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Flying high

NPQ Nighthawk Grace Bueckert takes a flying leap in the long jump event at the Zone 4 Track and Field Championships at CVC last week. For more, see Pg. 16.
PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

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Medical students get a taste of rural living

By Lorne Stelmach

Given the ongoing staffing crisis being faced by the health care system, an initiative like the annual Rural Week is likely more important than ever.

The program saw a group of first-year medical students spend all of last week at the clinics in Morden and Winkler and at Boundary Trails Health Centre to get first-hand experience and exposure to rural and northern medicine and life.

"We're facing significant shortages in all aspects of health care," said Dr. Kevin Earl, who was among the area physicians working with the students. "Our physician shortages are at an all-time high, so getting early exposure to students so that as they go through medical school, they're thinking about opportunities rurally, is really important and helpful."

Earl got involved with the Rural Week program when he started working here in 2010, and it was a full cir-

cle moment for him, as he had participated in Rural Week as a student and experienced living and working in Thompson at the time.

"It's an incredible opportunity for our communities of Morden and Winkler and our hospital to showcase the opportunities to practice medicine in the region, not only family medicine but specialty medicine," he said.

"A lot of the students who come have never been to a rural location before, and we often find they are quite impressed with the facilities that we have and the breadth of services we can offer in our region."

Medical students from the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Manitoba participate in Rural Week all across Southern Health-Santé Sud, as well as other health regions.

Raised in the small community of Vasser, Caitlin Culleton might be more inclined to choose a rural setting for her career in the future.



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

First-year medical students spent last week at the Boundary Trails Health Centre, the C.W. Wiebe Medical Centre in Winkler, and the Menzies Medical Centre in Morden learning about rural medicine during Rural Week 2024.

"Being from a rural community ... it would be something I would consider," she said, noting the week was a great opportunity for the students. "It's been an awesome experience overall. I got to see some walk-in care, some clinic work. I visited in the ER and then Friday I got to spend some time in the hospital setting."

"It's kind of a well-rounded view of the different health care options that are available in this region."

"For us, this is kind of our first clinical exposure in medicine, so it was exciting to really get to kind of test our knowledge and put that to use," Culleton said. "And seeing how much there is here was really awesome to see ... there's a lot available. Seeing that they have the CT scan, MRI, X-rays and all those things that can be done here ... and they have the surgeons working here as well ... it's amazing to see it."

"The biggest thing is just seeing the variety of care that's available in the region," she concluded. "Even just the smiling faces. When we walked in, they were learning our names and caring about who we are and that we were here."

Winnipegger Jaime McNicholl commented on "the range of health care professionals they have here and the variety of knowledge they have and the different roles they play in the

health care community. They kind of do it all here, and it is pretty inspiring.

"It's a super tight knit community, and everybody supports each other, so it looks like a great work environment. Everybody's taking care of each other. On the busy days and the quiet days, they're there to help one another," she said.

"Physicians, nurses and patients even were all very welcoming and excited to have us here," added McNicholl. "In terms of family medicine, I feel like rural would be the way to go for sure."

"I love rural week," said Nicole Walske, executive director of Menzies Medical Centre in Morden. "It's fun to watch these young men and women come to us who have maybe never experienced any of these things, maybe never seen a rural hospital."

"It's great to see how they develop even just in those five days," she said. "It's great to see them experience our community. It's so important for our community to embrace these people and allow them to experience it ... and even just show them our community because I think that goes a long way in our recruitment efforts."

"It's a piece of the puzzle that I think can go a long way with our future," she concluded. "Those connections they make here ... maybe it will help them choose this as a career path."

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CNIB mobile hub makes a stop in Morden-Winkler

By Lorne Stelmach

An initiative to bring awareness of the resources and services available to people living with vision loss could be a step towards starting a peer support group in the region.

That is one of the goals for the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB), which brought its mobile hub to Morden last Thursday.

Representatives said they want to ensure the community is aware of the available resources, and they see starting a peer support group for people living with sight loss in the Morden-Winkler area as a next step.

