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Olympic spirit

TRIBUNE PHOTO BY JO-ANNE PROCTER

RW Bobby School students hold the Olympic rings during a school-wide celebration, wearing Olympic-themed clothing as part of the school's I Love to Read activities that brought the spirit of the Games to their gymnasium. Left to right, back row: Davis Comte, Leo Paton, Riley Torsia, Callie Davis, Raider; front row: Avery Thiessen, Vaughn Vodden and Brayden Ballantyne.

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From Lakefront to Countryside - Your Home is Here in the Interlake!

Madeline's Closet founder earns provincial recognition at WEYA gala

By Lana Meier

A rural Manitoba entrepreneur was among those recognized last week as women business leaders from across the province were celebrated at the 2025 Manitoba Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Awards.

Shannon Dupont, founder of Madeline's Closet Inc., was named the Rural Nominee Award winner during the Jan. 29 gala at the Winnipeg Art Gallery. The award honours women entrepreneurs driving economic growth and opportunity outside major urban centres, recognizing leadership, innovation and community impact.

For Dupont, the recognition reflects nearly two decades of work building a volunteer-run charity focused on supporting women and families across rural Manitoba.

"Standing here tonight is honestly a little surreal — mostly because when you run a charity in rural Manitoba, you don't exactly expect to end up on a stage like this," Dupont said during her acceptance speech. "This recognition means more than I can fully put into words because it shines a light on work that often happens quietly, behind the scenes and far from the spotlight."

Founded in Inwood, Madeline's Closet was envisioned as a space where women and their children could access new or gently used clothing and household items regardless of their financial situation. Dupont said the idea grew out of an experience nearly 17 years ago, when she learned that retail stores were cutting up usable clothing and discarding it as damaged or written-off merchandise.

"As a social worker, I knew how

many people could benefit from receiving new clothing," she said.

When Dupont asked retailers whether they would donate items if she ensured they were given directly to individuals and not resold, the answer was yes. From that agreement, Madeline's Closet was born.

The organization was named in honour of Métis Elder Madeline Sanderson, who provided guidance and teachings to Dupont in her youth. Dupont said Sanderson emphasized the importance of staying true to one's roots and using that strength to help others.

"Madeline's Closet is the embodiment of kindness and community," Dupont said. "I felt it was fitting to name it after someone who taught me those values."

Today, Madeline's Closet works with a network of more than 24 retail partners that provide clothing and household goods. Volunteers repair damaged items, launder donations and prepare them for display. Individuals can access the program once a month and receive up to three clothing or household items at no cost.

Items that cannot be repaired are repurposed into patchwork blankets, which are given to families who have lost their homes due to fire.

Dupont said the program addresses both social and environmental needs. Manitoba has one of the highest child poverty rates in Canada, and providing free clothing helps ensure children are prepared for the province's diverse weather while easing financial pressure on families. At the same time, the initiative diverts thousands of items from landfills each year.

To date, more than 750,000 individ-



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY JILL DEMIANIW

Shannon Dupont of Inwood, founder of Madeline's Closet Inc., accepts the Rural Nominee Award at the 2025 Manitoba Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Awards.



Chantelle Dione Enns, a finalist at the 2025 Manitoba Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Awards, is the owner of Chantelle Dione Photography, known for portrait and branding work focused on authenticity and connection.

uals have accessed the program over its 17 years of operation. Madeline's Closet is entirely volunteer-run and receives no government core funding.

The organization now serves between 1,000 and 1,500 individuals each month at its Inwood location, along with an additional 800 to 1,000 people monthly through partner sites across Manitoba.

"There's a huge gap in services for rural Manitoba, and Madeline's Closet fills a real need in the Inwood area," Dupont said. "I'm very proud to be part of that."

Dupont said the work has come full circle for her both personally and professionally, having been born and raised in Inwood in the RM of Armstrong — the same community where Madeline's Closet continues to operate.

The annual awards are coordinated by the Winnipeg Women's Community and drew finalists from across the province, selected from more than 200

nominations. Now in its 34th year, the program aims to spotlight women strengthening Manitoba's economy and communities.

Also recognized during the evening was Chantelle Dione Enns, owner of Chantelle Dione Photography, who was named a finalist among the province's top women entrepreneurs.

Enns said being named a WEYA finalist was a meaningful moment of reflection, both personally and professionally.

"Being named a finalist was incredibly affirming," she said. "The work I do is deeply rooted in confidence, identity and personal evolution, and that kind of impact is not always easy to measure. To have it recognized alongside so many inspiring entrepreneurs across Manitoba meant a great deal."

Enns' photography work has earned a reputation for visual storytelling

Continued on page 10

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STONEWALL

Joy Billings' work centres faith, vulnerability and resilience

By Lana Meier

Joy Billings brings emotional honesty to the *Nine Perspectives* exhibition.

For Garden Candy artist Joy Billings, showing work in *Nine Perspectives* marks both a professional milestone and a deeply personal turning point in her artistic practice.

Billings is one of nine rural and northern Manitoba artists participating in the group exhibition opening Saturday, Jan. 17 at 210 Gallery in Winnipeg. Her three-piece series, *Symphony of Psalms* (143, 147 and 104), reflects what she describes as the most emotionally authentic body of work she has created to date.

The largest piece in the series, 143, was inspired by Psalm 143:8 and developed through a year-long, open-ended process that was completed during the six-month mentorship program connected to the exhibition. Billings said the verse became a prayer and lifeline during periods of uncertainty, anxiety and depression and remains posted on the wall of her studio.

The layered work traces themes of loneliness, confusion, shame and spiritual dissonance, while gradually shifting toward a more hopeful perspective. Billings described the piece as a cry for help that slowly uncovers compassion, unconditional love and peace as space is held through waiting.

The second work, 147, draws inspiration from Psalm 147:9 and explores faith, humility and trust during seasons of vulnerability and helplessness. Created during a financially difficult period for her family, Billings said the piece carries both spiritual



and literal meaning, reflecting her growing acceptance of self and confidence beyond productivity or accomplishment.

Her third piece, 104, inspired by Psalm 104:16, centres on themes of provision, gratitude and care, and the ways love becomes tangible through the presence and support of family and friends during times of need.

Billings said the series represents a significant shift in her practice, as emotional vulnerability has taken precedence over perfectionism or saleability. Long challenged by the pressure to create polished, market-ready work, she said this body of work marks a step out of hiding and



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY MELODY MUELLER

Garden Candy artist Joy Billings is pictured with work from her three-piece series *Symphony of Psalms* (143, 147 and 104), featured in the *Nine Perspectives* exhibition at 210 Gallery in Winnipeg.

into her voice as an artist.

Living and working as a rural artist continues to shape her creative process. A self-described prairie farm

girl, Billings said the sky and horizon line have always been grounding in-

Continued on page 8

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Funding for this project [in part] has been provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Agricultural Climate Solutions - On-Farm Climate Action Fund

Lundar business owner warns of credit-card scam

By Haley Cvar

A Lundar business owner is warning other retailers to stay alert after a suspicious credit-card purchase nearly cost his shop thousands of dollars.

Randy's Tire & Sport owner Randy Gudmundson said the incident began when his son, Carson, received a phone call from a man with a British Columbia area code who wanted to purchase four high-end semi-truck tires worth about \$1,500 each.

Gudmundson said the customer attempted to pay with multiple credit cards. The first two were declined, but the third transaction went through, raising immediate concerns.

"Carson told me about it, and I just didn't have a good feeling," Gudmundson said.

Gudmundson phoned the buyer directly and requested photos of both sides of the credit card used for the purchase, along with a photo of the buyer's driver's licence — documentation he said is sometimes requested for large, high-risk transactions.

The following day, a courier from Winnipeg arrived to pick up the tires, but the requested identification had still not been provided. Gudmundson refused to release the merchandise.

"I told the driver he had unfortunately wasted half his day driving to Lundar because the tires weren't going anywhere," he said.

Minutes later, Gudmundson said the buyer phoned back demanding to know why the tires were not on the truck returning to Winnipeg. When Gudmundson explained that the identification had never been sent, the caller became aggressive and verbally abusive before abruptly hanging up.

Gudmundson said while he felt bad for the courier, the alternative could have been a costly lesson.

"That would have been \$6,000 out the window," he said. "That wasn't happening."

Gudmundson said asking for verification likely prevented a fraudulent transaction and hopes other business owners will take note.

"If something doesn't feel right, trust that instinct," he said. "It can save you a lot of trouble."

WHAT TO DO IF A SALE DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT

Gudmundson encourages businesses — especially small, rural retailers — to take extra precautions when



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

Randy's Tire & Sport in Lundar, owned by Randy Gudmundson, is warning other business owners to remain alert after a suspicious credit-card transaction nearly resulted in a \$6,000 loss.

dealing with large or unusual transactions:

- Pause the sale if multiple cards are declined or the buyer pressures for quick pickup
- Request identification for high-value purchases, especially when shipping or using couriers
- Verify details such as matching

names, card numbers and ID

- Refuse release of goods until all verification is complete
- Report suspicious activity to your payment processor or local RCMP if fraud is suspected

He said a short delay or uncomfortable conversation is far better than absorbing a major financial loss.

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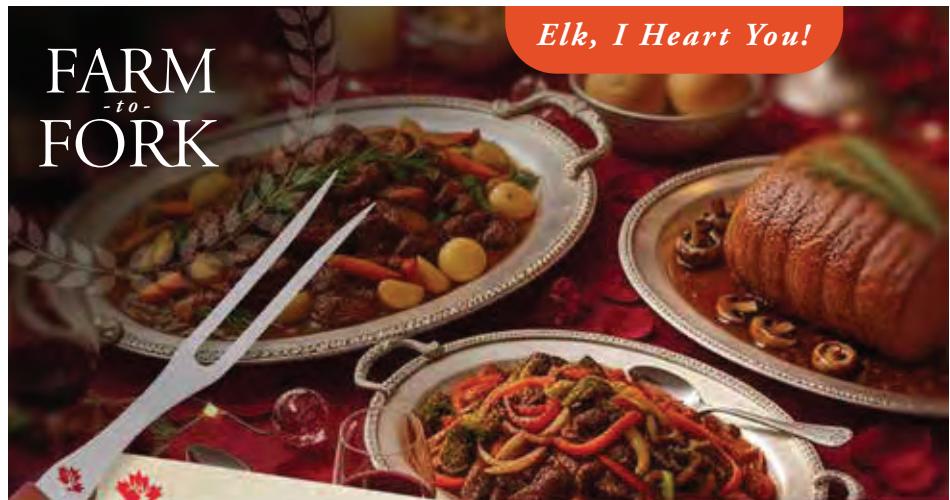
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Updates planned for Lions Park play structure in Woodlands

By Jennifer McFee

Youngsters can look forward to a new and improved play structure in Lions Park in the future.

The current aging park doesn't meet the public playground safety standards of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities.

"The municipality's insurance provider has developed a Playground Safety Guide designed to help municipalities maintain safer playgrounds," said CAO Kaitlyn Griffith. "The existing play structure in Lions Park requires significant improvements, or replacement, to meet the standards in the guide."

Council authorized the Woodlands Community Development Corporation to transfer \$40,000 to the municipality's economic development reserve to be used to fund 50 per cent of the Lion's Park play structure replacement. The LUD of Warren committee requested the funding. If there's additional funds left over, they will remain in the economic development reserve.

In addition, the RM submitted an application for the provincial From the Ground Up grant to help pay for the replacement of the existing playground equipment with safe and accessible equipment and surfacing.

Council also authorized submitting an application for the 2026 Kal's Re-Play grant to help cover costs of replacing the existing playground surface with poured-in-place rubber.

In other council news:

- Garbage and recycling pickup in the LUD of Warren is changing to Thursdays from Wednesdays starting Feb. 19. There will be no pickup on Feb. 18.

- Council appointed Lorna Broadfoot as deputy reeve for 2026.

- Council voted unanimously in favour of widening a portion of Broadfoot Avenue, Good Street, Porteous Avenue and Parker Street in Woodlands.

"The Interlake School Division transferred a four-metre-wide strip of land bordering Woodlands School property to the municipality for the purpose of developing sidewalks along those streets in the future," Griffith said.

- Marlo Carlson has been contracted as the facility caretaker for Warren Hall.

- Council is requesting that the provincial Department of Transportation and Infrastructure resurface Railway Avenue, or to fund the municipality to undertake the work, before transferring it to the municipality. Railway Avenue is mainly a locally used road, and the RM will take over the long-term maintenance once it's brought up to a safe and acceptable standard.

"The municipality has requested that the province transfer jurisdiction of Railway Avenue in Woodlands to the municipality, but this has not yet been approved by the province," Griffith said.

"Transferring this roadway to mu-

nicipal jurisdiction would enable the municipality to maintain and improve the street rather than having to request maintenance and improvements through Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure. The existing street needs to be resurfaced, which would be negotiated as part of the transition."

- Council authorized Woodlands Park150 Inc. to apply for grants to develop and improve the park, which is on municipal property. One of these opportunities is the provincial From the Ground Up grant to help cover the costs of relocating a picnic shelter and developing the central courtyard. The Park150 Committee also requested \$52,440.70 from the RM towards the landscape design of the park. The Woodlands Community Development Corporation has been authorized to transfer the funds to the municipality, which is the sole shareholder of the community development corporation.

- Coun. Lorna Broadfoot is authorized to attend the 30th Annual Provincial Recreation Conference in Winnipeg from Feb. 25 to 27.

- Donna Zinkiew, general manager of TAXervice Inc., and Tyler

Burnside, associate of TAXervice Inc., are appointed as the tax sale managers for the RM of Woodlands. The municipality has hired TAXervice to manage tax arrears recovery for the municipality.

- Council agreed to extend the mutual aid memorandum of understanding with the RM of St. Laurent for another two years.

- Council gave second and third readings to a bylaw to close Road Plan 620, which refers to an old unused road plan that divided a parcel of farmland in the Municipality. Coun. Valerie Stelck was absent from the vote.

"The road plan did not form part of the municipality's road infrastructure and has been utilized as part of the surrounding farmland for many years," Griffith said. "The municipality legally closed the road plan at the request of the adjacent landowners."

- The RM of Woodlands is placing a quarter-page ad in the 2026 Interlake Travel Guide at a cost of \$425 plus tax.

- The municipal fire department received provincial funds when

Continued on page 9

letter to the editor

Bilingual communities need equitable library funding

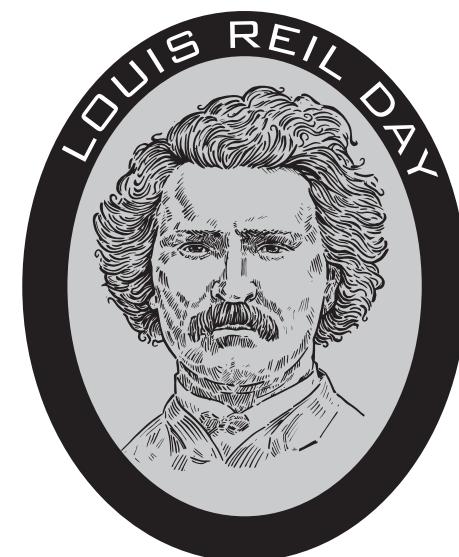
Dear Editor:

Before getting to the heart of the matter, allow me to briefly introduce the municipality I am proud to repre-

sent.

