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Suncatch Plaza to open June to August

By Lorne Stelmach

The City of Morden will be closing off the half block of Eighth Street downtown again this summer to open up Suncatch Plaza.

The city closed it off from May to September last year on a trial basis, and council decided it was worth trying again, though for a shorter time frame and also with some better amenities and promotion.

A measure is also in place to address

the concerns related to the loss of about a half dozen parking spaces on that street, noted Mayor Nancy Penner.

"We thought if we didn't do it this year, we likely would never do it again," said Penner, who acknowledged the city did fall short with the planning last year.

"We just felt we have such a gem right in the middle of our city," she said. "It will be a really inviting space, even just to stop by and have lunch





VOICE FILE PHOTO

Morden's Suncatch Plaza will be open from June 10 to Aug. 19 this year for community events.

... and we're looking at having food truck days ... there's lots of ideas circulating for it."

The city did a community survey last fall after the trial period, and while there were concerns around the plaza, the results had about 70 per cent of respondents say they would like to see it done again.

It was touted by proponents as a way to create a community space for programs and events and to draw people downtown, but some merchants and property owners questioned the benefits.

While they applauded the council's desire to further boost the downtown, they didn't feel the experiment was enough of a success to continue with it and lamented the impact on parking and traffic flow. As well, there was some sentiment that it wasn't used enough to warrant closing it off for the entire season.

The plan for this year is to have the plaza in place from June 10 to Aug. 19.

The city is doing a number of things to improve the space, Penner said, including investing in brightly coloured picnic tables, improving lighting, ordering planters for the area, and putting up signage.

Another change will help to address

the parking concerns.

"We have worked out an agreement with the Anglican Church just north on Eighth Street," Penner said. "They're going to be doing some work on their parking lot and opening it up for public parking. So that will really help ease the parking problem there

"We really appreciate having them work with us for parking because parking has been a concern with some of the merchants on Stephen Street."

Penner added there had also been some further consultation done.

"Council did poll the merchants on Stephen, and we've had a positive response from them," she suggested. "We're only going to do nine weeks.

"We are opening up the calendar for anybody who wants to book an event. We will be waiving any fees," the mayor said, noting the city is already getting some interest, including a Filipino Independence Day cultural celebration as well as a Menzies Medical Centre noon-hour lunch fundraiser.

"So there's lots of opportunities for the community to get involved with the space," she concluded. "It's right down in the heart of Morden. It's just such an opportunity to participate there."





SCRL book sale raises over \$17K for library system

By Lorne Stelmach

Its return to a large, full-scale book sale this past week paid off nicely for the South Central Regional Library.

Director of library services Cathy Ching estimated the sale held over three days at the Access Event Centre in Morden brought in about \$17,500 for the library network.

"It was so exciting to have it back. It felt good. It was good to have it back again," said Ching, who noted those proceeds are noteworthy given it came from selling bags of books for \$10 each. "That's a lot of bags of

books. It's quite impressive when you think how many bags walked out the door."

The used books and other materials came not just from local donations

but also a mountain of boxes leftover from a used book sale held in support of the Children's Hospital in Winnipeg earlier this spring.

Continued on page 5



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Bookworms came out in droves for the South Central Regional Library's giant book sale in Morden last week. SCRL's last large-scale used book sale was in 2019.







4 *The Voice* Thursday, May 9, 2024

Students pay it forward

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Students from Border Valley and Blumenfeld schools kicked off Pay It Forward May last week by spreading joy in the community.

The students began May 1 by learning about the Pay It Forward campaign from guest speaker Myra Peters, executive director of the Winkler Community Foundation.

Several classes were then bused into Winkler to pay visits to Salem Home, city hall, and the police and fire stations.

At the personal care home, Gr. 1-4 students sang songs and recited poetry, much to the delight of the assembled residents.

Meanwhile, the Gr. 4-5 students who stopped by the public service buildings came armed with baked goodies





they had made themselves to hand out in thanks to police officers, firefighters, and city staff.

Other classes paid it forward by picking up garbage in their village or painting and hiding rocks with uplifting messages on them.

Teacher Crystal Hildebrand says the Pay It Forward initiative dovetails nicely with the school's focus on teaching the kids about a different value every month.

"This school year we've been working on building character and each month we've had a different focus," she explains. "This month's focus is kindness.

"So one of the things we thought of doing with the kids was having them go out into the community and spread some joy and kindness around." Hildebrand's class had a blast bak-

ing the treats they handed out during their visit to Winkler, and they got the added benefit of getting tours of both the police station and the fire hall.

"I was asking them today what they thought of the trip, what kinds of feelings they got from it, and they said it was joyful, it made them hap-



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE Border Valley and Blumenfeld school students kicked off Pay It Forward May by singing at Salem Home (above) and dropping off thank-you baking at the Winkler fire department (right), police station (left), and City Hall.

py to do it—and the bonus was they got to check these other things out."

Hildebrand hopes the kids take away an important lesson from these types of community exercises.

"I wholeheartedly believe that one small act of kindness does trickle out there and it makes for more people doing kinds things for one another," she says. "A small act of kindness can be enough to really brighten someone's day."

The students will round out



ABOVE PHOTO BY WINKLER FIRE DEPARTMENT; LEFT PHOTO SUBMITTED

Pay It Forward May by stopping by the Winkler Senior Centre in a few weeks for some fun and games with their elders.

Spread some kindness for Pay It Forward May

By Lorne Stelmach

The local community foundations are encouraging residents once again to take part in Pay It Forward May.

The Winkler Community Foundation and Morden Area Foundation are not doing formal campaigns and events this year, but they are still challenging the communities to pay it forward by creating ripples of kindness.

"It's exciting to hear and to see what's happening and going to happen this month ... we want to continue to encourage it," said Myra Peters, executive director of the Winkler Community Foundation.



"We still want to encourage everybody to think about how they can pay it forward and to be kind and to do kind things," agreed Sue Nelson, chairperson of the Morden Area Foundation.

Both said the foundations have a lot of programs and initiatives on the go right now, so they opted to go more low-key with Pay It Forward this year.

"Our board said let's do things, but let's do it on a small scale," said Peters.

Paying it forward doesn't have to be a grand gesture, she noted, citing for example how Winkler Elementary School students last year cleaned up trash from the parks and helped their school custodian by stacking chairs, sweeping, vacuuming, and collecting garbage and recycling.

Local florist shops meanwhile de-

Healthy Muslim Families opens office in Winkler

By Lorne Stelmach

An agency built around the vision that strong families are the foundation for a strong community celebrated the official opening of its Winkler location last week.

The new Healthy Muslim Families office aims to strengthen and empower families through education, workshops, and support services in line with Muslim values.

Healthy Muslim Families began in Winnipeg with volunteers who were working to help meet the needs of Muslim families there in 2010. The organization was incorporated in 2020 and is now a non-profit working to fill the gaps in services to support the growing Muslim community in Manitoba.

Their new Winkler office is in the same building as the mosque at 2-385 Mountain Ave., and program director Shaista Zahid Zehri says it will provide support and a variety of services to the over 200 Muslim families who are making their home in the Pembina Valley.

She sees her position as a great opportunity to be involved in providing a hub for collaboration, support, and community engagement.

"They thought I've been in the community a long time, especially the local community and our Muslim community,' she said. "I would love to work voluntarily with the different organizations ... like Regional Connections and Central Station. It's a good opportunity for me to serve more.

"I'm so glad I can do something better and good for whatever the people's needs are," Zehri said. "I love to work with the people ... I can do more work for the community ... it's good for me to connect with people and what the needs are, and I can try my best to help in a good way."

Zehri sees the office playing a vital role and filling a void in a range of areas such as family programs, women support, public education, finan-



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Healthy Muslim Families celebrated the grand opening of its Winkler location on Friday.

cial and employment support, youth skills and leadership, and more.

