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CJ's, a Hidden Gem in Southwestern Manitoba

By Carolyn Phillips
RIVERS BANNER

Nestled within the enchanting rolling hills of southwestern Manitoba lies the stunning Rivers Provincial Park and campground. Officially designated in 1961, this picturesque park spans 38 hectares of mixed grass prairie and is anchored by the beautiful Lake Wahtopanah. The lake, a serene reservoir formed by damming the Little Saskatchewan River, derives its name from the native word "watopapinah," meaning "canoe people." This delightful setting is perfect for nature lovers looking to escape the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

Within the park, visitors will discover a charming Snack Shack that has become a staple for both locals and travelers. The familiar sight of the classic mini golf course invites families to tee off while enjoying scenic views of Lake Wahtopanah. Although this beloved spot has delighted guests for over 25 years, it transformed into CJ's in the spring of 2015. The establishment's name pays tribute to the late Clayton James, the grandson of owners Lorne and Sue Green, who tragically passed away at just 13 months old due to Sudden Unexpected Death Syndrome (SUDS). This heartfelt gesture imbues CJ's with a deep sense of community and remembrance.

CJ's menu is a true culinary delight, featuring mouth-watering burgers, crispy wings, and an abundance of ice cream flavours that are sure to please any sweet tooth. Whether you're looking for a quick snack after a day of outdoor activities or a leisurely meal by the water, CJ's has something for everyone. Moreover, for those seeking adventure, kayak rentals are available, allowing visitors to embrace the gentle waves and lush surroundings of Lake Wahtopanah.

One of CJ's unique offerings is the "Music in the Park" event, held every Saturday evening during the summer months. Local talent is showcased, providing a vibrant atmosphere where



SUBMITTED PHOTO

CJ's Snack Shack found in Rivers Provincial Park is a welcoming place for food, fun and entertainment.

families can gather, unwind, and enjoy live performances against the backdrop of nature. Guests are encouraged to bring their lawn chairs and soak in the ambiance of a warm summer night, filled with music and connection. Special events, such as an old-time gospel session, have also marked the season, promising to return due to their popularity.

A particularly noteworthy highlight occurs on the last Saturday in August with the celebration of "Music on the Porch Day." This global grassroots event invites people from all over to step outside, play, and listen to music, with the foundational motto of "Play for Peace." It's an inspiring opportunity to come together as a community, embracing the power of music to unite and uplift.

Whether you're planning a weekend getaway or a day trip, Rivers Provincial Park and CJ's is a destination that promises relaxation, entertainment, and heartwarming memories. With its stunning natural beauty, delightful food offerings, and sense of community spirit, it's an experience that everyone should partake in—not just for the love of nature but also to celebrate life and creativity. Make CJ's your next stop during your visit to Rivers Provincial Park and enjoy everything this beautiful locale has to offer.

Inside...



GECKO ON THE LOOSE
P4



DODGERS SENIOR AA PROVINCIALS
P8

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Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



Getting our priorities aligned

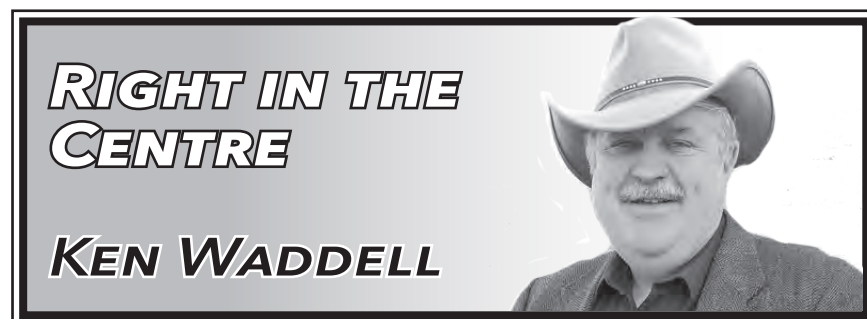
It has often occurred to me that it's strange that various countries want to put a man on the moon again. It seems as if it is a strange set of priorities. While I have followed the moon race for 50 years, I have never really seen the point. In today's world it seems even more strange to want to spend billions of dollars to put a man on the moon when there's so many other things that are obviously to me more important. Let's delay putting men on the moon until we solve a few other issues. Would it not seem appropriate to solve homelessness first? It might be nice to cure cancer first. How about having roads fixed?

