southern Manitoba came through for Genesis House in a big way during Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

The regional shelter for the victims of domestic violence put out its annual November call for donations of pyjamas, comfy clothing, socks, and slippers for both adults and kids, setting up donation drop-off points at the South Central Regional Library branches in Winkler, Morden, Altona, Miami, and Manitou.

Last week, shelter reps picked it all up—and it was quite the haul.

The final tally, shared Sophie Gerbrandt, resource development manager at the shelter, was 51 pairs of adult PJs, 67 children's PJs, and several more bags full of other comfy accessories.

"It is huge for us," she said. "Every woman and child who comes into the shelter gets a fresh pair of pyjamas when they walk in so they feel comfortable and at home."

This past year the shelter has provided safe haven to over 60 women and nearly 70 children, some of whom arrive on their doorstep with not much more than the clothes on their backs.

"They often come with very little," Gerbrandt said. "If people are leaving in an emergency, they're not having

time to pack a lot.

"To get a pair of PJs or a blanket or something, it's big for them to know that there's people in the community that are thinking about them, that they're not alone in that moment," she noted. "And who doesn't love cozying up in a fresh pair of pyjamas, right?"

The results of this annual donation drive takes the shelter through much of the following year.

"This is perfect timing because our shelves are looking empty about now," Gerbrandt shared. "So it'll be great for us to restock for the year ahead."

Genesis House is grateful to the libraries for helping them with the annual donation drive.

"We don't have a storefront, so you can't just stop by the shelter," Gerbrandt said. "So what's huge for us is to be in all of these communities across southern Manitoba like this, so that people can hear about us and get involved."

Winkler Library clerk Britany Morgan said SCRL is pleased to be part of the campaign.

"It's a chance to give back to the community," she said. "We love to help out, and it's absolutely needed."



STANDARD PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS

Sophie Gerbrandt (left) from Genesis House and Winkler Library clerk Britany Morgan with the dozens of cozy pyjamas this year's Power of PJs donation drive collected for the women's shelter.



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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

The Carman-Dufferin
STANDARD

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Chocolate Mustache campaign raises \$18,412 for BTHC

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The fifth annual Carman Collegiate Chocolate Mustache fundraiser was another smashing success, raising \$18,412 for cancer care at Boundary Trails Health Centre.

Project leader Mary Reimer, principal at the high school, stopped by BTHC last week to present the proceeds raised through the sale of thousands of homemade chocolate goodies this fall.

This year's tally brings the five-year total to \$70,163.

"As always, we commit every single dollar that we earn to cancer care here at Boundary Trails," Reimer said, sharing the campaign got its start following a friend's cancer diagnosis.

"I had done a much smaller campaign the year before because a friend of mine was diagnosed with colon cancer. That money was only \$1,500, donated to CancerCare Manitoba.

"The following August I was diagnosed with breast cancer and received treatment here at Boundary Trails, and

so the fundraiser meant a little different the second year because I was going through treatment," Reimer said. "It hit a little closer to home."

The campaign is Reimer's way of showing her gratitude for the amazing care she received through her cancer journey, and in memory of friends and loved ones who have walked a similar path, some of them losing their battle with the disease.

"I am able to thrive because of cancer care here at Boundary," she stressed, noting she wants staff to know "that the quality of my life is a direct result of their efforts."

The community response the fundraiser receives every year makes all the work that goes into it well worth it.

"My kitchen is a busy place during October and November," Reimer said. "We make them at my home mostly, or in the school's kitchen."

"Our communities are definitely

"WE COMMIT EVERY SINGLE DOLLAR THAT WE EARN TO CANCER CARE HERE AT BOUNDARY TRAILS."



STANDARD PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS

Carman Collegiate principal Mary Reimer (left) presented BTHC Foundation executive director Shannon Samatte-Folkett with the proceeds of this year's Chocolate Mustaches campaign last week. The funds will go to support the hospital's cancer care ward.

showing just how generous and altruistic they are," she said. "I've got lots of people who are reaching out with orders or asking me if they can make deliveries for me. They're just asking me how they can support, which is lovely."

OMG Candy out of Winnipeg donates the chocolate for the mustaches every year, and The Prices Rite in Carman provides the campaign with the other supplies it needs at cost.

Students throughout the Prairie Rose School Division get involved by buying and selling the chocolates, with classes and entire schools competing to see who can sell the most (this year Roland School won that honour).

"It's really remarkable to see the community and our students and

Continued on page 5

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



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Local air cadets receive honours

By Lorne Stelmach

The Morden air cadet squadron had esteemed visitors recently, and the commanding officer saw it as an honour that very much reflects the success of the program here.

On Dec. 1, the Morden squadron welcomed Lieutenant-Colonel Jennie Deutscher, CD, Commanding Officer, and Chief Warrant Officer James Sandall, CD, representing the Regional cadet Support Unit for the northwest, which takes in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and the Yukon.

"This was a huge honour for our squadron and a very rare occurrence," said commanding officer Roxanne Maynard, who also received an award that night for her years of service in the Canadian Armed Forces.

"The cadets worked hard on their drill and getting their uniforms up to snuff and to be looking their best and behaving their best for the lieutenant colonel," Maynard shared. "It was a great evening, and the cadets did great. It was cadets leading cadets, and they were able to show that on that evening."

The air cadet program usually includes a commanding officer's parade, but this one was obviously a bit special.

"It's very rare that we get a visit from a commander like that," said Maynard. "In my career, the only time I had a lieutenant colonel come down to a squadron was when there was a change of command ... and I've been part of the military now and involved



STANDARD PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT

Lt. Col Jennie Deutscher inspected the Morden squadron of air cadets earlier this month. Right: Brady Wolfe received the medal of excellence for his involvement in the program.



The local air cadet program has 61 members from all across the Pembina Valley.

with this for 13 years, so it's something special."

Maynard reflected on the success of the Morden squadron, which is now at 61 cadets—a number that she sees as really noteworthy.

"That's getting quite big ... for a rural squadron, that's quite large," said Maynard, who noted the program is open to youth from age 12 to 18.

"They come from all over the place. Some come from Winkler, some come from St. Joseph and St. Jean. We have some come from Carman and even some from the western part of the province as well," she said. "They come from quite a large circle."

Maynard offered her thoughts on what might draw youth to become an air cadet.

"I think a lot of it is being a group, working together as a group," she said. "When they come to cadets, they're wearing the uniforms. They all look the same. They're not necessarily at the same level, but they're all able to come here and learn things together ... learn things about teamwork and have the camaraderie with other cadets."

"We also try to do community service, and we have different optional training," she noted, citing the example of learning marksmanship. "We're also looking into the possibility of building a band again."

"They just love it. By the time they age out of the program they're used to organizing activities and providing supervision," said Maynard. "They're basically ready to go adults and to go into the world and make the world a better place."

Brady Wolfe, who has been in the air cadets for five years, received a medal of excellence at the ceremony.

"It was pretty exciting, pretty spe-



cial," he said, noting what attracted him to the program "was that I wanted to fly a plane."

He noted he also appreciates the camaraderie of the program.

"Now I like it all ... all the stuff that I have learned," he said. "I'm an introvert, so I'm always in the corner ... it's bringing me out."

Fellow cadet Lennon Klassen received a Commander's Coin at the ceremony in recognition of her keen involvement in the program.

"It's my first year in the cadet program. I started this last September," she shared. "Last year my school took a field trip to the aviation museum. After that experience, I knew I wanted a career in aviation."

"Air cadets is one path toward that goal. I really like the community service aspect and being able to help others."

> MUSTACHES, FROM PG. 4

businesses all getting behind the fundraiser to help us raise a little bit of money for cancer care," Reimer said.

BTHC Foundation executive director Shannon Samatte-Folkett said they are so grateful for the efforts of Reimer and for everyone who supports the campaign each year.

"We have people who donate to us online to this fundraiser. They don't want the chocolate, but they want to support us because they relate to Mary's story," she said, noting it's about so much more than chocolates. "The fundraiser has reached out to many more, and they have given in other ways."

It's a cause that hits especially close to home to Samatte-Folkett this year, as her aunt is battling cancer.

"I'm just seeing it through a different light, and I just want everyone, especially Mary, to know how much this means to me," she said. "I want

to thank the community. You are healing souls."

The funds go toward helping the cancer care ward at BTHC get the things it needs to make the treatment experience as comfortable as possible for patients.

"When people donate to cancer care, there isn't always a project right front and centre," Samatte-Folkett explained. "There are many needs throughout the year that we help with."

The biggest project on the horizon for the ward is a major expansion project slated to get underway next year.

"There will be a lot of equipment, a lot of the extras that we are going to help with," Samatte-Folkett said, "so fundraisers like this are going to go towards the little extras for the patients, for the employees, and we are really excited to see what that is going to look like."

STANDARD



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getheard

EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

A hundred years later, the \$2.98 message still rings true

By Lana Meier

Historic editorial shows how little — and how much — has changed for home-grown business

When *The Dufferin Leader* printed a short editorial on “Patronize Home Trade” in the early 1920s, the world looked very different. Main Street was powered by horse-drawn wagons and wood-stove heat, the average family earned less than \$1,000 a year, and mail-order catalogues were the new disruptive technology sweeping across rural Canada.

Yet despite the passing of a century, the concerns in that editorial could have been written today.

The article opened with a familiar frustration local business owners still share: residents choosing to shop from a distance rather than at home.

“Some residents evidently do not realize to how great an extent they are hurting home trade by occasionally ordering goods from mail order houses,” *The Dufferin Leader* wrote, “judging from remarks one hears occasionally.”

The writer recounted a conversation with a woman who defended ordering a few small parcels from catalogue companies.

“What difference does it make,” the resident asked, “if I send a few dollars to mail-order houses every now and then?”

