

WE ARE PROUD OF OUR FIREFIGHTERS**Rivers
Banner****RIVERS BANNER****GAZETTE-REPORTER****Local People. Local Stories.**

Serving the Rivers, Rapid City, Forrest, Kenton, Oak River, Hamiota and Oak Lake areas for 116 years

Meet the Candidates Riverdale Forum

PHOTO BY CAROLYN PHILLIPS

The Riverdale Council candidates up for election. Voting for council will take place on October 28, 2026.

By Carolyn Phillips
RIVERS BANNER

In a spirited gathering at the Rivers Legion on Wednesday, October 14, approximately 100 citizens came together to meet the candidates vying for a seat on the Rivers council. The event allowed community members to hear directly from the individuals who wish to represent their voices and address the challenges facing Riverdale.

Among those present was Mayor-Elect Ian Dyer, who expressed enthusiasm for the future of Rivers and emphasized the importance of community engagement in shaping local policies.

The first candidate to speak was Ashley Brennan, a registered nurse and mother of two. Brennan is passionate about creating healthy communities today and for generations to come. She believes that fostering a supportive environment for families is crucial in addressing both current and future needs. Her focus on health and wellness reflects a commitment to ensure Rivers remains a vibrant place for families to live and thrive.

Bonnie Dreveski, a lifelong resident of Rivers, spoke about her aspirations for the community, underscoring the importance of supporting working families. As a mother raising her own family in the town, she is particularly passionate about increasing access to affordable childcare and enhancing tourism initiatives. Dreveski's insights highlight the potential for growth and improvement while remaining focused on the community's needs.

Seeking re-election, Christa Veitch outlined her priorities, emphasizing the need for sustainable development and safety within the community. She highlighted the necessity of improving health and wellness for all residents, a commitment that resonates with many who attended the event.

Everett Smith also seeks re-election, bringing valuable

experience in addressing rural issues to the council. His knowledge of local concerns makes him a relevant candidate, and he aims to ensure that Rivers continues to meet the unique needs of its rural population. Smith's leadership in the past has earned him respect and recognition from fellow citizens, making him a seasoned voice in this election.

The importance of recreation in the community was emphasized by Jocelyn Beever, another long-term resident of Rivers. Beever advocates for affordable recreational options for all residents, ensuring that individuals and families have access to activities that enrich their lives. Her vision extends to creating a safe environment for families to flourish—an aim that aligns with the desires of many constituents.

Mark Gill, a local businessman with deep roots in the farming community, shared his commitment to enhancing the fairgrounds and preserving the unique history of Rivers. Gill believes that creating reasons for families to stay in Riverdale is essential for its future growth and sustainability. His local knowledge and experience provide a vital foundation for his candidacy.

Lastly, Shawn Mason, also seeking re-election, spoke about the quality of life in Riverdale. He underscored accountability in addressing housing needs, improving infrastructure, and the responsible use of taxpayer dollars. Mason's dedication to transparency and community welfare is commendable, as he seeks to foster a thriving, well-managed community.

As the election approaches, it is clear that these candidates are passionate about the future of Rivers. Each candidate brings unique perspectives and experiences, reflecting the diverse needs of the community. Residents are encouraged to engage with these individuals, consider their visions, and make informed decisions as the future of Rivers is shaped together.

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FIREFIGHTERS**
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OF OAKVIEW
CANDIDATES**
P6

In my opinion: How should you vote?

By Anne Davison
RIVERS BANNER

Use the pencil they give you at the polling station! But first, find out as much as you can about the candidates and their thoughts about their municipality. Consider the next four years that will, I promise you, bring a whirlwind of challenges.

If you attended in person, watch online, or read about the debates here in the paper, you will probably learn some things about your community or municipality and about your friends and neighbours who are willing to take on the responsibility of council.

I've been following councils in western Manitoba for nearly two decades where these community members have tough decisions to make.

These are not professional politicians. Yet each has talents. They come with a variety of professional skills and as learners in the school of life. Even a seasoned councillor's role requires continuous learning with time invested in reading, reflection, maybe making phone calls and getting up to speed on issues.

The great thing about our municipal councils is that they are local people, you will meet them at public events, you can look them in the eye. They will drive the same roads you do and use the same services that the municipality provides.

You are electing a table that will, hopefully, complement each other's skills, knowledge and even personality. A strong council has to value teamwork, respecting those they sit at the table with and those they represent.

On Election Day, Oct. 28th, we do have all day, but I know some new Canadian citizens who aren't going to take all day, they are keen to participate in the democratic process.

And finally, I've been impressed with the line-up of candidates. Some good people will lose out and will not become councillors for the 2026-2030 term. However, I hope they will stay engaged, stay up to date with the issues. And I hope the elected councils will welcome public ideas, thoughts and concerns as they pledge to do.

ON OCTOBER 28 VOTE for your local school trustee

Your locally elected school trustees give communities a voice in public education.



MANITOBA
School Boards
ASSOCIATION

2026

Manitoba School Trustee Elections

Election Day is October 28, 2026
elect2026.ca

Re-Elect **BILL AAROE** For Council RM OF OAKVIEW



VOTE ON OCTOBER 28, 2026

Locations to Vote: Dora's in Cardale,
Oak River Memorial Rink and Rapid
City Legion Hall

Working For All of Us

ELECT **JOCELYN BEEVER**

for Riverdale
Municipal Council

Community service is an
important part of my life.



YEARS OF EXPERIENCE HAVE TAUGHT JOCELYN THE VALUE OF
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT, VOLUNTEERISM, AND TEAMWORK.

VOTE

Advance voting:
October 21, 2026
@ 670 - 2nd Ave, Rivers

Voting Places: Oct 28
Royal Canadian Legion Hall,
633 - 2nd Ave, Rivers

VOTE

RE-ELECT **SHAWN MASON** FOR COUNCILLOR

ELECTION DATE:
OCTOBER 28, 2026



MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD
THROUGH VOTING

✓ RE-ELECT **EVERETT SMITH** FOR RIVERDALE COUNCIL

Pursuing a third term to see old projects
come to fruition and to work towards
new opportunities for our community.



Remember to **VOTE!** Your voice, your choice, your vote.

Need for accountability in Manitoba's Child and Family Services system

By Colleen Robbins
MLA FOR SPRUCE WOODS

Representing the people of Spruce Woods means standing up for our communities, asking difficult questions and ensuring that the concerns of Westman residents are heard at the Manitoba Legislature. Since the Legislature resumed sitting in September, I have continued to press the NDP government on issues that matter deeply to families across our constituency and throughout rural Manitoba.

One of the most important issues we have addressed is the need for accountability in Manitoba's Child and Family Services (CFS) system.

On October 8, our Progressive Conservative Opposition brought forward a motion calling on the provincial government to immediately appoint a commissioner to conduct an independent public inquiry into systemic failures within CFS. When children are placed in government care, families must be able to trust that their safety and well-being come first. Serious questions about the system demand answers, transparency and meaningful action.