"Peer support is really important for individuals. You share experiences, life experiences," said Joanne Fabian, a program lead for community engagement. "It's important to feel supported, so that is one initiative that we hope to address by coming out to the community is to get a peer sup-

port group going here."

"We're trying to recruit an individual to take the lead on the peer support group here in the Morden and Winkler area," added Brett Cleghorn, a team lead for CNIB programs in Manitoba. "I think there's a need for a peer support program. It's just a matter of finding somebody that is committed and available to take on this program."

Through the CNIB mobile hub, people can get an idea of the programs, resources, and supports that are available for those who are blind or partially sighted as well as their families, friends, and caregivers.

It is an initiative that has been in place for a few years now, and this was its third visit to Morden.

"It's been fairly well attended for the most part," said Cleghorn. "We're trying to bridge the gap and bring



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The Canadian Institute for the Blind brought its mobile hub to Morden last week.

Continued on page 4

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Winkler Harvest Festival announces headliners

By Voice staff

The Winkler Harvest Festival unveiled its 2024 headliners on Monday.

The Aug. 9-11 community celebration will welcome Sass Jordan, Chayce Beckham, and Austin French to the stage.

Jordan, who anchors the Friday night lineup, is a pioneer of female-fronted rock known for her powerful, gritty, blues-infused rock and roll and crowd-pleasing performances. She has received a Juno and multiple nominations for Most Promising Female Vocalist of the Year and Best Female Vocalist, respectively.

Jordan is best known for hits like "Make You a Believer," "So Hard," "You Don't Have to Remind Me," and "High Road Easy."

Things shift from rock to country with Beckham on the main stage for Saturday evening.

The former *American Idol* contestant was nominated at this year's CMT Music Awards for Breakthrough Male Video of the Year for his platinum hit single "23."

With more than 358 million streams and counting, the bluesy and brutally honest anthem debuted at number one on both iTunes' country and all-genre singles charts, and now leads Beckham's first album, *Bad for Me*.

Finally, rounding out the weekend



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

From left: Sass Jordan, Chayce Beckham, and Austin French are this year's Winkler Harvest Festival headliners.

Sunday evening is French, a rising contemporary Christian music artist.

Originally from small-town Georgia, French has spent time in Los Angeles, competing on reality singing competitions like ABC's *Rising Star* and

NBC's *The Voice*. He's been a worship leader at a church where 80 percent of the members were recovering addicts.

French and his wife went from having no kids to having two—one biological, one adopted—within months

of each other. Now, to add to the list, he is about to release his first full-length studio album.

For more on the Winkler Harvest Festival schedule as it's released, head to www.winklerharvestfestival.ca.

> CNIB MOBILE HUB, FROM PG. 3

our services to rural Manitoba for people that might have barriers for transportation and might not be able to access our services virtually ... so we're trying to bring everything to them directly.

"There's a small client base within this catchment area. I believe we have about 50 to 60 people, and we've reached at least 20 of them in the previous mobile hubs," he said. "We're just trying to promote our programs and

services within the communities and find out what the communities' needs are here."

"It's important that we connect with the community of individuals that live in this area to find out what their needs are and then be able to develop programs according to the gap," said Fabian.

"Vision loss effects every individual in a different way, so the needs are different from one individual to the next," she added. "However, there's still one important piece to all that which everybody has in common with vision loss, and that's being connected with other people affected with vision loss."

Fabian lost her sight as a result of

retinitis pigmentosa, which is a group of eye diseases that make cells in the retina break down slowly over time and cause vision loss. It is a genetic disease that people are born with, and symptoms usually start in childhood, with most people eventually losing most of their sight.

"The onset of that was in my early adulthood ... I had to transition to having vision loss," she said.

"You can look at it from two perspectives," she added. "You can look at it from the perspective I'm so grateful to have had sight at one point in my life because it helps me to understand how things work, right?"