It’s a question that continues to echo today — only now, instead of catalogues and money orders, it’s online carts and overnight shipping. The purchases may still be small, but the collective impact is not.

The editorial warned that although one order might seem insignificant, “individual cases in the aggregate do make a great deal of difference,” not-

ing that hundreds of small purchases multiplied into thousands of dollars a month leaving the local economy.

And then came the line that resonates as powerfully in 2025 as it did almost a century ago:

“The \$2.98 you send away today is not much in itself, but when it is pooled with hundreds of other like amounts it makes a very substantial sum.”

In today’s terms, \$2.98 may look more like \$20 for a t-shirt online, \$60 for a birthday gift ordered through an app, or even \$7 for a coffee chain stop instead of a local café. One transaction isn’t the issue — the habit is.

A hundred people doing the same thing every week doesn’t just redirect convenience spending — it quietly removes money from the very places that rely on it most: the grocer who donates to minor sports, the shop that employs teens for their first part-time job, the café that hosts community fundraisers, the hardware store that still knows customers by name.

The old editorial made the case plainly.

“So spend your \$2.98’s with local merchants. If you do that, you will not only be helping them and your town, but also be helping yourself by keeping more money in circulation here. If you spend your \$2.98 here, you stand a chance of getting part of it back some day; spend it away and the entire sum is taken out of town.”

The language may be quaint today, but the wisdom behind it isn’t. Economists estimate that for every dollar spent locally, that dollar can circulate three to six times through wages, services, donations and sponsorships before leaving the community. In contrast, earnings from most national

The Dufferin Leader

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LESLIE J. BENNETT, Editor and Proprietor.

Patronize Home Trade

Some residents evidently do not realize to how great an extent they are hurting home trade by occasionally ordering goods from mail order houses, judging from remarks one hears occasionally.

“What difference does it make,” one resident remarked, “if I send a few dollars to mail-order houses every now and then?”

Were her particular case the only one of its nature in the district, it would make but little difference, but individual cases in the aggregate do make a great deal of difference. She is only one of hundreds who is doing the same thing she is doing, and, added together, the amounts have been estimated to total thousands of dollars a month. It is the small buyers that keep the mail order houses going. While we have no way of knowing what the mail-orderers average, yet it is safe to say that the sum is only a few dollars.

The \$2.98 you send away today is not much in itself, but when it is pooled with hundreds of other like amounts it makes a very substantial sum. That \$2.98, or 69 cents, or however small the amount may be, is a very important matter in every mail-order house. The small sums form by far the greatest part of the millions of dollars of mail-order business done in this country every year.

So spend your \$2.98’s with local merchants. If you do that, you will not only be helping them and your town, but also be helping yourself by keeping more money in circulation here. If you spend your \$2.98 here, you stand a chance of getting part of it back some day; but if you send it away the entire sum is taken out of local circulation.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

In 1923 Carman was urging residents to Shop Local - 100 years later — we still need to hear it.

online purchases leave instantly — with only the delivery truck passing through town.

In other words, \$2.98 still matters.

So does \$20.

So does every choice to shop here instead of elsewhere.

As communities across Manitoba look for ways to strengthen their local economies, this century-old reminder from *The Dufferin Leader* feels less like history — and more like instruction.

Supporting local business isn’t just retail. It’s infrastructure. It’s sustainability. It’s community identity. It’s a future built here.

Because the question asked in 1923 — “What difference does it make?” — still has the same answer in 2025:

All the difference in the world.

Dufferin council passes 2024 financials, greenlights bridge borrowing

By Haley Cvar

The Rural Municipality of Dufferin council approved its 2024 consolidated financial statements and gave final reading to borrowing for the McEachern Bridge replacement at its Oct. 21 regular meeting.

Council approved a series of previous minutes, including recreation, protective services, executive committee, committee and special council meetings from September and October. It also passed accounts totalling \$1,372,260.70, with all statutory requirements report-

ed as fulfilled. An additional supplementary tax listing for 2025 showing a net decrease of \$950.35 was adopted.

Council further approved the 2024 consolidated financial statements dated Dec. 31, 2024, transferring a \$39,159

Continued on page 7

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RCMP launch annual holiday Checkstop campaign

By Lana Meier

As holiday gatherings ramp up across the province, Manitoba RCMP are once again stepping up enforcement on roads and highways with the launch of their annual December Checkstop campaign.

Beginning last weekend and continuing throughout the month, motorists can expect to see a heightened police presence as officers conduct roadside stops, check for signs of impairment and complete mandatory alcohol and drug screenings.

"If enjoying your holiday season involves consuming drugs or alcohol, then we strongly encourage you to plan

ahead so you have a safe ride home," said Insp. Robert Wuskynyk, head of Manitoba RCMP Traffic Services. "You can avoid a criminal charge and save lives by arranging for a designated driver or calling a cab, rideshare or Operation Red Nose to get you home."

Officers will be equipped with screening devices that detect alcohol and drugs, and anyone found impaired faces serious consequences — including criminal charges, licence suspension, vehicle impoundment and costly fines. Beyond legal penalties, police stress the emotional burden and irreversible harm caused when impaired driving results in injury or death.

Last year, 21 fatal collisions occurred in RCMP jurisdiction where drug or alcohol impairment was suspected as a contributing factor. An additional 43 collisions led to serious injuries where impairment was confirmed or believed to be involved.

Police say those tragedies were preventable, and are urging Manitobans to make responsible choices before heading out to holiday parties and family gatherings.

The message is simple — don't drink or use drugs and drive. Plan a safe ride, look out for friends and loved ones, and help ensure everyone gets home for the holidays.

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Immanuel

At this time of Advent, in the weeks before Christmas, it is so good to be reminded of God's words of promise to send a Saviour. He gives us hope in the midst of trouble and sorrow.

Long ago, Ahaz king of Judah, was facing a lot of trouble in his life. There was an alliance of enemies against him, who were coming to attack him. He was filled with fear. And so were the people of Judah.

The Lord God sent the prophet Isaiah to speak his words to Ahaz. Isaiah said to Ahaz, "Do not fear, and do not let your heart be faint because of your enemies." King Ahaz and the people of Judah are to lift up their eyes to God on high and trust in him.

The Lord also gives Ahaz a sign and says to him, "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14). The name "Immanuel" means "God with us".

This prophecy was ultimately fulfilled in the birth of Jesus Christ. In Matthew 1 we read about how his birth took place and how it fulfilled this prophecy. In Christ the meaning of the name Immanuel, "God with us" comes out in the most complete way. God the Son came down and took upon himself our human flesh. He was born from the virgin Mary. What a miracle! Jesus Christ is special. He is a holy child, one who would save his people from their sins.

God showed in the deepest way that he is with us! In Christ, God has even become one of us. The King of the universe became a baby boy. He came to share in our flesh and blood in order that he would redeem us from our sins. He is the one the Lord has provided to give us complete redemption from all our sins. Put your faith and trust in him! Rely on Jesus Christ alone for salvation! Do not look anywhere else for consolation and comfort. We do not need to look anywhere else because in Christ God himself is with us.

Rev. Carl Van Dam, minister of Carman East Canadian Reformed Church

The way it was this week in: December 10

By Dennis Young

100 Years Ago, 1925... Bradburn area to lose the railway; bacon is .35/lb at McClure & McCullough; Sperling residents buck up funds to keep rink open; Peter Pan shows at Hall Theatre; Kline Cochran high school orchestra plays at Hockey Club benefit dance; Carman Presbytery raises over \$19,000 for maintenance and extension fund; Ryall Hotel hosts many mortgage property sales;

75 Years Ago, 1950... Graysville Calf Club makes and sells halters for \$1.10; Kinsmen wrap up Christmas gifts for the needy; Jap oranges \$1.87/box; Bob Watson named YMS president while Stewart Young moves to senior branch;

no Christmas parade due to poor response; Santa makes last-minute run to Winnipeg to get his suit for his big day at rink; Sures offers a Barbara Ann Scott doll as door prize during shopping; Ron James installs two-way radios at Anti-Battery unit;

50 Years Ago, 1975... RM of D votes not to rejoin Pembina Valley Development Corp; Bob Diemert heads to Panama to find a Curtis P-40 WWII airplane; Sterling Lyon wins PC leadership over Sidney Spivak; Royal Bank opens in former Brad Jewelers; Jan's Gulf Pop Shoppe case of 24-10 oz is \$3.25; The Muffler Man (Ron's Shell) arrives in Carman; Kinsmen sponsor

blood donor clinic at collegiate; DAS holds annual banquet with Fred VanKoughnet as chair;

25 Years Ago, 2000... Second Avenue N.W. renamed after three vets, the Sexsmith brothers; Association of Municipalities looks at amalgamations; Carman Christmas Coupon Book is out; Town budgets \$25,000 for snow removal, has used \$15,500 to date; The Leader runs the Name the Merchant Face Contest; Jane Malcolmson's rink qualifies for Senior Women's Provincials; United Way district president Val Wiebe announces \$42,800 raised; Fas Gas hires Jim Hildebrandt as manager; YMS97 donates \$14,000 for defibrillator.

> DUFFERIN, FROM PG. 6

general operating surplus to the general reserve and a \$2,546 utility operating surplus to the utility reserve. CAO Sharla Murray said the reserve transfers support long-term planning. "The Reserve Transfers will assist the council in future years to mitigate mill rate increases and therefore taxes, every little bit helps," she said.

Council approved \$241 in delegation expenses for staff and officials and authorized a 48-month extended warranty for the 2025 John Deere 6M 180 tractor at a cost of \$5,753 plus taxes. A fuel update through Canoe was received and tabled.