Sadly, the NDP voted against our motion. We believe Manitoba needs an independent examination of what is going wrong, why concerns were not adequately addressed and what changes are necessary to better protect vulnerable children. This is about ensuring that families receive answers and that lessons are learned to help prevent future tragedies.

I have also continued to raise concerns about the safety of seniors living in Manitoba Housing. Seniors who have spent their lives building our communities deserve to feel safe in their own homes. They should not have to worry about their personal security when walking through hallways, doing laundry or entering their buildings.

I have questioned the Housing Minister about these concerns because residents deserve more than reassurances. They deserve to be heard, to have their concerns taken seriously and to see ap-

propriate action taken to protect their safety and dignity.

Rural crime remains another significant concern for Spruce Woods residents. Our farmers, rural businesses and families deserve to feel secure in their homes and on their properties. Crime can have a devastating impact on livelihoods and a community's sense of security. I will continue to advocate for effective responses to rural crime, stronger protections for victims and the resources needed to keep our communities safe – including creating a dedicated unit of Crown prosecutors focused on tackling property crime.

Access to reliable health care is equally important. Hospital staffing shortages put pressure on health-care workers and can make it more difficult for patients to receive timely care close to home. Rural Manitobans should not have to wonder whether the services they depend on will be available when they need them. We must continue pressing for solutions that recruit and retain health-care professionals and support the staff who serve our communities every day.

I am excited to share with Spruce Woods that our Progressive Conservative team has introduced legislation that will expand the list of minor injuries and ailments that pharmacists can prescribe for. This means that healthcare is now closer to home and families, seniors, and patients will not have to travel as far for care when they can access it at their local pharmacy.

As your MLA, I will continue bringing local concerns to the Legislature, challenging decisions that put residents at risk and demanding answers when Manitobans are let down. My responsibility is to represent the people of Spruce Woods, regardless of whether their concerns are convenient for the government to hear.

The people of our constituency deserve safe communities, secure housing, dependable health care and a child-welfare system that protects those who need it most.

I will keep standing up for these priorities and working to ensure that the voices of Spruce Woods residents are heard in Winnipeg.

BAKED CHICKEN THIGHS & POTATOES

Ingredients

- 1-1/2 lbs boneless skinless chicken thighs
- 1/4 Cup olive oil, divided
- 1/4 Cup honey
- 1 Tbsp apple cider vinegar
- 2 tsp kosher salt, divided
- 1 tsp black pepper, divided
- 1/2 tsp onion powder
- 1/2 tsp paprika
- 1/4 tsp red pepper flakes
- 1-1/2 lbs baby potatoes, cut into bite sized pieces
- 3 shallots, peeled and thinly sliced
- 6 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
- 4-5 sprigs of fresh thyme

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 400°F.
2. Combine 2 Tbsps olive oil, honey, vinegar, 1 tsp salt, 1/2 tsp black pepper, onion powder, paprika, and red pepper flakes in a small bowl. Stir well.
3. Pour the mixture over the chicken thighs and stir them to coat well. Allow the chicken to rest in the seasoning mixture for 30 mins.
4. While the chicken is resting, combine the potatoes, shallots, sliced garlic, fresh thyme along with the remaining 2 tbsps olive oil, 1 tsp salt and 1/2 tsp black pepper. Stir well to coat the potatoes.
5. Spread the potatoes in an even layer in a 9x13 baking dish. Bake in the preheated oven for 20 mins.
6. Remove the pan from the oven and stir the potatoes. Nestle the chicken thighs into the potatoes and pour any leftover marinade over the chicken. Return to the oven for another 25-30 mins until the chicken reaches an internal temperature of 165°F and the potatoes are fork tender.

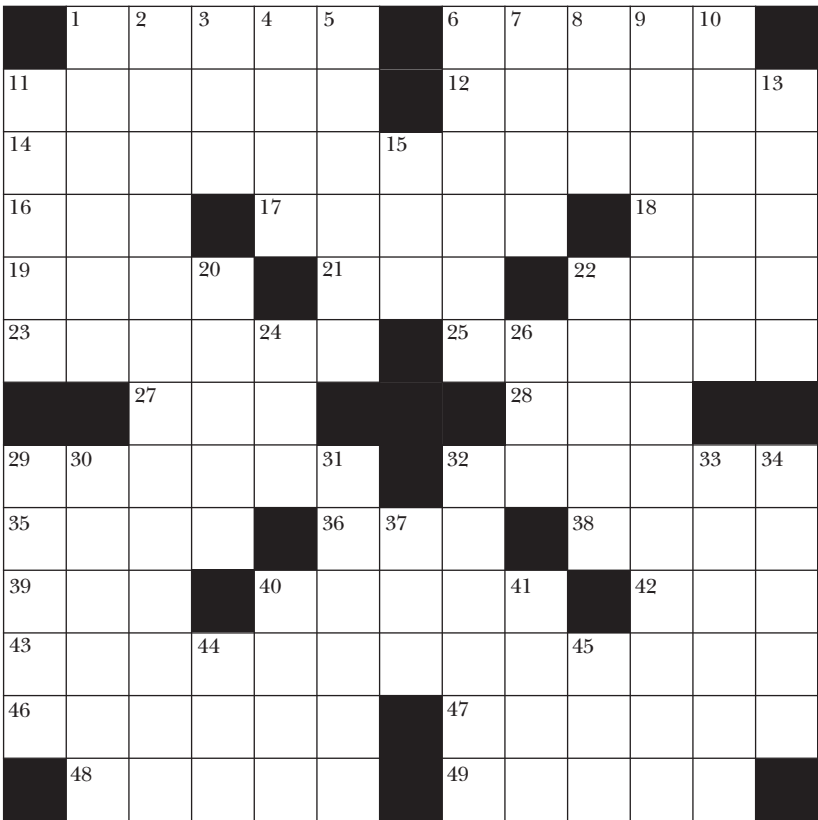
Locally created crossword

ACROSS

1. Traffic ticket penalties
6. Very skilled
11. Atlantic to Pacific canal
12. Persons arriving
14. To do with designing buildings
16. Brother to George Gershwin
17. Ocean motions
18. Future Net Income acronym
19. Californian wine valley
21. Negative answers
22. Religious offshoot
23. Vertical mine entrances
25. Food flavouring
27. ___-Magnon – early homo sapien
28. Paintings and sculptures
29. Stupid persons
32. Snow glider
35. House kept animals
36. 2000 lbs
38. 7 year old explorer
39. In fashion of
40. Sweeping tool
42. Bobbsey Twin name
43. Progressively worsening
46. Come forward (2 wds)
47. Is alive
48. Readies for publication
49. Lose weight programmes

DOWN

1. Fawcett of "Charlie's Angels"
2. Debilitated, powerless
3. Casual "no"
4. Discharge (radiation)
5. Smooth glossy fabrics
6. Entryway
7. Periods
8. Flightless Australian bird



Answers on page 14

Created by David Harris of Oak River, MB

9. Person with an attitude everything must be flawless
10. Stupor
11. Hurts and aches
13. Slashes
15. Tokyo's former name
20. Bushy hairdos
22. Fathered
24. Young child
26. Buddy
29. Apple's tablets

30. Erase text
31. Removes coverings
32. Made noise while sleeping
33. Non-repayable financial assistance (plural)
34. Suspends a picture
37. A win in tic-tac-toe
40. Fabergé aftershave brand
41. Long length dress
44. Prefix meaning above, over
45. Neck wear

RAPID CITY COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sundays 10 a.m.