How about getting clean water in every community across Canada. Our federal government has been promising clean water for all communities, and especially for First Nations communities for decades but it still hasn't been completed.

Again, I see no point at all in putting a man on the moon. Like, what are you gonna do when you get there? Everything has to be hauled there from earth. There is no food. There is no land to develop without an international space station style of accommodation. There may be some minerals but the last time I checked, we have lots of minerals. There's no way you can live on the moon and the question remains why would you want to?

An internet check tells us "the Apollo 11 Moon landing in July 1969 was a huge feat of human endeavour, engineering and science. It was a moment that the world had been waiting for."

Apollo 11 was followed by six further trips to the Moon, five of which landed successfully. Twelve men walked on the lunar surface in total. But in 1970, future Apollo missions were cancelled. Apollo 17



“Would it not seem appropriate to solve homelessness first?”

became the last crewed mission to the Moon for an indefinite amount of time.

The main reason for this was money. The cost of getting to the Moon was, ironically, astronomical. “

Yes, the cost is astronomical and how about the people who are very worried about the climate and global warming and using fossil fuels that theoretically heat up the atmosphere. I'd be interested to know just how many tons of fuel it takes to get a rocket to the moon and back again. I guess I'm just a stupid farm boy but I see no point in investing all this time and money and moon travel or moon living when we have bigger problems to solve than travelling to the moon.

I checked on the Internet as what the cost would be to send a mission to the moon here's what I found out:

Most of all, there was development work, with each mission after the first costing only about \$5-10 billion each. Right now, the major cost of sending humans to the Moon would also be development work. A human-rated lunar lander would take NASA about \$10 billion to develop.

Quite frankly I don't care how cheap it becomes to send people to the moon. I don't think it's worth it at

any price regardless of how low that price might become. Not when we have so many problems in every town every city across North America and around the world. I see no net return that is significant with moon travel. I think the moon is best serving us as in storybook purposes. The moon is lovely to look upon. Apparently, the moon controls the tides. It's been said that the moon is a wonderful thing for young lovers to sit under as they dream about their wonderful future. The problem for young lovers today is that the future isn't as bright as it was even 25 or 30 years today. Young people are faced with huge health care problems with drug addictions either directly or indirectly affecting them. Crime either directly or indirectly affects them and the cost of living is directly affecting everybody. If as a society, if as a government we spent the time, effort and money that goes into space travel, space stations and moon shots on things of real value and serious concern, I think our society would be much much better off.

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this column are the writer's personal views and are not to be taken as being the view of the Banner & Press staff.



Thresholds... the place between

The thought of a threshold space has been sitting with me; that moment when you are neither here nor there, but somewhere in between.

Rather like waiting - hopefully ready for whatever and wherever our next step lands us. It's a place and time where thoughts are formulated and decisions are made. It can be a heavy time or a joyful time.

My image of a threshold is a doorway. Here I see an early home, possibly crafted from logs, where the perfect large flat stone has been found and placed as an anchor for the doorway. That image, of something so firm and fixed, so natural, gives me the permission to explore the coming and going of life.

Many of us may use travel time as a time to debrief from an encounter, or to prepare for one. It is an opportunity to reflect on what has been said and what needs to be said. A time where we are neither here nor there. A time between: a short drive to the grocery store or post office, a road trip holiday, or the drive to an airport to reach a new or familiar destination. This in between time is a little different than sitting in a waiting room, but not totally, for that, too, is a time between. Both allow one to reflect and do a bit of introspection.