Fabian noted she lives on her own and is capable enough to have recently done problem solving with her furnace, and she does all range of things like yard work and housekeeping.

People are more adaptable than they realize, she suggested.

"You don't know it until you're actually there in life," said Fabian. "People often say I don't know if I could handle it. You've got a choice. If things happen in our life ... what's our choice? We can either go with it and continue to live and try to have the best quality of life that we can ... or not. It's beautiful that we have that choice nowadays."

"For a lot of people, the only limitations are the ones they put on themselves," said Cleghorn. "That's where maybe peer support could come into play."



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getinformed

Philippines Independence Day celebration in Morden June 15

By Lorne Stelmach

On the 126th anniversary of their homeland's independence from Spain, the Filipino community is inviting the community to celebrate with them in Morden.

Independence Day is a national holiday in the Philippines observed annually June 12. Since 1978, it has marked the nation's independence from Spanish colonial rule on that date in 1898.

The growing Filipino community in Morden-Winkler hopes to move their celebrations outside this year, weather permitting.

"I think it will be more energetic," said Jewel Miralles White, who is one of the organizers. "We're so proud of our culture, we want to show it to the community. That's why we decided to do it outdoors.

"It's also a time for us to honour the courage of our ancestors and celebrate our culture and heritage."

The party is planned for the Suncatch Plaza next week Saturday, June 15, from noon to 9 p.m.

Food vendors will be on site starting at noon. The official program takes place at 5

p.m.

The day will feature cultural performances, traditional Filipino cuisine, arts and crafts exhibits and family-friendly activities.

"There will be traditional food, all Filipino food that is quite common on the streets of the Philippines. The event is free. Everyone is welcome," said Miralles White, noting the only thing people will need is to buy their food and bring lawn chairs.

She said it is an important event given the increasing size of the Filipino community here.

"I guess I was one of the first Filipinos in Morden," she said. "Over the last few years, the community has grown significantly ... part of the reason is the Morden immigration program has brought a lot of Filipinos here.

"The last time I checked, I think it was about 400 families," she estimated. "I'm not sure if they are all still around, but it has grown significantly."

Miralles White also stressed they would very much like to see a diverse audience of not only Filipino expatriates but other local



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SUPPLIED PHOTO

The local Filipino community marks its Independence Day June 15 with an afternoon celebration in Morden's Suncatch Plaza, featuring food, cultural performances, and other activities.

residents and individuals from neighboring communities as well to come together to share in the spirit of unity and patriotism.

"We're looking forward to having the local community join in and enjoy it," she said. "I'm hoping a lot of Filipinos will show up but also especially a lot of other local people. We are hoping a lot of people will show up."

Pembina Valley Pride march in Altona Saturday

By Lori Penner

Pembina Valley Pride is gearing up for their annual Pride March and Rally in Altona on Saturday, June 8.

"All 2SLGBTQIA+ people and our allies are welcome to participate in the march and join the rally," says president Pauline Emerson-Froebe. "This is a participatory march rather than a spectator event, and everyone is welcome to participate."

The day begins with Rainbow Church at the Altona United Church at 10:30 a.m. followed by the Rainbow Makers Market opening at Altona Centennial Park at noon.

"These are regional artisans with

products they've all made," Emerson-Froebe notes. "This is the first time we're doing the market, so it's really exciting. We've already got 10 vendors lined up so far."

This is also the first year the event will have food trucks on site.

"We know you get hungry when you're out in the sun for a while, so we're excited to offer this as well," Emerson-Froebe says.

At 1 p.m. five different speakers will take the park stage to share their thoughts and experiences. This will be followed by the march at 1:30 p.m.

"This time we're starting at the park, looping around town, and finishing at the park," explains Emerson-Froebe.

"We found at our first event in Altona, beginning the march downtown and finishing at the park was difficult for people with mobility issues. This will be much easier."

The rally continues at the park after the march and will feature a drag show with 10 performers coming from across Manitoba and the U.S.

"It's going to be a family-friendly show. About half of them will also be performing at the after party for all ages at the Carman 5 Pin Bowl at 8 p.m."