Children's Church during the message

Bible Study – Thursdays 7:30 p.m.



JESUS IS LORD

VOTE

FOR

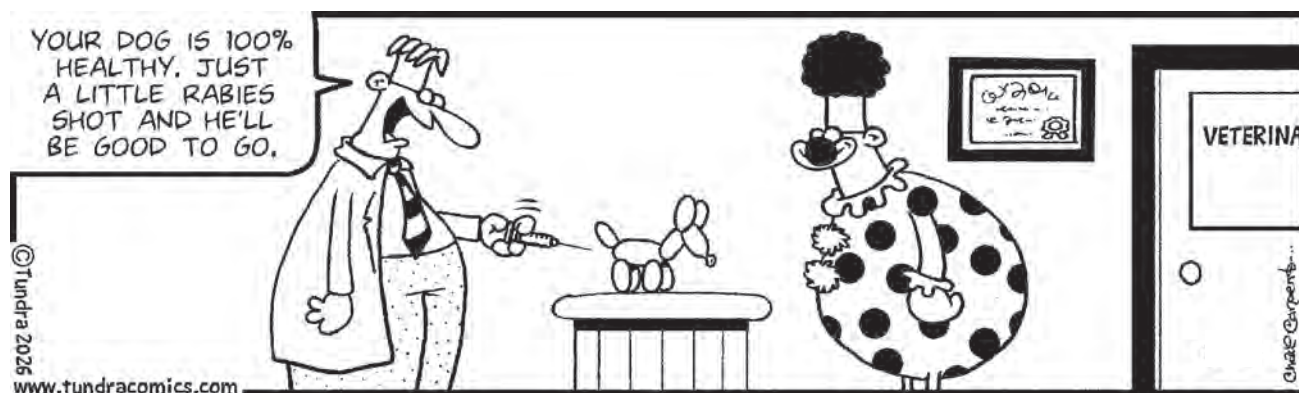
BRENT FORTUNE

FOR REEVE
RM OF OAKVIEW

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE, OCTOBER 28, 2026

Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



Customer service becoming a lost art

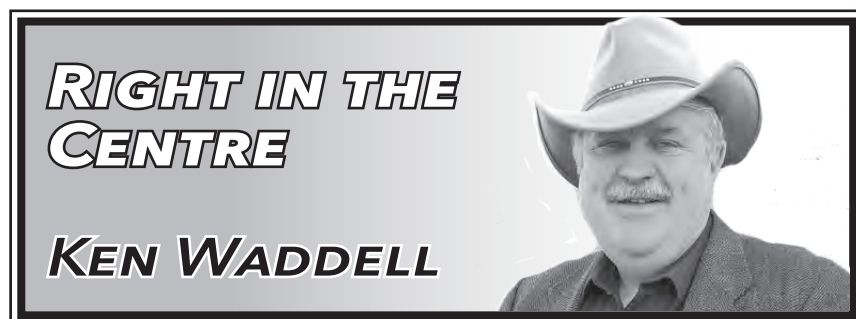
Last year, about this time of year I said I was very concerned with the way businesses are trending, especially large businesses and governments. In days gone by, every business, organization and level of government at least made an attempt at personalized customer service. It has gotten worse.

If you go to a bank branch, for example, you can get some semblance of local customer service, but for some services such as credit card information or commercial banking, it's all online. When it works, it's okay, but when it doesn't, it's awful. A year ago I was struggling to get a simple change over of access for a bookkeeper for an organization. They tell you to go to the web site, log-in and if that doesn't work, click for a new pass code and all will be well. I went through a dozen or more pass codes before I got a solution.

- Internet providers are similar. We have had email issues and we have been told it's because of a faulty computer or it's because we use Apple computers, it's because Apple won't talk to some email programs. Then they say, we have been blocked but they don't know why. It turned out that Apple computers weren't the issue, customer service was.

- Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) were recently evaluated and it was found that a very high percentage of their answers to taxpayers questions were incorrect. How can that be? Well, I guess I shouldn't be surprised. Many years ago a CRA auditor came out to my farm and said that interest on a farm loan wasn't a tax deductible expense. Fortunately, a letter from my accountant straightened that out, but it was frustrating.

I suspect today's problems with CRA may be due to so many of their staff working from home or remotely.



“ I believe that our customer service philosophy is pretty clear. ”

There's little opportunity to stick your head into the next office and say "Hey Josie, what's the right answer to question B?" If a staffer is labouring away all day without peer consultation, there's more room for error.

- Phone companies can be frustrating too. It took dozens of calls to get a simple change to a couple of our company phone lines. Each time the customer service rep on the other end of the line was apologetic and admitted that it shouldn't be complicated. However, it was complicated because whoever they referred a question to didn't make the required changes. I even had no phone service for a few days which was a bit annoying.

- I believe that our customer service philosophy is pretty clear. Our staff hopefully always answer the phone and with the approach that if they don't have the answer, they will do their best to find the answer.

- Looking at local municipal and town councils, it's safe to say they have a tough job and it has gotten tougher in recent years. I was on council twice but that was over 12 years ago. Council work has gotten more complicated for certain.

I think councils and staff could make things easier for themselves with a few changes. Technology allows for an exchange of information much simpler than in the past. Councillors, taxpayers and news media need to be able to see the agendas earlier. Most councils only prepare a very simple paper copy agenda that contains very little information. A few municipalities prepare an electronic agenda package for staff and councillors. Documents can be accessed very easily as the document links are embedded in the electronic agenda that is on the municipal web site. That's how it should be.

If material is going to be discussed in an open council meeting, then staff, councillors, ratepayers and media should have access to it. In an electronic agenda with the document links embedded in it, access is very good for everybody.

If municipalities and towns could all achieve that level of transparency and ease of access, voters would be better able to know what is happening. Maybe if more people had access to more information, it might be easier to get people to want to run for council.

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



Some deep questions

A few weeks ago a gentleman from Victoria, B.C., a thinking 96-year old, retired farmer who knew Ed from Homewood/Sperling days, Arnold McCurcheon, sent me a series of questions. I am choosing to share his questions and my answers:

1. Is she a pacifist? Enough to deny her sons a military uniform if called up?
2. How do we Christians avoid killing a murderous intruder that comes to our door?
3. How does she reduce her footprint on the environment, knowing we have passed the point of no return as a civilization?