The writings of John O'Donohue are among my favourites. (And if I can listen to him read to me it's even better - I love his accent!) In his book 'Eternal Echoes' he wrote "Each day we live in what we call reality. Yet the more we think about it, the more life seems to resemble a dream. We rush through our days in such stress and intensity, as if we were here to stay and the serious project of the world depended on us. We worry and grow anxious; we magnify trivia until they become important enough to control our lives." There are numerous life thresholds that I can think of that would prove this statement correct. A couple on the threshold of marriage: the attention to detail and the work and cost of preparation is overwhelming. There is much stress and anxiety over an event that is meant to be loving and joyous. Or a couple expecting their first child! The paraphernalia 'required' to welcome a baby is idealistic and extreme. The wee one needs to be fed, dry and loved — not necessarily in that order. Marriage and parenthood are certainly two of the major thresholds, as are graduations, first jobs and first homes. Stepping through those doorways, (and here the in between may be brief!), any one of them is life changing.

O'Donohue completes that thought with these words "Yet all the time, we have forgotten that we are but temporary sojourners on the surface of a strange planet spinning slowly in the infinite night of the cosmos." This comforts me. For all of us there is that one more threshold; our last breath, our passage from this world to the next. With confidence may we continue to progress, step by step, across each of life's thresholds, ready for change if not welcoming it.

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Canada

Old Sayings

REF TO
WRITER

GERRY
NOLAN



Some more old sayings for you, starting with, “don’t cast your pearls before swine.” This means someone is wasting their time by offering something valuable or helpful to a person who does not understand or appreciate its value. This saying originates from the New Testament in the Bible. Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet and turn and rend you. King James version is possible!

“Colder than a witch’s tit” originated

from the 1600s back in Salem where witches were viewed as having cold blood and skin, just like the weather.

“Hard to teach an old dog new tricks.” It is exceptionally difficult to teach some new skill to someone, especially an older person who is already set in their ways. This saying also dates back to the sixteenth century. Man can I relate to this one!

The phrase “the real McCoy” means something or someone is genuine, authentic or the true original, rather than a fake, copycat or imitation.

“Everything, but

the kitchen sink,” means almost every possible item, choice or thing has been included, used or brought, often far more than what was actually needed. A homemadestew comes to mind with this phrase. This phrase became very popular during World War II. It was military slang used to describe an attack on the enemy where every type of weapon and ammunition available was fired at the enemy.

“Butter wouldn’t melt in her mouth,” describes a person who looks completely innocent, quiet, or sweet, but is suspected of being insincere, mischievous or devilous.

Last one for now, the phrase “the best thing since sliced bread” means something is extremely good, useful or wonderful. Have a great week everyone!

Summer Slipping Away

REF TO
WRITER

GERRY
NOLAN



As we have turned the page on yet another month, we see the fields starting to change colour. The gardens are producing some great vegetables. The market gardens are in full swing. Summer is turning into fall way too fast for me. Fall is my favourite season with spring right behind it. The other thing that is happening way too quickly is the hockey camps that will begin in the next week or so.

The Virden Oil Capitals and the Brandon Wheat Kings training camps are about to fire up shortly. Seems like they just finished their respective seasons. It

does beg the question, why so early?

Back in my day, hockey started in December and we played ball until near the end of September. Now they play ball it seems all winter as well.

I suppose it will not be too long until they will play one thing or another all year round.

Harvest is upon us, so once again please yield to the swathers and com-

bines who travel up and down our gravel roads and highways. These farmers are people who feed the world. There is already enough on their plates without worrying what or who they are going to meet on the roads. Be nice to them, slow down and pull over for them so they can get the grain in the bin.

The crops are looking great again this year. Maybe a little splash of rain would help right now, then the tap can be left off for a while.

Farmers stay safe when working on machinery, we do not need people getting hurt or worse yet an unnecessary death. Stay safe people!

RAPID CITY COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sundays 10 a.m.

Children's Church during the message

Bible Study - Thursdays 7:30 p.m.



JESUS IS LORD

Wordsearch from last weeks cover

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

1. Ground
2. Economic
3. Development
4. Investing

5. Program
6. Targeting
7. Emphasized
8. History

9. Connecting
10. Future
11. Train
12. Station

TO ALL MEMBERS OF:

Assiniboine Credit Union Limited / Caisse
Populaire Assiniboine Limitée

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to the Manitoba Credit Unions and Caisses Populaires Act (the "Act"), that the Board of Directors has approved a resolution to relocate the registered office of the Credit Union.

