

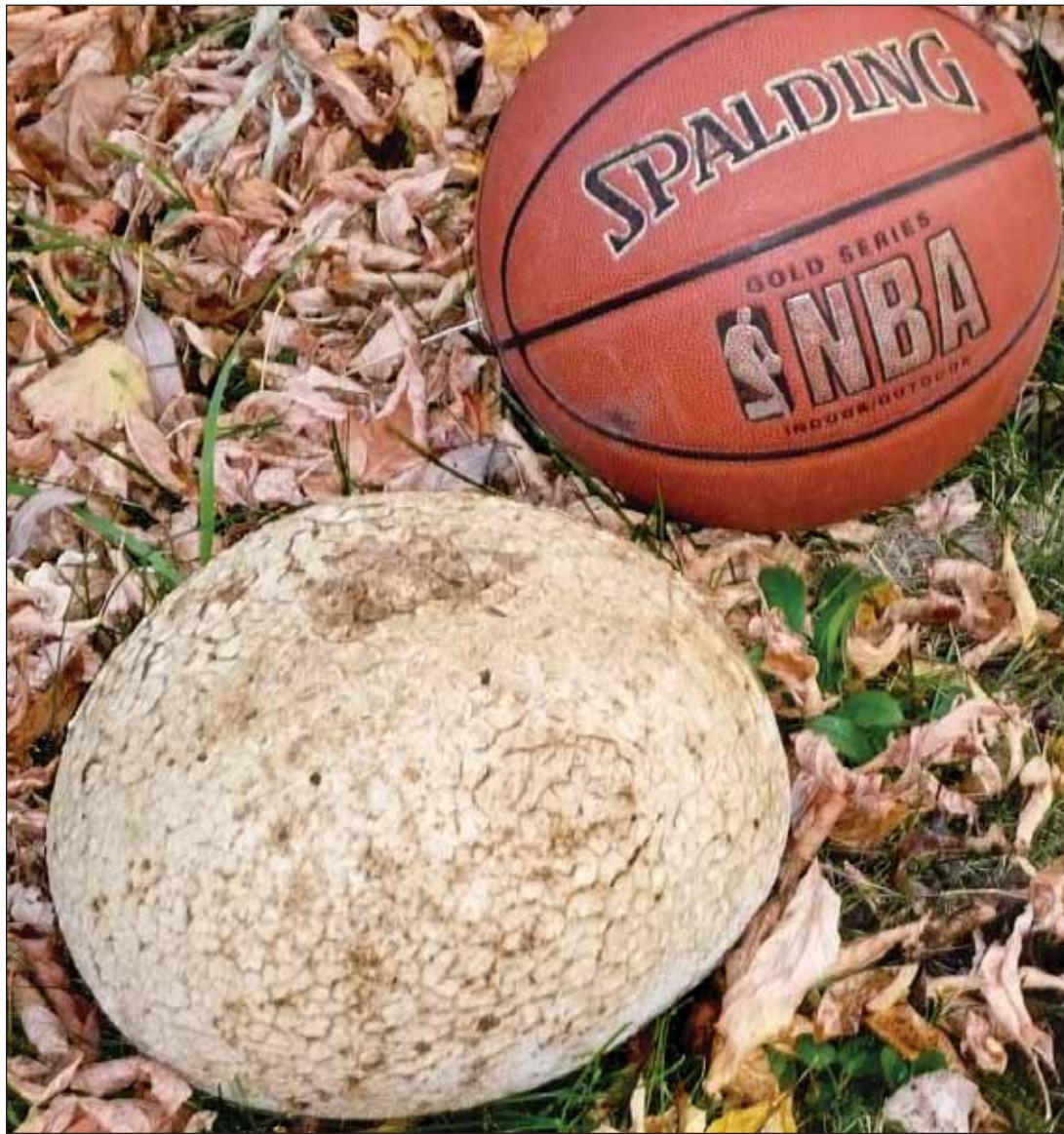
The Westend Weekly

Bringing Communities Together



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Photographers' showcase



Giants

This is a mushroom that grew on the lawn at the Arnold home. The basketball next to it shows what an enormous size it grew to.

by Gary and Tina Arnold

This is a new spot in the paper in which we invite readers to show off a photo they are proud of or would be of interest to the rest of us. No rules, just provide a sentence or two to describe the picture.

New long-gun registry bill would destroy records

Calling it a "defining moment" for their government, Conservative MPs promoted their bill to abolish the long-gun registry and destroy all its records on Tuesday after it was introduced in the House of Commons.

Public Safety Minister Vic Toews, the sponsor of the bill, called it a proud moment for his party and the culmination of years of work to scrap the registry, which the Tories say has been a waste of money and resources.

"That waste is finally coming to an end," he said during an event at a farm near Ottawa.

Tory MP Candice Hoepfner, whose private member's bill to eliminate the registry came close to passing in the last Parliament, was among the MPs at the event.

"Today is a defining moment

for our government," she said as she laid out the case for scrapping the registry.