These are questions I live and walk with.

1. I want to believe I am a pacifist. If my goods were taken I could walk away, if my loved ones were hurt or were taken I would bear arms.

Would I want anyone to take another's life? Never. Do I know that evil must be stopped? Always. May I never be the provoker, always be the defender. We know the scars left on people and places by the armed conflict in the past, and in the present. We (I) also know that the fragile freedoms we take so for granted were hard won, and worth it. I would not urge a loved one to wear a uniform, I would not fail to offer love and support, pouring out prayers for protection.

2. How do we avoid killing a murderous intruder that comes to our door? I think of the martyrs of the past and the present. They held their faith and their values so dear that they willingly laid down their lives. That doesn't stop the advance of evil...With the advance of technology and loss of privacy and threats to individualism, I see no secret escape...I think of Jesus' last moments...he forgave the repentant thief, instructed his friend to care for his mother, and committed his mother to his friends' care.

Then, with a cry from deep within Jesus spoke to His Father and said — into your hands I commend my spirit...and gave up his spirit. I am contemplating those words for many scenes...when we have done all that we can, all that is asked of us, we can choose to give up our spirit as well. Defending my loved ones, the vulnerable, and disabled, when I have done with all my heart and body, then I can also commit my spirit to my God. Just my thoughts on that...

3. How do I reduce my footprint? Small steps indeed, but the steps that I can order....compost and recycle are big ones. I am blessed to have a small garden, organic, and carefully save all things compostable and have a bin in the garden yard. I take recycling seriously, knowing that too many times the big bin is defiled and discarded — but not because of my actions! I borrow rather than buy when I need a one or two time tool, I shop thrift stores, and donate to them as well. The disparity between the haves and have not, or have not enough is beyond my imagination....I can only throw the starfish that. I find on my beach back into the ocean...

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Hamiota community hears ideas, promises from 11 candidates



PHOTO BY ANNE DAVISON

Candidates L-R: Cal Harrison, Ryan Tolton, Jennifer McConnell Andrew, Tom Mollard, Les Kirk, Ross Gray, Randy Lints, Ken Lawn, Lance Routledge, Ed Brethour, Kelvin Tiller; moderator David Rawlings is explaining the meeting format.

By Anne Davison

RIVERS BANNER

The public attended Hamiota Community Hall on Oct. 14 to hear from their candidates for municipal office.

Hamiota Chamber of Commerce sponsored the event with chamber president David Rawlings moderating. He was pleased with the turnout of about 90.

The full slate of 11 candidates took their seats and were invited to tell the public why they were running. Responses were timed and speakers were drawn at random for fairness.

With no wards, the vote for council is at large, but for the first time in decades, Hamiota voters have to choose between three running for Head of Council: Randy Lints, Tom Mollard and Jennifer McConnell Andrew.

Andrew is a young entrepreneurial woman who has experience running her own businesses, and in board governance. She left an eight-year position with the school division to run for municipal office.

Lints is the incumbent with previous years as a councillor and a record of achievements with the current council which include gains for the community in healthcare and in education.

Mollard has raised his family here and brings knowledge of municipal governance having been a councillor in another municipality and having served as Hamiota's chief administrative officer for 15 years and recently as foreman of parks and recreation facilities.

Mayoral candidates were asked about transparency, how they'd bring fairness in drainage issues and deal with tenders where local businesses are involved.

Healthcare was a recurring topic. What strategy would each of the mayoral candidates propose to acquire the provincial government's support for 24-7 emergency coverage in Hamiota?

Andrew pointed to the strength of Hamiota's District Health Centre Foundation, "the need to continue to meet with the province on behalf of the health centre's needs, and suggested creating partnerships and collaboration at every level with surrounding municipalities...."

Mollard said in navigating bureaucracy and the government, "you're not the only one sitting on the doorstep asking for the same thing." He called the ambulance garage an example of leverage for getting more services and said the municipality needs their lobby to be positive, looking for ways to help government bring services to Hamiota.

Lints pointed to a new program, "still in its infancy," through the University of Manitoba that would see Hamiota (a teaching hospital) receive medical professional residents in many fields. He suggested that, although there's a shortage of ambu-

lances everywhere, it was to Hamiota's advantage to have Jason Little, from a Decker family, as coordinator for ambulance service with Shared Health.

Asked about the municipality's plan for paving Aspen Avenue, Lints responded, "We're trying to catch up a little bit and it's hard because the cost for pavement has gone absolutely crazy. We do probably half as much paving as was done 15 or 20 years ago for the same money." He said he'd need to confer with staff and that possibly the municipality could put some government grant money toward pavement.

Andrew said, "I think when it comes to paving, if you're attracting new people to our community and new homes for our community, it's really important to make sure that what they're coming to is adequate." She suggested a strategic plan for paving and road repair with benchmarks and would lobby for grant money.

Mollard was CAO when the new development was started and pointed out that when Aspen was first developed, the properties were listed for \$35,000 – the cost to create them. They eventually sold for less. He said new pavement could not come out of the regular operating budget as that would take away from 20 years of upkeep on the other streets. Aspen paving could be financed under a capital plan requiring a public hearing to give the ratepayers involved a say in the matter.

Other topics for both mayoral and council candidates included countering rising crime, enforcing new speed limits, working through disagreements around the council table and prioritizing projects to champion.

In the last term, appointments had to be made to fill seats when several councillors stepped away.

Now, there are six in-

cumbents: Ed Brethour, Ross Gray, Les Kirk, Ken Lawn, Lance Routledge and Kelvin Tiller, and two new candidates, Cam Harrison and Ryan Tolton - making eight running for six council positions.

As moderator, Rawlings was pleased the community submitted so many questions which candidates had to answer on the spot. The community heard many good answers. He said some community members said their "eyes were opened."

Some community members said their minds were changed; other people's decisions were confirmed.

The mood was upbeat. The public was made aware of issues and accomplishments for Hamiota as the 11 local people spoke before their hometown crowd, offering to give leadership.



Don't let flu and COVID-19 interfere with your plans.



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Manitoba 

RM of Oakview goes to the polls

By Anne Davison
RIVERS BANNER

The R.M. of Oakview has three wards where voting takes place. However, every eligible voter within the municipality can cast a ballot for one of three reeve candidates.

Candidates for Head of Council (Reeve): Gavin Reynolds, Brent Fortune and Nelson Gourlay.

Ward 1 (Rapid City) selects two councillors from a field of five candidates: Frank Hyndman, John Dalgleish, Ian Christie, Lloyd Evans and Shawn McFadden.

Ward 2 (east side) selects two councillors from a field of four candidates: Trent Hedley, Chris Raupers, Robert

Christie and Joey Bootsman. Ward 3 (Oak River and area) selects two Councillors from a field of three candidates: Bill Aaroe, Andrew Corbey and Charles Stewart.