- **CURRENT REGISTERED OFFICE:** 6th Floor, 200 Main Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 1A8
- **NEW REGISTERED OFFICE:** Unit 1, 540 St Anne's Road, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R2M 5R7

Effective Date

This change of legal address will officially take effect on December 15, 2026.

What This Means for Members

This change pertains to the registered office address only; being the physical location of the Credit Union for the purposes of the Act. The mailing address for the Credit Union remains unchanged: PO Box 2 Station Main, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 2G1. Branch locations, routing numbers and banking systems are not affected.

DATED this 14th day of August, 2026.

On behalf of the Board of Directors
Amie Warkentin,
Corporate Secretary

Caisse
Assiniboine
Credit Union



Weekly news becomes rainforest Gecko

By Anne Davison
RIVERS BANNER

There's a huge greenish-blue lizard on the roof of Cornerstone Family Worship Centre in Hamiota. What's up with that?

Vacation Bible School is coming up and the lizard, actually a Gecko, is a creature of the program 'Rainforest Falls'.

Nadine Slimmon is the mastermind behind the making of this handsome fellow on the roof. She's turned the news of the week (many old copies of the Rivers Banner and Empire-Advance) into 'big greenie' - the gecko that kids will formally name at VBS.

Day after day Nadine could be found, her hands gooey with glue and newsprint, building layer after layer on the gecko's frame. Then layer after layer of paint with a whole lot of patience in between. She worked on the beast for nearly four weeks, doing a bit every day.

"It took Pastor Orland and I a couple of hours the first day to get the base made. I then began the paper mache of the gecko," says Nadine. "The first layer of paper mache took over six hours to put on."

She gave it 20 hours to dry.

The next layers of paper mache took at least three hours to apply.

"It had about four to five layers (paper mache newsprint) on it. Once it had enough layers then it was time to put an undercoat on it to prep it for painting."

Painting took several hours and after the top coat was applied, she weather proofed her creation with acrylic.

Each year Nadine finds joy in preparing the sur-



PHOTOS BY ANNE DAVISON

The headlines soon to be covered with skin - several coats of paint - under the creative hand of Nadine Slimmon.

roundings at the church for the kids who come to VBS. She doesn't take credit herself for the ideas or the means to do it but says, "God gives each of us abilities and gifts. God is a creator and he has shared that ability in each of us."

Rainforest Falls starts Aug. 18. Information about the three-day program can be found on Cornerstone Family Worship Centre's Facebook page.

Newspapers do play a very important role in weekly life, sharing community happenings, business developments, local government information, advertising, recipes, then lining the bird cage or better yet, creating the mysterious creatures of a rainforest. Recycling at its best.



Gecko clinging to the roof at Hamiota's Cornerstone church.

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APPLE COBBLER CRUMBLE

Ingredients

- 1 cup self-rising flour
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 4 Granny Smith apples, cored and sliced

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease a 9x9-inch baking dish.
2. Blend flour, sugar, butter, and cinnamon together in a large bowl with a pastry blender until crumbly. Reserve 3/4 cup mixture for topping.
3. Sprinkle a light layer of flour mixture into the prepared baking dish; top with a layer of apples. Continue to alternate layers of flour mixture and apples, ending with apples. Sprinkle with reserved 3/4 cup flour mixture.
4. Bake in the preheated oven until apples are tender and topping is lightly browned, 30 to 35 minutes. Let cool for 10 minutes before serving.



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STARS in Hamiota



STARS rescue helicopter made two landings in Hamiota last week.

PHOTO BY DALE DAVISON

By Dale Davison
RIVERS BANNER

The community of Hamiota heard the unmistakable thwack of a helicopter twice last week.

STARS rescue helicopter made two landings in Hamiota last week to transport patients for care.

The nature of both calls was medical events says STARS public relations, Blake Robert.

Robert said of the Aug. 3, landing, "I can confirm that STARS was in Hamiota on Tuesday morning, for a rendezvous with ground EMS transporting a patient from Shoal Lake. STARS did transport the patient to Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg."

The Hamiota fire department refueling trailer attended the scene along with their emergency response truck and an ambulance from Shared Health.

The rescue team was back in Hamiota in the early hours of Friday, just after midnight, for an inter-facility transfer mission taking a patient from the Hamiota Hospital to the Brandon Regional Health Centre.