Emerson-Froebe says to make sure to bring lawn chairs or picnic blankets, signs for the march, and everything you need to stay hydrated. Free

bottled water will be available.

"Our last event in Altona two years ago was very well attended, and we're hoping for the same this year," Emerson-Froebe says. "Each year we hope to grow and bring out more people in the community and more allies."

"This is a celebration and a way to raise awareness that we're just everyday people. We want to be accepted for who we are. This is also an opportunity to celebrate and remember how we got here. For everybody who had to go through all the trials and tribulations to get to where we are. This lets us feel proud and walk tall."

Continued on page 7

The **Voice**

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OUR SISTER PUBLICATIONS



• GUEST COMMENTARY

How Emerado school staff saved my son's life

Just before 3 p.m. on Monday, May 6, my 16-year-old son, Abishai, went into sudden cardiac arrest.

He had been playing tag in a playground beside Winkler's Emerado Centennial School. There was no warning. He had no medical history. He was a healthy, active, issue-free kid. But now, he was face-down on the ground.

Although he was with his homeschooled brothers and friends, he was also "it." This meant that in their eyes, he might be pretending, trying to lure them in so as to tag one of them. But he wasn't pretending. And with each passing moment, his chances of survival were diminishing.

In sudden cardiac arrest, the heart is overridden by abnormally rapid impulses. Instead of pumping as it should, the muscle quivers ineffectually, and the body's organs, including the brain, quickly become starved of oxygen. Statistically speaking, for every minute that passes after the arrest begins, the victim's chance of survival falls by ten percent.

"I thought he might be faking it," said Abishai's younger brother, Micaiah, "but when I turned him over, he was beginning to turn blue."

In the nearby school, class was still in session. How long would it take Micaiah—even if he ran—to find

someone with first-aid training, explain the situation, and get them out to Abishai?

But when Micaiah looked up for help, he locked eyes with Megan Klassen, an E.A. who just happened to be outside in that very moment and had noticed something amiss. Without a word passing between them, she lifted her hand to her radio and said, "We have a boy lying out here, unconscious." With that, a rehearsed chain-reaction went into effect: acting vice-principal, Adam Klassen sped out to Abishai's side and began doing chest compressions while guidance counsellor Nikki McIvor and acting principal Cindy Klassen assisted. The ambulance was called. The school's A.E.D. was retrieved.

As the hospital staff later explained, "That kind of scenario—with its swift timing and organization—you don't see that in real life; you see that in a textbook."

Meanwhile, back at our home, my wife, Renae, was in her bedroom with a different kind of book. She was praying over her Bible, just finishing the final item on her list: physical pro-

tection for our children. It was in that moment that our youngest son, Gil-ead, burst through the door. "Hurry, Mom, Abishai's unconscious!"

And hurry she did. As she flew for the van, she tried calling my phone, and when it went to voicemail, she forgot to hang up. I discovered her message days later and was stunned by the recording of her experience: first, her panicked questions to Gil-ead on the drive; then, her cries of terror when she first saw Abishai; and finally and most piercingly, the quiet calm that came upon her as she prayed over our son and began delivering artificial respiration.

Abishai didn't die. He opened his eyes in the Children's Hospital in Winnipeg, one day afterward, and began asking questions. "What am I doing here? What happened to me? It's nothing very bad, is it?"

For all of the years that I have been a father, I have also been a pastor (mostly in Winnipeg). But this past April, my wife and family and I said goodbye to our dear flock at Hillside

Continued on page 7



By Daren Redekopp

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.

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• GUEST COMMENTARY

Green Team funding frustration

The Manitoba NDP say they are intent on helping grassroots groups and community organizations yet their new and drastic cuts to the Green Team funding are showing the exact opposite.

The Green Team programs funding has been severely cut by \$4 million in this year's provincial budget leaving daycares, non-profit groups, faith-based organizations and municipalities not able to hire the students and young adults, students need the



By MLA
Carrie
Hiebert

jobs, and organizations that need the help during the busy months in spring and summer.