In the Rural Municipality of Saint-Laurent, we are a proudly bilingual and Métis community. Nearly 29 per cent of our population can communicate in both official languages, and our municipality is a member of the Association of Manitoba Bilingual Municipalities (AMBM). We are also deeply rooted in our Métis iden-

Continued on page 7



Our offices will be closed Monday, February 16 in recognition of Louis Riel Day

Tribune Stonewall Teulon

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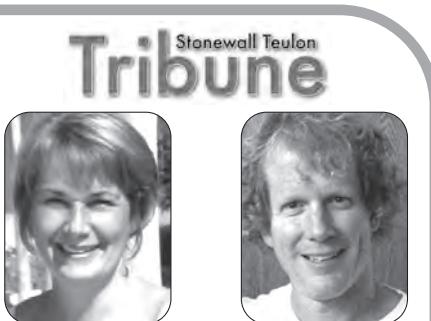
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Jennifer McFee
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Filing taxes key to accessing benefits and services

By Jennifer McFee

With tax season fast approaching, it's important to know that tackling this annual task can help you access benefits and credits that could enhance your financial situation.

Taxes are due to be filed and paid on or before April 30. However, you can file your taxes at any time, which ensures your ability to access some housing and health-care services.

It's important to file an income tax return each year, even if you have no income, low income or are on social assistance. In contrast, if you don't file your taxes, you might miss out on tax breaks, income supplements or government subsidies. If you know someone in this situation, you may want to encourage them to file their taxes as well.

"Even if you don't work or owe any tax, filing a tax return can help you and your family access benefits and feel more financially secure," said Wendy Fontaine, director of health services, public health and wellness with the Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority.

"As part of a caring community, we can also encourage others to file their taxes so they receive the benefits they deserve. Filing income tax returns can support people who are struggling, so it is important for people of all ages to file their taxes."

Those who don't file their taxes may miss out on the Canada Child Benefit, GST credit, Canada Carbon Rebate or Disability Tax Credit. Some of these benefits may not be retroactive.

In an example on the provincial government's website (<https://www.gov.mb.ca/housing/tenants/tax.html>), a single parent with two children under the age of four earning \$15,000 annually could potentially access about \$16,000 in benefits by

filing taxes. In this example, the benefits include a GST refundable credit of \$842 (\$210.50 paid quarterly), Canada Child Benefits of \$12,800 (\$1,066.66 paid monthly), Working Income Tax Benefit of \$1,844 (with the income tax refund or part paid quarterly), Manitoba Child Benefit of \$840 (\$35 paid monthly) and Manitoba Personal Tax Credit of \$266 (refunded upon tax filing). After filing taxes and accessing benefits, this single parent's total annual income would increase to \$31,592.

According to Jennifer Dann, manager of health services for social work and patient relations with the Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority, many people don't realize that filing taxes also provides important documentation needed when accessing services such as personal care homes or subsidized housing.

"If you or a family member may require a more supportive living environment, it is important to know that personal care home rates are set by Manitoba Health and are calculated based on your Canada Revenue Agency notice of assessment," Dann said.

"You are required to submit your notice of assessment to the personal care home on an annual basis, and your rates are recalculated accordingly."

If you are experiencing housing instability, many housing organizations and other support services also require current financial information before considering your application.

"It's unfortunate when situations like this arise because working through financial needs becomes even more difficult when there is the added pressure of illness and hospital stays," Dann said.

"Depending on your legal circumstances, your family may or may not

be able to help you file your taxes. Ensuring your taxes are completed annually can ease their burden and make access to programs that enhance well-being or improve social circumstances a smoother process."

Income tax resources:

- For low-income Manitobans, information about the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program is available at www.gov.mb.ca under the residents' portal.

- A 24-page plain-language booklet, Get Your Benefits (<https://cfctaxes.com/get-your-benefits/#get-copy>), lists many benefits and programs Manitobans may be eligible for.

- More income tax information is available on the Government of Canada website at www.canada.ca. Information about free tax clinics can be found at www.canada.ca/taxes-help.

- In the Interlake-Eastern region, most communities host a Community Volunteer Income Tax Program, where people with simple tax situations and modest incomes can have their taxes completed for free. To find a program in your area, visit <https://www.ierha.ca/programs-services/life-style/get-your-benefits/>. Many Seniors Resource Councils participate by acting as drop-off depots for volunteer tax filers.

- For those without a local Community Volunteer Income Tax Program, Community Financial Counselling Services (CFCS) offers tax services both virtually and by phone. CFCS also provides free and confidential financial counselling and coaching, assistance accessing benefits, and counselling for individuals and families impacted by gambling. Visit <https://www.cfcs.mb.ca/> or call toll-free 1-888-573-2383 to learn more.

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Manitoba increases school funding by \$79.8M for 2026-27

By Haley Cvar

The Manitoba government is increasing public school funding by \$79.8 million for the 2026-27 school year, bringing the province's total education investment to nearly \$2 billion, Education and Early Childhood Minister Tracy Schmidt announced.

The funding represents a 3.5 per cent increase over the previous year and is intended to help school divisions manage enrolment changes and rising costs, while maintaining the province's funding formula guarantee. The guarantee ensures every division receives an increase over its 2025-26 allocation.

Schmidt said the additional funding will support stable public schools and address student needs across the province.

"Our government is committed to making sure every Manitoba family can count on strong, stable public schools, year after year," she said in a statement.

As part of the increase, the province

is allocating \$11.4 million to support school divisions most affected by teacher salary harmonization, which will be implemented in the 2026-27 school year. The harmonization process standardizes teacher pay scales across divisions to reduce wage disparities.

Manitoba School Boards Association president Alan Campbell said the funding commitment is a positive step but noted ongoing work is needed to fully address system pressures.

"School boards recognize that the funding contribution for harmonization announced today is a step in the right direction," Campbell said. "We look forward to continuing our work with government to ensure funding fully meets the needs of students, staff and communities across Manitoba."

Total provincial school funding for 2026-27 will reach \$1.995 billion. The allocation includes:

- a \$51-million increase to help public schools manage operating costs, including investments in salary har-

monization and technical vocational education;

- \$30 million for a universal school nutrition program and the implementation of Nello's Law, which protects the program, along with an additional \$3 million from the sale of U.S. alcohol products for the Children's Nutrition Council;

- a \$15.2-million increase in capital support, including principal and interest costs related to school construction; and

- a \$16.6-million increase in funding for independent schools under the provincial funding agreement.

The province also confirmed it remains on track to build four new schools, including Devonshire Park and Prairie Point in Winnipeg, Meadowlands in West St. Paul and a new school in southwest Brandon.

More information on Manitoba's school funding model is available through the provincial education department.

> LETTER TO THE EDITOR, FROM PG. 5

ity, with 44 per cent of our residents identifying as Métis. This rich cultural heritage is matched by significant territorial vitality: in 2024, the municipality issued more than \$1.8 million in building permits — a growth of 59 per cent.

During I Love to Read Month, we want to take time to celebrate the power of books and stories. In Saint-Laurent, we firmly believe reading is more than a pastime; it is a driver of culture, education and social cohesion. That is why we are implementing creative solutions to encourage our youth to dive into the world of books.

Recently, the Rural Municipality of Saint-Laurent joined a regional library system, the South Interlake Regional Library, making library services available within our community.

The South Interlake Regional Library serves five rural municipalities: Rockwood, Rosser, Teulon, Stonewall and Saint-Laurent. It offers a bookmobile that visits schools — including the

Division scolaire franco-manitobaine (DSFM) school in our municipality, École Aurèle-Lemoine — bringing books directly to young readers.

Thanks to the new funding model for regional libraries, municipal branches are receiving increased support. However, it is important to note that this funding, while generally enhanced, includes no provisions reflecting Manitoba's bilingual reality. Prior to August 2023, the funding formula for public library services in rural Manitoba provided an additional \$1,000 for libraries considered bilingual — those offering materials in both French and English. This component was removed when Manitoba renewed its public library funding model.

For a community such as ours — bilingual and Métis — this issue deserves our full attention. The Rural Municipality of Saint-Laurent is firmly committed to ensuring access to library services that are representative of and accessible to its population.

This commitment aligns with Premier Wab Kinew's stated ambition to make Manitoba a truly bilingual province.

Moreover, the Rural Municipality of Saint-Laurent is undertaking a development project to convert the former municipal hall into a trilingual library — French, English and Michif — featuring a museum space. With the necessary support and effort, we hope to see this space open in the coming years. More than a cultural venue, this library will be a gathering place for the entire Saint-Laurent community — a space to share stories, transmit language and celebrate our shared heritage.

During I Love to Read Month, let us remember libraries are not merely places where books are borrowed; they are vibrant community spaces where young people and residents meet, learn and grow. Together, let us continue to make reading a shared adventure and a bridge between our cultures.

- Richard Chartrand, Reeve
Rural Municipality of Saint-Laurent

> Got something you want to get off your chest? How about an act of kindness to share?

Send your letters to the editor or acts of kindness to news@stonewallteulontribune.ca. Please include your name, address, and phone number for confirmation purposes.

worship with us > FAITH

"Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall in to the heart of the sea..." Ps 46:2

We live in unprecedented times all around the world. We don't live any longer in a unipolar world but a multipolar world. Nations are striving to assert themselves in a brazen display of strength. While leaders have been vested with the power to forge new vistas, it can be an incredibly difficult proposition in the current scenarios. These leaders extend from the smallest unit of societal presence, the family, to the largest possible representation they make on behalf of the country on the platform of the world. Our leaders require wisdom and discernment to navigate the pitfalls and not succumb to the prevalent dystopian state of affairs. In the midst of all the upheavals of life, God has always led God's people in a way that is contrary to the way we as people usually treat power. The book of Psalms captures this in manifold ways. Hear the confession that the Psalmist makes, "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble..." (Ps.46:1) In a world where we are flooded with messages on the media, we inadvertently find our attention being made a prime target. Before we know it, we find ourselves in a deluge of information, trying to make sense of how it fits into life.

Usually, the one place which takes a hit in our lives is the place of prayer. Prayer is normally called the oxygen which the fuel tanks of our lives. Centring ourselves to pray can be quite an effort. We've just finished a season of Christmas where we've recognised that God is 'Emmanuel'. The significance of the presence of God in our lives comes in the plea "Be still, and know that I am God..." (vs.10). Keeping the lines of communication open demands that we pay attention to what is God saying to us. C. S. Lewis, a well-known writer, once said, "...Pain is God's megaphone to rouse a deaf world..." In a world that is hurting and chaotic, we need to focus on the discipline of recognising the presence of the "Indwelling One". Prayer rooted in the love of God then becomes key to remedying our lives and taking care of our world. Interceding for those who lead, whether favourable to us or not, would be a key duty we are called to undertake. We are fast approaching a special season to undertake concerns of recentering our lives. Where do we start? The serious call to prayer beckons us.

Rev. James A Gomez.
(Church of the Ascension, Stonewall; Email: cotaminister@gmail.com & St. Paul's Middlechurch, West St. Paul; Email: spmcminister@gmail.com)

New Life Church offers free soup during monthly Bowls of Blessing

By E. Antonio

Members of New Life Church in Teulon are inviting the community to gather for their monthly Bowls of Blessing event, a new initiative offering free meals and fellowship.

Held on the third Thursday of every month from 5 to 7 p.m., the event is co-organized by Sharon Dyrda and Crystal Sarb, along with several volunteers. Everyone — adults, children and seniors — is welcome to enjoy a hearty bowl of homemade soup and a fresh bun at no cost.

Bowls of Blessing is the first event of its kind in Teulon. Dyrda and Sarb say the idea was born during a time of fasting and prayer last year, when they felt called to serve their community in a tangible way.

"We could feel it in our hearts that this was something our community needed," said Dyrda. "It was God telling us to do this."

Both organizers say the program is especially meaningful as grocery costs continue to rise and many families struggle to make ends meet.

"Providing even one meal a month,

when money is getting tighter and tighter, can make a big difference for a family," Sarb said.

When the idea was presented to the congregation, the response was overwhelming.

"It was amazing how our church members rallied behind us," said Sarb. "People flooded us with vegetables. We had so much that we even have leftovers in the freezer — it was spectacular."

While attendance at the first Bowls of Blessing was lower than expected, the organizers said the beef and barley soup was well received and they are optimistic the event will grow in the coming months.

The next Bowls of Blessing will take place Feb. 19. Volunteers are available to provide transportation to and from New Life Church with advance notice. To arrange a ride, email nlct.livinghopemissions@gmail.com.

Pre-registration is preferred, but drop-ins are welcome. For more information, contact Sharon Dyrda at 205-513-1115, Crystal Sarb at 204-224-0713 or email the church.



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

Members of New Life Church in Teulon will serve free bowls of soup and buns during the monthly Bowls of Blessing event, held on the third Thursday of each month. Pictured left to right, back row: Kean Sarb, Aaron Dyrda, Shaun Johnson, Elaine Johnson, Jesse Johnson, Hien Nguyen; front row: Henry Ozirney, Sharon Dyrda, Crystal Sarb, Paul Andree and Kelly Bezan.

> JOY BILLINGS', FROM PG. 3

fluences, reminding her she is part of a larger, carefully crafted world. Two of the three works in the series are based on photographs taken on her own property.

Working from a home studio converted from her former dining room after the COVID-19 pandemic, she said, has helped her claim space for her practice. As an introvert, Billings said solitude nourishes her creativity, while time spent gardening or walking the land informs her thinking and artistic direction.

The mentorship program associated with the exhibition arrived at a pivotal moment. Billings said she was seriously considering stepping away from her practice when she

applied, and the experience helped reaffirm that she was on the right path.

Beyond creative guidance, she said the program provided critical dialogue, community and external perspective that are often missing in rural life. Group critiques and peer discussions strengthened her confidence and professionalism, helping her articulate her ideas more clearly while also providing practical tools related to artist statements, curriculum vitae development and pricing strategies within the local art market.

For Billings, a sustainable art practice means protecting herself from burnout while allowing space for play, experimentation, rest and reflection. While details remain important in her work, she said they cannot come at the expense of intuition, growth or self-compassion.

She hopes viewers encounter her paintings as more than images, describing them as emotional presences that invite reflection and connection. Her work, she said, holds complexity rather than resolution — struggle alongside beauty, darkness alongside light — and aims to create a sense of safety and being held.

Looking ahead, Billings said the exhibition has affirmed the importance of fully embracing emotional intensity in her work. She plans to explore both smaller, intricately nuanced abstractions and larger, more immersive pieces that continue to explore the tension between vulnerability and

hope through layering and texture.

Billings' work is featured as part of *Nine Perspectives*, a group exhibition developed through a six-month mentorship and exhibition program led by artist and educator Jordan Miller. The program supported nine artists from rural and northern Manitoba in developing cohesive bodies of work, strengthening professional presentation and building confidence for gallery exhibition.

The exhibition highlights a range of materials and approaches while emphasizing clarity of practice, sustainability and professional readiness. Artists participated in guided webinars, group critiques and mentorship sessions focused on audience development, branding, pricing and writing professional artist materials.

In addition to the exhibition, Billings' work is currently on display at Fryday's Restaurant and Lounge in Teulon.

Nine Perspectives runs from until Feb. 21 at 210 Gallery, located at 210 Princess St. in Winnipeg. Gallery hours are Tuesday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from noon to 5 p.m.

More information about the exhibition is available at www.manitobaartsnetwork.ca, and Billings' work can also be viewed on Instagram at @gardencandy.

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Thursday 4-Close 7:00 Crib
Friday 4-Close 6:30 Meat Draw and 50-50
Saturday 2-close 7pm Darts
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Come out and have some fun!