Roberts added, "We would also like to extend our appreciation to the Hamiota Fire Department. Their fuel trailer makes a huge difference for patients by reducing the need for an additional fuel stop when responding to calls in this area of Western Manitoba. STARS is grateful for this ongoing partnership in service of patients in Hamiota and neighbouring communities."

STARS entered a funding agreement with the provincial government on July 10 of this year, and President and CEO Dr. John Froh explained why this is important for the organization. He said, "This 10-year funding agreement is a powerful endorsement of the lifesaving work we provide, together with our partners on the ground. It ensures we can continue to deliver critical care when and where it's needed most."

Farming can be a dangerous way to make a living as people in a rural community know only too well. At a recent fundraising event farmer Chad Rogers, shared his STARS story. Rogers was baling hay when he stopped at a gate and the tractor's emergency brake clicked off. He ran after it but couldn't climb up the ladder in time, and the tractor and 907-kg baler ran over him.

Rogers said, "Since my accident, I have often asked myself what we did in critical emergency medical situations before we had STARS, and the only answer I can come up with is that people died or did not get a chance at the recovery that I had."

In 2025-26, STARS flew 1,233 missions in Manitoba. Last year the Shock Trauma Air Rescue Service flew two missions to Hamiota.

Tea in the Bank is full of surprises



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Tea at the Bank: Noel and 'Ronie', Norma Clegg, Anne Davison, George and Virginia Sale. The Sale family was the first Filipino family to settle in Hamiota some 20 years ago and one of their daughters was the first Filipino graduate from Hamiota Collegiate Institute. The Sales have since retired here.

By Anne Davison
RIVERS BANNER

Virden Art Club pieces adorn the walls of Hamiota's Old Bank, the Heritage Art Centre's August gallery show. While Thursday's Tea at the Bank is about enjoying a dessert with friends, and enjoying the talents of local artists, invariably, surprises pop up!

At July's tea, surrounded by figurines and flowers, all Ken

McMillan's amazing creations, a guest became an entertainer.

Vicki and Sally Robinson were home to visit Dennis and Pam Robinson. Sally, a trained musical talent, tickled the ivories. Vicki joked that she was Sally's manager and she passed out song sheets. Old favourites flowed and it became a singalong.

This week, during the Thursday dessert luncheon, Noel and

Veronica Suministrado were presented by Karen Miller with a community collection as their farewell gift.

Since the Suministrado couple will be travelling home to the Philippines, a cash gift made the most sense. Once home, they will be able to buy something to remember Hamiota by. They made many friends in Hamiota during their three years here while ministering in the United Church.

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Letter to the Editor

RE: Right in the Centre, August 7

My heart breaks as I watch journalism - which I've been privileged to have been a part for much of my life - sink to the depths that it has now. Even as evermore violent weather rips through my beloved Manitoba - ruining homes, lives and infrastructure - articles denying the role of climate change appear far-too-often on the pages and airwaves of our news media here. Last year, wildfire nearly claimed the Town of Flin Flon. This year, we lost Dauphin General, an important regional hospital, to torrential rains and flooding. Its patients have been scattered God-knows-where, as other institutions struggle to accommodate them. As I write this, I'm driving through northern Manitoba, on holidays. I'm seeing miles of dead, scorched trees along the way, reminders of the damage past fires have already caused. Meanwhile, experts serving on the Intergovernmental Panel on climate change - the ultimate authority on the issue - have together, and with a strong consensus, long determined that our profligate production and burning of fossil fuels are the main drivers of a warming planet. Yet we're apparently supposed to believe most anyone but those experts. (A bit like taking your barber's advice on how to fix your clogged toilet.) A good example is Allister Heath—the Editor of the British Sunday Telegraph. One of his columns has been dutifully published in at least one Manitoba weekly. In it, Heath admits the climate is changing. But, "Britain can do almost nothing about it." Even more shockingly, he tries to have us believe that, it's not really climate change doing the damage, but the misguided fight against it - and that this has actually "crippled British industry!" He conveniently ignores the trillions already spent everywhere, repairing the carnage that all of this has wrought. "We might even enjoy a warmer Mediterranean climate down the road," he proclaims! (Tell that to the families of the more than ten thousand souls who perished in the heat wave in Europe this summer.) The Telegraph has been a hotbed of climate denial for some time. Informed observers label these numerous articles as "just plain crazy." There were reports in 2023 that an Abu Dhabi-backed investment fund would take control of the Telegraph. So it looks like we now have a merchant of yellow journalism in bed with a Middle Eastern producer of massive amounts of oil. A match truly made in climate denial Hell. Meanwhile, we're also bombarded with batshit crazy conspiracy theories from other sources - our scientists are "on the take," getting paid big money to "cook the books" - all the while lying to and deceiving the public. Or that "We've been duped by the climate change people!" (No motive or proof of this is ever offered.) So tell me, how could any well-meaning journalist go wrong by relying - not on these knee-jerk deniers, oil industry shills, pseudo scientists, cranks, amateurs or certain newspaper editors - but on solid, replicated, peer-reviewed science? Is that not the "stuff" that comes closest to the real "truth" that we all swear to seek out and expose? And how do we know the experts have not been wrong, all along? Because what they've been predicting for generations, is pretty much what's been unfolding all along, that's how!