Bylaw 2040, providing for the expenditure and borrowing of funds for the McEachern Bridge (Road 22W bridge replacement) capital project, received second and third reading. The borrowing bylaw passed unanimously on a recorded vote, allowing the project to proceed. Murray noted the project is supported through multiple funding streams. "The McEachern bridge was funded through the Canada Commu-

nity Building Fund and the Manitoba Growth and Renewal Opportunities for Municipalities (Manitoba GRO) Program. The bridge will be tendered early in the new year with the work to be completed this winter and into spring," she said.

Council appointed Les Vanderveen and Debbie Iverson to the Carman Community Health Centre board for a three-year term from January 2026 to December 2028. Councillors also dealt with several unfinished items, including approving a \$100 donation to the Carman-Dufferin Fire Department Training Ground in memory of Dennis Bell and authorizing a tile drainage proposal from Evan Harder to slope the sides of the ditch on the east side of 12-7-6WPM.

Under new business, council approved a credit of 40,000 gallons to Michelle and Oliver Devos' water account for their third-quarter bill. Council also discussed Meadowood Estates' ongoing lack of a cook and noted that meals are being delivered by Handivan to Parkview and Legion Riverview. Amalgamation and joint administration of departments were discussed, with no

resolutions made.

Council reviewed several reports and correspondence items, including updates from the Pembina Valley Water Co-op, a drought and water availability report, stakeholder meeting minutes from Carman and area and a recreation mowing estimate. Councillors also received the latest bulletins from the Association of Manitoba Municipalities and the province.

With several major conferences approaching, Murray outlined what the municipality hopes to gain from the upcoming gatherings. "We have requested meetings with the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure and Minister of Environment and Climate Change and are looking forward to hearing about the Manitoba Government Q&A in the Bear Pit Session, they are always interesting to participate in," she said.

Upcoming items included the 2026 council and committee meeting schedule, the Dec. 12 RM holiday party, the 2025 AMM conference, watershed and Red River Basin Commission events and a sewer options session with Samson Developments on Oct. 23.

Elm Creek's Thiessen drives thriving harness racing career

By E. Antonio

Daryl Thiessen says he feels most alive when he gets his adrenaline pumping. As a professional harness racing driver, he fills his days with speed, action and community spirit.

Born and raised in Elm Creek, Man., Thiessen now races nearly every day of the year on some of Ontario's biggest circuits.

"I'm a huge sports and horse guy," he said. "Those are two things that make my world go round, so harness racing is the perfect fit."

In harness racing, drivers reach speeds of up to 40 miles per hour (64 km/h) in a two-wheeled cart called a sulky, pulled by standardbred horses. Unlike thoroughbreds, which gallop, standardbreds trot or pace and are known for their stamina and speed.

Thiessen was introduced to standardbreds at a young age and learned to ride by the time he was five or six. His first exposure to harness racing came through his grandfather, who swept tracks at local events.

"I would sit in the tractor with him, completely glued to the horses because I always wanted my own," he recalled.

Although his family couldn't afford a racehorse, he learned from doing farm chores with teams of horses and riding retired animals. He credits Ricky Rey and his wife, Janet, of St. Claude, for teaching him the finer points of riding and racing.

"They did everything for me growing up and are the real reason why I'm here today," he said. "Ricky is the hardest worker I have ever met and the reason why I have such a strong work ethic — he truly paved the way for my career."

Thiessen officially began training to drive in 2019 and earned his racing licence in 2022 at age 27. Since then, he has racked up more than 730 career wins, including 300 victories this year alone.

"This year has been such an absolutely successful season. I thought last year was great with 182 wins and



Pro harness racing driver Daryl Thiessen fields questions trackside after a race on the Ontario circuit.

\$1.2 million in purses, but 2025 has been the definite highlight with my 300 wins and over \$2 million in purses," he said.

Thiessen can race up to 10 horses per event and compete in as many as three events a day. Travel between tracks can take up to eight hours, but he thrives on the fast pace.

"I am not wired to go work a nine-to-five job each day. I tried that and I know it is not for me."

A few years ago, he stepped away from racing after breaking his femur and collarbone and dislocating his hip in a race. While helping a friend with drywall work during recovery, he realized how much he missed the sport. Five weeks later, he was back on the track.

"I'm not ready for an adult job yet because I love what I do — I want to avoid growing up," he said. "When I am down I always think, 'you could be doing drywall,' and that motivates me to keep trying and find the joy and passion of the little kid I still have left in me."

Despite his success, Thiessen says the job comes with sacrifices — the biggest being time away from family.

"It sucks not seeing your family who have given their all to support you. But when you race seven days a week



STANDARD PHOTOS BY LORI-LYNN MARTIN

Elm Creek's Daryl Thiessen has turned a childhood love of horses into a thriving harness racing career, now competing year-round on major Ontario circuits.

in another province, you rely on their support from afar."

Another challenge is the physical and mental toll on both drivers and horses.

"It's safe to say horses are stronger than us and there's no way around it. Injuries are just expected with the intensity and action you have with the horse — it wears you out more than you think," he said.

"It's hard not to think about racing when you do it all the time. It's a lot of pressure, it's dangerous — there are lots of things on your mind. From the owners, trainers, spectators and yourself, it's a lot to deal with."

He added that the rhythm of racing leaves little time to reflect.

"There is no time to dwell on the slumps or celebrate the good times. It's a consistent cycle of race, sleep, wake up and reset every single day. You quickly learn that yesterday's home runs don't win today's games."

Thiessen stays motivated by reminding himself, "if I need to do it, I

can do it."

His career goal is to race full-time on the Woodbine Circuit — Ontario's premier racing track — while improving his own well-being.

"I think all drivers would agree it's a tough sport and we all take better care of our horses than we do ourselves," he said. For him, self-care includes building a more balanced life with his girlfriend.

Eventually, he hopes to retire comfortably, support his parents and train young racehorses in a warmer U.S. state. With a six-figure income from winnings, tips and bonuses this year alone, he shows no signs of slowing down.

"Right now, my horses are keeping me busy and sharp, and as long as my mind stays fresh, I'm going to keep living out my childhood dream."

Fans can watch Thiessen race on the HorsePlayer Interactive (HPI) satellite channel, through the Racetrack Television Network streaming service, or on YouTube.

> LYNK, FROM PG. 2

community volunteers. "LYNK strives to build connections with students, volunteers, and the community to help bridge the gaps between generations."

Teacher liaison Warren Hoffman said he is proud to see students taking ownership of the initiative.

"This is a part of the job that is unwritten," he said. "One of the things I treasure as a teacher is seeing better community members come out of our school. It's one thing to educate with academics, but helping kids become better community members is equally — if not more — satisfying."

Hoffman hopes LYNK continues

to grow as a student-led effort that builds multi-generational relationships.

"This came to me as a student initiative, and I appreciate that it has been student-driven from the beginning. I don't want to be the driving force behind this — I want students to see the impact they can have with a little of their time and let that feel-

ing nurture itself."

He said there are "endless possibilities" for the types of activities LYNK can support.

Community members seeking volunteer help are encouraged to contact Carman Collegiate at 204-745-2001 or reach out to Froebe at 204-751-0023.

Carman shines for Christmas



STANDARD PHOTO BY DEB PENNER

The Town of Carman is once again lit up for Christmas thanks to several community groups pitching in to brighten the season. The Carman Communities in Bloom organized and installed the lights on the Christmas tree at the Carman Library, with additional decorating support from the Carman-Dufferin Fire Department. The lights used throughout town were supplied by the Carman Kinettes, helping create a festive glow for residents and visitors to enjoy.



The BTHC Foundation extends heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated partners and community donors. As we celebrate 25 years of impact together, your unwavering support enables us to provide quality, compassionate care at Boundary Trails Health Centre. Together, we make a meaningful difference in our community's health and wellbeing. We wish you a joyful holiday season and a happy new year.

With gratitude,
The BTHC Board of Directors,
Shannon and Jennifer



MB Angel Dresses donate ComfortCot to BTHC

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Boundary Trails Health Centre's obstetrics unit received a donation last week that will be a welcome support to families experiencing infant loss.

Representatives from Manitoba Angel Dresses presented the hospital with a CuddleCot, a bassinet that comes with a cooling system to allow families to spend as much time as they need with their child.

Susan Bruce, co-director of Manitoba Angel Dresses, says they've previously donated these units to hospitals in Thompson, Neepawa, and Steinbach and are pleased to be able to now do so at BTHC as well.

"Unfortunately, it's probably used more than we think," she said, noting it's just one way the organization works to support grieving families.

"What we provide is little layettes for all the babies that pass away, right from 12-14 weeks right up to newborn," Bruce shared. "It's for them to be dressed in, because it's so hard to find little outfits out there."

The care packages also include caps and blankets as well as a keepsake pouch with a memory card for the

family to take home.

The group's 50 or so dedicated volunteers knit or crochet the items, or make them out of donated bridal and grad gown fabric.

The group supports its work through the sale of an annual fundraising calendar as well as sewing material donations from supporters. Bruce said they use what materials they can and sell the rest online to raise funds.

"We do what we do because there's a need for it," she said. "We've all lost or we know someone who's lost a baby and we think it's important that the baby is recognized."

The CuddleCot is BTHC's first, noted obstetrics clinical resource nurse Jamie O'Brien.

"It's a very welcome addition to the equipment that we have," she said.

"When a family loses a baby, the staff, the medical team, we really let the families lead the way through their care," O'Brien explained. "What that means is that we provide them with options of how they want to be cared for during and after the birth of the baby."

"Having options of how to manage, cope, spend time together as a family



STANDARD PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS

BTHC Foundation executive director Shannon Samatte-Folkett, BTHC staff Karla Kuhl, Jess Russell, Jamie O'Brien, Kristi Krahn, and Joel Nelson, and Manitoba Angel Dresses co-directors Susan Bruce and Diane Monkman with the ComfortCot the organization has donated to the hospital for families experiencing infant loss.