All are welcome - please support your local legion!

Greenvalley Equipment, Enns Bros. to merge

By Lorne Stelmach

Greenvalley Equipment and Enns Brothers recently announced plans to combine forces.

The two John Deere dealerships will merge to create what they say will be an even stronger John Deere dealership network to serve the province.

Company representatives touted the merger as bringing together two trusted organizations with deep agricultural roots, shared values and a long history of supporting farmers across Manitoba. They said the new partnership will create a stronger, more resilient company focused on enhancing customer service, strengthening employee opportunities and in-

vesting in the future of agriculture.

"This represents an exciting step forward for both our customers and our employees," said Curwin Friesen, president of Greenvalley Equipment. "By combining resources, expertise and technology, we'll be able to serve farmers with an even broader range of solutions and faster access to the parts and service they depend on."

"Our companies share the same commitment to customers, employees and communities," added Ray Bouchard, CEO of Enns Brothers. "Together, we'll have the scale and financial strength to continue investing in innovation and meeting the evolving needs of our industry for years to

come."

GVE began in 1989 when Ernie and Glen Kehler bought the John Deere dealership in Morden. Today, the company operates locations in Altona, Killarney, Morden and Treherne.

Enns Brothers, meanwhile, had its start in 1953, when Jake and Harry Enns entered the farm equipment business as an Allis-Chalmers and New Holland dealer in Sanford. Three years later, they became a John Deere dealer, eventually moving the business to the corner of Highway 3 and the Perimeter at Oak Bluff. Enns Brothers currently operates nine locations across Manitoba.

Friesen said the two companies have

long worked closely together and described the merger as a natural step that will allow them to better serve farmers across the province.

He stressed the combined organization is focused on growth while maintaining strong local connections. Friesen noted that in the John Deere network, size and scale play an important role in ensuring dealers can carry the right equipment and parts, and said pooling inventory and resources will help meet customer needs more quickly.

The merger is expected to be completed by April.

Farmers invited to nominate local groups for BASF community funding

By Lana Meier

Local farmers are being encouraged to give back to their communities by nominating organizations for a major national funding program through BASF Agricultural Solutions Canada.

BASF has opened 2026 nominations for its Growing Home with BASF program, which will award a total of \$160,000 to community organizations across Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario.

From Feb. 3 to Feb. 28, BASF customers in the four provinces can nominate a local organization they believe is making a meaningful difference in their community. Nominations must be submitted by BASF customers, typically farmers or growers, though the nominated organizations themselves can include a wide range of community groups.

Eligible groups include child-care

centres, schools, agricultural societies, hospital foundations and other community-based non-profits.

The program, now in its fourth year, is designed to recognize and support the organizations that help rural communities thrive.

"The momentum behind the program over the past four years demonstrates just how important these organizations are to the communities they call home," said Andrea McConnell, senior manager of customer solutions with BASF Agricultural Solutions Canada. "This community-inspired initiative has allowed BASF to support people and the places that are near and dear to them."

HOW TO NOMINATE A COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

Step 1: Submit a nomination

BASF customers are invited to nomi-

nate a local organization that makes a difference in their community. As part of the nomination form, participants are asked to submit a short write-up explaining why the organization deserves to win and how it positively impacts the community. Nominations must be submitted by Feb. 28, 2026.

Step 2: Boost your chances

Nominees can increase their organization's chances of success by earning up to 25 additional entries, with details provided during the nomination process.

Step 3: Get ready for voting

A panel will select three finalist organizations per province, which will be announced March 31, 2026. Public voting will then be open to all Canadians from March 31 to April 17, with winners announced April 28.

Twelve organizations will share the \$160,000 prize fund, with awards bro-

ken down by province: four first-place prizes of \$25,000, four second-place prizes of \$10,000 and four third-place prizes of \$5,000.

Since launching in 2023, the Growing Home with BASF program has distributed \$335,000 to 19 organizations across the four provinces. Last year's Manitoba first-place funding supported the Boissevain School Parent Advisory Council Playground Committee, helping advance plans for an inclusive and accessible school playground.

BASF officials say the program's success is driven by farmers who take the time to nominate local groups and encourage community participation during the voting phase.

More information, including the nomination form and full program criteria, is available at agsolutions.ca/growinghome

> PLAY STRUCTURE, FROM PG. 5

its fire truck and firefighters were deployed to help with wildfire suppression efforts last year. The fire department asked that \$29,400 in excess funds could be used towards future fire protection equipment needs. Council approved transferring these funds into the fire equipment reserve.

- Council accepted a \$9,000 quote from MicroAge Manitoba for a cybersecurity bundle for equipment and onboarding, plus \$2,480 in monthly fees for the fully managed support package. The municipality experienced a cybersecurity breach in 2025 and it's committed to meet the baseline goals for small and medium organizations set out by the Canadian Centre for Cyber Security.
- In December, council authorized an ex-

tra \$15,000 in contracted drainage work. The municipality had budgeted \$25,000 in contracted drainage work in 2025, and then approved an additional \$10,000 in November. The value of the work approached the budgeted amount and the ditching work wasn't done yet. The RM expected to be under-budget in other drainage areas.

- Council accepted a \$13,675 quote for a Phase 2 environmental site assessment of a former landfill site.

"The province requires an environmental site assessment to be completed before any residence can be developed within 400 metres of a landfill or a former landfill," Griffith said.

"There is interest in residential development on a site which had been identified as a potential former landfill; therefore, the site assessment was completed to confirm whether the property is safe for development."

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Online ticket sales start Feb. 22nd @ 7am

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Snow sculptor brings winter art to Stony Mountain

By E. Antonio

Due to a production error, the Feb. 5 print edition of the Stonewall Teulon Tribune did not include the final portion of this article. We regret the omission. The story is republished below in its entirety. Photos accompanying this feature ran in the Feb. 5 paper.

People are slowing their steps outside the Stony Mountain Community Centre this winter, drawn to a completed hockey scene carved from packed snow.

The large-scale sculpture, created by local artist Jordan LeSage from a 4-by-11-by-8-foot block of snow, has already begun attracting attention from residents passing through the area.

"It's an impressive piece," said Donna Tarashchuk, noting the number of people who have stopped to admire the finished work.

Now in his eighth year of snow sculpting, LeSage said creativity has always been part of who he is. As a student, art was one of his favourite outlets, though it took years — and a few unexpected influences — before he returned to it in a serious way.

Before beginning his full-time career with Manitoba Hydro, LeSage travelled frequently to Mexico and the Caribbean, where he encountered young artists making a living from their work.

"Not too many people my age do that (art) for a living," he said. "That's what really got me fired up about pursuing art again."

That spark eventually followed him north to Gilham, where LeSage lived for several years. One winter, a neighbour built a snow sculpture, and LeSage asked to learn the basics. He soon put those skills to use when his father came to visit.

Despite frigid temperatures and less-than-ideal snow conditions, the pair packed snow bricks using cardboard boxes and carved a snowman standing more than five feet tall.

"It turned out to be the most perfect snowman

after carving," LeSage said. "We received a ton of compliments, and that made me wonder — what more can I create?"

Since then, LeSage has carved one sculpture each winter, including a polar bear, a sphinx, an Easter Island head, the Colosseum, the Taj Mahal and the Eiffel Tower. After moving back to Stony Mountain this past summer to be closer to family, he felt the pull to carve again — this time at home.

With approval from the town, LeSage chose the Stony Mountain Community Centre as his canvas, citing both its steady foot traffic and the shelter it provides from direct sunlight.

"It is the absolute perfect space," he said.

Unlike previous projects that focused on architectural forms, this year's sculpture marks a shift. LeSage challenged himself to carve a scene — a hockey moment frozen in time — rather than a standalone structure.

The project took about three weeks to complete, including roughly 16 hours of shovelling and packing snow by hand and another 16 hours of carving once the design was finalized. Planning alone, he said, typically takes about 10 hours.

To build the sculpture, LeSage constructs a large wooden box, shovels in snow one foot at a time, jumps inside to pack it down, allows it to freeze, and repeats the process until the form is solid. Once complete, he removes the lumber and begins carving.

After stencilling the design, he uses a machete and drywall tools to shape the piece layer by layer. Mostly self-taught, LeSage said there is no single correct way to carve snow — a lesson reinforced when he observed other sculptors at Festival du Voyageur.

"It looks like we're all just making whatever we have work," he said. "I think that's part of the fun."

LeSage does much of his carving in the evenings, even during brutally cold conditions — weather he



TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Stony Mountain artist Jordan LeSage stands beside the hockey-themed snow sculpture he carved outside the Stony Mountain Community Centre. His son is pictured with him.

said he prefers.

"It's so quiet and calm outside as the snow is falling," he said. "It's peaceful being the only one outdoors. Most people hate the cold, but me — I love it."

Choosing a favourite sculpture is impossible, he said, because each year's project improves on the last. While he hopes to continue the winter sports theme in future carvings at the community centre, he knows each sculpture has a limited lifespan.

"It makes you laugh as it begins to look sadder and sadder," he said. "But it's nice to see Mother Nature do her work and take it away. It's calming."

For LeSage, the temporary nature of snow art is part of its meaning — a reminder that creation doesn't need to last forever to matter.

He encourages anyone curious about snow sculpting to give it a try.

"One small brick can open the door to so many creations," he said. "The possibilities are endless."

> WEYA, FROM PG. 2

that centres authenticity and connection, particularly through portrait and branding photography for women-owned businesses and entrepreneurs. She said strong imagery can play a critical role in how business owners show up in their work.

"When a woman-owned business has imagery that reflects her confidence, clarity and authority, it changes how she shows up in her marketing, her sales and her leadership," Enns said. "I don't just create beautiful photos — I help women see themselves as the face of their brand in a way that feels true and powerful."

Her business began photographing rescue dogs and the people who loved them, before evolving into a broader focus on personal storytelling and brand identity. Over time, Enns said she recognized a gap between traditional portrait photography and the deeply personal moments people were actually living.

"I wanted to create space for person-



TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED
Winners and finalists gathered during the 2025 Manitoba Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Awards gala, held Jan. 29 at the Winnipeg Art Gallery. The annual event recognizes women entrepreneurs from across Manitoba.

al celebration and for branding images that feel like the person themselves, rather than something copied from a template," she said. "That curiosity is what shaped the work I do today."

While only one recipient is selected in each category, organizers emphasized that being named a finalist represents a significant achievement.

"Being selected from more than 150 nominated women across Manitoba is no small feat," awards chair Christine Thiessen said in a statement following the event. "Every finalist represents

excellence in entrepreneurship, leadership and community impact."

The gala also recognized award recipients across several categories, including emerging business, young entrepreneur, contribution to community, BIPOC nominee, 2SLGBTQIA+ nominee, lifetime achievement and overall woman entrepreneur of the year.

Organizers said the event serves not only to honour individual achievements but also to connect and inspire women business owners across Mani-

toba, from urban centres to rural communities.

For Dupont, the award represents both recognition and renewed motivation.

"I'll take this back to Inwood as proof that the work being done there matters, is seen and is making a difference," she said. "Rural voices matter. Women's work matters. And meaningful change doesn't only happen in big cities."

Interlake School Division engages with municipal partners

By Jennifer McFee

Interlake School Division recently hosted a meeting that was a true lesson in community collaboration.

On Monday, Jan. 12, representatives from the school division met with municipal partners at the Quarry Park Heritage Arts Centre in Stonewall. Attendees at the meeting included representatives from Stonewall, Teulon, Rockwood, Rosser, Woodlands, Armstrong, West St. Paul and St. Andrews.

The last session of its kind was held nearly seven years ago, and school board chair Alan Campbell expects to see more municipal partner sessions going forward.

"In recognition of our shared responsibility to the communities we serve, the board wanted to once again bring all of our municipal partners together for an opportunity for us to share details about our budget development process, our current significant fiscal challenges due to chronic underfunding by the provincial government and, perhaps most importantly, to highlight ways that we can collaborate more meaningfully going forward — both as the division with all of our municipal partners but also in cases where it makes sense for us to work in particular communities with particular councils," Campbell said.

"There was an obvious need for the division to share some key details with our municipal partners about how the school division generates its revenue and spends its \$50-million budget. We were deliberate in our efforts to maximize our time together and so we sought their input prior to the event."

As a result of this advance engagement, the school board was able to share key details on several topics. To start, attendees learned about the provincially funded school nutrition program and what it looks like while operating in each ISD public school — including operational details about

acquisition and distribution of food in partnership between the division and Community Living Interlake.

They also learned about division-based decisions on changes to parent advisory council fundraising processes, with \$250,000 in annual investments by the school division for playgrounds and school grounds improvements.

In addition, discussions focused on division-based initiatives to support students with additional needs, as well as students and families who require extra supports for mental health resources and guidance to navigate social services, health services and the justice system.

"Feedback from those in attendance has been very positive," Campbell said. "Both municipal reps and trustees enjoyed the opportunity to hear and learn from one another. There is a strong interest in having an event of this kind on a more regular, perhaps annual, basis."

Rosser Reeve Ken Mulligan said the school division reached out prior to the meeting to ask for topics that the municipal partners wanted to discuss. Rosser council brought forward several topics, including program cuts that affect vulnerable youth at critical ages without consultation with the municipality. Other topics included daycare, municipal funding of school infrastructure and the potential for future ongoing dialogue between the RM and the school division — which could include what each side is doing that could be complementary to each other.

Overall, Mulligan felt the session was beneficial, especially since it was the first time such a session has taken place in recent memory. He said it's too early to tell if it will lead to better collaboration and partnership, but he's hopeful.

"As municipalities and the school division are governed by elected



TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED

The Interlake School Division's municipal partners meeting included attendees from the RM of Rockwood, as well as from Stonewall, Teulon, Rosser, Woodlands, Armstrong, West St. Paul and St. Andrews.

members, dialogue is important for each side to understand what is happening in their areas they govern and especially with powers of taxation. We hope this opens the door to further such dialogue, sessions and fosters sense of community," Mulligan said.

"Possibly this may lead to better communication between individual RM and their trustee. Any time people from different organizations get together to talk, it's a good thing. We believe this process should be continued and we look forward to the next one."

For the meeting, the Town of Teulon broached the topic of school taxes, including how they are being spent.

"I thought the session was beneficial in that it gave the municipalities the chance to discuss concerns with the school division representatives and other municipalities," said Chris

Yuen, chief administrative officer for the Town of Teulon.

Once the school board has received feedback from all the municipal partners, Campbell said they will work on a summary sheet to provide more details.

"The more we are able to build clarity and understanding, the more collaboration will occur naturally," Campbell said.

"The board of trustees is very appreciative of those municipal councillors and CAOs who took the time to join us for an important evening."

Al-Anon and AA Meetings Information

Balmoral Al-Anon Family Group

Balmoral Community Hall basement

6003 E MB-236, Balmoral, MB

Contact: (204) 470-8972

Meets every Wednesday 7-8 PM

Everyone welcome

Selkirk Red River Al-Anon Family Group

Christ Church Anglican

227 McLean St., Selkirk, MB

Contact: (204) 482-6287

Meets every Monday 7-8 PM

Teulon AA

Christian Education Building

3rd Ave. SE, Teulon, MB

Contact: (204) 461-0155

Meets every Tuesday 8-9 PM

Stonewall AA

Parochial Hall

291 1st St. W., Stonewall, MB

Contact Denis: (204) 981-7747

Donna (204) 461-0892

Meets every Sunday 7:30-8:30 PM



Representatives from the Interlake School Division recently met with municipal partners at the Heritage Arts Centre in Stonewall.