Larry Powell,
Activist, author, blogger, science writer.
Shoal Lake, MB

Running to represent Oakview?

By Anne Davison
RIVERS BANNER

Across Manitoba on October 28, citizens will be heading to the poles to elect councillors to represent their communities - local issues that are important.

Big projects in a municipality usually require monetary help from other levels of government. Individual requirements need approval and information from local councils. There are many things to consider, so it's an important job and one that can be thankless.

However, there is remuneration for the time and effort and councillors attest to their sense of satisfaction in working for their area.

But will there be a race this fall? Councillors are slow to say they are running again and new candidates are, at this time, unknown.

There is no charge to run for a council seat, to become a candidate.

It's not a political position, per se, but an opportunity to work for the communities within your municipality.

Candidates need to consider registering.

You may want to spend money as a prospective candidate, to announce your run, or to advertise in the newspaper, or to hold a coffee meeting etc. Prospective candidates must register with the senior election official (SEO) during the before accepting contributions, or incurring expenses. The registration period is open now for reeve or councillor.

Mark Humphries is who you need to see.

He's SEO for Oakview and works within the RM office in Oak River.

The municipality has three wards, for election purposes, and candidates must file nomination papers between Sept. 16-Sept. 22. Supporting signatures, 1% of the voters in the ward, are required, but candidates should check with the SEO to confirm the number of signatures needed at 204-566-2146 or email – cao@rmofaokview.ca

Although wards are represented, the council represents the interests of the municipality as a whole.

Listed here are the current councillors:

Reeve Robert Christie; Ward 1 Councillors - Ian Christie, Frank Hyndman; Ward 2 Councillors - Gavin Reynolds, Lloyd Evans; Ward 3 Councillors - Bill Aaroe, Mark Gill

The Council of the R.M. of Oakview meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month in Oak River and the 4th Monday of the month in Rapid City. But again, it's summer so check with the RM office about meeting times. These meetings are open to the public and a way to see how council operates.

More information is available here: amm.mb.ca/issues/elections/

CLASSIFIEDS

Obituary

IN LOVING MEMORY
DAVID WATERFIELD
OCTOBER 3, 1951 ~ AUGUST 6, 2026



David was born to Edgar and Dorothy Waterfield in Rivers, Manitoba. He spent his entire life in Rivers with exception of the final two which were spent at the Birchwood Care Home in Hamiota.

David was predeceased by his parents and infant sister MaryAnne (1955).

David was an extremely religious person and attended the United Church in Rivers.

David leaves to mourn two sisters Janice and Patty.

David will be laid to rest next to his parents at the Rivers Cemetery.

IN LOVING MEMORY
EVELYN MARIE MCCONNELL
JUNE 3, 1939 ~ JULY 17, 2026



Evelyn Marie McConnell passed away peacefully, with family by her side, on Friday, July 17, 2026, at the Riverdale Personal Care Home. Marie was born June 3, 1939, in Pettapiece, Manitoba. Marie completed her Laboratory and Radiology in 1959 and 1960 and upon graduation she went to work at the Hamiota Hospital. She worked as a lab & x-ray technologist in the Brandon, Rivers, Hamiota and Reston hospitals over her working career and retired in her late 60s.