She said the requirement for owners of rifles, shotguns and other long guns to register their firearms has unfairly targeted law-abiding citizens instead of criminals and burdened them with red tape.

Hoepfner said the registry has cost nearly \$2 billion since it was created in 1995 and that that money should have been spent cracking down on real criminals, not farmers and hunters.

"The long-gun registry is not gun control, and because of that it is an ineffective and a waste of taxpayers hard-earned dollars," she said.

The registry is not a valuable tool to reduce gun crime, the Manitoba MP said, adding the

majority of homicides are not committed with long guns. Hoepfner acknowledged crimes have been committed with long guns, but said those crimes happened despite the registry.

The government says it is maintaining the strict system of controlling restricted and prohibited firearms and that police checks and safety courses are still required in order to buy a gun and ammunition, and to maintain a licence.

The Conservatives have tried several times to scrap the registry since taking power in 2006 but were never successful in a minority Parliament. They promised during the spring election to try again and now with a majority in the House of Commons and Senate they should be able to pass it with little trouble.

via CBC news

Newly formed group hope to perform on a monthly basis



From left Sandra Allan, Charity Rose and Brittany Hayes, the Sunset Country Chicks.

By Marlene Deschamps

During the Metis Harvest Fish Fry held at their hall on Armit Avenue, those attending got to hear some great music. Besides having a chance to listen to Justin Boshe and Company, they got to hear from the newly

formed Sunset Country Chicks. This group of young women are familiar to us as individuals but as a trio they are even more amazing.

Sandra Allan has won many awards and will be travelling to Scotland next year. She was fea-

tured in an article last year. Charity Rose was featured more than once over the years as she was a regular performer on the small stage at the Emo Fair. She started performing there when she was only 8 years old. Brittany Hayes is a regular winner at singing competitions held on both sides of the border, has won Quest and has performed in theatre productions held locally and district wide. These three major talents add up to a big hit. They are hoping to perform on a monthly basis and be part of a planned Christmas Concert. You can check in at the Sunset Country Metis Office to find out when they will be performing and where if you want to get a chance to hear this first class act.

Baudette celebrates its train depot re-opening



Board of Directors from left, Jeff Poolman (behind the podium), Jay Rudegir, Eileen Olson, Marti Carlson, Joanne Kliner, Carol Birkeland, Cindy Hanson and Hal Bitzer.



This mural depicts an early scene on the Rainy River at the train bridge crossing between Baudette and Rainy River.

By Marlene Deschamps.

There was a grand two day celebration held in Baudette on October 21st and 22nd for the grand re-opening of the Baudette Train Depot.

The schedule of events over the two days had something for everyone, from music to art to food. The three part celebration featured the Lake of the Woods Art Guild Exhibits, three different music presentations, poetry entries, door prizes and refreshments and was truly a celebration of the a dream launched back in 1997 when local caring citizens banded together to save the Baudette Depot from an imminent date with a wrecking ball.

The inside of the depot has been restored to its former glory and although the contractors estimate another month of work remains to be done there will be continued activity at the depot. There is a huge room where the Lake of the Woods Art Guild Exhibit displayed beautiful art works from area artists of note. Going left from the entry one can see the beautiful mural which depicts boats with the train trestles in the background. There is a room that is for railroad memorabilia that is becoming quickly filled. In charge of

the room is the historian extraordinaire, Jay Rudegir who is a walking historian on all things related to the railroads and to its connection to both sides of the border.

Speaking at the Grand re-opening was Lynn Eaton who is the District Engineer for the District of Northwestern Minnesota (MINDOT). They were responsible for \$400,000 worth of funding that the Depot got for the restoration. He told the crowd gathered that he was very pleased to be in attendance and what a great day this was. He also informed the crowd that they would be seeing the International Bridge being replaced by 2017 at a cost of \$85 million dollars. He congratulated everyone on their hard work and dedication.

Also speaking at the event was the Mayor of Baudette Rick Rone. There was an author present who is writing a book on old train stations that are being preserved and he would be including the depot in Baudette. A representative from the Minnesota Historical Society congratulated everyone for their huge effort.

During the two day celebration, the winner of the 30 word Poetry Contest concentrating on

terms related to the railroads were announced. They had 32 entries from the Grade 3 classes at the Lake of the Wood School. There were also 9 adult entries. Some of the winners were Korbin Peterson, Jace Block and Lexus Cheney who received honourable mention. There was a tie in the adults category with Penny Mio Hirst and Cindy Olson sharing 1st place. Prizes for both categories were donated and ranged from Depot note cards, train whistles and special chocolate bars.

For the time being, the Baudette Depot will not be open except for special functions and by appointment. Application are now being taken for rental of both the business space and the apartment as well as special facility use. They anticipate that the business rental space and the apartment will be ready for rent by late December.

An "Old Fashioned Christmas" is scheduled for December 10th. All in all the celebration was a great way to spend the weekend and kudos to all who helped save another important part of railroad history. It is a big part of the history of the country.



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