Outdoor recreation business coming to Rockwood

By Jennifer McFee

An outdoor recreation business is in the works for the RM of Rockwood.

A company called Paintball Paradise aims to set up northwest of the intersection of provincial trunk highways 7 and 67, about 3.5 kilometres east of Stonewall, on a 13.5-acre piece of land.

The applicant, Sean Thomson, sought conditional use to set up a facility for paintball, airsoft and gel-blaster games, along with a pro shop. Future activities might also include rock climbing, athletic fields and more.

The company currently has locations set up in Winnipeg and St. Laurent.

"We have been in operation for over 40 years and take great pride in operating a safe and welcoming environment for our guests and neighbours. We provide an exciting venue for kids, teens and adults alike and have been trusted for generations to host countless birthday parties, team windups and team-building events. Over the years we have hosted A-list rockstars, pro athletes and political leaders," he wrote in his letter of intent.

"Numerous television shows and movies have been filmed on our unique playing areas, but our greatest joy is knowing that no matter who graces us with their patronage, we will show them the time of their life. It is also our great honour to offer employment to local youth and support community events. I'm confident that we can bring a world-class attraction to the community that will enrich the lives of residents, further drive economic growth and do so while respecting the lifestyle residents in the area currently enjoy."

The plan is to build a 4,000- to

6,000-square-foot steel-framed building for registration services, offices, washrooms and player staging areas. The site would also include areas for parking, a speedball field, an outdoor gaming area and a picnic area.

An existing single-family dwelling on the site would be used for offices and operations until a new building is built. After that, the building will be used for the applicant's family or for on-site management.

"The property is surrounded on three sides by a quarry, owned by the vendor from which we are purchasing this property and they have consented to this application and proposed use," states the letter of intent. "The remaining south-facing edge of the property fronts PTH 67 and the nearest neighbours are on the opposite side of this busy highway."

The environment impact would be minimal, the letter added.

"We have an environmental impact assessment from an accredited microbiologist evaluating the impact of paintballs on the environment," the letter states. "The paintballs are made from food-grade biodegradable materials and pose no threat to wildlife or human health."

The proposed business would operate daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. with a mix of reserved group bookings and walk-in participants. During the peak summer season, they expect to host about 250 players per week, with the majority on weekends.

The South Interlake Planning District had no significant concerns with proposal, as long as conditions are met. Council conditionally approved the request.

per hour with a minimum two-hour call-out. In addition, the RM will pay mileage at the current Canada Revenue Agency rate. Boarding fees are set at \$25 per day for dogs and \$15 per day for cats. Services that occur outside the RM will be invoiced to respective municipalities, plus a five per cent administrative processing fee. Residents can reach Mr. Kennel directly at 204-461-2221 or 204-461-0538 and are asked to reference Animal Control Bylaw 31/02.

- All are welcome at a Family Fun Day at the Stony Mountain Community Centre (117 School Rd.) on Monday, Feb. 16 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The free event will feature public skating, stick-and-puck, a 50/50 draw and free hot chocolate and popcorn. Attendees will also have the chance to win one hour of ice time and one hour of hall rental.

- Council authorized wage scale adjustments for RM of Rockwood employees in 2026 to reflect the cost of living increase established by Statistics Canada Consumer Price Index published for Manitoba in October 2025.

- Administration will write a letter of support confirming the RM of Rockwood's \$25,000 contribution to the Teulon & District Museum's Hunter House roof project. The funds will be provided to the museum according to the RM's regular processes, and the letter of support might help the museum to strengthen its grant submissions.

- With the municipal election coming up, council passed first reading of a bylaw related to campaign expenses and contributions. They also gave first reading to a bylaw to establish rules and procedures for using municipal resources during the 42-day period prior to the municipal election.

- The RM of Rockwood will enter into a mutual aid agreement with the RM of West St. Paul and the Town of Teulon.

- The RM will use provincial grant money from the Manitoba Growth, Renewal and Opportuni-

ties (GRO) fund towards a roof restoration project for Stony Mountain Community Centre.

- Council gave first reading to a bylaw to establish new water and wastewater rates for the Stony Mountain utility system, as well as to regulate fees and licensing for septic haulers.

- Council approved a request from Quarry View Holdings to vary a front yard setback to 10 feet from the required 25 feet to allow for the proposed installation of a freestanding pylon sign on a property in Stony Mountain.

- Since the RM of Rockwood has withdrawn from the Capital Planning Region, the RM will negotiate with the planning region for a fair division of assets and equitable allocation of rights and property debts, obligations and liabilities of the planning region.

- For those who participated in the 100 Radon Test Kit Challenge, the collection dates are Feb. 23 to 27 at the RM of Rockwood office (285 Main St. in Stonewall) between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

- The RM of Rockwood seeks volunteers to help with the 2026 municipal election. Those who are called upon will be compensated for their time. Anyone who is interested can contact Roberta Van Caeyzeele, corporate services director, at roberta.vancaeyzeele@rockwood.ca or 204-467-2272.

- The provincial government is investing \$784,875 in Phase 2 of the reconstruction of Propellant Plant Road (Road 75N) and Road 10E.

- Council authorized a quarter-page ad in the Interlake Tourism Association's 2026 Tourism Guide at a cost of \$425.

- Council defeated a request for a donation towards Teulon Collegiate Institute's 2026 safe grad celebration.

- Council supports an initiative by Sheila Kaltenberger of Interlake Counselling to develop hospice care for terminally ill people in the Interlake and Eastman areas.

- Council approved a bylaw related to the assessment and collection of fees and charges for providing fire emergency services.

- The RM is working with developers to share the cost of constructing two lift stations and a force main in Stony Mountain. The project was not fully complete at the end of 2024, so the unspent amount of \$582,729.72 from the developer contributions were allocated to the water and sewer

PUBLIC SAFETY NOTICE

Dangerous Ice Conditions

During Ice Cutting and Ice Breaking Operations

Ice cutting crews will begin working on or about February 11th on sections of the Red River beginning in the Netley Lake area and will move upstream towards Selkirk. On February 17th, the Amphibex ice breakers will start operating at the mouth of Netley Creek.

Dangerous ice conditions may not be obvious but will exist. Ice fishers, cross-country skiers, snowmobilers and others going on the frozen river must:

- Use caution on the ice
- Stay away from the ice cutting and ice breaking equipment
- Watch for posted warning signs about dangerous ice
- Watch for notices to remove ice shacks and remove them promptly



IN OTHER COUNCIL NEWS:

- Rockwood council entered into an animal control services agreement with Mr. Kennel for a \$2,000 monthly retainer plus \$32

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Continued on page 15

Grannies glow wild at Argyle bonspiel



Tribune Photos by Pam Crockatt

On Saturday, Feb. 7, the Argyle Curling Club hosted its sold-out Ladies Glow Bonspiel, themed "Grannies Glow Wild!" Twenty teams brought plenty of creativity and energy to the ice. The Best Costume award went to Team Tristram — Karen Tristram, Rae Lucier, Jennine Campbell and Hannah Richards — who curled as the "Granny Wolves." The bonspiel title was claimed by Team Manaigre of Lorette, with skip Chelsea Manaigre, third Jill Lautenschlager, second Aralynne Gerow and lead Abby Lautenschlager. Organizers thanked all participating teams and the volunteers who helped make the event a success.

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MANITOBA

Teulon Rockwood Fire Department replaces tanker truck

By Jennifer McFee

The Teulon Rockwood Fire Department is all revved up to welcome a new tanker truck to its fleet.

In the fall, the local fire department retired one of its longest-ever running fire trucks, known as "Tanker 29."

Originally a milk delivery truck, the 1981 truck had no baffles in the tank, no special equipment and crank windows. Everything was manual, including transmission. The long-serving truck was the fire department's main water supply for many years.

"It was time to retire Old 29 as the frame rails had started to rust and weaken badly," said Fire Chief Scott

Skinner. "We were scared that it might not pass its next safety inspection."

Their search for a replacement included plenty of research that included scouring online auction posts and other ads. Through this diligent work, they came across a 2004 Freightliner FL70 that was being sold in an auction by Port Severn Fire in Ontario.

"When we saw the possible replacement on auction, I flew out to inspect it and deemed that it looked like a very good replacement for our department. I sent pictures and video back to our command group on the fire department as well as the councilors on our fire commission," Skinner

said.

"Everyone involved thought it looked like a great possibility but it would need to be in our budget."

With a maximum budget of \$100,000, the Teulon Rockwood Fire Department won the bid and were able to replace their aging tanker for under \$75,000, even after a few small repairs.

"Once we had bid and won the auction, Deputy Chief Danny Hutchinson flew out to meet me in Port Severn Ontario," he said.

"To save money, we drove the truck home from there in two days. From the time of finding it on auction till we

put it in service, it was a short time — but we had been searching for quite a few months prior to finding this one."

He also expressed thanks to all who were involved in helping the fire department to secure the truck, with a special shout out to Rockwood Coun. Curtis McClintock for the extra time he spent working towards the purchase.

"We are proud to now announce and show off our new Tanker 29," Skinner said. "A sealed bid auction was recently done by our fire commission and Old 29 sold and has now left our department."

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Doors open at 6:15 pm
Coed teams - All Skills Welcome

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Ages 18+
Teulon Collegiate Hallways
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6:30-8:00 pm
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Bootcamp Ages 14+
12:45-1:30 pm
Must Register 204-990-8898
Class \$20

Child Minding
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The Teulon Rockwood Fire Department recently replaced its Tanker 29 with a 2004 Freightliner FL70 from Ontario.



TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED
The old Tanker 29 was sold through a sealed bid auction, and the 1981 tanker truck has now left the Teulon Rockwood Fire Department.



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY JENNIFER MCCEE

Rockwood council meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month.

> OUTDOOR RECREATION, FROM PG. 12

expansion reserve for the 2025 fiscal period.

- The RM entered into an agreement with Interlake Potato Farms Ltd. for a right-of-way over Rockwood land to access the farm.
- The Teulon Rockwood Fire Department fire chief recommended

updates to the organizational structure of the fire department, including modifications to the monthly remuneration schedule for the fire chief, deputy fire chief and captains, as well as the establishment of lieutenant positions to support operational effectiveness, succession planning and

The Stonewall Teulon Tribune

the efficient delivery of fire-fighting services. Council supported the fire chief's proposed changes to remuneration effective April 1, 2025, as well as the implementation of an annual cost-of-living increase as part of the revised remuneration schedule. The annual cost of living increase is determined as per the Manitoba Consumer Price Index for October.

- In August 2024, the RM of Rockwood registered as a community development corporation, which is working with developers to build a seniors housing facility in Stony Mountain. The RM is hiring Wendy Wolfe, partner of Municipal Mentors Inc., to provide accounting support for the project.

Thursday, February 12, 2026 **15**

• The RM will extend the Winfield waste transfer station operator agreement with Jordan Boulet in the amount of \$141,519.78 plus the yearly average consumer price index rate for October in Manitoba.

• Council defeated a request for a \$500 donation to the Warren Mercs Hockey Club.

• The RM will purchase a \$180 bronze dinner package for the Manitoba Softball Hall of Fame and Museum induction banquet, which will take place on May 2 in Brandon.

• The RM of Rockwood will enter into mutual aid agreements with the Town of Stonewall as well as the RMs of Woodlands, Rosser and Armstrong.



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**April
11-16,
2026**

**Stonewall
& Teulon
2026**



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Entry deadline is February 20, 2026

Programs will be available at the festival venues for purchase
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Interested in volunteering please contact us at info@rfota.ca

Family Fun Day planned at Stony Mountain Community Centre

By Lana Meier

The Stony Mountain Community Centre will open its doors to families on Monday, Feb. 16 with the launch of its first-ever Family Fun Day, offering skating, games, food and local vendors in a bid to bring residents together during the winter months.

The event runs from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Stony Mountain Community Centre. Public skating will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., followed by stick-and-puck from 1 to 3 p.m. Helmets are required for stick-and-puck participants, who are asked to bring their own pucks.

Hot chocolate and popcorn will be served throughout the day, and families will have the opportunity to browse vendor tables featuring local makers and small businesses. Organizers are seeking eight to 10 vendors, with those interested invited to contact rnldeprez@hotmail.ca.

The Family Fun Day marks a milestone for the community centre, which has undergone extensive renovations in recent years, including a lower-level addition with new dressing rooms, an updated hall and upper-level viewing area, new rink bleachers and improvements to the outdoor viewing area heating.

"This is an opportunity for people who may not be part of organized activities to enjoy the centre and for those new to the community to see how the space can be used," said Lisa Deprez, a board member with the community centre. "The idea came from a desire to create a welcoming opportunity for families to spend quality time together during the cold weather we've had."

Deprez said the theme of the day

centres on family, connection and community, with an emphasis on celebrating time together close to home.

Winter programming like this is especially important, she added, as colder months can feel isolating for families, particularly those with young children. The centre hopes events such as Family Fun Day will encourage residents to get out, connect with neighbours and remain engaged locally.

The mix of public skating and stick-and-puck was designed to appeal to families with children of different ages and comfort levels. Younger children and casual skaters can take part earlier in the day, while older youth and more confident skaters can participate later, creating a shared experience with flexible options.

The event is intended to be relaxed and pressure-free, welcoming everyone from first-time skaters to those who simply want to watch, visit or enjoy refreshments.

Local vendors will add another community-focused element to the day, supporting small businesses while enhancing the overall experience for families. Planned vendors include a jewelry maker, 3D-printing creations, baking and woodworking, among others.

Two free prize draws will also take place, with one hour of free ice rental and one hour of free hall rental up for grabs. Ballots will be available at no cost. A 50/50 draw will be held at 3 p.m., with proceeds supporting future events and ongoing maintenance at the community centre.

Deprez said previous community events, including craft nights, quiz nights, fundraisers and social activi-



Stony Mountain Community Centre

Family Fun Day

Join us at the SMCC for Family Day fun on Monday, February 16 from 11:00am-3:00pm

- Public Skating 11am-1pm
- Stick & Puck 1-3pm (helmets required & bring pucks)
- Serving hot chocolate & popcorn
- Free chance to win 1 hour ice & 1 hour hall rental
- 50/50 draw taking place at 3:00pm
- Looking for 8-10 vendors - email Lisa for info [\(rnldeprez@hotmail.ca\)](mailto:rnldeprez@hotmail.ca)

FREE CHANCE TO WIN 1 HOUR ICE & HALL RENTAL

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Stony Mountain Community Centre | 117 School Road, Stony Mountain, MB

ties, have consistently drawn strong attendance, particularly when they are family-friendly. Early response to the Family Fun Day has also been positive, with families expressing appreciation for having a local event to attend.

If successful, the community centre

hopes to make the Family Fun Day an annual tradition.

"The community centre is more than just a building," Deprez said. "It's a hub for connection, activity and support — a place where families gather, memories are made and the community comes together."

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Bidding starts: Feb. 19, 2026 at 9:00 AM

Lots start closing on Feb. 25, 2026 at 10:00 AM.

Pick up days: Friday, Feb. 27th &

Saturday, Feb 28th from 9 AM to 5 PM



FEBRUARY ONSITE Consignment Sale

Viewing: Feb. 16th-19th from 9 AM to 5PM.

Bidding starts: Feb. 19, 2026 at 9:00AM

Lots start closing on Feb. 25, 2026 at 10:00AM.