Wards are for election purposes only. The Council represents the municipality as a whole.

Oakview also has two Local Urban Districts:

Three Committee Members for the LUD of Oak River are acclaimed: Robert Turnbull, Karen Johnson, and Harmony Burke.

Three Committee Member are needed for the LUD of Rapid City with four candidates running: James Paul, Curtis Citulsky, Jaimie Richter and Justin Usunier.

Bill Aaroe
Why do I want to be on Council?

Oakview is a welcoming community; when Sue and I moved here, we found the 'hometown' that we had not realized we were missing. I want to continue my work of helping ensure that Oakview continues to be a good place to call home. During my time on council, I have enjoyed participating in events in all parts of our municipality; whether a barbecue cook-off or helping our library recover from a flood. Our municipality has made great strides in the last four years with a gravel pit purchase, water systems rejuvenated, clean up orders enforced and new stores in both LUDs etc. I want to be

part of the next steps.
What is the most important part of being a Councillor?

Being on Council means that you represent the community. As councillor you need to listen to residents, not necessarily agree with them, but most importantly allow them to be heard without judgement. You are expected to be supportive of local activities; not favouring one part of the municipality over another. At the council table you are required to bring reasoned judgement to all decisions, particularly the difficult ones, by considering the bigger picture and longer time frame.

Brent Fortune
Why do I want to be on Council?

I have sat on council for 36 years, 12 years as reeve and 24

years as a councillor, so I think my experience would help move the RM forward. I have always taken an interest in local politics and been involved in many local organizations for many years.

What is the most important part of being a Councillor?

I have three things on my list:

- To be accountable to the ratepayer in fiscal management and efficient use of the services the RM provides.
- Willing to listen and communicate with fellow councillors, reeve and general public on issues that would benefit the RM moving forward.
- Sit on council for the well-being of the RM, not for a personal agenda.

Robert (Bob) Christie
Why do I want to be on Council?

I am running for Councillor in Ward 2 for the RM of Oakview. For the last four years I have chaired the Council of the RM of Oakview as reeve. I stated four years ago that I would not seek the reeve position for a second term and thus allow for someone new.

What is the most important part of being a Councillor?

If elected to Council for Ward 2, I would continue to use my many years of experience with MTI to steer this RM down the path of proper due-diligence.

I feel the most important part of being a councillor is to work for, and bring forth to council any and all concerns from the people I represent.

Thus, I am asking for your support in this upcoming election, and I encourage you to get out and vote.

Two forums for RM of Oakview



PHOTO BY DALE DAVISON

Candidates for Oakview reeve and council L-R: Joey Bootsman, Chris Raupers, Nelson Gourlay, Trent Hedley, Andrew Corbey, Robert Christie, John Dalgleish, Lloyd Evans, Charles Stewart, Gavin Reynolds, Brent Fortune, Ian Christie, Frank Hyndman and Bill Aaroe.

By Dale Davison
RIVERS BANNER

On Thursday, Oct. 15 the Oak River Rink Hall played host to a forum where the public got to hear reeve and council candidates answer some tough questions. Moderator Marci Shachtay posed the questions and candidates for reeve gave their response. Council candidates then had an opportunity to speak to each question.

Pressing issues

Candidates for reeve, Brent Fortune, Nelson Gourlay and Gavin Reynolds were asked to identify the most pressing issues in the municipality.

Fortune stated, "Our infrastructure, costs are going up and up all the time and maintaining the services that we provide and trying to improve on is another issue."

Gourlay said, "We need accountability at the table and accountability from leadership. We have to get the basics right, and right now we're not meeting the basic requirements of keeping our infrastructure functioning."

Reynolds responded, "The most pressing (issue) is the rising cost of operations. Fuel, gravel, machinery, materials and wages are all rising much faster than is sustainable by taxation alone. The best path forward is to increase our population. Aging and inadequate infrastructure is a looming problem. The cost of maintaining assets is growing ever higher."

Healthy business sector

When asked how to help the business sector become healthier and more vibrant, Fortune identified well maintained streets and roads as essential.

Gourlay said, "We have a watershed district now that's

choosing not to use a prime building in our downtown, not even choosing to cut the grass there. What about turning that into a business hub."

Reynolds stated, "I've advocated for a municipal wide economic development board to provide a one-stop support structure for any business to find assistance. This should be everything from guidance through building permits, support locating potential grants, a hub for employment opportunities...and quick access to municipal advice."

Set a course

Candidates were asked, if elected, what action they would take to set the municipality on a secure and controlled course.

Fortune said, "Take responsibility and make sure that you're looking at what the budget's doing." He stressed the importance of "accountability to the public, both where the money is being spent and the communication that we need."

Gourlay stated, "The first action I would take is actually a forensic audit. Secondly, full contract review. Make sure that we're as efficient as possible in those contracts. And then bring back local money for local services."

Reynolds replied, "So, the RM of Oakview has a strategic plan. I'd encourage whoever is elected to review this long-term plan and update it to reflect the new council's wishes, direction, and goals. I'd encourage council to study the financial plan, understand the budget fully and then use those decisions to rebuild reserves. I would also encourage council to look beyond what they can achieve in a single term."

Rapid City forum

The Rapid City Chamber of Commerce held a can-

didates' forum that packed Rapid City's Legion Hall on Oct. 15. All 19 candidates running for positions in the RM of Oakview turned out.

Doug Findlay a farmer from the Rapid City area was invited to be the moderator. Questions were gathered ahead of time, and questions were also taken from the floor.

For the Chamber of Commerce, Theresia Blaaukijke (RC Hair Styling) said "There were good questions and good responses from the candidates." She thought the evening would have been helpful for voters.

With this expansive municipality Theresia said that people don't know everyone who is running, but "now they can put a face on a name."

Candidates

Along with the three reeve candidates the municipality has three wards and two LUDs.

Ward 1 (Rapid City) will select two councillors from a field of five: Frank Hyndman, John Dalgleish, Ian Christie, Lloyd Evans and Shawn McFadden.

Ward 2 (east side) selects two councillors from a field of four: Trent Hedley, Chris Raupers, Robert Christie and Joey Bootsman.

Ward 3 (Oak River) selects two councillors from a field of three: Bill Aaroe, Andrew Corbey and Charles Stewart.

Three committee members are needed for the LUD of Rapid City with four candidates running: James Paul, Curtis Citulsky, Jaimie Richter and Justin Usunier.

Three committee members for the LUD of Oak River - Robert Turnbull, Karen Johnson, and Harmony Burke - were acclaimed.