Premier Wab Kinew reduced the funding from \$9.6 million to \$5.6 million, which the Progressive Conservatives granted. This was also increased a year ago, but now the NDP are only offering \$5.6 million throughout Manitoba. As a result, organizations are being forced to make extremely difficult decisions for their community programs and services, leaving them panicking and wondering how they will find the dollars to continue to provide services for the important summer programs the next few months.

In the constituency of Morden-Winkler, as the MLA, I have received many calls from organizations in both the city of Morden and the city of Winkler, concerned about how they will provide summer programming and maintenance to the community. I have been actively involved in advocating with the current government about this issue.

Premier Kinew has reinstated \$300,000 as an attempt to backpeddle and appease groups that were at the

Legislature asking why their program funding was cut. Out of the original \$4 million, only the \$300,000 was returned to the Green Team program. Who decides where those dollars will be allocated?

It's disappointing that this \$4 million cut to the Green Team is affecting the constituency of Morden-Winkler, leaving these groups and young workers scrambling to find another solution for a summer job and organizations to pay for work that is desperately needed.

The current government completely abandoned the Arts, Culture and Community fund. A program that helped local rinks, community centers, sports organizations and cultural groups improve the service they rely on. They also cut funding to the Building Sustainable Communities fund by 50 per cent, a grant program designed to help municipalities and non-profits access funding. As the MLA for Morden-Winkler I am concerned at how this will affect our community.

Carrie Hiebert is the MLA for Morden-Winkler

> REDEKOPP, FROM PG. 6

Community Church in Morden. We needed a period of rest and rejuvenation from the past two decades of ministry. Jokingly, we called it our "unpaid sabbatical." We had no sense of what was next. Our only real plan was for me to work on a book I've been writing: a story in the spirit of C.S. Lewis's Narnia Chronicles.

When Abishai dropped, it felt like all of that had been ripped away. It was as though we were walking in a house made of paper and a hand reached in and tore us out through the wall into realities from which we had previously been screened. In that outer darkness, it seemed like all the rest of the world was safe indoors.

> PRIDE PARADE, FROM PG. 5

The town of Altona will be raising a pride flag downtown on Friday, June 7, in preparation for Saturday's event, which will remain until the end of the celebration.

"That's so wonderful of Altona. I would like to express how wonderful the town has been," Emerson-Froebe says. "They've been a delight to work with. We cannot thank them enough for all the help, the guidance, and the collaboration."

Pembina Valley Pride is made up of a group of individuals from across the region who represent the rainbow community and its allies.

"It's about being able to let people know they are accepted and to create a community," Emerson-Froebe stresses. "So many people move away because they're not finding their people. They're not finding somebody to recognize them and

Then the people of this area began coming out to us. As Abishai and Renae and I began to face the realities of his thickened heart muscle, his new pacemaker device, and what he can and cannot do, pastors and churches, neighbours, acquaintances, even people we have never met, showed up with prayer, encouragement, hospital visits, care for our boys, gifts of food, and gifts of money.

Tangible love.

All of it matters, and all of it is making a real and felt difference. The Emerado community showed up on that Monday. The wider community is showing up now.

We love you and bless you and are thanking God for you.

understand where they're coming from. We want you to know we got you, we're here for you, and we want people to know they're not alone. We do what we can to bring you all together, so we can be a community together.

"This Pride event is an opportunity to get together and to acknowledge and thank those who have had the courage to stand up over the years and stand up now to fight for our freedoms and to have equality in this. We're celebrating the present, but we're also celebrating the future. We want a future without discrimination and violence, without hatred, without the snide remarks. We want to celebrate our present and our past and everything it took for us to get here. We're just as normal as everybody else, and nobody should be marginalized because of their sexuality or their gender identity."

Letters

IN FAVOUR OF MORDEN'S SUNCATCH PLAZA

As a citizen, consumer and voter of Morden, I wish to support the city of Morden for attempting to create a community gathering place for our all too short summer and for giving the project one more chance.