"Some people, they need help, but they hesitate to talk, to go out ... this is a good option," she suggested.

"They are doing youth skills and leadership. They're doing art and culture, which is exciting because my daughters, they are really amazing at art and things, so I thought it's a good opportunity for other kids. They can come and use their skills and stuff, especially they have maybe a couple summer programs.

"I love especially the women's support because women always are maybe hesitant to be open," Zehri added. "So many newcomers are coming ... they need help ... and it's a good thing to network with them."

You can find more information online at www.healthymuslimfamilies. ca.

> BOOK SALE, FROM PG. 3

As always, the sale's opening night last Thursday was especially busy, with a lineup that Ching estimated meant it took perhaps 10 minutes for people just to get into the arena.

She gave credit to Morden branch librarian Gail Hildebrand for overseeing it all as well as the Morden fire department for assisting.

"They did help us unload all those books, and then at the end of the sale they helped move them all out of there," said Ching, adding the fire department will get a portion of the proceeds for their efforts.

"Our volunteers, we couldn't have done this without them. They really stepped up for us," she added. "It was so nice to see the reception from the community, and it was people coming from all around."

Ching noted they have a few changes in mind already for next year.

"We learned a few things we want to do differently next year just to make it easier for people. Now that we know a bit better what we need to do, we can get it all sorted out a bit better."

One thing they will look at is having some books sorted according to language.

"We heard so many people speaking different languages," Ching said. "We had language collections in those boxes, but we've never had a sale where we've had so many people ask us for

> PAY IT FORWARD MAY, FROM PG. 4

livered bouquets to the police and community members at the ball diamonds, and one organization headed to Winkler Bible Camp to help with spring clean-up.

Peters has already heard this year that one school is going to sing at Salem Home, while others were going to do yard clean-up and share baking and do a food drive.

"It's just exciting to see how schools and students and businesses and different groups engage in this initiative and really see the importance of how sharing kindness can really make a difference in our community," she said. Spanish and German books. We've always had a small section. Next year we're going to focus on having a section set up just for the German and the Spanish and the French books."

They will also aim to better sort the non-fiction books into various categories.

"We need to be a little more specific with that," Ching said. "People had a little more work to do to find what they were looking for there." Ching noted there have been some questions about what happens with all the leftover books.

"We got some books packed up for the prison libraries in Winnipeg and a few other community groups, but otherwise they went to recycling," she said. "If we did have more help and more volunteers, we could maybe make other projects happen ... but we just didn't have enough bodies and time."

"I love seeing and hearing the community already engaging. It's kind of ingrained in people already," Peters added. "I definitely think that the communities have really embraced the campaign and are participating and paying it forward with kindness in different ways. It kind of runs itself."

Nelson noted the Morden foundation has been busy with a number of other initiatives of late, such as Power of the Purse in March and now the Citizen of Distinction award and the new Learn and Return health care bursary.

"We have just been so busy with

other things that we have decided not to do a formal campaign about Pay It Forward," she said. "We, of course, love Pay It Forward and we want Morden citizens to still pay it forward and do their own thing."

"Our foundations are all about making our communities better places to live ... and we do that through our granting, but we also do it through our other programs and initiatives," Nelson noted. "Certainly Pay It Forward can also help to do that as well." People can share how they paid it forward this May or share the kindness they have seen around them by using #PIFM on social media.

News or sports tip? E-mail news@winklermordenvoice.ca or call 204-325-6888







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OUR SISTER PUBLICATIONS





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REPORTER Lorne Stelmach

on the idea of affordability. A lot of people have been thinking about affordability. So much so that many are in the midst of a nationwide attempt to boycott stores like Loblaws and its associated franchises. We live in in-REPORTER

teresting

Coming out of two

years of pandem-

ic we have seen

the world trans-

formed in ways we

could not predict.

Siobhan Maas

PRODUCTION Nicole Kapusta



DISTRIBUTION Christy Brown

or take). People are concerned. Some blame "the media" (as if we were ever so organized as to agree on some sort of theme). Perhaps if we just closed our eyes all of the things we are worried about would simply vanish. If only

Lately my mind has been fixated

times.

Technology was accelerated toward

a more remote and work-from-home

environment, global supply chains

were wildly disrupted, two concern-

ing wars have erupted on the world

stage in Ukraine and Israel, the housing stock is struggling to keep pace

with demand, as is the need for health care professionals, and Elon Musk believes he should be paid \$50 billion as

CEO of Tesla-enough to build more

than 140,000 homes in Canada (give

By Peter

Cantelon

this were true.

Middle class revolution

ome people don't like In one sense things have not changed the use of the word much. Those who live below the pov-"class" in polite conerty line have always been in a crisis of housing, a crisis of affordable groversation, but I canceries, a crisis of physical and mental health care. We just didn't notice until not think of a betit began to affect those of us who octer way to define what I'm cupy the middle ground between the uber wealthy and the economically talking about, so I suppose disadvantaged. we're stuck with it for now.

In Canada, as in most countries, when the poor cry out there is often much wringing of hands and a lot of words but little in the way of concrete action. No, the real power rests with the middle class. The voting class. The tax paying class. The class that is currently piling onto the outrage bandwagon.

When the middle class starts calling for things like more houses and boycotts of Loblaws, knowing full well it can afford to pay a little more for groceries and drive to a different grocery store further away for a while, people in power listen and offer things like a 30-year amortized mortgage instead of 25 years ... this will definitely help the poor (NOTE: Need to find a sarcasm font).

If Loblaws were to close tomorrow, more than 136,000 Canadians would be out of work, but we can always deal with that later right?

Most of the new funding programs designed to stimulate housing are staunchly aimed at the middle of the market and not deeply affordable, non-market housing for the poor.

All these things are coming about at an interesting time in Canadian politics.

We are coming into the "boring period." What I mean is that Canadians often get bored of their prime ministers after a certain point in time. Once this occurs it does not matter how well the country is doing or how good a leader the prime minister has been, Canadians tend to vote out the party of the prime minister in favor of change. For example, it doesn't matter to a lot of people that Canada had the second lowest inflation rate in 2023 amongst the G7 at 3.88 per cent compared to the lowest from Japan at 3.3 per cent ... it is felt that things could be better under new leadership. Should our next federal election occur at the latest possible date it can,

October 2025 (which seems likely), then Justin Trudeau will have been the sixth longest serving prime minister in Canadian history, edging out Stephen Harper by a couple of

Continued on page 7

Letter policy

The Voice welcomes letters from readers on local and regional issues and concerns.

Please keep your letters short (excessively long letters are less likely to be published), on-topic, and respectful.

The *Voice* reserves the right to edit, condense, or reject any submission.

Please include your full name, address, and phone number for verification purposes. Your name and city will be published with your letter. We do not print anonymous letters.

Send your letters to us by e-mail at news@winklermordenvoice.ca.

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McMunn and Yates celebrates in Winkler, Morden, and Altona

By Lorne Stelmach

The three former Canadian Lumber stores in Morden, Winkler, and Altona were all celebrating last week as they marked almost one year now under the banner of McMunn and Yates.

The Manitoba company that now has about two dozen locations around the province took over the three stores in south central Manitoba last June, and the response has been positive.

"I think it's been really good. I know that McMunn and Yates and the people there are really, really good. It seemed like a very seamless transition," said Joey Thiessen, manager of the Morden location, which held a barbecue last Friday as an official celebration. "The response from the customers and the contractors has been really, really good."

McMunn and Yates is a story of two families coming together. Formed in 1971 when Terry Yates and Stan and Gordon McMunn opened their first store in Dauphin, the company has now celebrated over 52 years in business.