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are options they should be entitled to, and one of those would be to keep their baby close to them in the room for as long as they want. This will provide us with that opportunity because of course the baby can now be in the CuddleCot for as long as the parents choose.

"Sometimes it's minutes and other times it can be a day," she noted. "And if it needs to be longer because there's family members that want to come and spend time with the grieving parents in the room, then we would want to provide that. We haven't really done a lot of that—we haven't been able to—and now we can."

Manitoba Angel Dresses' donations of clothing for lost infants go a long way as well toward helping families feel the community's love during a terrible time, O'Brien said.

"They are showing these families who are hurting that they aren't alone, and that there are people who can understand their grief and loss, and this is their way of showing that they care," she said. "Aren't we lucky that we have these women, these angels, to support these families? They are a community. That's what it's all about here."

You can learn more about Manitoba Angel Dresses, including how to get involved or make a donation, online at manitobaangeldresses.com.

Winter parade brings holiday cheer to Miami



STANDARD PHOTOS BY PAIGE BAXTER

The Town of Miami kicked off the festive season with its annual winter parade on Thursday, Dec. 4, drawing families and spectators to Main Street for an evening of lights and community celebration. The parade rolled out from the Miami Fire Hall with a colourful lineup that included emergency vehicles, a towering inflatable moose and Santa himself. The U7 hockey team waved to onlookers from one of the floats as children and parents cheered from the sidewalk.



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PHOTOS BY LORNE
STELMACH**

The Winkler Bible Camp hosted its annual Glow in the Country the past two weeks, providing a drive-thru experience featuring two kilometres of festive light displays.



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TODAY'S NEEDS, TOMORROW'S DREAMS

To the amazing individuals and businesses for your gifts to **CARMAN AREA FOUNDATION** this year and in the past. Your unwavering support and generosity have not gone unnoticed.

Only with you are we able to grant back to the organizations within the communities we live and love.

Red Moon Road delivers holiday music to Carman

By E. Antonio

More than 100 guests joined the Golden Prairie Arts Council at the Carman United Church on Dec. 5 to enjoy a holiday performance from Red Moon Road. GPAC executive director Nigel Bart said he couldn't have asked for a better evening.

"The performance was absolutely amazing. This concert was an extremely energetic and uplifting performance from a very professional and experienced musical band," he said. "It was a nice way to close out the GPAC season on a high note."

Red Moon Road is an acoustic folk trio with Winnipeg roots that has performed at more than 1,000 concerts since 2012. During the height of the pandemic, they released Simple Kind of Christmas, a tri-lingual holiday album featuring traditional favourites as well as two original songs.

Bart said Red Moon Road's Carman performance was important because it helped boost community enthusiasm for GPAC.

"People may not realize that GPAC is a non-profit charitable organization. We rely on donations and public support to continue our mission of advocating for and supporting the arts in our community," he explained. "In order to do this, it takes a lot of time, energy, creativity and sometimes risk-taking to understand how this community of Carman and region best utilizes the arts and creativity in their day-to-day lives. We do what the community wants, and it was a request from the (Carman) Chamber and other community members that we bring in this band."

He added that arts and culture pro-



STANDARD PHOTOS BY LINDSAY HOFFMAN

Winnipeg folk trio Red Moon Road brought their Simple Kind of Christmas tour to Carman United Church on Dec. 5. The holiday concert was hosted by the Golden Prairie Arts Council. Pictured from left: Logan Picton (guitar), Kieran Placatka (keyboard), Sheena Rattai, (vocals), Daniel Jordan (bass) and Jon Lemer (drums).

gramming are vital for community growth and GPAC strives to create a healthy and connected environment for all.

"We hope to continue to inspire our community and

encourage the complex and arduous work of facilitating healthy relationships in the broadest sense of the term," he said. "For me, healthy, peaceful and safe communities are fundamentally supported by arts and culture."



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Elvis lives on




STANDARD PHOTO BY DENNIS YOUNG
Fans of the King filled the Carman Legion #18 on Dec. 6 for The Memories, an Elvis tribute performance by Denny Bouchard. The award-winning entertainer took the stage in full Elvis style, complete with the iconic jumpsuit, golden vocals and fan-favourite hits. The evening offered nostalgia, music and memories for local Elvis lovers.


Holiday Hoopla draws local shoppers



STANDARD PHOTO BY DENNIS YOUNG
Holiday Hoopla brought shoppers out to Carman businesses as the community supported local stores with sales, giveaways and festive displays during the annual event hosted by the Carman and Community Chamber of Commerce. Pictured left to right, Michelle Weir of Evensong Shoppe helps a couple of shoppers; Denny Morgan and Liza Porter at Carman Pharmacy and Sonja and Avery Picton enter the contest at the Boyne Regional Library.



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Music and camaraderie

By Lorne Stelmach

The Prairie Red Coats Band is a tradition that has carried on now for a number of decades, and it continues to attract a solid core of devoted community musicians.

It fills a void for people who learned early on to play an instrument but perhaps have no other means to continue on with it.

"There's so many people locally who have played all these instruments," said Tom Neufeld, who is known as part of the duo LuLu and the Tom-Cat and is involved in the Prairie Red Coats Band, which has a couple upcoming performances.

"The school music programs are great ... but there's no vision put out there for the kids to continue on after," he said. "There's community bands right across Manitoba, right across Canada."

The formation of the Prairie Red Coats Band goes back to the 1970s when the then Tiger Hills School Division music program came to an end.

"So a community band started up to kind of fill the hole, and it's kind of evolved over time," Neufeld said.

As for the name, it is based on PTH 2 being named the Prairie Red Coats trail.

"There's been members from all across southern Manitoba, and it has met in various places," said Neufeld, noting they have previously met regularly in Holland, Somerset, and Miami but now gather in Roland. "Some have been there for many years. Some have just joined now and are really enjoying it."

"It involves members from all across southern Manitoba ... all the way from Altona in the east to Carman and Holland and to St. Alphonse and Winkler."

The number of band participants varies from one performance to the next.

"It all depends on the event and the season," Neufeld observed. "Typically it's somewhere between 15 and 20 to 22 people, and for special concerts, we actually have a number of friends of the Prairie Red Coats who join us."

Otherwise, band members meet weekly every Tuesday from September to June, and they have a variety of performances, including usually playing somewhere (last year it was Roseisle) on Canada Day.

"We all kind of dress accordingly on Canada Day," Neufeld noted. "We're all wearing red tops and black bottoms. Christmas concerts of course are a little more formal."

"There's so many in the community who have played and want to play and enjoy playing, so the Prairie Red Coats meets that need," he continued. "There's a wide variety of music—it's not just classical music ... there's a wide variety of levels of music put forward by our director."

The band recently played at the Buhler Active Living Centre in Winkler and it will be performing again Saturday, Dec. 13 at the New Leaf Garden Centre in Winkler followed by a Christmas concert Tuesday, Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. at the Roland United Church. Admission for the Christmas concert is free, though a free will offering will be accepted.

"I AM ONE HAPPY PERSON"

The opportunity to share her love of music with like-minded fellows and the community at large is a blessing for band member Annette Verniest.

"As a member of the band, I am one very happy person that got the gift of music in my life that was once my dream and has been a reality still today," she said, sharing it was actually her children's involvement in their band program that got her into it.

"Since I had to run with them for



STANDARD PHOTOS SUBMITTED

The Prairie Red Coats Band features musicians from across the region, and they're always looking for new members. Right: Annette Verniest says they're a welcoming group, and she, for one, appreciates the opportunity to have music in her life.

evening band on Tuesday, I finally got to have a lifelong dream of being in the band. So off I go and take the six lessons and jumped right into the band," she recalled. "At first, it was really tough, but I was not letting go of my dream. I grew up always loving the band my Dad was part of, the Bruxelles band. Years later, I am still here, but now I play percussion section, not the B flat cornet. I still love it."

Verniest said they are fortunate to have Bernard and Carole Helfter at the helm of the Red Coats. Bernard was the band teacher for the kids and adults who were able to take part in the Tuesday evening band at the Holland Elementary School.

"He is extremely knowledgeable of music and what all of the instruments can do when played well. He can hear if we miss one eighth rest while the entire band is playing. His knowledge is something we are all in awe of," Verniest said. "[Carole] can find the music in our band library, which has grown a lot over the years."

"We do have some band instruments



folks can borrow when they join us. We play a wide variety of music, and for myself, that is how my horizons in what I like has grown a lot over the years, thanks to the exposure to the different songs and music."

It is also a very social group, she added.

"We used to have coffee time at half time, but because we got to be too social, that got cut out, and we have a

Continued on page 18



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PV Hawks collecting donations for Carman Cheer Board until Dec. 16

By E. Antonio

Members of the U13 Pembina Valley Hawks hockey team are helping bring some holiday cheer this December as they go door-to-door in Carman collecting food, toy and momentary donations for the Carman and District Christmas Cheer Board.

Danielle Wiebe and Bekka Bartley are two of the members who canvassed homes and both said they were proud to help out the community.

"It's important to me to help the less fortunate in our community," Wiebe shared. "It feels good to know that we are helping to make the season brighter for families in our community."

Bartley had similar remarks.

"We want to spread Christmas cheer and help out where we could," she explained. "We wanted to be a part of helping others in our community that are in need."

Together the PV Hawks team were able to fill two large bins with donations as well as collect 200 bags of flour from Prairie Flour Mill and raise \$400, but the girls are not done yet.

Team members will be knocking on doors around Carman until Dec. 16 as well as have donation bins available at their home games. Once everything is collected, they will drop off the donations to the Carman Cheer Board as a team.

"[It's been] very exciting seeing how people give when we knock on their door," Bartley added. "It makes me feel good knowing we got to be a part of something really amazing in our community and to bless others."



STANDARD PHOTO BY BARB LEPP
Danielle Wiebe and Bekka Bartley members of the U13 PV Hawks canvassed homes in Carman for the Cheer Board last week.