I personally have never had a problem finding a place to park, even for the farmer's market when more of the street is closed. It is only part of 8th St. that is closed, not all the way to North Railway, as stated. The back lane and access to the post office remains available.

Walking a little distance in the summer is no hardship for most of us. We all can't park in front of the store we are attending and there are no handicap parking spots for those who need them on Stephen St. anyway! If I want to shop at the complaining businesses, that partial

street being closed would not be what stops me.

A petition signed by a few hundred people does not represent the thousands of citizens of Morden, and the city did do a more comprehensive survey! I find the negativity and attempts to bully our council distasteful, and we don't need any more divisions and controversy.

I'm sure the so-called affected businesses will continue to thrive and perhaps they can plan an event to utilize the space and draw more people downtown.

As a side note, the placing of stop signs at two very busy, dangerous intersections on Stephen, which came about in part to the street closing, have been very welcome!

**Elaine Ivey,
Morden**

Rainy weather eases drought concerns, but water conservation still advised

By Lorne Stelmach

A wet spring has lessened concerns around water supply across the region, but officials are still encouraging area residents to keep conservation in mind.

After a dry winter, they were taking a proactive approach to ensure the water supply remains ample, especially now during peak usage months.

"The recent rains have certainly taken the edge off the concerns we had most of the winter with the lack of snow," said Dale Toews, CEO of the Pembina Valley Water Co-op. "The lack of snow and dry conditions had everyone a little on edge."

"With these rains we've had, and a forecast for continual rains and a 14-day forecast that doesn't have any high temperatures over 24 degrees, this will take us mostly through our peak demand season. So, at this point, we are optimistic that we won't be running into issues in managing to keep up."

"We always encourage water stewardship with our water," stressed Morden Mayor Nancy Penner. "Everybody needs to be aware of the water and use it wisely."

To alleviate strain on the water supply during the hotter months when water demand rises, the city is encouraging residents to keep conservation efforts in mind.

By adopting simple conservation practices, residents can help the city maintain the system capacity now and avoid the need for mandatory water conservation measures later in the season if needed.

"We have a water licence at the lake, and we have to keep within that li-

cence ... just because the lake is full doesn't mean we have unlimited water," said Penner.

She noted the golf course does have a licence to draw a limited amount of water from the lake, as do some cattle producers as well.

"But we all share water from the lake, and we want to be good stewards. We all want to be good stewards of water and be prudent with how we use it."

There are many easy ways to conserve, she noted, such as saving the water when you rinse vegetables and wash your hands.

"It's easy, what I do, and it's amazing how much water you actually can gather for things like that ... there's lots of little things you can do," said Penner.

Conditions can change quickly, she added.

"We are being supplemented continually with Pembina Valley co-op water coming in ... but we want to be prudent though in how we use that water."

Toews said it is good to see the Red River higher than it was earlier in spring, and Stephenfield lake is full as well, but there were many factors in play and to consider.

"We rely on continual recharge, not only spring recharge, but like we've seen this spring, getting the continual rains is what helps keep our supply stable," he said.

"We are reliant on river flows coming across the US side. It is very hard to predict where they will be in two months, six months or 12 months time. So we watch all this run off go past us and into the river system and then its gone. We need to find a way



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Water pours over the Lake Minnewasta spillway in the wake of last week's rain.

to capture some of that water.

"Stephenfield provides some raw water storage for us but requires the spring recharge and continual rains to keep flows into the lake. Without that we run into trouble there."

To that end, Toews said they continue to work with the province in areas of water security for the region.

For now, they are still keeping an eye on our peak demands as we enter June. When the temperatures spike, so do the water demands.

"And so then it isn't necessarily an issue of drought or not having enough raw water supply but rather being able to keep up with the treatment and distribution end of things to meet the sharp increased demands," said Toews. "That has been the reason for the community messaging that has been out there about getting your pools filled up and other projects requiring a lot of water done before the temperatures spike."