McMunn and Yates aims to provide a spectrum of products from materials to professional design to flooring and furniture, and its mission is to be a leading supplier of products and professional service to the building industry while providing the best customer service.

Thiessen said they very much value the company's emphasis on community and maintaining that local

connection.

"The nice thing and what we really enjoy is the fact that all the people who made this store what it was before McMunn and Yates are all still here. The people are still the same; the service is still the same. The only thing that's changed is the name on the building," he said. "We all live here. We love our community. We love the people, and we love the opportunity to give back on a day like today.

"One of the things that we were all really thrilled about was that we could all stay together," Thiessen continued, noting the Morden location employs 12 to 15 people at its peak in the summer. "I really appreciate that the people make the store. Our staff are the heart of this store."

Being part of McMunn and Yates brings many competitive advantages, Thiessen noted.

"We've also been able to access some products that we weren't able to get before ... pricing is a thing as well," he said. "We've got 23 stores as compared to three, so our buying power is better, and we're able to get a better deal on most if not all of our products.

"It's good. Customers who come in are able to see how the store has been completely re-merchandised from the top down," he added.

"I'd always heard of McMunn and Yates ... now that I work for them, I've gotten to know the back story of the families and how they really care about community and the stores and the people."



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE Morden McMunn and Yates manager Joey Thiessen at the one-year celebration last week.

Vital Signs Community Survey now available

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Community Foundation is inviting the community at large to weigh-in as it drafts the 2024 Vital Signs report.

The foundation launches the Vital Signs Community Survey this Wednesday, May 8. It will be available until May 22.

"The survey is a chance to share your personal thoughts and opinions on life in Winkler and RM of Stanley," says executive director Myra Peters, adding that "the purpose is to get a better understanding of how individuals are doing in our community."

The results of the Vital Signs report, which also includes consultations with various local stakeholders and community groups, will be used to paint a picture of the quality of life in Winkler.

It serves as a snapshot of both the things we're doing well and the challenges the community faces, and, when compared to past such reports, can be a useful gauge of how Winkler



KUDOS TO OUR EMERGENCY RESPONDERS

Since my wife Hilda and I have moved back to Altona, we have become aware that our fire trucks and ambulances go out often.

We want to thank our dedicated firefighters and paramedics for everything that they contribute to Altona and surrounding community. We appreciate you and thank you for your service.

We also want to thank all the employers for allowing these people to leave whenever they need to respond to a call. You are also recognized and appreciated. Thank you to all of you.

George and Hilda Wiebe, Altona is growing and changing.

"We have had an excellent response to the community consultations so far," Peters shares. "We hosted a launch event and two round table discussions back in March. At these events we hosted city and RM representatives, as well as representatives from our local businesses and charities, health care, and immigration services.

"We continue to collect local data from our community. We are excited about the community response so far."

The community survey is open to all adult residents of Winkler and the RM of Stanley. All responses remain confidential. The survey takes about 15 minutes to complete.

Everyone who fully fills out the survey will be entered to win one of six

> CANTELON, FROM PG. 6

months at almost 10 years. Given our history, change seems likely.

What am I saying? Don't let anyone tell you that the change being driven right now is for the benefit of the poor. In reality, almost every change being driven right now in policy, funding and political party is staunchly aimed at responding to the needs of people

gift cards to local businesses totalling over \$1,000.

To fill out a survey, head online to winklercommunityfoundation.com/ vital-signs-2024 or pick up a paper copy from the foundation office, city hall, Central Station, or the Winkler Senior Centre.

"We are looking for 400+ surveys completed," Peters says, noting they're working on having people onsite at the senior centre and the community centre to assist anyone who needs help with the survey. Those details were still be firmed up at press time.

"We are working with Regional Connections to have the survey translated to allow more people to complete the survey," Peters adds.

like you and I, the middle class.

Once the appropriate investments have been made in the two key infrastructures responsible for the funding of bread and circuses things will quiet down, we will relax, and the poor will continue in the same state they have always continued in: poverty.

Gala provides a glimpse behind the scenes at Gateway Resources

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Gateway Resources in Winkler provided supporters with a glimpse into the lives of its participants at its annual Faces of Gateway gala last week.

nual Faces of Gateway gala last week. The fundraiser filled the banquet hall at the Emmanuel Mennonite Church and featured several Gateway participants and staff sharing what the agency means to them.

CEO Kim Nelson kicked the evening off by sharing a bit about Gateway's history, current programs and services, and plans for the future.

"In 2001, the Valley Rehab Centre and the Association for Community Living Winkler-Morden merged to form Gateway Resources, and we continue to build on their strong foundation and have been making an impact in our communities for over 23 years," she said, explaining the organization has a service agreement with the Department of Families to provide its residential, life enrichment, and employment services to individuals with intellectual disabilities.

"Over the years, the services have changed and have grown, however our vision of supporting adults living with an intellectual disability with person-centered goals and approaches remains strong."

The agency currently employes 220 staff and support 190 clients in Morden-Winkler.

"We provide a wide range of holistic supports by focusing on the emotional, physical, mental, and spiritual well-being of each individual," Nelson said. "We do this by walking alongside the individuals in all areas of their life and encouraging, exploring, and empowering their choices."

Community partnerships allow Gateway to offer a diverse range of programming, including its recycling operation. They process approximately 5.5 million pounds of recyclables from Winkler, Morden, and the RM of Stanley each year.

Gateway participants man the sorting line and bale up recyclable goods for resale, with funds generated going back into the organization's other programs.

"This work allows people to have a meaningful job every day," Nelson said. "And you will not find such dedicated and caring workers anywhere."

Gateway's participants also find fulfilling work in its newly expanded wood shop, which on average generates 24,000 crates, 10,000 pallets, and 19,000 crate spacers a year.

Gateway also helps its participants find gainful employment and volunteer positions in the community at large. Longtime relationships with numerous local businesses "show the strength of our community," Nelson said.

In the months ahead, Gateway will be opening up new residential facilities (bringing its total to 19 staffed residences in Morden-Winkler) and also moving into its spacious new seniors programming building on Main St.

"This new space has been a dream for some time. It is a multi-use space for our organization combining two programs: seniors programming on the main floor and residential services on the second floor," Nelson said, explaining it will provide apartments for individuals to live with support.



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Illusionist Brian Clow thrilled the crowd with magical feats at the Faces of Gateway gala last week.



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

From left: At Gateway Resources' fundraising gala last week, Gateway staff member Tina Wolf, participant Kimberlee Loewen, staffer Angela Fehr, and participants Joanne Irwin and Dan Eberling shared how the agency has impacted their lives.

"I am so happy to see where Gateway is today," Nelson noted, "and I look forward to the future of Gateway."

LEARNING, BUILDING CONNECTIONS

Kimberlee Loewen currently attends day services at Gateway. She's been involved with the agency for 14 years, working in a variety of areas, including the recycling depot and the box program.

"My favourite part of the day is my friends," she said, noting Gateway has helped her with her daily routines.

Dan Eberling has been at Gateway since 1998. He currently attends day programming, works in the wood shop, and lives in one of the agency's home share residences. He also has a job working at Eco Plus

"I've learned how to concentrate on the task at hand as well as how to be a good friend," he shared. "I've learned how to manage my money, how to stamp crates, and be an Eco Plus deliverer."

He said that his work at Gateway "gives me a purpose and it gets me out to work out in the community."

Joanne Irwin lives in one of Gateway's community homes and is a member of its senior activity program.

"I do crafting, going out for biscuits [at the Winkler Senior Centre] and I go out for meals once a month on Tuesdays," she said.

Irwin said she's learned a lot at

Gateway, both during her many years working in its various employment programs and today in her retirement. "I have learned more about baking and following recipes at my home and the senior program, as well as other life skills like laundry, cleaning my bedroom, and washing my floor." She loves the community at Gateway.