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Long-standing mural continues to honour memory of local man

By Jennifer McFee

A lasting legacy remains on display through a colourful mural to honour the life of well-respected local man.

Twenty years ago, Ed Barnes died in a tragic accident that sent ripples of grief through the community. In his memory, a mural was painted on the north elevation of the building at 380 Main St. facing the parking lot, and it remains there to this day.

Ed and Barbara Barnes grew up in Ashern and married in 1967. Five years later, they moved to Stonewall when their son Sean was starting kindergarten and daughter Shannon was still in diapers. Ed travelled to Resolute Bay in the Northwest Territories, as well as Ottawa and Saskatoon, to train to be an air traffic controller before landing a position in Winnipeg and settling in Stonewall.

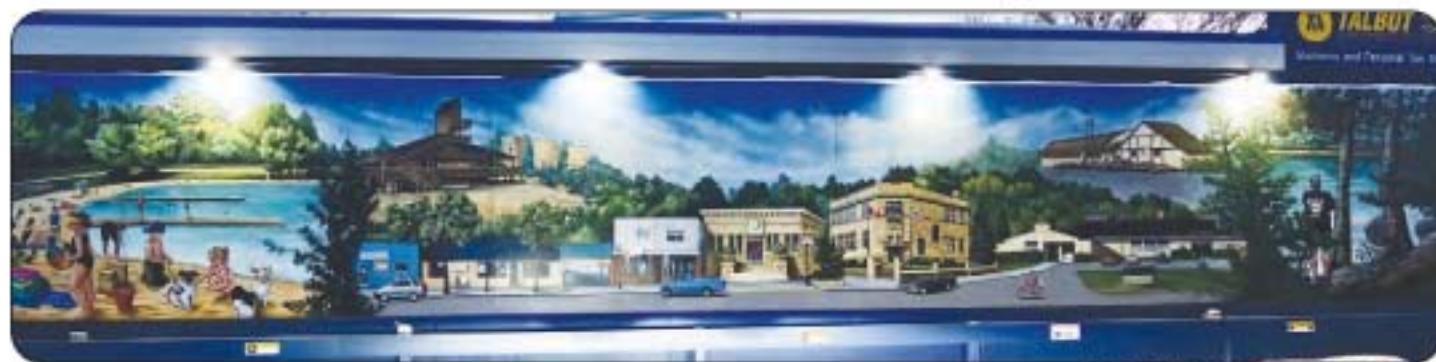
"My father was very involved in the community from minor hockey, curling, the Kinsmen Club and eventually serving on town council for eight years and was deputy mayor. He was instrumental in the creation of Quarry Park and the interpretive centre. This was something that he was very proud of," Sean said.

"My father was an entrepreneur and started several small businesses including Frosty's and the Village Bake Shop. He acquired the highways building, which eventually became Quarry Furnishings and now Talbots, where the mural was located decades ago — so long, in fact, that we had difficulty finding the records of the original purchase after my mother passed away in 2024."

Over time, when Sean and Shannon moved out, Ed and Barbara moved from their home on 9th Avenue South, adjacent to 5th Avenue and Highway 67, to an acreage on Winfield Road as empty-nesters.

"My parents loved to travel and had an RV, and my father was an avid fisherman. He also dabbled in landscaping and land development to keep himself occupied," Sean said.

"He retired as an air traffic controller and decided to learn how to drive a big rig truck so that he could travel and get paid for it in retirement. He built a pre-engineered storage build-



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY LANA MEIER

A colourful mural on the north wall of the building at 380 Main St. continues to honour the life and legacy of longtime Stonewall resident Ed Barnes, depicting his love of community, family and the outdoors nearly two decades after his death.

ing on his property to hold all of his toys and equipment."

On April 25, 2005, Ed was supervising the construction of his storage building with trailer loads of gravel being delivered for the base. He was 58 years old at the time.

"While a trailer was lifting a load to dump, it was partially frozen and tipped over unbalanced, landing on top of him. He had just retired and it was a horrific time in our family history. He had so much more to live for and planned to do. His funeral had to be held in the old arena, and it really showed us how much dad meant to the community," said Sean, who is now 59.

"A year or two after my father's passing, my mother Barb decided to commission a mural on the side of the Quarry Furnishings building at 380 Main St. to celebrate the life of my late father and highlight some of the things that he loved. The artist is Jennifer Mosienko from Winnipeg and she did a great job."

The artist sat down with Barbara to learn Ed's story and worked with her to create a mural that depicted the things that were important to him — community, family and friendship.

"My dad absolutely loved Lake of the Woods. They had a houseboat on the lake that they shared with two other families in Stonewall. In the mural is a rear-facing Ed looking over the lake at his houseboat. He would get up early in the mornings and follow the totem lodge boats to their fishing spots and highlight them on a map to check out later. I have that map to this

day," he said.

"Quarry Park is prominently featured in the mural, along with Kinsmen Lake. The two kids playing in the sand are my children — Ed and Barb's grandchildren — Mitchell and Kendall, who are adults now. The dogs in the picture were my late sis-

ter Shannon's dogs, which my mother adored. The hospital was built while my dad was a councillor, and the curling club renovated. The other building is the pet shop building, which my parents owned for many years on

Continued on page 19

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Beauty of Rosser captured in scenic photos

By Jennifer McFee

The beauty of Rosser is on full display through impressive and artistic submissions to a recent photo contest hosted by the RM.

The RM of Rosser received more than 25 entries of photos that showcase the local community. Lacey Gillespie earned first place, Corey Giesbrecht earned second place and Susan Manchulenko earned third place.

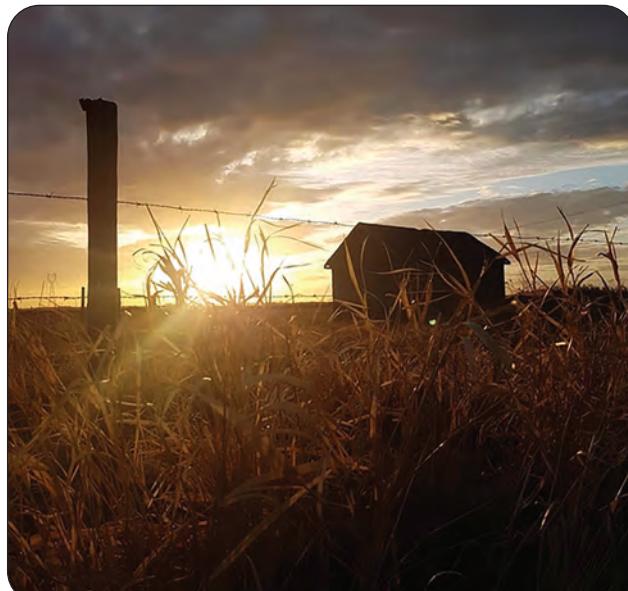
The RM invites residents to continue submitting their favourite photos that might be appropriate for the municipal website.

"I was really impressed with all the photos received. And I want to thank our community members for participating," said Reeve Ken Mulligan.

"I especially appreciated the photos that captured the farm essence or agricultural settings — near and dear to my heart, of course. I hope we continue to get photos that represent Rosser from people in the community."

IN OTHER COUNCIL NEWS:

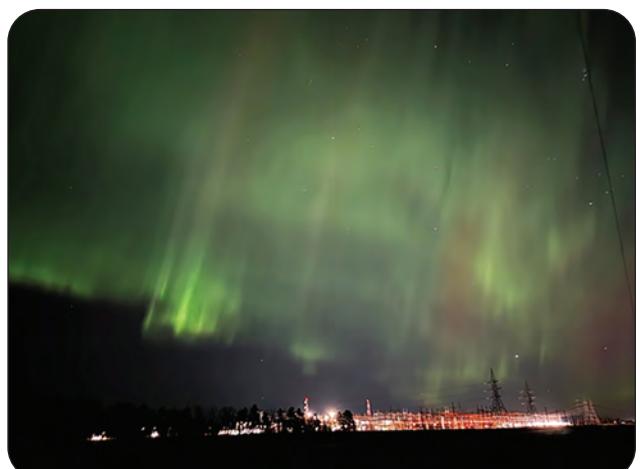
- Council authorized Fire Chief Mike Palmer and Deputy Fire Chief Rob Manchulenko to fly to Pennsylvania to inspect the condition of a used rescue truck. Expenses will be paid.
- The CAO is authorized to attend the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators



Lacey Gillespie earned first place in the RM of Rosser's recent photo contest.



Corey Giesbrecht earned second place with this scenic shot.



TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Susan Manchulenko earned third place with a stunning photo of aurora borealis.

Conference in Whistler, B.C., from May 25 to 27. In addition, council and the CAO are authorized to attend the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Conference in Edmonton from June 3 to 7. All expenses will be paid.

- The RM bought a 2026 CAT motor grader from Toromount CAT for \$493,764.06 plus tax and a trade-in of a 2016 CAT grader. The new grader will be delivered to the municipality in February, and the purchase will be included in the 2026 financial plan. It was funded through a withdrawal from the equipment replacement reserve.

- Council approved a \$120,000 proposal from Strategic Systems Engineering for a climate adaptation and water resources management project for the RM. Manitoba Climate Action will contribute \$15,000 and Federation of Canadian Municipalities Green Municipal Fund will contribute \$70,000 towards the total cost of the project.

- Council accepted a \$4,081.96 quote

from MicroAge for a security upgrade for information technology.

- The CAO will organize an orientation session with Way To Go Consulting Inc. after the municipal election in October for newly elected municipal officials.

- Council authorized the installation of a catch basin next to the active transportation path in the Inkster development. The RM will cover the cost of \$6,270 plus tax.

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Saturday, March 7th, 2026

Quarry Park Heritage Arts Centre - 166 Main St., Stonewall, MB



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Louis Riel Day festivities planned for Stonewall

By Lana Meier

Stonewall residents are invited to celebrate Métis culture, winter recreation and community spirit during a Louis Riel Day event planned for Monday, Feb. 16 at the Heritage Arts Centre and surrounding Quarry Park.

The family-friendly celebration runs from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will feature a mix of outdoor activities, cultural programming and live music marking the provincial holiday honouring Métis leader Louis Riel.

Desiree Gillespie, chair of the Stonewall Métis Local, said recognizing Louis Riel Day through a community celebration is an important way for Stonewall to honour the history and lasting contributions of the Métis Nation.

"Louis Riel's legacy is deeply connected to the values of rights, self-determination and community, which continue to shape our shared history today," Gillespie said. "Celebrating this day together creates space for learning, reflection and reconciliation."

She added the event also acknowledges the Métis citizens who live in Stonewall and their ongoing role in the community.

"Stonewall is home to many Métis citizens, and this recognition acknowledges their presence, culture and contributions within the community," Gillespie said.

Activities planned throughout the day include arts and crafts, bannock cooked over an open fire, skating on the pond and tobogganing. Cross-country skis and snowshoes will also be available to borrow free of charge from the Heritage Arts Centre, giving attendees an opportunity to take advantage of winter conditions.

At 2 p.m., guests can enjoy live music by Métis fiddler Morgan Grace, whose performance will highlight the central role of fiddling in Métis culture and storytelling. Grace has been playing the fiddle since the age of four and is an accomplished performer who has appeared at events across

Canada.

Her experience includes opening for Juno Award-winning artist William Prince and performing for organizations such as the Manitoba Métis Federation, Winnipeg Jets, Manitoba Moose and Winnipeg Goldeyes, as well as a performance at the Senate for the King and Queen.

Gillespie said organizers hope the event leaves a lasting impression on families and community members.

"Our hope is families and community members leave with a deeper understanding and appreciation of Métis history, culture and traditions," she said. "More importantly, we hope they feel a sense of connection — to one another, to the stories shared, and to the Métis presence in the Stonewall area."

She said events like the Louis Riel Day celebration provide opportunities for learning in a welcoming, hands-on environment.

"Ideally, people walk away feeling proud of our shared history and inspired to continue building respectful, inclusive community relationships," Gillespie said.

Admission is \$15 for a family of four, \$7 per adult and \$5 per student. Children aged two and under are admitted free.

Food will be available for purchase through a canteen, including hamburgers, hotdogs, drinks, chips and candy, while free bannock and hot chocolate will also be offered to attendees.

Louis Riel Day, observed annually on the third Monday of February, recognizes the life and legacy of Riel and the contributions of the Métis people to Manitoba's history and identity. Community events such as Stonewall's celebration aim to combine education, reflection and enjoyment in a way that is accessible to all.

For more information, visit the Town of Stonewall's website or contact the Heritage Arts Centre at 204-467-7980.

great deal to me. My dad was a friend to so many people in the community," Sean said.

"He had a great sense of humour and a strong engagement to contribute to the success of his community. I am proud to be an Interlaker — and an Interlaker from Stonewall. And I get that from my parents. It's part of what defines a person — our hometown and the people within it. My parents grew up in Ashern, moved to Stonewall in their early 20s and never left."

> MURAL, FROM PG. 17

Main Street."

When the family sold the building at 380 Main St., Sean offered to maintain the mural at his own cost in the hopes that it would remain a part of the townscape.

"My parents loved Stonewall. They were very active socially in town, and I have so many memories of their friends coming by the house or all of us visiting others in town. I stay in touch with many of my parents' friends to this day, which means a



Tribune file photo by Lana Meier

Métis fiddler Morgan Grace, pictured performing with her father at Dauphin Countryfest in 2024, will headline live music during Stonewall's Louis Riel Day celebration on Feb. 16.

CELEBRATE

LOUIS RIEL DAY

MON. FEB. 16TH, 2026, ACCESS AUDITORIUM AT THE HERITAGE ARTS CENTRE, 166 MAIN STREET, STONEWALL

ACTIVITIES 11:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

CRAFTS 11:00 AM TO 1:45 PM

LIVE MUSIC AT 2:00PM

\$15 / FAMILY OF 4 OR
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5 essential elements for planning a successful wedding

Just got engaged and ready to start planning your big day? Organizing a wedding is exciting, but it also requires you to make a lot of decisions. Here are five key things to keep in mind.

1. SET A BUDGET

Start by deciding how much you're willing to spend on the event. You don't need an exact figure right away, but you should try to estimate costs for essentials like the venue, cake, dresses and suits.

2. CHOOSE AN OFFICIANT

Depending on whether you want a civil or religious ceremony, you'll have

to hire someone who is legally authorized to declare you married. This could be a priest, a notary or even a family member who obtains the proper authorization.

3. SEND OUT INVITATIONS

Whether you send your invitations by post or email, get them out as soon as possible. Ideally, you should do this at least four months before the wedding. This will help you confirm the number of place settings, chairs and other arrangements that need to be provided on the big day.

4. PLAN THE MENU

One of the keys to a successful wed-

ding is undoubtedly serving good food. Take the time to explore your catering options. Some caterers, for example, offer complete buffet menus that include vegetarian or lactose-free dishes.

5. BOOK AN ENTERTAINER OR MUSICIAN

Music sets the tone for the celebration. Depending on your budget and preferences, hire a DJ or live band to play appropriate music at the ceremony, cocktail hour and reception. Always ask for references from satisfied customers before booking.



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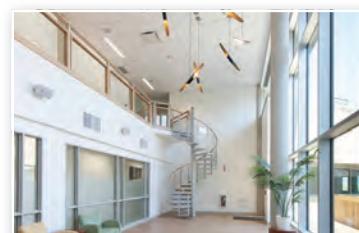


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Calvert claims first Manitoba men's title at Bunge Championship

By Haley Cvar

Manitoba has a new men's curling champion.