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> PRAIRIE RED COATS, FROM PG. 1

five-minute break so we can have more music time, which is what we are all there for."

Verniest noted the band has been able to perform in many concerts and events across the province over the years.

"One very special one in my mind was when we got to play as one of the community bands with the Tattoo band in Winnipeg. We

also played in Kenora as opening band before the RCMP musical ride," she said. "Festival of Nations was a wonderful event for a number of years, as well as the musicians for some musicals."

She is thankful to have had these opportunities available to her.

"I am very grateful that I got the chance to realize that dream."

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This Christmas Season

'One glance away': Mother turns tragedy into mission against distracted driving

By Annaliese Meier

When 16-year-old Kailynn Bursic-Panchuk glanced down at her phone while driving near Weyburn, Saskatchewan, in August 2018, she could never have imagined how that brief moment would alter countless lives. Her car was struck by a train, and six days later — one day after her 17th birthday — her family said goodbye.

That single act of distraction, her mother Sandra LaRose says, didn't just end one young life — it shattered many others.

"When I found out the cause of Kailynn's collision, and realized it never should have happened, it actually infuriated me," LaRose said. "A simple glance away took everything from Kailynn, took everything from me, my family, and her friends."

Kailynn's story is now at the heart of Manitoba Public Insurance's Friends For Life speaker series — a two-week program that brings survivors of impaired, speeding, and distracted driving crashes to schools across the province.

This year's tour, running through early November, includes 20 schools in communities such as Teulon, Arbog, Hamiota, Carberry, Powerview, Erickson and Winnipeg. LaRose shares her story alongside fellow speakers Jon Tiessen and Rosalie Finch, whose lives were also forever changed by a preventable crash.

MPI's goal is to reach youth at the stage when they are just beginning to drive — the time they are most at risk for collisions.

According to MPI, 49 people were killed in distracted driving crashes in Manitoba in 2024, while 91 people lost their lives on Manitoba roads that same year. The agency says young Manitobans are 2.4 times more likely



The logo of Sharing Kailynn's Sunshine Foundation — reflects Kailynn's bright, giving spirit.

than other age groups to be involved in a severe collision involving impairment.

"These speakers are taking devastating experiences and using them to advocate for change," said MPI Vice-President Maria Campos. "Their stories show that every choice behind the wheel has consequences."

For LaRose, speaking publicly was never part of the plan — until MPI reached out in 2019.

"When Kailynn was being taken off life support to see if she could donate her organs — which she did — I made her one promise: to make her as proud of me as I was of her," she said. "I knew early on that I needed to do something. I just had no idea what that would be."

Since then, LaRose has shared Kailynn's Story with nearly 30,000 students across Canada — first virtually during the pandemic, and now in auditoriums across the country.

"This will be my fourth year participating in Friends For Life," she said. "I have to give MPI credit for starting



STANDARD PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Sandra LaRose and her daughter, Kailynn Bursic-Panchuk, are pictured together in an undated family photo. Kailynn was 16 when she was fatally injured in a distracted-driving collision near Weyburn, Sask., in 2018 — a tragedy that inspired LaRose to share her story through Manitoba Public Insurance's Friends For Life speaker series. Photo courtesy of Sandra LaRose family

me on this journey."

When LaRose stands in front of a gymnasium full of students, she asks them to see themselves in Kailynn — to picture their own friends, families and futures.

"My hope is that students realize they are not invincible," she said. "I want them to see their mom or dad in me, and themselves in Kailynn. One wrong choice can take away everything."

But her message reaches beyond teenagers. LaRose believes distracted driving is a challenge for all ages — a symptom of a culture that prizes constant connection.

"We've become so accustomed to being connected that when we disconnect, we feel lost," she said. "Fifty years ago, we planned ahead, told people where we were going, and just lived simpler lives."

She urges parents to model better habits:

"If you pick up your phone to text or change a song, and your kids see you, they'll think it's okay. Children learn what they live. And to the students — if you know the right thing to do is stay off your phone, and you see an adult doing it, please point it out. Share Kailynn's story."

To honour her daughter's giving spirit, LaRose created Sharing Kailynn's Sunshine Foundation Inc. in 2020 — a Saskatchewan-based non-profit that raises funds for causes that reflect Kailynn's values: compassion, empathy, and kindness.

Through burger-night fundraisers and online auctions held each August near Kailynn's birthday, the foundation has raised nearly \$40,000

for organizations including STARS Air Ambulance, Ronald McDonald House Charities Saskatchewan, Lulu's Lodge (a home for LGBTQIA2S+ youth), Caring Hearts grief programs, and Teddy Bears Anonymous.

"Kailynn's soul was always giving," LaRose said. "Her legacy continues through every act of kindness done in her name."

More about the foundation can be found on Facebook (Sharing Kailynn's Sunshine) and Instagram @kailynnssunshine.

Born in Regina on Aug. 21, 2001, Kailynn spent her early childhood in the city before moving to a family farm and attending Fillmore Central School. She was known for her humour, determination and fierce love for her siblings and cousins, who she called her "BFFs."

She had a soft spot for animals, a strong work ethic, and dreams of becoming a high-school teacher.

"She was funny — hilarious, actually — and loved to make people laugh," LaRose said. "I know she's with me every time I stand on a stage. She's cheering me on."

For LaRose, grief and love coexist — both rooted in the same deep bond between mother and daughter.

"Kailynn may have died, but she also lived," she said. "Her story continues to make an impact. Without love there is no grief — and love will always win."

For more information about the Friends For Life speaker series, visit mpi.mb.ca. To learn more about Sandra's work, visit www.sandralarose.ca.



A roadside memorial marks the site of the 2018 crash where Kailynn Bursic-Panchuk was fatally injured after glancing at her phone while driving.

Flashback: Carman dominates Zone 4 track

By Dennis Young

At Ski Birch in 1990, Carman Collegiate's Cougar cross-country teams dominated the competition, winning five of six events — Senior Boys, Senior Girls, Junior Boys, Junior Girls, and Grades 7 and 8 Girls.

The athletes competed against 237 students from across the zone on the rugged courses at Roseisle. Senior and junior runners covered five kilometres, while Grades 7 and 8 competitors ran three.

The demanding training program saw students running every noon hour, with additional hill workouts each Monday and Friday.

All five teams qualified for provincials in The Pas, where the Junior Girls captured gold and the Senior Boys placed third.

Grades 7 and 8 Girls – First Place

Back row, left to right: Erin Coates, Tara Phillips, Melissa Funke, Coach Malcolm Jones, Allison Wieler, Melissa Bernert, Angie Van Wyck; front row: Delaney Miller, Becky Toews, Cara Sandulak, Stacey Labossiere. Missing: Trainer Bill McLetiak.

Grades 7 and 8 Boys – Third Place

No photo: Delano Paul, Brett Holmes, Ryan Jones, Myran Krahn, Rylan Wilkie, Korry Wiebe. Coach: Malcolm Jones.

Junior Boys – First Place

Top row, left to right: Cam Wiebe; middle row, left to right: Jared McKetiak, Glen Hansen, Grant Kennedy; front row: Boe Leslie, Steve DeWitt, Gord Montgomery, Dale Giesbrecht. Missing: Coaches Marsh Kennedy and Lyle Myers, and Trainer Bill McLetiak.

Junior Girls – First Place

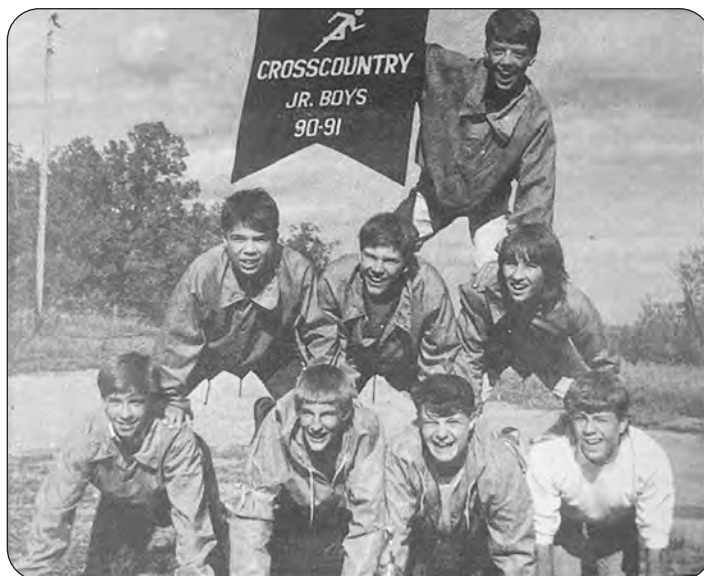
No photo: Amele Kuhl, Kristen Carr, Shae Strachan, Kelly Hand, Kirsten Funke, Jennifer Turner, Coreen Hart. Coaches: Marsh Kennedy and Lyle Myers. Trainer: Bill McLetiak.

Senior Girls – First Place

Back row, left to right: Heather McKibbin, Nerissa Dyck, Kendra Kuhl; front row: Cenia Wedemeyer, Anna Andren. Missing: Marsha Bell, Coaches Marsh Kennedy and Lyle Myers, and Trainer Bill McLetiak.

Senior Boys – First Place

Front row, left to right: Kevin Jeanson, Joe Voth, Vance Pockett, Rob Park, Garth Kennedy, Ennis Jones; back row: Darcy Kuhl, Christina Abrams, Terry Janzen, Peter Unger, Troy Turner, Shaun Veldman. Missing: Coaches Marsh Kennedy and Lyle Myers, and Trainer Bill McLetiak.