"I've been there for 33 years and I like coming back to visit and have coffee breaks with the staff and clients."

Also taking the stage were Gateway staff members Tina Wolf and Angela Fehr.

Wolf took a job with the company 30 years ago and quickly fell in love with the work and the participants she was tasked with supporting.

"When I first started I didn't know what I was getting myself into," she recalled. "It's been nothing but the greatest pleasure of my life that I never even expected."

Fehr currently works as a residential manager and likewise says her time with Gateway has been one of the best experiences of her career.

"The best thing about working with the clients and the participants at Gateway is the sense of community," she shared. "We learn something new every day from staff, from participants—they show their heart on their sleeves and they share it with you."

"[Gateway is] a place where you really experience that no matter what kind of challenge you go through, anything's achievable."

Salem summer BBQ is Wednesday, May 22

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Salem Foundation and the Salem Ladies Auxiliary have announced the date for their annual spring barbecue.

Supporters of the Winkler personal care home are invited to enjoy an evening of food, music, and community on Wednesday, May 22 from 5-7 p.m.

A tent will be set up on the facility's south parking lot (165 15th St.). Parking will be at the nearby Grace Mennonite Church, and a shuttle van will be available to transport people to the BBQ.

On the menu are the ever-popular "McMenno" burgers or a hot dog with sides, a drink, and Salem's famous monster cookies for desert.

In addition to the food, the evening will also include a performance from the Quonset Brothers starting at 5 p.m. This local band has been thrilling music-lovers since it formed in 2013, playing a mix of classic country, gospel, and even a few Low German tunes.

The supper is by donation, with all funds raised going to create a palliative care sitting area for families at Salem Home.

"It was revealed through our family surveys that resident families need a space to gather during such a time as this, and we want to honour them in this way," shares foundation chair Henry Enns "We have been so blessed to have a wonderful community who play such a large part of the support for our residents and projects not covered by the government. We are repeatedly humbled and blessed by our community's support for the residents of Salem Home."

Foundation executive coordinator Susan Hildebrand says the community has really rallied behind the barbecue in recent years. Last year they served 500 meals and raised nearly \$27,000.

"The first year we did it after



VOICE FILE PHOTO

The Salem Foundation and Salem Ladies Auxiliary are teaming up to host their annual summer barbecue on May 22. Admission is by donation, with proceeds going to build a family palliative care space at the care home.

COVID, we ran out of food," she recalls. "It was so wonderful to have so many people. People were hungry for community. And although it's been a couple of years since COVID, I feel like there's still that hunger. We do appreciate these things a lot more."

The palliative care sitting area Salem intends to create out of one of its existing spaces will give families a quiet place to gather and reflect.

"It will create a little bit more of a pri-

vate area, a separate area for them," Hildebrand says. "The [resident] rooms are just not conducive to more than a few people being in there at a time, so this way can go somewhere, when there are decisions to make, to be together; it's a hard time."

If you can't make the barbecue but still want to support this project, donations can be made at the care home or online at salemhome.ca/donate.



Quilt art on display at annual Barnswallow show

By Lorne Stelmach

Being in the spotlight as the featured quilter for this past weekend's Barnswallow quilt show was at first a bit nerve-wracking for Allison Halstead. Uncertainty about having enough work for the display, though, soon



gave way to excitement and satisfaction with the end result.

"I'm kind of amazed actually," said Halstead. "When I was first asked, I didn't think I had 20 pieces, and there's well over 60 here.

"I think I was shocked once I started to collect them and get them, dig through closets at home ... I was surprised how much I had done," she said. "I only made three new pieces for the show. Everything else was finishing things that were languishing at home or retrieving them.

"It feels good. When it all got put up on that first day, that was when it really hit me. Up until then, it was just nerves and concern and worrying is there going to enough? Is it okay?"

The annual spring show of the Barnswallow Quilt Guild has been going for over three decades, and the variety of displays has grown to include all manner of fabric work by artisans, with group members coming from a wide region.

New this year was a special display of work by the Fiber Arts Network called For the Birds, and there was

also the merchant mall overseen by Aspen Grove Quilting and featuring a number of vendors from across



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The feature artist for this year's Barnswallow Quilt Show was Allison Halstead.

the province. And of course the Barnswallow's Boutique also allowed members to have work available for sale.

Halstead shared that she was very much first inspired in her younger years by her mother.

"My mother is amazing ... she custom sews, did design work, did all kinds of artistic endeavors throughout her life, and she always encouraged me to do whatever I wanted with a needle and thread.

"I would sew my own things like doll clothes ... but I didn't really do much other than sewing clothes or garments until I was probably in my late 20s."

Something that caught her attention was English paper piecing, which involves stabilizing fabric pieces with paper before sewing them into intricate designs.

"I had seen something about English paper piecing in a magazine ... and I wanted to know what that was and how to do it," Halstead recalled, noting she then at one point took an introductory quilt class taught by Pearl Braun Dyck. "I was hooked. It was

Continued on page 15





Know the risks, have a plan

May 5-11 is Emergency Preparedness Week

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Morden-Winkler-Stanley's emergency coordinator encourages you to take a moment and consider the risks in our area during this year's Emergency Preparedness Week.

Darin Driedger stresses that pre-planning is one of the most effective ways of ensuring you and your loved ones are safe during a natural disaster or other emergency.

"This week is a good chance to discuss with your family, especially, but also at your workplace—talk about emergency management and emergency preparedness," he says.

That starts with being aware of the disasters that are most likely to occur in our area.

"Some of the common ones obviously for summer is severe weather, tornados, that kind of thing," Driedger says. "And then in winter we talk about things like winter storms, power outages."

And while we may have made it through this spring without much flooding, the events in the region last year—in which both Morden and Stanley grappled with serious overland flooding while Winkler's dike was nearly breached—clearly demonstrate flooding as a potential risk residents need to be ready for.

"And there's other things too," Driedger notes. "A hazardous materials incident, for example, like a large fire."

Whatever disaster may strike, Driedger urges you to consider how you would react.

"The key is to think about emergency preparedness wherever you are. So it could be at home. It could be at work."

You want to have a plan to either evacuate, if necessary, or, more likely, shelter in place.

"Essentially, you want to get indoors," Driedger says, adding it's important to do so as quickly as possible in a severe weather event—don't push your luck and try to make it across town to get home if a closer alternative is nearby. "So many of the fatalities or serious injuries occur from people in parking lots trying to get to their car and a big tree or branch hits them. Flying debris is a huge, huge risk for summer storms, and many of the injuries and fatalities in Canada seem to happen from that."

Once you find safe haven, hunker down somewhere deep inside the building. "A quick rule of thumb is to put as many walls as you can between you and the outside, especially for things like severe storms, tornadoes," Driedger says. "So obviously a basement if you can, but it can also be under a stairwell in a bathroom or any kind of interior room in a building. Odds are that's your best chance to stay safe ... you are way safer there than you are if you're caught outside."

It's a very human instinct to want to go see what's going on—even if it's just from your front window—but it can be an incredible risk to do so.

"There's lots of online videos from Canada and the U.S. of people getting hit literally by tornadoes and they're trying to record from their windows or something like that, which is obviously a dangerous thing to do ... it only takes a few moments for some of these things to happen."

Driedger also reminds parents that

the local schools all have emergency plans that will be activated to keep the kids safe.

"So if there is an emergency, we don't want people rushing to the school to pick up their children," he stresses, emphasizing the danger that could cause if severe weather is making it unsafe to be out on the roads. "They have a plan there, they're safe where they are."

Continued on page 13

Is your pest management expert licensed?

When you hire a commercial pesticide applicator, ask to see their licence.