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OAK RIVER FIREFIGHTERS

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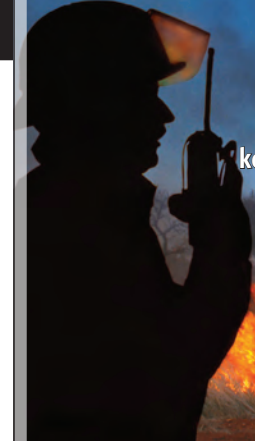
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- From the Staff at



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Missing Koraleigh Brown, Josh Currah, Ryan Toews and Mike Speiss



HAMIOTA FIREFIGHTERS

Sean Schweitzer, Chris Sutherland, Bill Feschuk, Shawn Patterson, Dallas Skayman, Ron Dale, Jennifer Andrew, Dwayne Campbell, Josh Currah. Firefighters not in photo: Blaine Lee, Blaine Colli, Randy Kirk, Jonathan Adair, Tammie McConnell, Trinity Lints



KENTON FIREFIGHTERS

Owen Routledge, Dean Brooker, Ethan Nixon, Andrew Hunt, Easton Slimmon, Charlie Airey, Bruce Sangster, Lane Routledge, Davey Logan, Mathew Williams, Donald Caldwell, Micheal Draper, Tyler Routledge, Trent Alexander, Brett Hemrica, Brad Nixon. Missing from photo. Jonathon Kroeker, Boden Bond Tyler Bond, Blake Goulden, Riley Hill, Cameron Hodgins Chris Routledge

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Follow my favorite fire safety rules!

- Make a fire escape plan with your family.
- Never play with candles or matches.
- If you hear a smoke alarm beeping, get outside and stay outside.
- If there is smoke, crawl on the ground where the air is cleaner.

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David HOUSTON - CHIEF	Kaden HALL	Jayce KREUTZER - JUNIOR	Katie SCHMIDT	Albert LOGEOT	Chris MASSON - DEPUTY	Dino MAHMUTOVIC	Dylan MAKSYMIC
							MISSING FROM PHOTOS JUSTIN DECROILERE
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SPORTS

JETS READY FOR 2026-27 THHL SEASON

By Robin Wark
RIVERS BANNER

With much of the team returning, the Rivers Jets are looking to fly again in the Tiger Hills Hockey League.

The local senior hockey squad is slated to open its season on Oct. 24 on the road against the Minnedosa Bombers. The Jets' home opener is Oct. 30 against the Hartney Blues, who fell to the Killarney Shamrocks in the 2026 THHL final. Last season, Rivers posted a 14-4-1-0 record and made it to the league quarterfinals. In 2024-25, the Jets were 13-3-0-0 and competed in the THHL East Division final. What has allowed the team to be successful?

"I think the big thing is having a good core of players that has been with us since the start," coach Ryan Lamb said. "They have created an environment and team culture that makes it hard for guys to want to leave."

Goaltending looks to once again be a

strength. Riley Lamb was 7-4-1-0 and posted a 2.65 goals-against average last season. Layne Anderson had a 6-0-0-0 record with a 2.21 GAA.

"Similar to last season, we are going to lean on our overall team skill and speed as well as our strength in net with Riley and Layne both coming back for another season," Ryan Lamb said.

The Jets' top returning players include leading scorer Luke DeCorby, who posted team highs of 18 goals, 25 assists and 43 points in 18 games. Defenceman Riley Shamray, the team's captain, was second in scoring with 31 points in 18 games, including seven goals.

Kaelen Huibers (14 goals and 27 points), Kayden Sutherland (11 goals and 26 points) and Jaxon Heeney (21 points) rounded out the team's top five point producers from last season.

Veterans Mike McFadden and Tanner Nedohin have stepped away from the team. Coach Lamb said, "both guys will

be missed in the room for sure, but we hope to see them around the rink this winter."

The Jets have added some new faces to its lineup for the upcoming season. Defenceman Curtis Muir played last season for the Russell Rams of the Sask East Hockey League. Forward Reegan Kominko posted 50 points in 41 games last season while captaining the Coastal Tsunami, a Gibsons, B.C.-based team in the Pacific Junior Hockey League. Cole Lobreau, a forward, collected 27 points in 36 games last season for the U18 AAA Yellowhead Chiefs. Fellow former Chiefs player Riley Swereda spent time last season in the Superior International Junior Hockey League.

The THHL will feature 15 teams this season. The Oak Lake Icemen and the Pilot Mound Pilots are joining the league, while the Sandy Bay Flying Feathermen have left. The top 12 teams will make the playoffs, with the higher seed choosing its opponent in each round.

A calm, cozy guide to not accidentally burning down your house

PARENTING
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BETH
McCONNELL



Parenting comes with a thousand invisible jobs, and one of the most important, and easiest to overlook, is fire safety. We baby proof outlets, lock cabinets, and cushion sharp corners, but fire safety often sits quietly in the background, waiting to matter. And when it matters, it matters completely.

The truth is, kids don't naturally understand danger. They understand curiosity. They understand warmth. They understand the flicker of a candle or the glow of a stovetop. They understand sitting beside a fire and roasting marshmallows, but they don't always understand that something can really hurt them until it is too late.

Start with the basics. Most parents assume they'll know what to do in a fire, but emergencies don't leave room for thinking. They leave room only for instinct. That's why having working smoke alarms, on every level, outside every bedroom, is an important safety decision. Test

them monthly. Replace batteries yearly. Replace the entire unit every ten years. It's mundane, but it's lifesaving.

Then there's the escape plan. Not the vague "we'd go out the front door" idea, but a real plan: two exits from every room, a meeting spot outside, and a practice run that feels almost silly until you realize how much calmer your child becomes once they know what to do.

Kids don't need fear based lessons. They need clear rules. Matches and lighters are tools, not toys. Candles aren't decorations they can touch. The stovetop isn't a place to lean, reach, or experiment. And when you're cooking, baking, or using heat, narrate what you're doing. "This pan handle stays turned in so no one bumps it." "We keep towels away from the stove." "We don't leave the kitchen when something's cooking." These small explanations build lifelong habits.

If you blow out a candle and walk away before the

wax cools, they notice. If you overload a power strip, they notice. If you leave your curling iron plugged in on the bathroom counter, they notice. Kids learn fire safety the same way they learn kindness, patience, and responsibility, by watching you do it first.

Kids can be scared of fire drills at school. They can be anxious after hearing sirens or seeing smoke. They can worry about "what if" scenarios that feel too big for their little worlds. As parents, we can't promise them nothing bad will ever happen. But we can promise them that preparation makes us safer. We can promise them that our home has a plan. We can promise them that they're not responsible for emergencies, we are.

Fire safety isn't about creating fear. It's about creating confidence. It's about giving kids the tools to stay calm, make good choices, and trust that the adults around them are ready. It's one of those quiet parenting jobs that rarely gets applause, but it's one of the most important ones we do. Because at the end of the day, fire safety isn't just about preventing disaster. It's about protecting the life you've built, the people you love, and the home that holds your entire world.