Junior Boys – First Place

Top row, left to right: Cam Wiebe; middle row, left to right: Jared McKetiak, Glen Hansen, Grant Kennedy; front row: Boe Leslie, Steve DeWitt, Gord Montgomery, Dale Giesbrecht. Missing: Coaches Marsh Kennedy and Lyle Myers, and Trainer Bill McLetiak.



Senior Girls – First Place

Back row, left to right: Heather McKibbin, Nerissa Dyck, Kendra Kuhl; front row: Cenia Wedemeyer, Anna Andren. Missing: Marsha Bell, Coaches Marsh Kennedy and Lyle Myers, and Trainer Bill McLetiak.



Grades 7 and 8 Girls – First Place

Back row, left to right: Erin Coates, Tara Phillips, Melissa Funke, Coach Malcolm Jones, Allison Wieler, Melissa Bernert, Angie Van Wyck; front row: Delaney Miller, Becky Toews, Cara Sandulak, Stacey Labossiere. Missing: Trainer Bill McLetiak.



Senior Boys – First Place

Front row, left to right: Kevin Jeanson, Joe Voth, Vance Pockett, Rob Park, Garth Kennedy, Ennis Jones; back row: Darcy Kuhl, Christina Abrams, Terry Janzen, Peter Unger, Troy Turner, Shaun Veldman. Missing: Coaches Marsh Kennedy and Lyle Myers, and Trainer Bill McLetiak.

Flashback sparks heartfelt memory

Last week's Flashback published in the Dec. 4 edition of the *Carman Dufferin Standard*, From Campbell's Legacy to Roseisle Co-op Success, sparked a touching response from Sandy Leishman, daughter of Blair Leishman — a longtime community contributor featured in the arti-

cle. Blair passed away about six years ago from dementia, and Sandy shared how meaningful it was to see his work remembered.

Sandy wrote that the Flashback "made my soul soar to remember the countless hours he dedicated to our community... A beautiful

reminder of why we give back — because we can, and that's what it takes in a small community."

We appreciate Sandy reaching out, and we are honoured to continue keeping local history and the people behind it alive through these stories.

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Rodewald scores four as Sanford downs Stonewall 6-4 in WSHL matchup

By Kieran Reimer

Sanford Collegiate Sabres hockey teams went three-for-four in last week's action, with the boys skating to a perfect 2-0 record while the girls earned a split to stay near the top of the standings.

For the boys, success began Wednesday in Stonewall with a 6-4 win over the Rams. The Sabres jumped ahead 3-0 midway through the game on goals from Nathan Baxter, Jake Johnston and Cooper Rodewald before the Rams replied with three to make it even.

Tied 3-3 entering the third, Rodewald took over — scoring a natural hat trick in the final frame to cap off a four-goal night. Keilen Hrushowy earned the win in goal as Sanford col-

lected its fourth victory of the season.

The momentum continued Thursday at Sanford Arena with a 3-2 overtime win over the Churchill Bulldogs. Goals from Cale Wood and Max Nabess gave Sanford a 2-0 lead after one, but Churchill clawed back to tie it late in the third. Nabess then buried the OT winner for his second of the night, with Liam Jones picking up the goaltending win. The strong week bumped Sanford into seventh in the Winnipeg High School Hockey League Winnipeg Free Press Division.

Sanford also faced CPET on Dec. 8, but the result was unavailable at press time. Their next game is Wednesday, Dec. 17, against the Gabrielle-Roy Les Roys at Île-des-Chênes/Grande Pointe Arena. Puck drop is 4 p.m.



STANDARD PHOTO BY JO-ANNE PROCTER

Sanford Sabres' Cooper Rodewald scored four times in his team's 6-4 victory over the Stonewall Rams in WSHL action on Dec. 3 in Stonewall. Rodewald completed a natural hat trick in the third period and added an empty-netter late in regulation. Sanford will visit College Pierre-Elliott-Trudeau on Monday, Dec. 8 at the East End Community Club.

SABRES GIRLS SPLIT TO STAY TIED FOR FIRST

The Sabres girls team remains tied for first in the Manitoba Women's High School Hockey League Division 1/2 West after going 1-1 last week.

Their lone loss came Tuesday against the undefeated Vincent Massey Trojans. Massey jumped to a 2-0 lead at Century Arena before Sanford answered with goals from Halle Penner and Mackenzie Jeffery to make it 2-2. After a scoreless middle frame, Massey's Ella Arnal scored twice in the third to seal a 4-2 Trojan win.

Sanford bounced back the next day at home, shutting out the Westwood Warriors 4-0. Mikalah Grant led the charge with a hat trick, while Sadie Spicer added the fourth. Goaltender Brooke Larson was sharp when called upon, finishing with a 14-save shut-out as Sanford improved to 10-4 on the year.

The Sabres also played Sturgeon Heights on Dec. 8, but the result was unavailable by press time. They return to the ice Monday, Dec. 15, when the Oak Park Raiders visit Sanford Arena for a 3:30 p.m. start. Puck drop is scheduled for 3:30 p.m.



Beavers fall in high-scoring matchup; Hawks pick up win over Morden

By Annaliese Meier

Carman remains in search of traction early in the SEMHL season, sitting ninth at 2-6 after a 10-7 loss to Ile des Chenes in a back-and-forth offensive battle. Notre Dame, meanwhile, improved to 3-3 on the year after defeating the Morden Bombers 6-3.

Beavers trade goals in shootout vs Northstars

Carman opened the scoring just 1:22 in off the stick of AJ Nychuk, but Ile des Chenes responded with three straight and carried a 5-3 lead through a fast first period. Mikol Sartor and

Kale Ilchena each scored in the first frame for the Beavers, with Duncan Jowett adding one late to keep Carman within reach.

The teams continued to trade chances in the second and third, with Sartor scoring again and captain Tyler Park and Nychuk adding goals to close the gap. However, the Northstars pulled away with six third-period markers, including the game-winner from Josh Beauchemin at 19:40 of the second.

Carman finished 0-for-2 on the powerplay, while Ile des Chenes did not

receive a man advantage. Dan Wenham made 36 saves before Rob Keith completed the final 20 minutes in net.

The Beavers visit Ile des Chenes again on Saturday, Dec. 13 at 7:30 p.m.

HAWKS WIN 6-3 OVER BOMBERS WITH STRONG FIRST PERIOD

The Notre Dame Hawks jumped early with four unanswered goals in the opening period against Morden, including tallies from Nicolas Vigier, Karl Conrad, Roux Bazin and Vin-

cent Grift — the latter standing as the game-winner.

Morden clawed back with three straight in the second and third, but Notre Dame sealed the win with a powerplay goal from captain Jeff Michiels and a late insurance marker from Bazin, who finished with two on the night. The Hawks went 1-for-1 on the man advantage while holding Morden without a powerplay opportunity.

Notre Dame heads to Ile des Chenes on Friday, Dec. 19 at 8 p.m.

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Macdonald Swarm push past Mitchell in feisty win

By Haley Cvar

The Macdonald Swarm stayed unbeaten with a hard-fought 5-3 victory over the Mitchell Mustangs on Friday night, surviving a penalty-ridden third period to extend their perfect start in Hanover Tache Junior Hockey League play.

Andrew Thompson scored twice, including an insurance marker in the third, while Kayden Robertson delivered the game-winner at 8:13 of the final frame. Goaltender Jack Martin was steady throughout, turning away 34 shots for the win.

Mitchell opened the scoring at 11:37 of the first period when Archer Ives buried a feed from Hutch Giesbrecht and affiliate Jager Bueckert. The lead was short-lived. Less than a minute later, Thompson tied it for Macdonald off a setup from Baylen Dilk.

Macdonald struck early in the second period when Austin Spicer finished a pass from Brock Wood just 58 seconds in. Mitchell responded at 2:19, with Lucas Jolicoeur converting a three-way play from captain Mark Plett and Carson Funk to knot the game 2-2.

The Swarm regained control late in the period. Tyler Van de Velde pushed Macdonald ahead at 19:35, giving them a 3-2 advantage entering the third.

Robertson's goal midway through the final frame stood as the difference, assisted by Spicer and Dilk, who finished the night with three helpers. Thompson added his second at 14:17 to make it 5-2 before Plett pulled one back for Mitchell in the dying seconds.

The game's final minutes were dominated by misconducts and roughing

calls, with more than a dozen penalties assessed at 16:03. Despite the chaos, neither team scored on the power play — Mitchell went 0-for-5, Macdonald 0-for-2.

Mustangs goalie Hunter Fehr faced a heavy workload, stopping 40 shots in the loss.

The Swarm, now 9-0 overall and leading the league standings with a 7-0 regular-season mark, return to action Dec. 12 when they host Red River at the Sanford Recreation Centre.

Twisters earn weekend split with statement win over Royal Knights

By Lana Meier

The Pembina Valley Twisters found their spark Friday night, defeating the River East Royal Knights 5-2 at the Morris MultiPlex before falling 5-1 to the Raiders Jr. Hockey Club on Sunday afternoon at Seven Oaks SportsPlex.

Friday's victory marked one of Pembina Valley's strongest outings of the MMJHL season, powered by a four-point night from Josh Guilford, who scored once and assisted on three others to earn first star honours. Goaltender Riley Brown was outstanding, stopping 38 of 40 shots to secure the win.

River East opened the scoring early, but the Twisters responded when Ethan Wilde notched his first of the season at 8:45, with Owen Vanrobaeys and Guilford drawing the assists. Riv-

er East briefly regained the lead minutes later, but the momentum shifted for good in the second period.

The Twisters erupted for four unanswered goals — including a short-handed marker by Guilford at 5:07 — followed by tallies from Ketema Wall, Darby Olson on the power play, and Ryan Thiessen at 18:53. Vanrobaeys recorded three assists, while Guilford figured into four straight goals during the run.

Pembina Valley went 1-for-1 on the power play, while Brown shut the door the rest of the way to close out the home win.