- Only licensed professionals are certified to handle your pest problem by controlling weeds and pests in lawns, green spaces and in and around structures.
- Unlicensed applicators may not have the training and knowledge to do the job correctly.
- A licensed professional can develop a program to help reduce your need for pesticides through Integrated Pest Management techniques.

For more information, contact the Manitoba Agriculture office in Carman at **204-750-0754**.





BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE Regional

urges

to

emergency

coordinator Darin

take a moment

and make a plan

during Emergency

Preparedness

Driedger

residents

Week.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of dust control program

Homeowners along gravel provincial roads and main market roads in unorganized territories may apply to have dust control applied in front of their homesites at a cost of \$200 for a single application.

The formal application is available from your local Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure office. The deadline for these applications will be **no later than May 31, 2024**.

For more information, please contact one of the following Transportation and Infrastructure offices:

Steinbach 204-346-6266 Swan River 204-677-6540







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12 The Voice Thursday, May 9, 2024

Winkler man facing multiple firearms charges

By Voice staff

A 22-year-old Winkler man is facing numerous firearms charges after a multi-month investigation conducted by police.

Between Feb. 1 and April 29, the Winkler Police Service, Morden Police Service, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police D Division National Weapons Enforcement Support Team (NWEST) conducted a joint forces investigation dubbed Project RECOIL.

Police shared this week that, as a result of the investigation, two search warrants were executed, a Winkler man is facing multiple charges, and a significant number of weapons were seized.

Police initiated the investigation after learning a suspect may have been manufacturing prohibited firearm suppressors.

On April 29, a suspect was safely taken into custody by the Regional Support Tactical Team (RSTT).

Immediately following the arrest, search warrants were executed at a residence in the 100 block of 8th Street in Winkler, as well as at a local business where the suspect was em-



4 interesting facts about the nursing profession in Canada

The nursing profession in Canada is a diverse field offering unique opportunities and challenges. Here are four fascinating facts about nursing in Canada:

1. Nurses help people in many ways. Canadian nurses possess a broad scope of practice, including specialties such as mental health nursing, pediatric nursing and community health nursing. They play a crucial role in addressing the holistic healthcare needs of individuals across their lifetimes.

2. Nurses work globally. Canadian nurses are actively involved in international humanitarian efforts, volunteeployed. Police say at this time the business, which they did not name, is not believed to have been involved in any criminal activity.

As a result of the search at the residence, police seized the following items:

• 21 rifles (two of which were loaded with ammunition).

- Four shot guns.
- One antique hand gun.
- One prohibited crossbow.

• Six homemade prohibited firearm suppressors (one installed on a load-ed rifle).

• One homemade prohibited cannon with a projectile.

• 14 prohibited over-capacity magazines (9 loaded with ammunition, 1 of which was inserted into a rifle).

• Numerous additional magazines (many of which were loaded with ammunition).

• Hard Body Armour with a tactical vest.

• Explosive material and cannon fuse cord.

• Evidence of indoor target shoot-ing.

• Various firearm parts.

• Over 6,500 rounds of ammunition.

ring their skills and expertise to provide healthcare assistance in crises and underserved communities worldwide. Canadian nurses help global health initiatives by responding to natural disasters or participating in medical missions.

3. Nurses work with Indigenous communities. Nurses in Canada are vital in advocating for Indigenous health rights and addressing healthcare disparities in Indigenous communities. Many nurses work collaboratively with Indigenous leaders and healthcare providers to promote culturally sensitive care and improve access to essential health services for Indigenous peoples.

4. Nurses never stop learning. Nursing in Canada emphasizes lifelong learning and professional development. Nurses often pursue further education and certifications to enhance their skills and stay up to date on advancements in healthcare. Many continuing education programs and professional development opportunities are available to support nurses in career advancement.





180 5 Street, Morden (204) 822-4765 585 1st St Unit G, Winkler (204) 325-8815



WINKLER POLICE PHOTO

Police confiscated this arsenal of weapons and ammunition from a Winkler man after a joint investigation last month. He's now facing numerous firearms charges.

• 3D printer with filament and parts required to manufacture firearms.

Police say the firearms and ammunition were located in plain view and readily accessible throughout the residence and detached garage. None of the firearms were safely stored. As a result of this investigation, the suspect has been charged with:

• Manufacturing a Prohibited Firearm (Canon).

Continued on page 13

National Nursing Week takes nurses place from May 6 to 12. It's a per- the fect time to recognize and celebrate comm

nurses' diverse roles in promoting the well-being of individuals and communities nationwide.

We thank all the Nurses for their constant care and expertise in caring for us and our families!





> EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, FROM PG. 11

Talking with your family and co-workers about what to do in an emergency situation can take some of the panic out of it when it actually happens.

Where will everyone be? Where will you regroup or how will you get in touch with each other once the disaster is over? And do you have an emergency kit ready to go with food, water, and vital medications?

"If you think about it beforehand, it'll be easier for you to react," Driedg-

> FIREARMS CHARGES, FROM PG. 12

• Manufacturing a Prohibited Device (Suppressors).

• Unlawful Storage of Non-Restricted Firearm.

• Unlawful Storage of Prohibited Firearm.

• Unlawful Storage of Loaded Non-Restricted Firearm.

• Possess Prohibited Firearm (Canon).

• Possess Prohibited Device (Suppressors).

• Possess Prohibited Device (Over-capacity Magazines).

• Possess Prohibited Device (Crossbow).

• Careless Use of a Firearm. The man was initially in custody but

WINKLER'S

er says. "So have those discussions." It's also important that you sign up for your community's emergency notification system—Alert Ready in Winkler and Stanley and CodeRed in Morden—to ensure you'll get a heads-up when something's happening. In a disaster, you'll want to tune into local radio and check out the social media feeds of your municipality to stay on top of things.

For more tips on emergency planning, head to getprepared.gc.ca.

has since been released on a Release Order with numerous court-ordered conditions. He was slated to appear in Morden Provincial Court on May 14.

"This is another example of multiple police agencies working together to enhance public safety in our communities," police said in a statement. "Project RECOIL could not have been possible without effective partnerships between the Morden Police Service, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and the Winkler Police Service along with support from Manitoba Justice and the Manitoba Criminal Intelligence Centre."

SCAN

Cutting the ribbon on Sasha's Atelier



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Sasha's Atelier officially opened for business in Morden with a ribbon cutting Saturday morning. The sewing business and fabric store is a onestop shop offering not only fabrics but custom sewing as well as everything from sewing classes to hosting quilters. As well, there is a fabric recycling program, fabric membership benefits, and custom tailoring and alterations with complimentary basic alterations on all full price purchases. The store is located at 315 N Railway St.





Shape our Community's Future: Share Your Voice!

Please tell us about your life in Winkler and the RM of Stanley through the Vital Signs 2024 Community Survey!

Eligibility: Winkler and RM of Stanley residents aged 18 or older

Take the survey on a computer (recommended), smartphone, or paper. Print copies available in-person at: Winkler Community Foundation Office, Winkler City Hall, Winkler Central Station, and Winkler Senior Centre

Survey open from May 8 to May 22, 2024. All responses are anonymous. Watch for the Vital Signs 2024 Report in October!

Take our survey and enter to win chance to win 1 of 6 gift cards to local businesses totalling over \$1000 in value.

To take the survey or learn more, use the QR code, visit: winklercommunityfoundation.com/vital-signs-2024/ or contact the Winkler Community Foundation at (204)362-9292

14 The Voice Thursday, May 9, 2024





SUPPLIED PHOTOS

École Morden Middle School students rallied to collect over 3,500 pounds of food for the local food bank this spring.



HEALTH CAREERS

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Know someone considering a career in health care?

Visit **Discover Health Careers** to learn more about training and job shadowing opportunities available to inspire the next generation of health-care workers.