Superstitions

By Gerry Nolan
RIVERS BANNER

Editor's note: Superstitions have a lot of different versions. Gerry's version is in regular type below and another version is in italics. Hope these sometimes contrasting versions spur people to study history and the Bible. KW

GN: Spilling salt is believed to be bad luck but to cut out the impending misfortune cancels quickly by throwing a pinch over your left shoulder to undo the curse.

Ed. Note: Spilling Salt: True to folklore. Throwing salt over the left shoulder is an ancient European superstition meant to blind the devil.

GN: Red sky at night, sailors delight. Red sky in the morning, sailors take warning.

Ed. note: The Red Sky Rhyme is factually accurate meteorology. A red sky at night indicates high pressure and clear weather approaching, while a red sky in the morning signals approaching wet, stormy weather. The earliest version of

this that I know of is in the Book of Matthew in The Bible.

GN: Superstition is born out of ignorance and fear thrives the most when reason is asleep. Fear is the main source of superstition and one of the main sources of cruelty. To conquer fear is the beginning of wisdom.

Ed. note: The Bible also says that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

GN: The famous baseball legend Babe Ruth said, I only had one superstition, I made sure to touch all the bases when I hit a home run!

Ed. note: This quote is also reported as an anonymous sports joke, not a Babe Ruth quote.

GN: Superstitions are habits rather than belief. Michael Owen said, I don't believe in superstitions. I just do certain things because I am scared that something will happen if I don't do them. When I officiated hockey a couple of superstitions I had were wearing the same t-shirt under my referee sweater and putting my right skate on first. Looking back, it was a habit and

just feeling comfortable.

Ed. note: Some sources say the quote about doing things out of fear rather than belief belongs to Johan Cruyff rather than Michael Owen.

GN: Ladders - Walking under a ladder is universally considered to be unlucky, but where does it come from? Most ancient explanations suggest it could be something to do with the Holy Trinity. A ladder against a wall creates a sort of triangle by walking under a ladder. You effectively walk through a triangle and break the Holy Trinity, an act of blasphemy that could open a portal for the devil.

Most realistic theory is that a leaning ladder resembles the gallows that criminals were hung from.

The most logical reason could simply be that someone working up on a ladder could easily drop a tool, paint or whatever as you pass underneath. For that main reason alone, it is better and safer to walk around the ladder than under it!

Lions, 4H team up for Hamiota fish fry



PHOTO BY ANNE DAVISON

Working hard over a hot stove, Murray Powell (background) and Eli Plata cook up the fish for the fry at Hamiota.

By Anne Davison
RIVERS BANNER

Folks lined up for a tasty fish fry at Hamiota Hall where the best side dish was visiting with friends, family and neighbours. A fish fry is something different in the heart of prairie farm life where pork, beef and chicken are staples.

On Sunday evening, Oct. 18 the Hamiota Lions Club chocked up another successful meal, although Lion Ryan Hamilton said numbers

were down this fall. He said it wasn't unexpected with a difficult harvest season. Yet, they served about 250 people.

Tasty grilled or deep-fried basa was supplied through The Meat Man at Oakburn, a Lion himself. Baked spuds, beans, coleslaw was accompanied by carrot cake.

Lion Matt Rogaski organized the meal. Hamiota Ag Society supported this in partnership with the energetic Decker Country Riders 4H Club – providing an important experience for the 4Hers, says a club leader.

Redline Transport 40th Anniversary



The lineup of Redline freightliners on display at the 40th Anniversary celebration.



Kate and Tessa with grandma Colette and Al Lepp helping them celebrate.



PHOTOS BY CHRISTINE WADDELL

Special presentation of a sign from Doepker Trailers from Saskatoon, proud to be a supplier.

A century ago



What was happening in October 1926. It was a month of massive cultural debuts, high-stakes sports history and sudden political and tragic shifts that came from the roaring twenties. It was also a time when the modern 2 day weekend was just being born. It was also the debut of a classic iconic children's book, Winnie the Pooh, which was published in London by Methuen and company, immediately capturing the world's heart and still very popular today.

The name "Winnie the Pooh" originates from a

real-life bear named Winnie, who was originally from Winnipeg, Manitoba. The bear was adopted by Canadian soldier Harry Colebourn during World War 1 and named the bear after his hometown.

A. A. Milne, the author of the Winnie the Pooh stories, was inspired to create the character after his son, Christopher Robin, visited the London Zoo and encountered the bear. The name "Winnie" is derived from the bear, while "Pooh" comes from a swan that Christopher had named after a childhood pet, reflecting a playful and whimsical aspect of childhood.

Ernest Hemmingway, a well-known author published the novel, The Sun also Rises.

October 1926 was the fall of the famous Icon, legendary escape artist, Harry Houdini. Harry ended up being punched in the abdomen by a student in Montreal, testing his core strength. He was injured but ignored the pain which subsequently developed into appendicitis and he died on Halloween!

Babe Ruth hit 3 homeruns in a single game, game

4 of the World Series on October 6. Babe Ruth was playing for the New York Yankees. Despite his efforts the St. Louis Cardinals won the World Series on October 10.

The 5-day workweek began when Henry Ford officially shifted his factories to a 40-hour week, 5-day workweek, closing on Saturday and Sunday which was a massive victory for the labor movement that helped birth the modern weekend. October 1926 was the very first full month that his factory workers operated under the new schedule, helping cement the concept of the modern weekend in popular culture. It is interesting to see that today companies want to be open 7 days a week with some offering 24-hour service.

I leave you with this little verse that my brother Lynn wrote in my autograph book when I was a lad.

There was an old man, his name was Henry Ford
He had a piece of rubber and a 2-inch board
He put some gas in an old tin can
He put it all together and the darn thing ran!

CLASSIFIEDS

Notice



NOTICE OF ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that a vote of **Riverdale Municipality** will be taken to elect

6 Councillors, at large, from the following duly nominated candidates:

For the offices of Councillor:

- Brennan, Ashley
- Mason, Shawn
- Veitch, Christa
- Gill, Mark
- Dreveski, Bonnie
- Smith, Everett
- Beever, Jocelyn

The following duly nominated candidate is hereby declared elected by acclamation and no vote will be required;

For the Office of Mayor:

Dyer, Ian

VOTING PLACES

Voting places will be open for voting on Wednesday the 28th day of October, 2026 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

at: Royal Canadian Legion Hall, 633 – 2nd Ave, Rivers MB

IDENTIFICATION MAY BE REQUIRED BEFORE BEING ALLOWED TO VOTE. A person may be required to produce one piece of government issued photo identification (for example - driver's license or passport) or at least two other documents that provide proof of identity.