Toews noted they have an aggressive capital plan to help move forward to increase capacity and get to a place where they can manage these peak demands better, but that capital needs to be funded and that is some-

thing they are working on, he noted.

"One of the impressive things about a regional water system like we have is that it is all connected," said Toews. "We have the ability to move some water around from one area to the next, so if one area is experiencing high demands we can move some water from another area to help them out."

"Pembina Valley Water Co-op is something we should all be proud of," he said. "One hundred per cent owned by our 14 member municipalities, supplying water to over 60,000 people. This is truly a community effort."

"When you turn the tap on at home or run water for livestock or use it for your business, you are benefitting from being part of a collaborative effort of infrastructure and technology that our communities have put together over the years. It is an impressive partnership providing a valuable resource."

You can learn more about water conservation by visiting the Morden conservation website at conservation.mymorden.ca.

New Altona Musical Theater Co. looking for sponsors, members

By Ashleigh Viveiros

An Altona woman is looking for fellow local thespians and musical theatre-lovers to join the newly-formed Altona Musical Theatre Company.

Mary Costen is in the midst of starting up the troupe in the hopes of putting on a production of the Rogers and Hammerstein classic *South Pacific* this fall.

"It's been a dream of mine for the last couple of years," she says, explaining she organized a community musical theatre group in Alberta in her younger years and has been thinking about doing the same locally ever since she and her husband moved to the area.

In recent years, she's scratched her theatrical itch by getting involved with a few Cottonwood Community Drama shows, but musical theatre remains her first love.

"This is a different style of theatre," she says, noting there's a bit of gap in the Altona area theatre community when it comes to musicals. "The gap I see is for people in high school or just out of high school who are still in the community and have done musical theatre and want to continue with it as an adult."

Despite having Altona in the name, Costen hopes the group will draw people from right across southern Manitoba.

"I don't want the name to seem exclusionary because I want people from communities like Letellier and Dominion City, Roseau River, Emerson, Gretna, Plum Coulee, and Winkler—I want people from all over to come and audition and be involved with it."

Right now Costen is trying to secure funds to pay for space for auditions, rehearsals, and, ultimately, the fall production.

She's reached out to a few potential corporate sponsors already, and invites any business leader who wants to support local theatre to get in touch with her (431-733-4122).

Individuals can get involved as well

by becoming a paying member of the Altona Musical Theatre Company or making a donation towards the show.

Right now Costen is flying solo in getting the group started, but she hopes to find some other fans of musical theatre to help her out behind the scenes. She needs people interested in taking on roles such as producer, set designer, costume manager, and prop master.

"My gift is for the directing and the musical end of it," she says. "I'm starting from scratch with this, and right now it's just me."

Costen says she's spoken with a

Continued on page 9



Rocking the Back 40



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Rainy weather didn't put too much of a damper on the Back Forty Festival in Morden Park Sunday. Aside from a rain break that afternoon, the music kept rolling for much of the day, featuring a host of local performing artists. Clockwise from far left: Karl Redding served as emcee and also performed a few songs; Link and the Moustaches were part of the Back 40 Blues Revue; Lakes and Plines takes the stage: James Culleton Superfun Show entertained the kids

> THEATRE GROUP, FROM PG. 8

number of people in the regional theatre community who have expressed interest in getting involved; now it's just a matter of organizing everyone and getting the ball rolling on auditions, which are coming up in just a few weeks.

Costen hopes *South Pacific* will be a good first show for the group, as it's been a hit since its debut on Broadway in 1949.

It centres around an nurse from Arkansas stationed on a South Pacific Island during the Second World War who falls in love with a French plantation owner who has two children from his late Polynesian wife. Also highlighted is the story of a U.S. marine who falls for a native of the island.

"The reason I picked it is because there's not a ton of leads," Costen says candidly, noting, though, that the cast can range in size from 20 to 30 people.

"The other reason was because I really wanted to include the local immigrant community," she said. Given the setting of the show, Costen hopes

the growing Filipino community in the region has some budding thespians interested in getting involved.