Over 3,500 lbs of food collected by students for Many Hands

By Lorne Stelmach

Middle school students worked together again recently to support the food bank in Morden.

The food drive of École Morden Middle School has been an annual project of the student council for a number of years now, supporting the Many Hands Resource Centre, which oversees the food bank.

"Last year was our biggest ever, and this one was even quite a bit bigger," said Ali Wiens, who is one of the teachers involved with the student council.

"Everyone does their small part and then it makes a huge impact," she said. "It seems like a small way to help, but when our whole school of almost 800 kids comes together ... we had four trucks and a car full of food ... it was over 3,500 pounds of food."

Every class in the Grade 5 to 8 school collects as much as they can over the period of a week, and Wiens' class then goes through food and sorts it to help organize it all.

So it is very much a hands-on project for the students in every respect, as they even help fill up the trucks to haul it over to Many Hands. "There's always some friendly competition about whose class has the most stuff, and kids are popping in and out of the rooms to see how much the other kids have in their class," Wiens noted.

"It's really great for talking to the kids about the food bank because some kids don't know what it is," she said. "And so it just starts some really good conversations.

"It's also just a nice introduction to doing things in our community, especially for the kids who haven't had a chance to do that before," Wiens added. "It's great for them to be part of it."

The initiative overall becomes a good learning experience.

"It's good for our student council. They can take the leadership, and they make some posters to put up around the school and then be the ones to carry the food out to the trucks. It's helping them with their leadership role," concluded Wiens.

"I think the students just feel really proud of having had the chance to contribute, and I think we're building a stronger connection with our bigger community. Our school is building that connection."

Funding available to deter livestock predation

Eligible applicants will be reimbursed up to 75% of approved expenses up to \$10,000 for predator resistant fence construction and \$5,000 for pre-approved livestock predation equipment and guardian dogs.

To be eligible, applicants must have a paid livestock predation claim under the Manitoba Wildlife Damage Compensation Program in 2021 or later.

Deadline for fence construction applications is June 14, 2024.

www.manitoba.ca/scap/resiliency/livestock.html



> QUILT SHOW, FROM PG. 10

that one class that started me on this journey."

She has especially been drawn to and inspired by nature with her work.

"I love nature and the outdoors ... birds, plants, flowers and trees and all those kinds of things ... I get a lot of inspiration from it," she said. "It's the colour, I think ... it reminds me of fabric and thread. I like colour; lots of it and all different kinds. "I tend to be drawn

to a more organic style,

a way of interpreting an idea I may have rather than a strictly geometric design," Halstead continued. "I like

to do a lot of handwork, so a lot of them will have embroidery embellishments, and I like to play with the colour that way.

"I don't do machine quilting. I do some things on a machine," she noted. "I'm looking to invest in doing machine quilting ... it will be smaller things that I can finish up a little quicker and hang on a wall." Halstead now antici-

pates that the experience of being the featured quilter may further fuel her inspiration.

"I don't think I'm going to do as many big ones as I've done before ... but I'll keep working."





PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE The Barnswallow quilt show last weekend drew quilters and vendors from across southern Manitoba to the Access Event Centre in Morden.





"I WAS HOOKED.

ONE CLASS THAT

STARTED ME ON

THIS JOURNEY."

IT WAS THAT





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Back 40 Festival unveils its 2024 lineup

By Lorne Stelmach

A key mission for the Back 40 Festival is to help keep homemade music alive, so the emphasis for its upcoming annual daylong event will be on local talent.

Organizers believe their core audience appreciates and is keen to support performers from right here in southern Manitoba.

"We made the decision to try that last year, and we thought it was a great experience," said festival chair Scott Bell.

"It seems that since the pandemic, there's been a real upswing in the amount of local performers," he said. "We feel real strongly that it's an important part of our mandate to provide them with the opportunities to perform.

"I think there is an audience for it, and I think now, more than ever, there's good opportunities for performers, and we certainly want to be part of it."



James Cullepon is this year's children's performer.

Thank you!

to everyone who attended our

2024 Annual Fish Fry Fundraiser!

A huge thank you to Scott Howard Contracting

Ltd. and all of our other corporate sponsors:

The long-running festival is set for Sunday, June 2 in the Morden Park, and it will feature a variety of familiar faces as well as some perhaps who will be new to the audience.

The headline act is the musical collective described as a homegrown bluegrass supergroup, as the members of the Stanley County Cutups are all well known in folk music circles, including two members from this area.

The group includes Jeremy Penner on fiddle, Tim Osmond on banjo and dobro, Jeremy Hamm on mandolin, TJ Blair on guitar, and Jess Reimer on bass.

All sing multi-part harmonies in a bluegrass style through original compositions and traditional numbers.

"They're a great band. They're a lot of fun, and they are all excellent musicians," said Bell. "It's always our hope that we will bring in an act that will attract people, and if there is a local connection then that is even better.

"The rest of the day is filled with lots of awesome local performers," he said, starting with Joe Wilson and his Rangers as well as Smokey and the Barn Cats, which includes Karl Redding, Joel Titchkosky, and Matt Sibbald. Paul Bergman will be joined by Andrew Braun, who is originally from Altona but has been based out west

"He's toured nationally with some artists and personally, so he's a well-seasoned musician," noted Bell.

There will also be a blues jam featuring Link and the Moustaches, JP Lepage and Jayme Giesbrecht as well as Lakes and Pines and the duo of

Steve Dueck and Jennesa Kehler. And there will be a number of solo acoustic players throughout the day, including Madel Morin, Bill Dowling, Nathan Strange, and Téa. Children's entertainment will



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Headlining this year's festival are the Stanley County Cutups (above). Also taking the stage are Lakes & Pines (below, left) and Joe Wilson (below, right), amongst a host of other local artists.



be provided by James Cullepon, and Karl Redding will serve as the day's MC.

"Karl's been doing a fantastic job of hosting open mic nights and coffee houses, and he was keen to take on this opportunity," said Bell.

As always, there will be the artisan vendor and food trucks. A new feature this year is the addition of a beer tent.

"That's a big step. It's something we've actually been talking about for years, and we've been able to make it a reality this time around," said Bell. "We have some new board members who have really been able to make some things happen that have kind of been on our wish list."



Now Bell will just hope for good weather for the day, although he noted the festival last year fared well even with a heavy rain storm.

"We were pleased with it, even considering there was a pretty major downpour in the middle of the day. A lot of the performers banded together and actually performed under the tent for those who stuck it out, and it wound up being a very special part of the day.

"It's a full day experience. We're trying to make it attractive to families and people of all ages."

You can learn more about Back 40, including ticket information, online at back40folkfest.com.



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sports&recreation



CWE Wrestling comes to Morden



CWE took over the Morden Legion for an evening of wrestling May 1. Clockwise from above. left: With the official wrestling ring arriving a little late, Jimmy Jacobs and CAM!!kaze started the night off by fighting their match on the Legion floor; Mentallo leaps off the ropes onto "LionWarrior" Bobby Sharp; Rebel Bobby Collins throws Jackson Conway to the mat; Savio Vega, the Puerto Rican superstar invites young fans into the ring to dance to his country's music.

> PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE



Twisters present MMJHL year-end awards

By Ty Dilello

On the evening of May 5, the Pembina Valley Twisters handed out its team awards to cap off an incredible 2023-24 season that saw them reach the MMJHL's championship final before ultimately succumbing in five games to the St. James Jr. Canucks.

"It was a great chance to see everybody and hand out some hardware for the terrific season we had," said Twisters' head coach Braeden Beenaerts.

The complete list of Pembina Valley Twisters team awards is as follows: Coaches Award - Jonathan Dyck.Rookie of the Year - Alex Vandeynze.