ADVANCE VOTING

For the purpose of accommodating persons who are qualified to vote, but who have reason to believe that they will be absent or otherwise unable to attend their proper voting place on election day, an advance voting opportunity will be located at the Riverdale Municipal Civic Centre Council Chambers, 670 – 2nd Ave Rivers MB and will be open during each of the following days October 21st, 2026 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

MOBILE VOTING

For the purpose of accommodating persons who are qualified to vote, but reside at a health care facility, a mobile voting station will be set up at the following health care facilities on election day:

1. Riverdale Personal Care Home, Solarium ~ 9:00am – 10:00am

APPLICATION TO VOTE BY SEALED ENVELOPE

A voter who is unable to go in person to the voting place or vote in advance, may apply in person, in writing, by email, or by fax to the senior election official at Box 520, Rivers MB R0K 1X0, cao@riverdalemb.ca or fax: 204-328-5374.

If applying in person*, a voter may apply between September 30th and October 25th, 2026.

* A voter applying in person may pick up a sealed envelope ballot package at the time of application. All voters should bring identification when requesting a sealed envelope ballot.

If applying by mail or fax**, a voter may apply between July 30th and October 25th, 2026.

** A voter applying by mail, email or fax will receive a sealed envelope ballot package by regular post, or by making alternative arrangements with the senior election official.

Marci Quane
Senior Election Official
Ph: (204) 328-5300

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Some history about Baseball

By Gerry Nolan
RIVERS BANNER

The Milwaukee Brewers defeated the Los Angeles Dodgers in 4 straight games to advance to the World Series. The Dodgers payroll was more than the 3 other teams who are competing against each other for the right to play for the World Series Championship. This just proves you can't buy a championship. The game is played on a baseball diamond. The Brew Crew from Milwaukee were the better team, Yeah!

The last time Milwaukee won the World Series was 1957 as they defeated the New York Yankees 4-3. Milwaukee reached the World Series in 1982, but Harvey's Wallbangers, as they were called, lost to the St. Louis Cardinals.

Back to the 1957 Champions, the Milwaukee Braves as they were called back then had a host of great players. This included names like Hank Aaron, Lew Burdette, Warren Spahn, Eddie Matthews, Red Schoendienst and Del Crandall.

Some of the famous New York Yankee players were Mickey Mantle, Yogi Berra, Bobby Richardson, Tony Kubek, Whitey Ford and Don Larsen.

Milwaukee lost to the St. Louis Cardinals in 1982. Some of the Brewer roster were Paul Molitor, Robin Yount, Ned Yost, Gorman Thomas, Don Sutton, Rollie Fingers.

For the St. Louis Cardinals, the roster included names like Jim Kaat, Bruce Sutter, Ozzie Smith, Willie McGee, Keith Hernandez, Tommy Herr and manager Whitey Herzog.

The Los Angeles Dodge

rs payroll of approximately \$339.3 million has an estimated luxury tax penalty of \$180.8 million dollars, and baseball wonders why they need a salary cap!

In 1957, the World Champion Milwaukee Braves payroll was \$469,000. It was the second highest payroll in the

National League.

In 1982, the Brewers payroll was not tracked or published although two of their highest paid players were Robin Yount who earned \$546,500 and Paul Molitor earned \$435,000. This season the payroll of the Milwaukee Brewers was ranked 19th in Major League

Baseball of \$146,206,320.

Milwaukee awaits its opponent as Cleveland hasn't won the World Series since 1948 (defeating the Boston Braves 4-2).

Tampa Bay are still playing their series to see who goes to the fall classic.



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Haller Haunted Forest, a Spooktacular Success!

By Carolyn Phillips
RIVERS BANNER

As the leaves fall and the air turns crisp, the enchantment of autumn calls upon all thrill-seekers to venture into the eerie embrace of the Haller Haunted Forest, located just east of Rivers off Highway 25. This annual event, a favorite among local communities, not only promises spine-tingling adventures but also serves a noble cause, raising funds for Westman Dreams for Kids (WDFK).

This year, thanks to the tireless efforts of Irene Fidler and her team of dedicated volunteers, Haller Haunted Forest achieved a remarkable feat, raising a staggering \$2,686 for WDFK. This incredible contribution will go directly towards helping make dreams come true for children battling illness within the Westman region. The community spirit and generosity displayed during the event truly embody the essence of what Haller Haunted Forest is all about.

Bringing such a grand event to life requires meticulous planning, creativity, and dedication. From designing hauntingly spooky attractions to preparing engaging activities, every detail is considered to ensure that visitors experience both thrills and chills. Despite Mother Nature throwing a few curveballs along the way, including unpredictable weather that could have put a damper on spirits, the team remained unfazed. They adapted with positivity and resourcefulness, allowing the event to unfold seamlessly and keeping the fun rolling even amid challenges.

Haller Haunted Forest was not just about the scares—it was a celebration of community. People from surrounding areas flocked to partake in this spooky spectacular, making memories that will last a lifetime. The air was filled with a delightful mix of screams and giggles, as families navigated through the frightful paths, each experience unique and



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The crew worked hard to bring fright and delight to all who attended this years Haller Haunted Forest.

exhilarating. From haunted buildings to scare zones populated by friendly ghosts and goblins, there was something for everyone, ensuring that thrill-seekers of all ages found joy and excitement.

This year's event had something special in store for returning visitors. The creativity and clever designs showcased in the haunted attractions left attendees on the edge of their seats. Those brave enough to explore the forest came face to face with spine-chilling creatures, and moments of suspense transformed into delightful laughter, thanks to the playful spirit of the team. The combination of fear and fun created a welcoming atmosphere that kept families coming back year after year.

As we reflect on the success of this year's Haller Haunted Forest, it is important to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who came out to support WDFK. Each ticket purchased and each donation made has a tremendous impact, showcasing the compassion that resides within our community.

We can hardly wait for next year's event, which promises to be even more thrilling and creative. Mark your calendars and prepare for another weekend of frights and delights under the moonlit sky. Haller Haunted Forest is sure to return with its delightful scare tactics and enchanting atmosphere once more—a can't-miss experience for all who dare to enter! See you next year ... if you dare!

SUNMONTUEWEDTHUFRI

SAT

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

25

St Andrew's Beef Supper

Oak River Fall Supper

Oak River Memorial Rink 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Rivers Legion Bingo 11:30am

26

50 + Card Games 1pm

27

50 + Club Pool 1pm

28

ELECTION DAY

50 + Club Cribbage 1pm

Darts Rivers Legion 7pm

29

50+ Floor Games 1pm

Rivers Legion Cribbage 7pm

30

Prairie Crocus Library Storytime in Rivers 10am

Chase the Ace Rivers Legion 7pm

31

Happy Halloween

Hope it's a real treat!

Nov 1

Rivers Legion Bingo 11:30am

2

50 + Card Games 1pm

3

RIVERDALE municipality Council Meeting

50 + Club Pool 1pm

4

50 + Club Cribbage 1pm

Darts Rivers Legion 7pm

5

Rivers Food Bank 9:30 - 11:30am

50+ Floor Games 1pm

Rivers Legion Cribbage 7pm

6

Prairie Crocus Library Storytime in Rivers 10am

Chase the Ace Rivers Legion 7pm

7