Late push falls short Sunday in loss to Raiders

On Sunday, the Twisters travelled to Winnipeg where they dropped a 5-1 decision to the Raiders. Goaltender

Rowan Cherkas stopped 17 of 22, facing heavy pressure in the third period as the Raiders pulled away late.

The game remained tight for much of the afternoon. After two scoreless periods from Pembina Valley's side, the Twisters tied the contest 1-1 in the third when Vanrobaeys struck on the power play at 10:43, assisted by Guilford and Wilde — both of whom built off strong Friday performances.

However, the Raiders responded with four goals in the final nine minutes, including two from Logan Ashe. Pembina Valley finished 1-for-12 on the power play, while goaltender Owen Savoie turned aside 35 of 36 for the Raiders.

Despite record, signs of momentum are building

With the split, the Twisters move to

3-19-0 on the season, but Friday's win — with secondary scoring, special teams success, and standout goaltending — provided a glimpse of the potential within the young roster.

Wilde, Guilford, Wall, Olson and Thiessen all found the back of the net over the weekend, while Vanrobaeys posted four points across the two games. Brown's 38-save effort stands as one of the team's top goaltending performances so far this year.

UPCOMING GAMES

- Dec. 12 – Transcona Railer Express at Pembina Valley – 8 p.m. (Morris MultiPlex)
- Dec. 14 – Pembina Valley at St. Boniface Riels – 3 p.m. (Southdale Community Centre)



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> MEAL IDEAS



RED RIVER CO-OP FOOD STORE

Santa Cookies

From red cookie dough, make one 1-inch ball and five 1/2-inch balls. From plain cookie dough, make one 3/4-inch ball and five 1/4-inch balls.

On prepared baking sheet, place red 1-inch ball and gently flatten until 1/2-inch thick. Attach four red 1/2-inch balls for arms and legs. Attach plain 3/4-inch ball for head and gently flatten until 1/2-inch thick. Attach plain 1/4-inch balls for hands and feet. Shape remaining red 1/2-inch ball into triangle for hat and attach. Repeat with remaining dough, arranging cookies 2 inches apart on baking sheet. Add chocolate candies for eyes and buttons.

Bake 12-15 minutes, or until lightly golden.

To make frosting: In medium bowl, beat butter and cream cheese until light and fluffy, about 3 minutes. Add vanilla and powdered sugar; mix until combined.

To decorate: Place half of frosting in piping bag with small tip to line Santa's arms and legs. Place other half in second piping bag with small star tip to add Santa's beard, hat and hands. Put small dot of icing between eyes and beard and place red mini chocolate-coated candy on face for nose.

Yield: 14 cookies

1 cup (2 sticks) Maple Hill Salted Butter, at room temperature

1/2 cup brown sugar

1 tablespoon vanilla extract

1 large egg, at room temperature

2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour

1/4 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon red food coloring

mini chocolate chips

mini red chocolate-coated candies

Frosting:

1/2 cup (1 stick) Maple Hill Salted Butter, at room temperature

4 ounces cream cheese, at room temperature

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

2 1/2 cups powdered sugar

Preheat oven to 350 F and line two baking sheets with parchment paper.

In large mixing bowl, beat butter, sugar and vanilla until light and fluffy. Add egg and beat until combined. Add flour and salt; mix until dough begins to form ball.

Remove 1 cup dough and set aside. Add red food coloring to remaining dough.



Gingerbread Dip

In medium bowl using electric mixer on medium speed, beat cream cheese and sugars about 1 minute. Add molasses and mix until combined.

Add Greek yogurt, ginger, cinnamon and nutmeg; beat until combined. Fold in whipped cream and mix until fully incorporated. Refrigerate 1 hour before serving or overnight.

Serve with graham crackers and fruit.

Servings: 8-12

4 ounces cream cheese, at room temperature

1/4 cup brown sugar

1/4 cup powdered sugar

3 tablespoons molasses

1 container (16 ounces) Maple Hill Vanilla Greek Yogurt

1 teaspoon ground ginger

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

1 teaspoon ground nutmeg

2 cups whipped cream

graham crackers

fruit



Ask the Money Lady

Have you been struggling in your career or relationships, and still unhappy?

Many people strive for their dream job, some employment position that they feel they can be successful in, but for whatever reason, they can't get it. Some have been proactive, prepared, took courses, schmoozed with all the right people and even wore their heart on their sleeve, only to have it ripped off and stepped on. Sound familiar? Sometimes no matter what you say or no matter what you are capable of, someone else holds the key to that acceptance and for whatever reason, they refuse to give you a chance. They come up with all the politically correct answers for your unsuitability, but the fact remains, they're in and your still out. So now what?

Back to the drawing board you go, to keep fighting. More courses, more training, more fake smiles and more believing you can get it someday. After all, doesn't every book out there tell you to never give up? No matter how many times you are getting beaten down and pummelled in the boxing ring of life. Even if you're beaten with blood all over you, barely able to rise from trying so hard, what do all the naysayers keep saying? "Fight back, get back in the game, and keep striving for your goal. Success is just around the corner!" Well, I'm going to tell you the opposite. I suggest you STOP and pivot.

If you believe in the theory of cause and effect, that things happen for a reason, you must agree that everything you have done in your past has led you here, right now where you are. So, what are you going to do with that knowledge? You probably know a different direction to go, one that is more suited to you, yet for whatever reason you continue to deny yourself the opportunity



to pursue it. If you know you need to go in a different direction to be happy, then make this change today and pivot your career and your life. Why are you choosing familiar pain over future happiness? Only you have the power to make a change for the better. Sure, we all start out our lives wanting to be successful, wealthy and loved. But we don't live in a bubble of just ourselves and our thoughts. We have to interact with other people and the world; and when that happens, things don't always work out the way we wished they would. Your goal in life is to live as long as you can and at the end of your life be able to answer the following four questions with confidence and purpose.

Did I live? Did I love? Did I matter? Did I make a difference?

Focus on making a change in the world around you and in your personal sphere of influence. If you do that, the success (and money) will follow – guaranteed!

Good Luck and Best Wishes,
Money Lady

Written by Christine Ibbotson, Author, Finance Writer and Syndicated Money Coach on BNN Bloomberg. Christine is also part of the everyday lineup on CTV Your Morning in every province. No AI. Follow Christine on Instagram @askthemoneylady, or on Facebook (Christine Ibbotson).

Cheesy Spinach Chicken Bake

Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"

Servings: 4-6

2 cups chopped rotisserie chicken

10 ounces frozen spinach, thawed and drained

15 ounces ricotta cheese

2 cups mozzarella cheese

1 cup Parmesan cheese

1 tablespoon Italian seasoning

1 tablespoon garlic powder

1 tablespoon onion powder

1 tablespoon lemon thyme

Heat oven to 375 F.

Cut rotisserie chicken and spinach into bite-sized pieces. In baking dish, mix chicken and spinach with ricotta cheese.

Add mozzarella, Parmesan, Italian seasoning, garlic powder, onion powder and lemon thyme. Mix well then bake 30 minutes.

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with an Announcement in the

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MORTGAGE SALE

The lands and buildings known as 8159 PTH 100, R.M. of MacDonald, Manitoba, as described in Certificate of Title No. 1414264/1 will be sold at auction on Wednesday the 21st day of January, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. The auction sale will be held by way of video or teleconference. There will be no in-person attendees at the auction. In order to participate you must pre-register at least 24 hours prior to the auction by contacting Dan Ransom at either dransom@tmlawyers.com or 204-988-0443 (e-mail preferred). On the date of the auction, an email will be sent to all attendees at the email addresses provided. The attendees will need to follow the instructions in the email, which will include a video link or teleconference call-in information. The successful bidder shall have a period of 24 hours to provide the deposit in certified funds payable to Taylor McCaffrey LLP and sign the auction sale conditions.

TO THE BEST of the Vendor's knowledge, the subject property includes an 1150 square foot two storey, 3 bedroom house. The house has modern finishings and includes one full bathroom, one half bathroom, living room, kitchen, dining room, and a family room and utility room in the partially finished basement. The bedrooms are located on the second floor. The house was built in approximately 1938. The property includes 9.46 acre residential lot which is mainly mature trees. Outside the main residence, there is also a full sunroom and wrap-around deck, along with a garage/shop, storage shed, a mobile home and some small older grain bins and a 12' x 24' office building with electrical service. The property is located approximately 4 km east of Oak Bluff at the junction of the perimeter highway and La Salle Road.

DIRECTIONS: Travelling west from Winnipeg on McGillivray Boulevard, turn left at La Salle Road. Drive south on La Salle Road for approximately 3 km. Just before the perimeter highway, turn right onto the service road that runs parallel to the perimeter highway. The property will be on your right.

PRIOR ENCUMBRANCES: **NIL**

REALTY TAXES (excluding any accruing water charges) are paid to **December 31, 2021**.

TERMS OF SALE: a deposit of **\$50,000.00** by way of cash, certified cheque or bank draft payable to Taylor McCaffrey LLP, and the balance according to conditions which will be available to all registered auction participants. The property will be sold subject to a Reserve Bid of \$548,000.00 plus such other additional and incidental costs which may be incurred by the Vendor from the 21st day of January, 2026 to the date of auction and which costs will be announced prior to the commencement of the sale. The maximum amount of cash that may be provided as part of the deposit is **\$7,500.00**. The auction sale will be conducted pursuant to an Order for Sale issued by the District Registrar. Certain parties may be prohibited from purchasing the property, including but not limited to, parties who by virtue of their employment or relationship to a person involved in the sale process would have special knowledge of the circumstances pertaining to the sale. For more information and a list of prohibited purchasers please visit: www.teranetmanitoba.ca.