• Defenceman of the Year - Mike Continued on page 18

News or sports tip? E-mail news@winklermordenvoice.ca or call 204-325-6888

18 *The Voice* Thursday, May 9, 2024 **Storm rolls in with a win**





PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

The Winkler Storm 2 team kicked off their season with a 3-1 win against the visiting FCNW NexGen team Sunday evening. Scoring for the home team was George Siemens, Koen Unruh, and Amery Roberts. Above: FCNW NexGen's Declan Moulden and Storm 2's Zavi Braun deGroot battle for ball control. Left: Winkler's Marcelo Froese heads a ball over top of FCNW's Thomas Harper. The Storm 2 are playing in the Manitoba Major Soccer League's Division 2 this summer, moving up from Division 3. Their next match is this Sunday at 5 p.m. against FC IPAC-UKRAINE at the 15th St. pitch in Winkler. The Winkler Storm 1 team, meanwhile, started their season Tuesday on the road against Galacticos FC. The result was not available at press time. Storm 1, which play in Division 1, have their home opener against the Hanover Kickers Sunday at 7 p.m.

> TWISTERS AWARDS, FROM PG. 17

Heppner.

Mike Hesford (Grittiest Player) Award - Cody Clark.
Pat O'Brien (Hard Work and Perseverance) Award - Mark Plett.

• Dale Remple (Heart) Award - Cody Clark.

• Most Valuable Player (MVP) Award - Derek Wiebe.

As the 2024-25 season approaches, the Twisters must say goodbye to a group of senior players who have reached the end of their junior hockey careers. This includes forwards Merek DeGraeve, Riley Goertzen, Brett Bergman, Derek Wiebe, and Cody Clark; as well as defencemen Jacob Carels, Caelan



Derek Wiebe was presented the Most Valuable Player award by head coach Braeden Beernaerts and assistant coach Riley Wise. Russell, and Kyle Vandeynze.

"Losing eight guys, there are definitely holes to be filled," said Beernaerts, "but we are confident in the remaining leadership and prospects coming up that we will be able to reload and come back ready to take another stab at the Jack McKenzie Trophy and win a league championship."

When it comes to restocking the cupboards,

so to speak, on an MMJHL team, there is no leaguewide draft, so anyone under the age of 18 is available whether they are from your region or not. There is a 50-man protection list in place for anyone over 18.

"We'll be fine for next season. We will find some players and get them playing Twisters hockey, and I anticipate another strong season for our club."



Alex Vandeynze Rookie of the Year



Mark Plett Pat O'Brien Award



Jonathan Dyck Coaches award



Mike Heppner Top Defence Award



Cody Clark Dale Remple Heart Award



Zander Carels Mike Hesford Award

Central Energy kicks off MPSL softball season

By Ty Dilello

The Manitoba Premier Softball League (MPSL) regular season kicked off on Sunday May 5 with all three Central Energy clubs in action.

On May 5, the U17 Central Energy team earned a split on the opening day of the Manitoba Premier Softball League.

The Central Energy softball club has been preparing for the season all the way back in mid-September with tryouts for the 2024 season. Since then, teams have been busy practicing throughout the winter, getting into full swing after spring break. This year Central Energy boasts three teams (U17, U15, U13) that have representation from all over the Central region of the province.

The U17 Central Energy squad is more than ready for the MPSL season as the girls had recently travelled to Nebraska in April for a tournament to kick off their season and get some dirt on their cleats.

Central Energy bested Winnipeg Lightning 5-4 in the first game of the doubleheader after taking the lead late in the game. The game was tied at four in the top of the fifth when a passed ball scored one run, which won them the game.

In the rubber match, Winnipeg Lightning got the best of Central Energy by a 14-9 score. Central Energy was up 9-8 in the final inning when Winnipeg scored five unanswered runs to get the win.

"It was a good start to the season as the hitting got progressively better as the games went on and the players settled into their roles," said U17 Central Energy coach Cam Zacharias. "A couple of in-the-park home runs and some other extra base hits showed a lot of potential power in the lineup."

Zacharias notes that his team had great pitching using four of its six pitchers on the afternoon to get them their first pitches of the regular season.

"The team is looking very strong with a lot of good hitting, pitching and defence," said Zacharias. "The big thing right now is just getting enough reps to get our consistency where we want it for the season."

U17 Central Energy will return to the diamond on May 18 with a doubleheader starting at noon against the Smitty's Terminators

The U15 Central Energy team was



Central Energy's Molly Conrad of Swan Lake gets a good look at a high pitch.

also in action on May 5 and split its doubleheader with an 8-1 win over the Winnipeg Lightning and a 5-4 loss to the Westman Magic.

Central Energy scored in multiple innings to take down the Winnipeg Lightning 8-1 in their season opener in Brandon on Sunday. Kennedy Funk earned the win for Central. The righty allowed four hits and one run over six innings, striking out six and walking six. Central piled up 10 hits in the game. Rory Perrin went 3 for 3 at the plate to lead the Energy in hits. Mya Richard, Perrin, and Shyanne Goertzen each drove in one run for Central. Bree Pearce collected two hits in three at bats.

Game 2 of the day saw Central at rivals Westman Magic. Even though the Energy club collected five hits to Westman Magic's two, they still fell 5-4. Goertzen led the Energy with two hits and two RBIs. Central Energy opened the scoring in the first after Goertzen singled, scoring one run. The club added two runs in the second when Funk singled after a 6-pitch at-bat, making the score 3-0. They scored another run in the top of the third on a home run by Goertzen on the seventh pitch of the at-bat. Taylor Wall went the distance in the circle for Central Energy. She surrendered two hits and five runs (one earned) over six innings, striking out nine and walking four. Some fielding errors helped the Magic claw back into the game and eventually get the win.

Central Energy's next game will be on May 12, when they play a doubleheader against Smitty's Terminators.



PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Central Energy's Maddy Friesen of Altona, steals her base beating the throw to the Lightning's second base Camry Wilkes. The U17 Central Energy team earned a split on the opening day of the Manitoba Premier Softball League last Sunday.



Central Energy's Nelia Fehr of Morden slides in safely, beating the throw home to Lightning's Vienna Vandal.

Game time is noon and 2 p.m. at Moffat Diamond 2 in Winnipeg.

The U13 Central Energy also split its season opening doubleheader on May 5, dropping the first game 7-1 to the Manitoba Angels, while defeating them 11-7 in the rematch.

Bianca Lanthier led things off in the circle for Energy. She allowed three hits and two runs (zero earned) over three innings, striking out eight and walking none. Beaudry English was ready at the plate going 1 for 2. Lind-say French also pitched three innings, allowing 2 hits, and whiffing 6.

In Game 2, Central Energy got on the board in the top of the first inning after French singled, scoring two runs, and a passed ball scored one run. They added to their early lead in the top of the third inning after a double and two singles, each scoring one run. Collins Vrooman stepped in the circle first for Central. She gave up four hits and five runs over three innings, striking out six and walking six. Cassandra Lanthier appeared in relief, allowing 1 hit, and getting 9 strikeouts in 3 innings. Central Energy amassed 11 hits in the game, led by Vrooman who went 2 for 2. English and French were tough to manage back-to-back in the lineup, as each drove in two runs for the 13U club. Central Energy also had a strong eye at the plate, totaling nine walks for the game.

The U13 squad is back in action with a doubleheader on May 10 against the Westman Magic.



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

At the Winkler Flyers' Turnbull Cup Community Celebration on Sunday, fans of all ages got the chance to get up close with the junior championship trophy the Flyers brought home last month by downing the Steinbach Pistons in four game straight, get autographs from Flyers players, hang out with mascot Grintich, and enjoy a by-donation hot dog lunch, with funds raised going to help the team with their Centennial Cup travel costs. The Flyers are in Ontario May 9-19 to compete in the National Junior A Hockey Championship.