Braden Calvert and his Heather Curling Club rink captured the Bunge Championship title Sunday afternoon in Selkirk, defeating Jordon McDonald of the Assiniboine Memorial Curling Club in an extra end to earn their first Manitoba men's crown.

Calvert, joined by third Corey Chambers, second Kyle Kurz, lead Brendan Bilawka and alternate Rob Gordon, prevailed in a dramatic rematch of Saturday night's Page 1-2 playoff game, also won by the Heather rink.

The championship final was tied 7-7 after 10 ends when Calvert slid a foot deep on his last-stone draw, conceding a single point to force an extra end. In the 11th, Calvert set up the winning chance with a perfect first-stone hit, leaving McDonald facing a difficult draw around two centre-line stones. McDonald made the shot but left Calvert a short runback, which he

converted to seal the win to represent Manitoba at the national championship.

For Calvert and his teammates, the victory marked a breakthrough after falling short in the past two provincial finals — losing to Reid Carruthers in 2025 and Brad Jacobs in 2024.

McDonald's rink, which includes Jacques Gauthier, Elias Huminicki and Cam Olafson, had reached the final earlier Sunday with a six-end semifinal win over Brett Walter's Assiniboine Memorial team.

The result capped a week that guaranteed a new provincial champion. Defending champion and top seed Reid Carruthers and his Granite Curling Club rink were eliminated Saturday afternoon by Kelly Marnoch's Carberry foursome, opening the door for a first-time men's champion.

None of the three teams remaining heading into the final day — Calvert, McDonald and Walter — had previously represented Manitoba at the Canadian men's championship, though



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY BRETT MITCHELL

Braden Calvert (left) poses with third Corey Chambers, second Kyle Kurz, lead Brendan Bilawka and alternate Rob Gordon after capturing the Bunge Championship title Sunday in Selkirk. The Heather Curling Club rink claimed its first Manitoba men's crown with an extra-end win in the final and will represent the province at the Montana's Brier in St. John's, N.L.

several players had won provincial titles at the junior, U18 or mixed levels.

Calvert earned his spot in Sunday's final by edging McDonald 8-7 in the Page 1-2 playoff Saturday evening. McDonald led 5-3 at the mid-game break but surrendered five points over the next four ends. Facing a McDonald stone on the button in the 10th, Calvert executed a near-perfect freeze, limiting McDonald to a single point.

Earlier in the playoffs, Walter defeated Marnoch 8-6 in the Page 3-4 game, running the Carberry rink out of stones in the 10th end. Marnoch had advanced with his upset of Carruthers, while Walter reached the playoff round with wins over Steve Irwin of Brandon and Tanner Lott of

Fort Rouge.

The championship field featured a new triple knockout format, with Carruthers, McDonald, Calvert and Walter all advancing through the opening round unbeaten. Preliminary round wins for Calvert came over Stefan Gudmundson of Steinbach and Irwin, while McDonald defeated Derrick Anderson of Gimli and Marnoch. Walter's early victories were against Marcus Titchkosky of Morden and Lott.

With the win, Calvert will represent Manitoba at the Montana's Brier in St. John's, N.L., from Feb. 28 to March 7. Manitoba will be represented by two teams at the national championship, as Matt Dunstone's rink has pre-qualified for the event.

Hawks soar to tourney title



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

The St. Laurent / Aurèle Lemoine (Co-op) Hawks varsity girls' basketball team captured the championship at the Hamiota tournament this past weekend, displaying outstanding teamwork, determination and sportsmanship throughout the competition. Supporting one another on and off the court, the team played with heart and resilience while representing their school with pride. Their hard work paid off in a well-earned tournament victory. The Hawks defeated the Goose Lake Angels 60-30 in the final and earlier in the tournament defeated Strathclair Skyhawks 58-28 and the Hamiota Huskies 46-33. Pictured left to right, back row: Daryl Cowan (coach), Faith Buors, Shelby Buors, Kylie Combot, Kerri Combot, Abigail Sparks, Alicia James and Vicki Leggett (coach); Front row: Gracie Levasseur, Aiyanna Andrews, Mackenzie Diell and Faith Sankar.

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Manitoba's ice makers: small-town roots, world-class impact

By Annaliese Meier

While elite curlers compete under bright lights at national and international championships, the conditions they rely on are often created by ice makers with roots in small Manitoba communities.

That connection was on display at the Selkirk Curling Club, where fresh ice was being prepared ahead of men's provincial competition under the direction of Matt Rankine, a Manitoba-based ice technician whose work regularly takes him across North America.

Rankine is part of a group of Manitoba and Winnipeg ice makers widely respected within curling circles for their technical expertise and consistency at major events. Another Manitoba ice maker, Greg Ewasko of Tyndall, is currently in Italy preparing ice for the upcoming Olympic Winter Games. Ewasko would otherwise have been part of the Selkirk crew, Rankine said.

From Rankine's perspective, Manitoba's reputation for producing world-class curling ice is built on decades of mentorship and shared knowledge.

"I would say it's kind of a legacy thing," Rankine said. "We were fortunate enough to have Hans Wuthrich in our province, and Eric Montford, who — along with Shorty Jenkins out of Ontario — really developed this way of making ice. The grassroots of it started right here in Manitoba."

That knowledge, Rankine said, was passed down through generations of technicians, including Mark Shurek and Ewasko, both of whom have worked major national and international events.

"I'm two generations removed from that," he said. "I got the opportunity to learn from Greg Ewasko, Hans Wuthrich, Mark Shurek and Eric Montford, who is my uncle. To be able to learn from the best in the world is a pretty special thing."

Curling ice preparation is a highly specialized skill requiring precise control of temperature, humidity, pebble and surface texture. Even small imperfections can affect stone movement and fairness of play.

"It has to be perfectly flat and perfectly level," Rankine said. "The rocks will always find areas that are not level."

At Selkirk, Rankine worked alongside club volun-



Matt Rankine oversees ice preparation at the Selkirk Curling Club ahead of men's provincial competition. The Manitoba-based technician is part of a network of ice makers regularly selected for national, international and Olympic-level events.

teers to break in newly refreshed, or "green," ice — a stage where technicians are still fine-tuning conditions and want stones running repeatedly over every sheet.

That process included a practice game played by the provincial senior men's champions, skipped by George Hacking. The goal, Hacking said, was to help "work in" both the ice and the rocks before the provincials begin.

"We always appreciate the opportunity to practice on competition ice, so we volunteered to play against a Selkirk team to break in the rocks and the ice," Hacking said. "We had a very good turnout of volunteers and the exercise was a great success."

From a curler's perspective, Hacking said green ice can play differently than a settled surface, especially when stones have been freshly sanded.

"Green ice is very heavy and with fresh sanded stones it's very swingy and heavy," he said. "It's a good opportunity to work on positive releases to try and 'set a rock back' to delay the massive curl at the end."

Hacking said the practice game also serves a practical purpose for the ice crew: it gives technicians immediate, real-world information about how the

stones are tracking — and whether anything needs to be corrected before competition begins.

"They watch and look for any feedback — hopefully the rocks track consistently and fairly evenly as to line and weight," he said. "The more consistent the rocks, the more personal skill is a factor."

As experienced competitors, Hacking said senior-level curlers can help identify issues early, including stones that aren't running true.

"The main thing is to get the rocks moving," he said. "If we saw a 'bad rock' we could notify him, but the Curl Manitoba rocks are high quality and consistent."

While curlers can offer feedback, Hacking emphasized that ice maker expertise is the foundation of fair, consistent championship conditions.

"Ice maker expertise is the most critical factor — balancing temp and humidity to keep the ice hard, without a lot of frost buildup," he said. "Curlers are at their mercy — but it's the same for both teams."

Rankine said that balance is achieved through constant monitoring and adjustment, including control over building temperatures.

"You're constantly just trying to make sure the water is the best, the scraper blade is the best, the temperatures are set proper — everything," he said. "Because without that, they'll notice."

Volunteers remain essential to delivering that standard, Rankine added.

"It's huge," he said. "Without volunteers, we couldn't do this."

Although Selkirk's senior men's team is not competing this week due to scheduling conflicts between Manitoba qualifying and the Canadian championships, Hacking said the club's involvement remains significant.

"Selkirk hosts quite often in the rotation and other than Steinbach's new facility, Selkirk's one of the best places to watch," he said. "It takes hundreds of volunteers, and Selkirk and area curling clubs step up to volunteer and provide the best ice, sight lines and entertainment value whenever we host."

Hacking also pointed to Selkirk's ability to deliver under pressure, including hosting a provincial event in a modified bubble in 2022.

"The committee works countless hours and should be commended for bringing Selkirk to the forefront of the curling world whenever we host," he said.



George Hacking, skip of the provincial senior men's champions, sweeps during a practice game at the Selkirk Curling Club. The game helped break in freshly prepared ice ahead of men's provincials.



TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY BRETT MITCHELL

Volunteers and ice technicians work together at the Selkirk Curling Club as freshly prepared ice is broken in ahead of men's provincial competition. A practice game involving the provincial senior men's champions helps break in the ice and stones while providing early feedback on consistency.

Rather than being measured solely by teams on the ice, Manitoba's influence on curling continues to be felt behind the scenes — through the ice makers, volunteers and veteran curlers who help shape championship play long before the first draw begins.

A life that kept finding the right ice: Remembering Chuck Lefley

By Lana Meier

News of Chuck Lefley's sudden passing on Jan. 26, 2026, following a short stay at St. Boniface Hospital, landed with a quiet heaviness across rinks, farmyards and coffee shops alike. He was 76.

To the hockey world, he will forever be a two-time Stanley Cup champion — a sixth-overall NHL draft pick who wore the sweater of the Montreal Canadiens during one of the most dominant eras the game has ever known, and later posted a 43-goal season with the St. Louis Blues.

To Manitoba, he was something even rarer: a world-class athlete who never forgot the gravel roads, outdoor rinks and values that shaped him — and who chose, again and again, to come home.

Born in Winnipeg and raised on a family farm just outside Grosse Isle, Lefley grew up as one of seven children to Bob and Jean Lefley. Hockey came early, and it came honestly. Saturdays meant long drives with his father into Winnipeg's north end for Tom Thumb Hockey at the old Olympic Arena, followed by years skating on the Grosse Isle outdoor rink and Warren's indoor rink after it opened in 1957.

By 15, Lefley was already skating with the Winnipeg Rangers of the Manitoba Junior Hockey League, following his older brother Bryan into the program. Tall at six-foot-one and still filling out at barely 145 pounds, he was protected on the ice by some of the league's toughest players. More importantly, he was learning how teams worked — and how to belong.



Chris and Sarah Proctor with his wife Sandy Lefley, and his grandchildren Kit and Wren, during a tribute to Chuck, the late two-time Stanley Cup champion and Grosse Isle native, during a Winnipeg Jets-Montreal Canadiens game on Feb. 4 in Winnipeg.



The late Chuck Lefley, a two-time Stanley Cup champion with the Montreal Canadiens.

His talent was evident early. Lefley was named the Manitoba Junior Hockey League's rookie of the year in 1966 and helped his team capture the Turnbull Cup that same season.

That lesson would matter. Again and again.

Before most players his age had chosen a junior team, Lefley had already seen opportunity pulled away through no fault of his own. A scholarship to Denver University vanished after false claims of professionalism. A potential path with the newly formed Winnipeg Jets was rejected on principle.

Instead, Lefley skated wherever he was allowed — senior hockey in Warren, minor teams, anywhere ice was available — until an invitation arrived that changed everything: Canada's men's national team.

At just 18, he represented his country at the 1969 world championships in Sweden, an experience he would later describe as life-altering, even if he didn't fully grasp it at the time. When Canada withdrew from the 1970 worlds amid an eligibility dispute and the national team disbanded, Lefley once again found himself without a place to play.

That uncertainty led him briefly — and memorably — to the Brandon Wheat Kings.

In February 1970, Lefley joined the Wheat Kings amid a swirl of telegrams, reversed rulings and late-night phone calls. He produced 12 points in seven games, earned the respect of his teammates, and then — just as suddenly — was ruled ineligible once more. Brandon would be swept in the playoffs. Lefley watched from the sidelines, bewildered but unbittered.

"I never would have thought I should or would make any kind of stir," he said years later. "Why would you do something like that over me? That's silly."

Within months, the same young man deemed ineligible in junior hock-



TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Montreal Canadiens' Chuck Lefley, second row, second from left, celebrated a Stanley Cup victory during the early 1970s.

ey would hear his name called sixth overall at the 1970 NHL Draft.

If fate had nudged Lefley sideways for years, it finally placed him exactly where he needed to be.

Drafted by Montreal, Lefley entered a dressing room that read like a hockey encyclopedia: Jean Béiveau, Yvan Cournoyer, Henri Richard, Serge Savard, Guy Lapointe — and a rookie goaltender named Ken Dryden. A neat footnote in his NHL journey came early: Lefley's first NHL game was played in Detroit — against Gordie Howe.

He spent much of his early professional career learning in the American Hockey League with the Montreal Voyageurs, absorbing what it meant to be a Canadian. That development paid off in 1972, when Lefley helped the Voyageurs capture the Calder Cup, recording seven goals and seven assists in 15 playoff games.

On May 18, 1971 — just 14 months after being declared ineligible in Brandon — Lefley became a Stanley Cup champion when Montreal defeated Chicago in seven games. He also saw playoff action during that run, dressing for Game 6 of the opening round.

By 1972-73, he had earned his place full-time in Montreal. Lefley posted 66 points in 65 games and, on May 10, 1973, lifted the Stanley Cup for a second time.

In hindsight, the arc of Lefley's early professional career was remarkable. In a span of three seasons, he won the Stanley Cup in 1971, the Calder Cup

in 1972 and another Stanley Cup in 1973 — a rare trifecta that reflected both patience and perseverance.

"I thought wearing the Canadian sweater was the ultimate," he once said. "I can only liken it to winning a Stanley Cup with a Canadiens sweater on."

Traded to St. Louis in 1974, Lefley found offensive freedom. His 85-point season in 1975-76 — including 43 goals — remains the finest statistical year of his NHL career. He finished with 292 points in 407 NHL games, a resumé any player would cherish.

But Lefley had already begun thinking beyond the rink.

After stints in Finland and Germany — including time alongside a young Jari Kurri — and one final return to the Blues, Lefley stepped away from professional hockey for good. There was no drama, no regret.

He had a farm waiting.

Back in Grosse Isle, Lefley partnered with his brother Glen to run the family farm, growing wheat, canola and soybeans. He married Sandy in 1982, became a devoted father to Sarah, a father-in-law to Chris and a proud grandfather to Kit and Wren.

Hockey never left him — he coached, organized, fundraised, skated twice a week and helped bring a new arena to Warren — but it no longer defined him. It was simply part of a full life.

After returning home, Lefley also remained deeply committed to help-

Continued on page 24

Wildcats remain third in Price Division after three-game stretch

By Annaliese Meier

The Warren Wildcats sit third in the Price Division with a 17-3 record in Winnipeg High School Hockey League play following a three-game week that included a home victory.

Warren opened the stretch with a 4-1 road loss to Niverville on Feb. 3. Rhet King scored the Wildcats' lone goal on the power play in the first period, but Niverville pulled away with two third-period goals and an empty-netter.

The Wildcats bounced back at home with a 4-2 win over John Taylor. King led the offence with two goals, including the go-ahead marker in the third period, while Sawyer Park opened the scoring and Lexon Hogg added an insurance goal late.