FURTHER information may be obtained from:

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Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3B 3L3
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NOTICE OF HEARING

OF THE BOARD OF REFERENCE • PROVINCE OF MANITOBA

THE PRAIRIE ROSE SCHOOL DIVISION
And
THE WESTERN SCHOOL DIVISION

As required by Section 9 of The Public Schools Act (RSM 1987, c.P250), notice is hereby given that a public hearing of The Board of Reference, appointed as provided under Section 8 of The Public Schools Act, will be held as scheduled herein to hear any person or any person on their behalf in the matter of a request referred to The Board of Reference in accordance with Section 5 of The Public Schools Act.

The hearing will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams on **Tuesday, January 6, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.** to hear the request of Lewis and Jennifer Wall to transfer 80.00 acres located in the Southwest Quarter Section 28, Township 4, Range 5 West from the Prairie Rose School Division to the Western School Division.

Further information with respect to the virtual hearing, including how to join the virtual hearing, may be obtained through the office of the undersigned between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Dated at Winnipeg, Manitoba, November 21, 2025.

Heather Thomson
Secretary
Board of Reference
c/o Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning
507 - 1181 Portage Avenue
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The Carman-Dufferin
STANDARD

OBITUARY



Mae Lyle

December 15, 1934 – November 29, 2025

Mae Lyle passed away peacefully on Saturday, November 29, after a long and full life. Born on December 15, 1934 in Winnipeg to Alma and Norman Brown, Mae was the third of five children. She grew up on the family farm near Union Point, attending school there and forming the strong work ethic and warm spirit that would stay with her throughout her life.

Following graduation, Mae moved to Winnipeg to attend Success College, where she trained as a secretary. While in college, she met the love of her life, Bruce, at a social event. Their connection was immediate, and they married on March 3, 1956, beginning a partnership built on deep affection, shared values, and an abiding sense of adventure.

In 1962, Mae and Bruce settled in Winnipeg, building a home on Danbury Bay. It was during these years that Mae discovered her passion for antique furniture. Nothing delighted her more than finding a worn, neglected "treasure," and with patience and skill, restoring it to beauty. By the time she finished refinishing a piece, the transformation was remarkable—her craftsmanship and eye for detail were second to none.

In 1976 the family moved to Carman for Bruce's work. They built a home on the west end of town, and just five years later, realized their dream of building a country home a few miles northeast of Carman. The house and surrounding garden became Mae's pride and joy. She had an extraordinary talent for home décor, seamlessly incorporating her beloved antiques. Her gardens were always vibrant, filled with colour and life. She loved planting, weeding, and harvesting, and Bruce happily moved perennials as often as her imagination demanded.

While living on the farm, Mae and Bruce began selling pies and preserves at the local Farmers Market. At times they baked up to 80 pies in a single stretch—an impressive testament to their commitment and teamwork. They were social by nature and enjoyed many activities together, especially square dancing and bridge. Mae was also active in Eastern Star and dedicated much of her time to volunteer work, particularly after her retirement from Boyne Lodge, where she had worked as an activity worker.

Mae loved to entertain and was a wonderful cook. She and Bruce welcomed many friends and relatives to the farm over the years, filling their home with laughter, food, and warmth.

Bruce's sudden passing 21 years ago, at the age of 70, was a devastating loss. Mae's heart was broken, and life changed profoundly. Unable to stay on the farm alone, she sold it and moved to a condo in Carman. She continued to see friends and family and remained part of a lunch group, but many of the activities that once brought her joy gradually faded from her life.

Mae is survived by her sisters, Norma Scott and Edna Dreger; her sons Dale (Rhonda) and grandchildren Benjamin and Travis (Elise); Edwin (late wife Mary-Anne) and Kevin (Tayne); grandchildren Foster (Ainsley), Delaney (Matthew) and great-grandchildren Huxley, Roux, and Tali; and Shea (Danielle), Redford (Laney), and Cullen. She is also remembered by many nieces, nephews, extended family, and friends.

Mom, you lived a full and beautiful life. You were loved deeply, and you will be missed always. Donations in Mae's memory can be made to the Boyne Lodge Campus Charity.

Doyle's Funeral Home
in care of arrangements
www.doylesfuneralhome.ca

OBITUARY



Alex Hanson

With deep sadness, Alex Hanson passed away peacefully December 5, 2025 after a brief illness. He was born on October 28th, 1936, living his early years in Austin, Manitoba.

He is survived by his sister, Yvonne Anderson (of Carberry) and his three daughters – Joanne (James) Gross, Shannon (Darren) Adam and Jennifer (Chris) Johnston, along with six grandchildren – Carlie Johnston, Paige and Lucas Adam and Marina, Sara and Megan Gross.

He was predeceased by his wife, Carol, of 60 years on June 12, 2025.

Alex started his Manitoba Hydro career in Lundar and later moved to Killarney where he met Carol. They started their family in Warren and later moved to McCreary for the next 40 years where he was actively involved in the community with the town council and golf club. He had many other interests, including hockey, hunting and gardening. In retirement, Carol and Alex enjoyed many winters in Texas and Arizona and kept in touch with those friends from all over, including his past Hydro connections.

In 2016 they moved to Carman to be closer to family, making many new acquaintances and re-connected with old friends in the area. Alex became very involved in the golf and curling clubs. He loved tv sports - hockey and curling. He enjoyed the social connections at Meadowood and often traded his garden produce for home baking; puzzling also became a new interest.

A funeral service will be held at Carman United Church on Wednesday, December 17th at 1:00 p.m. with lunch to follow.

The family would like to extend their gratitude for the care Alex received in the Carman Hospital the past three weeks. A donation may be made to the Carman Health Auxiliary in his memory.

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> GAME

CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

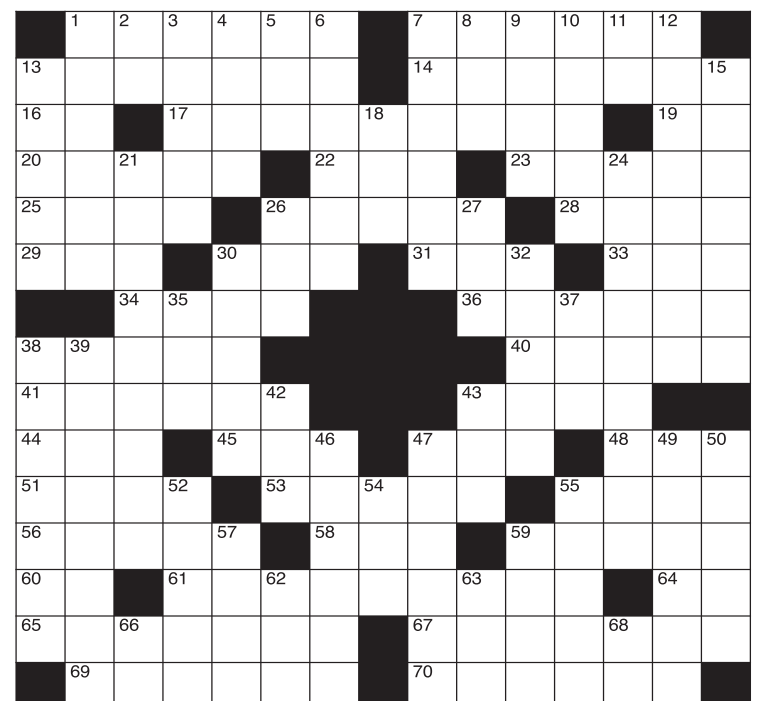
1. Spiritual leaders
7. A type of solution
13. Fortified wine
14. Edible mollusk
16. They precede C
17. A way to compare
19. Government lawyer
20. "Game of Thrones" actor Ciaran
22. The eighth month (abbr.)
23. Very willing
25. ___ ex Machina
26. Makes happy
28. Type of berry
29. A doctrine
30. Popular Dodge truck model
31. Dekagram
33. Naturally occurring solid
34. Company officer
36. Villains
38. Cricket frogs
40. Influential German psychologist
41. Endured
43. A female domestic
44. You can get stuck in one
45. Cigarette (slang)
47. Fiber optics network
48. Group of blood disorders (abbr.)
51. Employee stock ownership plan

CLUES DOWN

1. Animal disease
2. Commercial
3. Necklace material
4. Containers
5. A way to save for your future
6. Colorado Heisman winner
7. Rashed down
8. Head injury (abbr.)
9. Lay about
10. Intestinal
11. Opposite of yes
12. Caused to be loved
13. Spiritual leader of Islam
15. Businesslike

CLUES ACROSS

18. Not in
21. Number above the line in a fraction
24. An animal with its own day
26. Pouch
27. Swedish krona
30. Start over
32. Field flowers
35. Fourteen
37. A visual way to interact with a computer
38. Up-to-date
39. Campaigns
42. Touch lightly
43. "Boardwalk Empire" actress
46. Violent seizure of property
47. Supporter of the Pope
49. Anxiety
50. Body fluid
52. One who's faking it
54. Title of respect
55. Chilean city
57. City in central Japan
59. Silk garment
62. A form of dance
63. Automobile
66. The man
68. Justice Dept. head honcho



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Christmas is a wonderful time for family and friends to come together and celebrate. However, this time of year can be rather difficult for some, particularly the elderly. A great number of senior citizens — living either alone or in a retirement home — spend the holidays in isolation. That's why it's so important to devote some quality time to your aging loved ones. You'd be surprised at how a single visit during the holiday season can make a world of difference.

PLAN YOUR VISITS
If you plan on visiting an older loved one or are looking to volunteer at a retirement home, try making the most of your time with the elderly by doing an activity. You could:

- See a show (comedy, dance, theatre, music)
- Attend a workshop (drawing, sewing, cooking)
- Play some games (board games, cards, bingo, puzzles)
- Go to the movies
- Visit a museum or an art gallery
- Attend a seminar on a topic they're passionate about
- Read a story together
- Take a walk outside
- Share a meal, at your place or a restaurant

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