Flyers celebrate big win with their fans



Curling Canada introduces new stream to its scholarship program

By Lana Meier

Curling Canada is pleased to announce the addition of a new stream to its scholarship program, providing equal support for both upcoming champions and those who contribute to the sport's growth.

Increasing the number of curling scholarships equates to greater prospects for aspiring young curlers and future leaders. This is precisely why Curling Canada has decided to nearly double the amount of scholarship opportunities available to student-athletes this year.

Along with the For the Love of Curling scholarships, which have been given out each year since 2014 to talented young athletes, Curling Canada will be introducing a fresh set of scholarships this year to assist aspiring leaders in their pursuit of higher education.

The Fran Todd All Heart Award, introduced two years prior, aims to support young curlers in developing inclusive initiatives and programming at their respective facilities. As it enters its third year, the award is evolving into a scholarship that will aid in furthering the education of

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aspiring leaders in the curling community.

"Many young curlers grow up with dreams and aspirations of reaching the podium. Others wish to use the values and qualities of fair play and sportsmanship they learned through curling to bring change to their communities. They are all leaders of the sport in their own rights and deserve our support," said Brodie Bazinet, Curling Canada's philanthropic program manager. "This is a major opportunity for broader representation of young curlers across the country. Thanks to the generous support of donors, Curling Canada can now invest equally in our sport's future builders and champions."

The Curling Canada Scholarship Program now has two streams, with 10 scholarships to be awarded in each. The 20 scholarships are worth \$2,500 each, totalling a \$50,000 investment in the future of the sport this year.

There are 10 For the Love of Curling Scholarships for young curling student-athletes who best demonstrate athletic and academic prowess and strong community leadership. The aim is to give talented young curlers the support they need to pursue their academic and curling dreams.

Ten Fran Todd All Heart Scholarships are open to curling student-athletes who exemplify a strong commitment to volunteerism and community leadership in using sports as a vehicle for positive societal change. This scholarship aims to recognize and assist empathetic young curlers in pursuing their academic and volunteer ambitions.

This year, The Governor General's Curling Club, an honorary society under the patronage of the Governor General of Canada since 1874, will award two scholarships. These scholarships are made possible by generous donations from members of the club.

Potential scholarship recipients will use the

"THIS IS A MAJOR OPPORTUNITY FOR BROADER REPRESENTATION OF YOUNG CURLERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY."

same application to apply for both scholarship streams. Applicants will write a personal essay reflecting on their vision for the future of curling in Canada and what influences they and their generation of curlers can have on the development of the sport and the community.

Applicants must be 22 or younger as of Dec. 31. Students who have received the For the Love of Curling Scholarship are still eligible for the Fran Todd All Heart Scholarship.

The selection panel consists of Curling Canada staff, board members, former scholars and other leaders in the curling community, including: Nolan Thiessen (Curling Canada CEO), Helen Radford (Curling Canada Manager, Youth Programs and NextGEN), Bobby Ray (Curling Canada Manager, Club Development), Brodie Bazinet (Curling Canada Manager, Philanthropic Program), Michael Szajewski (Curling Canada Board of Governors Chair), Jennifer Howard (Curling Canada Board of Governor), Donna Krotz (leadership representative), Wil Robertson (previous scholar), Sophie Blades (previous scholar) and Wil Thurlow (Governor General's Curling Club).

The application must be submitted by June 9, at 11:59 p.m. ET, after which Curling Canada will reveal the chosen recipients in September of that year.

For more information and to apply, visit Curling Canada's Philanthropic website.

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arts&culture

High school art on display at Winkler Arts and Culture

Gallery puts call out for submissions for June show, opens Faces of Winkler nominations

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler Arts and Culture is having a busy spring, with no shortage of shows, calls for submissions, and upcoming events on its schedule.

The Park St. gallery last week welcomed its annual high school art exhibition, featuring work from Garden Valley Collegiate and Northlands Parkway Collegiate students.

"We've got well over 100 pieces of art from the students," says executive director Jered Hildebrand, noting the open theme means those pieces run the gamut in both subject matter and mediums. "We've got acrylic paintings, landscapes, caricatures, some surrealism sketches, and a handful of collages, mixed media, posters. There's quite a variety."

The show is a great way to highlight up and coming artists, Hildebrand says.

"The main thing is to give students a platform to show our community their talent," he says. "It's quite amazing how young some of these artists are—you'd think they'd been an artist for 20 years or more when you look at some of these pieces.

"There's definitely a number of pieces where you can see the hours and hours of work outside of class that must have gone into them."

The student art show will be on display until May 27.

The gallery has also put out a call for submissions for its June show, entitled The Way We See It.

"This exhibit is open to the public," Hildebrand says, noting there is no cost to submit art for it. "What we're looking for is unique perspectives."

It's quite an open concept, but one that he hopes will make for an engaging exhibition.

"Maybe you've got a specific view on things that you think is unique, or maybe it's the way you understand the concept and you can visualize that in some kind of artistic form ... it could be based on your community, your life, on nature, time—really, the subject matter and the medium is wide open," Hildebrand says. "But the idea is it's a unique kind of personal perspective on whatever the subject is."

If you've got a unique way of looking at things and have a piece of art showcasing that (either a finished piece or one that can be completed by June), you're asked to contact the gallery by May 17 to have your work considered for the show.

WAC has also put a call out for the 2024 Faces of Winkler exhibition, which will be on display in August.

This show celebrates community members from all walks of life, shining a spotlight on their contributions by getting an artist and a photographer to create pieces inspired by them.

WAC is doing things a little differently this year with the Faces show, Hildebrand shares.

"Faces of Winkler has been an ongoing kind of tradition here at Winkler Arts and Culture," he says. "We're looking to make a few small changes just to maybe bring some fresh air into an idea that's been great, but it's kind of ready for a little bit of an update."

The 2024 show is introducing nomination categories for the first time. The categories are: educator, sports leader, senior citizen, youth, volunteer, and City of Winkler staff.

They're looking for people who stand out in these categories in terms of how they go above and beyond in doing their jobs, their passion for the community, or the impact they've had.

"We thought it would be a fun idea





SUPPLIED PHOTOS Work from CVC and NPC art students is on display this month at Winkler Arts and Culture.

this month at Winkler Arts and Culture. to have specific categories," Hildebrand says. "When we leave it wide open, sometimes what happens is

rand says. "When we leave it wide open, sometimes what happens is people look to very public figures to get some of the recognition that they very well deserve. But sometimes then it's easy for the people who play roles in the background to be missed, even though their work is very valued in the community as well."

Nominations open this week and remain open until month's end.

Any artists or photographers eager to get involved in this year's Faces show are also urged to contact the gallery.

Other odds and ends coming up at the gallery in the coming weeks and months include:

• Registration for their Summer Art Camp opens this week. There are morning camps for ages 5-7 and afternoon sessions for kids age 8-12 from July 8-26 and again Aug. 5-23. Kids can sign up for one week at a time or



for an entire three-week session. Spots are limited.

• Wednesday, May 15 at 7 p.m. is the next Newcomer Evening at the gallery. The monthly get-together aims to give newcomers to our community the chance to gather, learn more about the area, and chat with locals.

"This is a great event for the community to come together, make new connections, and welcome people moving in to Winkler," Hildebrand says. "It's been great to see more and more newcomers come out for these events, and we'd love to see even more locals come to welcome them."

• There's still space in the May 16 Paint & Sip Night. Led by artist Kira Bondarenko, the evening's \$50 ticket covers the cost of two glasses of wine, charcuterie, and art supplies.

Further details on all WAC events and programs can be found online at winklerarts.com.

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