She married Morley McConnell on October 20, 1961. Mom & Dad always enjoyed and did a lot of travelling while they were young, before Morley's health declined.

Over the years, she enjoyed singing, dancing, golfing, curling, and daily walks. Her grandchildren and great-grandchildren were her greatest source of pride and joy. She was their absolute biggest supporter, attending many of their ball and soccer games, dance recitals, and Highland dance competitions. In later years, she enjoyed travelling and adventures with her grandchildren, including parasailing, ziplining, and rollercoasters.

Marie is survived by two daughters Debbie (Jerry) Johnston and Barb (Ian) Watson, grandchildren Ashley (Bryce) Trusty, Brayden (Crystal) Johnston, Taryn Watson (Braydon Whittington) and Camryn Watson (Tanner Bridge), great grandchildren Avery and Kinsley Trusty, Emma, Jalyn, Kiera and Rayna Johnston; brother-in law Kent (Maureen) McConnell; sisters-in law Eula Woods, Mick Little, Maureen McConnell and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband Morley, parents Jim and Ev Stratford, parents-in-law Roy and Minnie McConnell, sisters Shirley Kamula and Gwen Goodman, brother Larry Stratford, brothers/sisters-in-law Nick Kamula, Verne (Jean) McConnell, Mavis (Ron) Bray, Lloyd Little, Nelson Woods, Jim McConnell, Elgin "Red" (Ruth) McConnell.

The service to celebrate Marie's life was held at the Rivers United Church, Tuesday, August 4, 2026, with Karen Kempe officiating. Interment followed at Rivers Cemetery. Pallbearers were Brayden Johnston, Ashley and Bryce Trusty, Ian Watson, Braydon Whittington and Tanner Bridge. Organist was Dianne Kowalchuk, Soloist was Karen Kempe accompanied by Harold Kuipers. Thank you to Michelle Major and Memories Chapel for helping us, Marie's family, to make the day a wonderful celebration of Marie's life and to the Legion Ladies Auxiliary for the lovely lunch.

Words fail to express our deep appreciation to the nurses, doctors, and staff at Wawanesa, Souris and Riverdale Personal Care Homes for the loving care Mom received which helped her and her family through a very difficult time. Sincere thank you to all our family and friends for all their love and support. If friends desire, donations in memory of Marie may be made to Rivers United Church, Box 444, Rivers, MB R0K 1X0 or Rivers and Area Community Foundation, Box 714, Rivers, MB, R0K 1X0. Arrangements were with Memories Chapel, 204-727-0330.

"Forever in our Hearts"

What happens when you
don't advertise?
VERY LITTLE.

Help Wanted

Tender Rivers Curling Club Seasonal Caretaker/Icemaker

Rivers Curling Club will be accepting tenders for a Seasonal Caretaker/Icemaker for the 2026-2027 curling season.
Tenders must be sent to:
riversmbcurlingclub@gmail.com
Tenders received until position has been filled.
Lowest or any tender may not be accepted at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