Warren was unable to complete the sweep in a Feb. 6 rematch at John Taylor, falling 4-1. Hogg scored for the Wildcats in the third period, but John Taylor responded with three unanswered goals down the stretch, including an empty-netter.

Warren returns to action next week with a home game against Edward Schreyer on Feb. 9 at 3:15 p.m., followed by a road matchup with West K on Feb. 10 at 3:45 p.m., before hosting Lundar on Feb. 12 at 3:15 p.m.

WILDCATS DROP PAIR IN WEST DIVISION PLAY

The Warren Wildcats sit 10th in the West Division with a 6-13 record in Manitoba Women's High School Hockey League action after a pair of losses last week.

Warren dropped a 3-1 home decision to Shaftesbury on Feb. 3. The Titans scored twice in the second period to take control, while Ella Riddell scored Warren's lone goal late in the middle frame. Shaftesbury added an early third-period marker to seal the win.

The Wildcats were then shut out 2-0 on the road by Oak Park on Feb. 5. The Raiders scored in the opening



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY LANA MEIER

Ella Riddell scored Warren's lone goal late in the second period during the Wildcats' West Division matchup with Shaftesbury on Feb. 3.

minute and added an insurance goal in the third, while Warren was unable to find an equalizer.

Warren returns to the ice Feb. 10, hosting GCC at home with a 3:15 p.m. puck drop.

Rams split three games in WFP Division action

By Annaliese Meier

The Stonewall Rams sit ninth in the Winnipeg Free Press Division with a 7-14 record in Winnipeg High School Hockey League play after a three-game week that ended with a road victory.

Stonewall opened the stretch with a 2-1 home loss to Kelvin on Feb. 3.

Mason Bernier scored the Rams' lone goal in the first period, but Kelvin replied with goals in the second and third to secure the win.

The Rams were then shut out 9-0 by Springfield at home on Feb. 4, as the visitors controlled play from the opening period.

Stonewall closed the week on a positive note Feb. 6 with a 5-4 overtime win on the road against Churchill. Alec Harrisko led the offence with a hat trick, including the overtime winner, while Bernier and Jacksyn Arbez also scored. Aaron Orsulak chipped in three assists as the Rams erased

multiple deficits to earn the victory.

The Rams return home Feb. 11 to host CSLR at 4 p.m., before travelling to Sanford to face Oak Park on Feb. 13 for a 4:15 p.m. puck drop.

> LEFLEY, FROM PG. 23

ing young people in his community, including his work with the Bryan Lefley Scholarship, which supports students pursuing post-secondary education.

That life was recognized formally with inductions into the Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame (1986), the Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame (2014), and the Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame in 2012 as a member of the Grosse Isle Blue Jays. The honours moved him deeply, though he never sought them.

Humility, hard work, integrity and character — the values of a farm kid — remained his compass.

Perhaps the most remarkable thing about Chuck Lefley's story is not the Cups or the goals, but the way his career unfolded. Time and again, doors closed. Each time, another opened — often wider, often better.

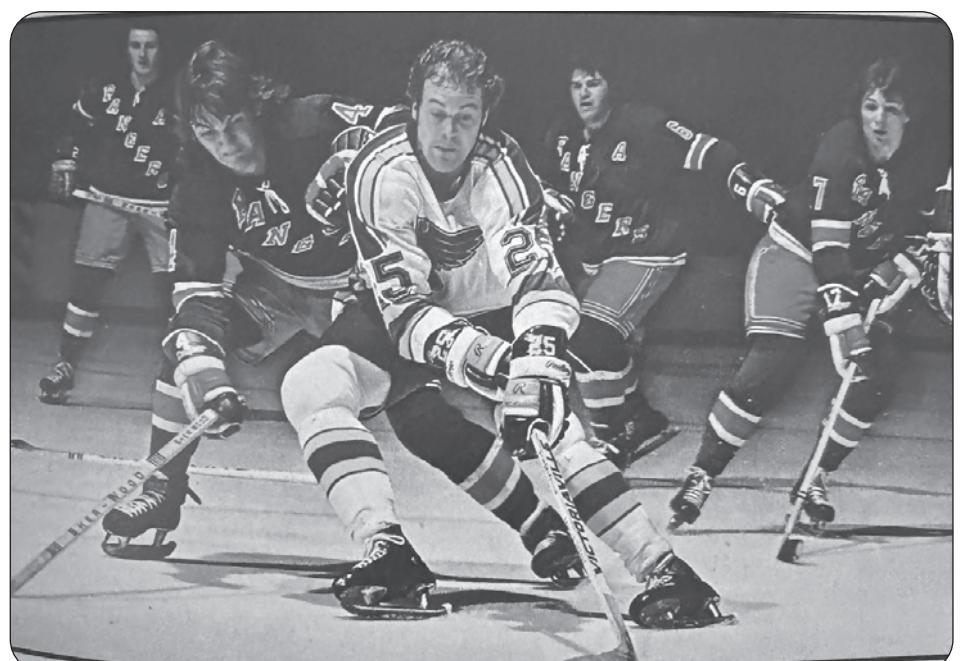
He credited the people around him:

coaches, managers, teammates and family who taught him that obstacles were not endings, just turns in the road.

In October 2025, months before his passing, Lefley visited Toronto with his family and saw his name on the Stanley Cup once more. He sat in a replica Canadiens dressing room without thinking — exactly where he belonged.

Chuck Lefley filled rooms with stories and warmth, whether the setting was the Forum, the Manex Arena or a kitchen table in Grosse Isle. He lived a life that balanced greatness with groundedness, ambition with gratitude.

And in the end, the boy who kept being told he couldn't play found a way to play everywhere that mattered — and to leave the game, and his community, better than he found them.



Lefley recorded his 43-goal season with the St. Louis Blues in the 1975-76 NHL season. That year he finished with 43 goals and 42 assists for 85 points in 75 games, the most productive offensive season of his NHL career.

Lightning earn first league win with 4-1 victory



Interlake Lightning captain Maddyn Dalgleish carries the puck up ice during league action against the Capitals at Stonewall VMSC on Saturday.

By Lana Meier

The Interlake Lightning U15AAA boys picked up their first league win of the season Saturday afternoon, skating to a 4-1 victory over the Capitals at Stonewall VMSC.

Bentley McCorrister led the way for the Lightning with a hat trick, scoring twice in the third period to put the game out of reach. He finished the afternoon with three goals and an assist as Interlake controlled the scoreboard in all three periods.

Owen Webb opened the scoring late in the first period, converting a pass

from McCorrister and Tripp Warburton at 8:51 to give the Lightning a 1-0 lead after 20 minutes.

The Capitals tied the game midway through the second period on a short-handed goal by Jacob Mirrlees, but the Lightning responded quickly. Just over two minutes later, McCorrister restored the Interlake lead, finishing a setup from Zachary Schram to make it 2-1.

Interlake pulled away in the third, with McCorrister scoring twice unassisted — first at 7:22 and again at 1:43



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY LANA MEIER

Interlake Lightning's Bentley McCorrister of Peguis recorded a hat trick in Saturday's 4-1 win over the Capitals at Stonewall VMSC.

— to seal the win.

The teams were nearly even in shots, with the Lightning holding a narrow 41-40 edge, but Interlake capitalized on its chances and limited the Capitals to a single goal despite sustained pressure.

The game featured a physical edge throughout, with both teams combining for 11 minor penalties.

The victory marked a milestone moment for the Lightning, who earned

their first league win of the season through a full-team effort and strong finish in the final frame.

UPCOMING GAMES:

The Lightning return to action Friday, Feb. 13, when they face the Thrashers Blue at Gateway Blue (7:15 p.m.), before hosting the North Stars on Saturday, Feb. 14 at Stonewall VMSC (5:15 p.m.).

Lightning split U18 AAA weekend with win over Kenora, loss to Southwest

By Lana Meier

The Interlake Lightning U18 AAA squad picked up an emphatic home-ice win before running into a strong Southwest Cougars team as the club wrapped up a busy stretch of league play last week.

Interlake opened the two-game set with a 10-6 victory over the Kenora Thistles on Tuesday, Feb. 3 at Teulon-Rockwood Arena, producing one of its highest-scoring performances of the season.

The Lightning scored twice in the opening period and added three more in the second to build momentum before erupting for five goals in the third. Damon Marquart led the offensive charge with a hat trick and an assist, while Ryder Kirk chipped in with a goal and four helpers. Thoren Corbett had a goal and three assists, and Carson Kirk added two late goals, including an empty-net marker.

Also finding the scoresheet for Interlake were Elijah Rempel, Jacob Keck and Reid Toporoski. Grayson McDon-

ald earned the win in goal, stopping 32 of 38 shots as the Lightning weathered Kenora power-play pressure.

Interlake followed that effort with a 5-2 loss to the Southwest Cougars on Saturday, Feb. 7 at VMSC Arena in Stonewall. The Cougars carried the play early, outshooting the Lightning 46-24 and scoring three times in the first period.

Corwyn Bear provided the offence for Interlake, scoring both Lightning goals — one late in the first period and another midway through the second — but Southwest sealed the outcome with a third-period empty-net goal. McDonald made 41 saves in a busy night between the pipes.

Interlake now turns its attention to a demanding stretch of games, beginning Tuesday, Feb. 10, when the Lightning host the Central Plains Capitals at Teulon-Rockwood Arena. The schedule continues Wednesday, Feb. 11 in Winnipeg against the league-leading Winnipeg Bruins,



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY LANA MEIER

Interlake Lightning forward Corwyn Bear celebrates after scoring one of his two goals during U18 AAA action against the Southwest Cougars on Saturday, Feb. 7 at VMSC Arena in Stonewall.

followed by road games in Morden against Pembina Valley on Feb. 14 and a home matchup with the Bran-

don Wheat Kings on Sunday, Feb. 15.

Bateman powers Jets past River East, maintains league scoring lead

By Lana Meier

Peyton Bateman continued his league-leading season Friday night, scoring twice as the Stonewall Jets edged the River East Royal Knights 4-3 in Manitoba Major Junior Hockey League action at Terry Sawchuk Arena.

Bateman's two-goal performance pushed his season totals to 26 goals and 30 assists for 56 points in 30 games, keeping him atop the MMJHL scoring race. Teammate Gavin Holod sits close behind with 55 points, while St. James forward Jayden Ward ranks third with 54.

The victory improved Stonewall's record to 21-13-1 and strengthened the Jets' hold on third place in the league standings with 43 points, as the club continues to jockey for play-off positioning.

River East opened the scoring midway through the first period on a Nick Giasson goal, then added a short-handed marker later in the frame to take a 2-0 lead. Stonewall responded late in the period when Kai Smith converted on the power play at 17:35 to cut the deficit in half.

Bateman tied the game early in the second period, scoring on the power play at 15:06 off feeds from Karson King and Wylie Garchinski. River East briefly regained the lead later in the period on a Nolan Fielding goal, but Stonewall took control in the third.

Holod evened the score at 9:37 of the final frame, finishing a play set up by Garchinski and Bateman. Less than a minute later, Bateman struck again with his second power-play goal of the night, giving the Jets their first lead of the game at 10:29.

Stonewall outshot River East 41-30, with Spencer Hunnam earning the win in goal after stopping 27 shots. Kyle Beilman made 37 saves in the loss for the Royal Knights.

The Jets went 2-for-5 on the power play, while River East did not register a power-play goal.

With the win, Stonewall improved to 3-1 against River East in the season series. The teams will meet once more during the regular season on March 5 in Stonewall.

The Jets host the Raiders Jr. Hockey Club on Feb. 10 at 8 p.m. before trav-



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

Several local players were recognized with selection to the 2026 MMJHL All-Star Game, which was played Feb. 7, at Eric Coy Arena in Winnipeg. Representing the Stonewall Jets were Peyton Bateman, Aiden Miller, Gavin Holod, Austin Lourenco and Spencer Hunnam. The All-Star selections highlight strong individual seasons and gave local fans a chance to see familiar faces compete alongside the league's top talent.

elling to face the St. Boniface Riels on Feb. 15 at 3 p.m.

Warren 67's drop two as regular season winds down

By Lana Meier

The Warren 67's closed out the final weekend of the regular season with a pair of losses in Hanover Tache Junior Hockey League action, falling 10-2 to the Macdonald Swarm on Friday before an 8-2 setback against the Landmark Blues on Sunday.

Macdonald showed why it finished atop the league standings Friday night in Sanford, scoring five times in the opening period and never looking back. Colton Plaitin led the Swarm with two goals, while Cade McCalum chipped in a goal and two assists. Tyler Van de Velde added three assists as Macdonald rolled to its 29th win of the season.

Justin Braid scored both goals for Warren, finding the net late in the second period and again early in the third. Despite the lopsided scoreline, goaltender Caughner Busch faced

a heavy workload, turning aside 56 shots in the loss.

Back in Warren on Sunday afternoon, the 67's hosted Landmark but fell behind early, trailing 4-0 after the first period. Ethan Rich scored twice for the Blues, while Leif Sigurdson added two third-period goals to seal the win.

Colton Bruce and Carter Boughton provided the offence for Warren, scoring in the second and third periods respectively. Hunter Manning and Scott Mailloux split duties in goal, combining for 46 saves.

The losses leave Warren at 2-24-3 on the season, 11th in the final standings. The 67's now turn their attention to the postseason, opening a best-of-three play-in series against the Ste Anne Aces beginning Wednesday night at Access Credit Union Arena.



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY BRETT MITCHELL

Warren 67's forward Shepard Trosky carries the puck through the neutral zone during Sunday's home game against the Landmark Blues at Access Credit Union Arena.

WARREN MERCS HOCKEY — SEMHL ACTION



**Playoff Schedule
to be announced
later this week**

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Tuesday, Feb 10 8:00 PM

Raiders Jr. Hockey Club
at Stonewall Jets

Sunday, Feb 15 3:00 PM

Stonewall Jets
at St. Boniface Riels

Fast-paced junior hockey • Family fun for all ages

Mitchell's 33 points powers Rams to fourth straight league win

By Kieran Reimer

After a two-week hiatus, the Stonewall Rams varsity boys basketball team returned to game action Wednesday and picked up where it left off.

Looking to extend a three-game regular-season winning streak, the Rams delivered a strong offensive performance in a 76-61 home victory over the Westwood Warriors.

Wyatt Mitchell led Stonewall with 33 points for coach Tyler Ammeter's squad, which earned its second consecutive win over Westwood.

The victory improved the Rams' regular-season record to 4-1, placing them third in the eight-team Winnipeg Tier 2 standings. They trail only Elmwood (4-0) and Shaftesbury (5-0) in the race for the league's top two spots.

Stonewall will have an opportunity to close the gap with four games remaining in the regular season, including a matchup against Elmwood at College Stonewall Collegiate on Feb. 23.

Before then, the Rams are scheduled to face the Portage Trojans, St. John's Tigers and St. James Jimmies as they look to extend their winning streak.

Stonewall also saw tournament action over the weekend at the Mike Babb Invitational at Elmwood High School, finishing with a 1-2 record and placing fourth.

UPCOMING GAMES:

Tuesday, Feb. 10 — at Portage Trojans, 4:30 p.m., Portage Collegiate

Wednesday, Feb. 11 — vs. St. John's Tigers, 4:30 p.m., College Stonewall Collegiate



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY JO-ANNE PROCTER

Stonewall's Wyatt Mitchell scored 33 points in the Rams 76-61 victory over the Westwood Warriors on Feb. 4 at College Stonewall Collegiate. The Rams improved to 4-1 with the win to sit third in Winnipeg Tier 2.