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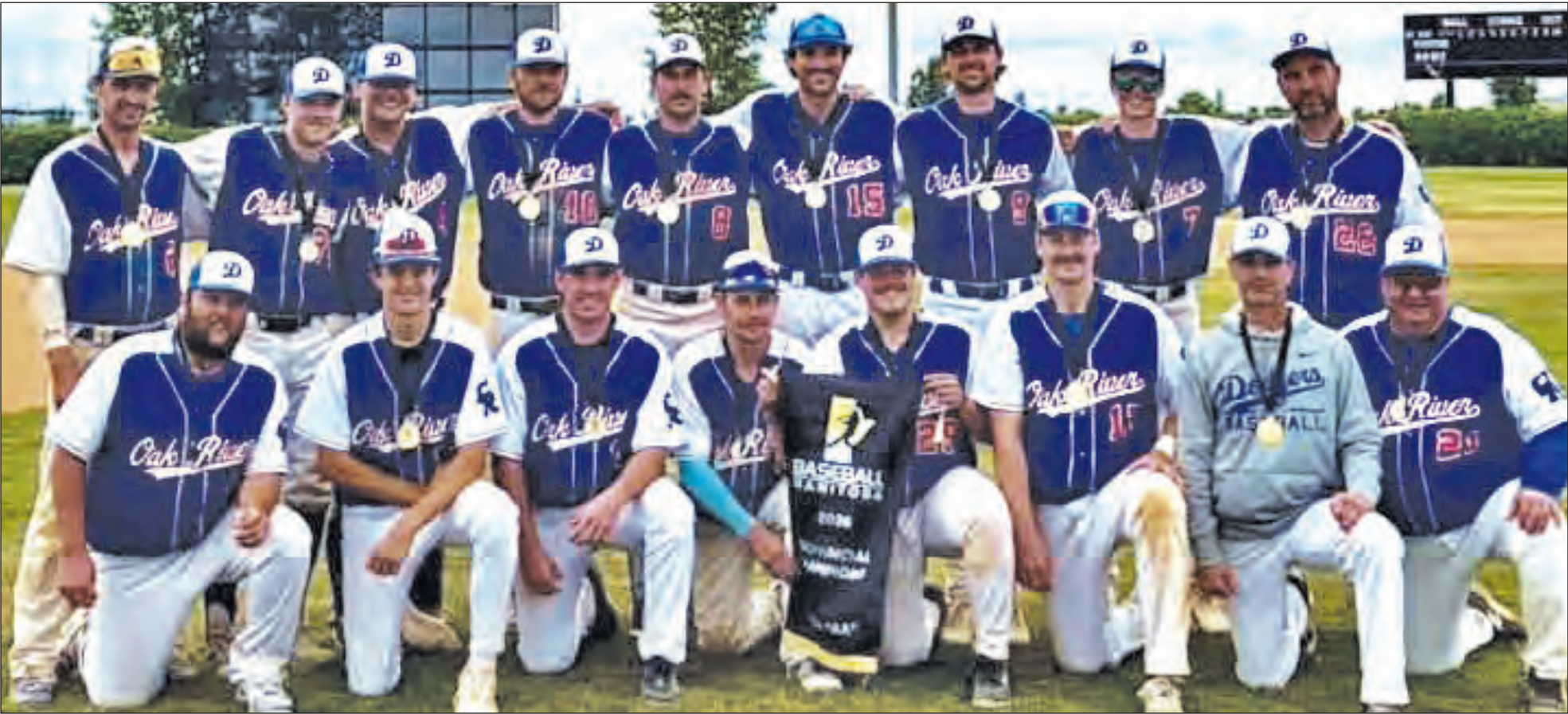
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SPORTS

BASEBALL MANITOBA SENIOR AA PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Oak River Dodgers went undefeated at 5-0 to capture the Baseball Manitoba Senior AA Provincial Championship. In the final, the South West Baseball League squad defeated West Winnipeg 7-4. The provincial tournament was held Aug. 7-9 in Winnipeg. Look for more on the Dodgers in the next issue of the Rivers Banner.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
COMMUNITY CALENDAR					Aug 14	15
					Chase the Ace Rivers Legion 7pm	The Lemonade Stand for Hope 10am - 2pm Iron Butt Challenge Ride fundraiser for Oakview Clinic with Supper
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Rivers Legion Bingo 11:30am	50 + Card Games 1pm 	50 + Club Pool 1pm 	50 + Club Cribbage 1pm Darts Rivers Legion 7pm 	Rivers Legion Cribbage 7pm 50+ Floor Games 1pm 	Chase the Ace Rivers Legion 7pm 	Newspaper is closed for one week
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Newspaper is closed for one week					Rivers Food Bank 9:30 - 11:30am	
Rivers Legion Bingo 11:30am	50 + Card Games 1pm 	50 + Club Pool 1pm 	50 + Club Cribbage 1pm Darts Rivers Legion 7pm 	Rivers Legion Cribbage 7pm 50+ Floor Games 1pm 	Chase the Ace Rivers Legion 7pm 	