Balmoral judokas post strong results at Saskatchewan, Winnipeg tournaments

By Lana Meier

Members of the Balmoral Judo Club were on the road in late January and early February, earning podium finishes at two major tournaments.

From Jan. 22-25, a small group traveled to Regina to compete in the 2026 Saskatchewan Open. Phoenix Wakeham competed in the U10 division, while Raeghan Wakeham captured bronze in the U14 female novice -44 kg category. Chase Wakeham added a silver medal in the senior men's novice -81 kg division.

Closer to home, Balmoral athletes returned to competition on Feb. 7 at the Inner City Open Judo Tournament in Winnipeg, where several club members reached the podium.

Ryker Rutledge won gold in the U12 male Group 6 division, with Aus-

tin MacDonald earning bronze in the same category. Maverick Patton claimed gold in U12 male Group 3, while Momchil Jongstra finished with bronze. Leo Patton placed fourth in U12 male Group 2.

In older divisions, Allison Mushaluk took silver in the U16 female +71 kg category, Nate Panchuk earned silver in U18 male -81 kg, and Marc James captured gold in senior men's novice +100 kg. Panchuk also volunteered as a referee during the tournament.

Club coaches said all athletes performed well and were pleased with the overall effort and results.

The club's next competition will be the Balmoral Open, scheduled for March 28 at College Stonewall Collegiate.



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY MILTON GOOD

Members of the Balmoral Judo Club who competed at the Inner City Open Judo Tournament in Winnipeg are shown, front row, left to right: Momchil Jongstra, Maverick Patton, Ryker Rutledge, Austin MacDonald and Leo Patton. Back row: Nate Panchuk.

Mercs close regular season with trio of losses, turn focus to playoffs

By Lana Meier

The Warren Mercs wrapped up the SEMHL regular season last week with three losses in four nights, falling 7-6 to the Portage Islanders, 6-3 to the Ile des Chênes Northstars and 10-1 to the Winkler Royals.

Despite the results, Warren showed flashes of offensive depth and resilience as the club now turns its attention to postseason play.

Warren opened the stretch Tues-

day night in Portage, pushing the Islanders to the limit in a back-and-forth contest before surrendering the game-winner late in the third period. Drake Lindsay opened the scoring just 2:35 into the game, with Dasek Sobkow adding another first-period marker as the teams traded chances early.

The Mercs clawed back repeatedly, getting goals from Patrick D'Amico and Karson King in the second peri-

od before King added another early in the third. Carson Ouellette tied the game at 6-6 midway through the final frame, but Portage's Derrick Brooks scored the eventual winner at 16:03. Goaltender Travis Bosch made 41 saves in the loss.

The following night in Warren, the Mercs dropped a 6-3 decision to Ile des Chênes after falling behind 3-0 in the opening period. Eric Swanson got Warren on the board early in the sec-

ond, followed by a shorthanded goal from Gianluca Esteves to briefly pull the Mercs back into the game.

Drake Lindsay added a third-period goal for Warren, but the Northstars sealed the win with a power-play marker early in the third. Evan Baty and Bosch split duties in goal, combining for 16 saves.

Warren closed the regular season

Continued on page 28

Carman family watches Olympic history unfold

By Jessica Eblie

When the women's doubles luge competition launches at the 2026 Olympic Winter Games in Italy, former long-time Carman residents Wayne and Carol Allan will be watching with pride. Their granddaughter, 22-year-old Kailey Allan, will be representing Team Canada in the inaugural women's doubles luge event.

Kailey will compete on Feb. 11 in Cortina d'Ampezzo as part of Canada's women's doubles luge team, with her partner Beattie Podulsky. While doubles luge has been an Olympic event for decades, Milano Cortina 2026 will mark the sport's debut for women. The discipline features two athletes racing together on a single sled, requiring precise timing, communication and trust while reaching speeds of more than 130 kilometres per hour.

For Wayne and Carol, who lived in Carman for nearly 40 years before moving to rural British Columbia in 2015, the moment is historic, celebratory and deeply personal.

"We were in Carman for about 40 years," Carol said.

Carol added that she still hears from friends in Carman who are following Kailey's Olympic run via Facebook.

According to Kailey's parents, Stacey and Don, she has always been a superb athlete.

"She did every sport she could growing up," Carol said. "She did ski racing, competitive softball and track, (but) as you go along and get older, you have to start weeding out some of these sports."

Kailey first stepped onto a luge sled at age 10, after spotting a sign in Calgary inviting youngsters to try the sport. What began as a summer camp soon became a high-performance pursuit, carrying her from training

sessions to international competition venues around the world.

For the first 11 years of her luge career, Kailey competed as a singles slider. She represented Canada at the Youth Olympic Games in 2020 in St. Moritz, Switzerland, gaining experience on the international stage and earning a seventh-place finish overall.

Kailey came up short in qualifying for the women's singles luge event at the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics, but nevertheless persisted in her efforts to qualify for the 2026 Games. That determination ultimately led to a new goal — women's doubles luge.

About 18 months ago, Kailey and fellow Calgary-based athlete Beattie Podulsky decided to partner up, forming one of Canada's most competitive women's doubles luge teams. "They were both single sliders previously and thought, well, Canada needed a doubles women's team," Stacey said.

Despite their recent partnership, the duo has already found success. Last season, they earned a bronze medal at the Under-23 World Championships and another bronze as part of Canada's mixed team relay at the International Luge Federation (FIL) World Championships in Whistler, BC. In the lead-up to the Olympics, the duo ranks just outside the top 10 internationally in women's doubles and has placed well in qualifying competitions leading up to Milano Cortina.

"Their goal is to do well (at the Olympics), probably place in the top eight, maybe top six," stated Stacey.

According to the Allan family, luge is "the fastest sport on ice." Singles sliders can reach speeds exceeding 143 kilometres per hour, while doubles athletes face added challenges of weight, balance, unison and trust.

For the duo of Kailey Allan and



TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Kailey Allan (right) and her partner Beattie Podulsky, at the 2025 International Luge Federation (FIL) World Championships in Whistler, B.C., where they captured the bronze.

Podulsky, Kailey rides on the bottom of the sled, with her partner lying on top of her. The athletes are secured together, navigating narrow ice corridors at extreme speeds, all while trying to be the fastest team in order to win the event.

"It's kind of like driving a double-decker bus down an F-1 track," Stacey said.

Despite the intensity, Kailey's family describes her as someone who balances competitiveness with joy.

"She's determined and driven, but she's having fun," Stacey added. "There's always a smile on her face."

As the Allan family prepares to travel to Italy to support Kailey in person, they say the experience has already been incredible. Beyond medals and rankings, they hope Kailey's journey sends a message to young athletes.

"Anything's possible," Carol said. "The places she's been, the people she's met. Sport builds character and life experience."

In a text communication, Kailey stated that she is looking forward to competing and has done everything possible to prepare for these Games.

"I'm super excited to compete in my first Olympic Games and represent Canada in the first ever women's doubles event," she added.

Although Carman was never Allan's hometown, her family's decades-long presence in the community means her Olympic debut is being followed with interest by residents who knew her grandparents and have watched her career unfold from afar.

As the Olympics approach, Allan's participation offers local readers a

chance to witness both an Olympic first and the success of an athlete connected to the community through family roots rather than residence. Kailey's Olympic moment is a reminder that no matter where you grew up in Canada or who you are, Olympic dreams can take shape and slide all the way to the global stage.

> MERCS, FROM PG. 27

Saturday night in Winkler, running into a red-hot Royals squad that capitalized on special teams. Winkler scored twice on the power play and added a shorthanded goal in a lopsided 10-1 decision.

Justin Hamonic scored the lone goal for the Mercs midway through the third period on the power play, with assists from Gianluca Esteves and Johnny Lazo. Baty stopped 23 shots in the loss as Winkler pulled away late.

The Mercs finished the regular season sixth in the SEMHL standings with an 8-10 record and 16 points, tied with Portage but ahead on goal differential.

With the regular season now complete, the Mercs will prepare for the SEMHL playoffs, where all nine teams qualify. The post-season opens with a Survivor Series between the teams finishing eighth and ninth, with the winner advancing to face the first-place team. Following that round, the league will move into best-of-five series for the first two rounds, with a best-of-seven final to determine the SEMHL champion. Warren will await confirmation of its playoff matchup and schedule in the coming days.



Kailey Allan (back) and Beattie Podulsky (front) preparing for a luge run in competition.

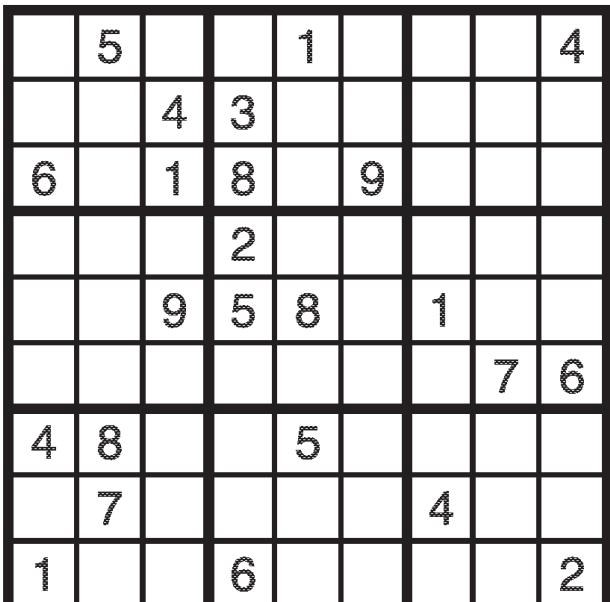
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IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: KYLE JERRY WILLIAM HARRISON (ALSO KNOWN AS KYLE JERRY HARRISON), late of the Town of Teulon, in Manitoba, Deceased.

ALL claims against the above estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be filed with the undersigned at their offices, 72A Centre Street, P.O. Box 6500, Gimli, Manitoba, R0C 1B0, on or before the 12th day of March, 2026.

DATED at Gimli, Manitoba, this 12th day of February, 2026.

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CARD OF THANKS

Nixon - Al's family would like to thank everyone for the many expressions of sympathy from all who knew Al and shared in his life. Your expressions exemplify the fullness of his life to his family, friends and community. A special thank you to his nieces and nephews for the readings, Jim Vnuk for his Scouting "Gone Home", to the Oddfellows for their "Farewell", his brother-in-law Ken Essex for his moving eulogy and to all our family members for their love and continued support. There are always people that require a special thank you - to my sister, Margaret, who has stood beside the boys and me throughout this journey; Debbie for her continued good morning and good nights and check in's during the day; and to our special friend, Larry O'Dell for his years of being there as a friend and support through Al's struggles with Pulmonary Fibrosis. Special thanks to the PF Support Group families who walked the journey with us and have continued to support us even as they struggle with the challenges of PF in their lives. The saddest words mankind knows, will always be "Goodbye". Your help, phone calls, visits, cards, food and baking have helped us say Goodbye.

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IN MEMORIAM



Rob Broadfoot
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-Love Mom and family



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Ronald King

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The days we've spent without you
Now number twenty years;
They reflect upon your earthly life
As each Valentine's Day appears.
We cannot bring the old days back
When we were all together
But memories of those we shared with you
Live in our hearts forever.

-Love,
Shirley and families

*There is a link death cannot sever,
Love and remembrance last forever.*

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The Town of Stonewall is seeking reliable, detail-oriented individuals to serve as Enumerators for the upcoming 2026 Municipal Election.

Position: Enumerator

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The Board of Trustees of the Interlake School Division invites members of the ISD community to join a Virtual Public Budget Meeting to review the PROPOSED 2026-2027 budget.

Stakeholder input will be gathered during and after the presentation.

We hope you can join us on

Monday, February 23rd at 7:00 p.m.

Please visit the ISD website at www.interlakesd.ca for the zoom link for the meeting.

If you are unable to join us, please watch the website for a recording of the meeting.

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Stonewall Teulon Tribune



OBITUARY

Mrs. Charlotte Barca (nee Bucksch)

Mrs. Charlotte Barca (nee Bucksch), age 89, of Teulon, Manitoba, passed away peacefully Thursday morning, January 15, 2026 at the Teulon Hunter Memorial Hospital. Charlotte was born May 9, 1936 in Gross Hammer, Germany, a daughter of the late Helmut and Anne Bucksch.

Charlotte is survived by her husband of 70 years, Gerhard Barca; daughter Birgit and son Sven, daughter-in-law Linda (Doug); and two granddaughters, Amy (Scott) and Michelle (Gavin).

Charlotte was an active woman, participating in a variety of sports including, curling, golfing, swimming, and so many more. People identified with her as the 'little old lady who bicycled around town' often doing four miles in a trip. She loved spending time with her granddaughters making Christmas special with the baking of Christmas cookies; baked goods from Oma, were always

a welcomed treat.

Our beloved wife, mother and Oma will be greatly missed by family and friends; she always had a welcoming smile.

A come and go Celebration of Life will be held at the Crescent Creek Park recreation center in Teulon starting at 11:30 on Monday, February 16, 2026. You are welcome to share words of your memories with her.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Teulon Hunter Memorial Hospital at 204-886-2433.



204-467-2525
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OBITUARY

Kristi - Lea Kilpatrick (nee Ellison)

On February 7, 2026, Kristi suddenly passed away at the age of 46 years.

Kristi will be deeply missed by her loving husband Geoff, son Riley, daughter Emily, mother Stephanie, sisters Kim (Murray) and Keri (Mic), sister-in-law Cynthia (David) and brother-in-law Ian (Karin), many nieces and nephews along with many other relatives and friends.

She was predeceased by her father Wayne in 2007 "She was Dad's little Tom Boy".

Kristi was born August 25, 1979 at Teulon Hunter Memorial Hospital and went to school at Teulon Elementary and Teulon Collegiate. After graduation, she went to Red River College and took the Computer Accounting Technician Program Course and then worked as a bank teller for a few years. Next, she took the

Pharmacy Technician Course at Robertson College and worked at Shoppers Drug Mart at Selkirk and Teulon and then at Selkirk Mental Health Centre in the pharmacy department.

She was a devoted wife and mother. Spending time at home with family, playing board games, watching movies, and helping Riley and Emily filled her life with joy.

Her love of family also emulated her love of animals. The house always had cats and dogs. She and Geoff shared a deep love of their dogs Max and Thor.

Camping was also another family favorite and Kristi relished it. Planning and preparing without complaint, because she loved to sit around the campfire with her family making smores and just loving life.

She had many close caring friends in the community and through her work.

Cremation has taken place and a private family service will be held. Celebration of Life will be held at a later date this summer for family and friends.

Special thanks to all the EMT and Life Flight First Responders for trying so hard to save her and Ken Loehmer for his care and professional assistance.



204-886-0404

OBITUARY

Robert Theodor Vincent

Sunday, February 1, 2026, after a long illness at the Selkirk Regional Health Centre, Robert Theodor Vincent passed away.

Surviving to mourn his loss is his sister Edna and nephews Ryan and James.

Memorial Service will be held on Friday, February 13, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. at Christ Church, Stony Mountain.



204-467-2525
mackenziefh.com



OBITUARY

John Cartwright

John Cartwright passed away December 24, 2025.

Bitter sadness until we see you again.

Funeral service: February 28, 2026 at 2 p.m. at Winnipeg Beach Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 85 Highway 9, Winnipeg Beach.

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