The show itself has a message that will resonate with everyone.

"It's a story about racism," Costen says. "There's a lot of problems that happen in the play because of racial prejudice. They do get resolved, but it showcases some of the American racism that was happening during the war."

To audition for *South Pacific*, simply stop by the Altona Mennonite Church (267 8th Ave. NE) on Monday, June 17 or Tuesday, June 18 from 6:30-8 p.m. Be prepared to sing "O Canada" to showcase your voice. You'll also be given selections from the script to read. If you have any questions, contact Costen at the number above.

"Lack of experience is no barrier," Costen stresses, noting she hopes to draw a few experienced musical theatre actors for the leading roles but there's plenty of room in the cast for newcomers as well.



THANK YOU!

We are extremely grateful to Canada Soccer for the **FREE KICKS TRY IT EVENT** grant, Regional Connections for connecting families, Co-op for the snacks and water, and the U12 Eagles Team for running drills and games.

Your support made this event a success!



Seniors, students meet at Discovery Nature Sanctuary

First of four intergenerational excursions

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A wind-swept but game group of kids and seniors gathered at the Discovery Nature Sanctuary (DNS) in Winkler last Friday morning for the first of four planned educational sessions.

Winkler's Service for Seniors have teamed up with the Buhler Active Living Centre, the Spiritual Life Home Educators group, and the DNS to create the Intergenerational Nature Discovery Excursions program.

Resource coordinator Denise Enns from the Winkler Senior Centre said a grant from Southern Health-Santé Sud made it possible to pull this program together, and there was plenty of interest from both sides of the generational divide.

"Intergenerational programming, that's always a hit with the older generation and the students, bringing them together," she said. "We have 18 students with the homeschool group, eight parents, and then 15 older adults signed up."

This first session featured a talk from Al Schritt, who shared stories from his decades of birdwatching and went over some of the common fowls spotted in the Pembina Valley and right there in the nature sanctuary.

"Why watch birds? I watch them for their beauty, for their song, to watch

their behaviour. It gets me outdoors" Schritt said. "They are so important for the ecosystem."

Helena Wiebe, a member of the homeschool group, said programs like this are valuable educational and social opportunities for the kids.

"We study science, and it's also very good for the young people to have some interaction with the elderly," she said, noting it can help take the kids a little out of their comfort zones as well.

The group already has a connection with the Buhler Active Living Centre, Wiebe noted, as their choir stops by to sing for residents regularly, so extending that relationship made sense and proved to be a lot of fun for everyone.

DNS board chair Paul Goossen was thrilled to offer up the sanctuary's outdoor classroom as home base for this program.

"The really neat thing about this initiative is it combines both seniors and students," he said. "So, obviously, seniors have got a wealth of experience ... they can share what it was like in the old days when they were kids, as well as their knowledge of wildlife and plants that they know. And then the students can hopefully learn from that. And it will be great for the seniors to see the enthusiasm of the youth, of the next generation coming up."



Above: Checking out some of the photos and other materials Schritt brought to show. Right: After the talk, the participants took a walk around the nature preserve together to see what birds they could spot.



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Birder Al Schritt spoke about the birds one might see in the Pembina Valley in the first of four education talks planned for the new Intergenerational Nature Discovery Excursions program.

"After the talks, they'll have the chance to see the sanctuary, explore it for themselves," Goossen continued. "That will give them the chance to get a feel for the sanctuary and hopefully see a few things."

Future excursions include Doug Kelso talking about plants on July 12

and Mary Wall sharing about monarch butterflies on Aug. 9. Goossen also has a presentation on historical local wildlife scheduled to take place at the senior centre on Aug. 28.

To register for any of these events, contact the Winkler Senior Centre at 204-325-8964.

DNS looking for volunteers

The Discovery Nature Sanctuary is, as always, a hopping place this spring.

Board chair Paul Goossen shares that they're hard at work on a number of projects at the 34-acre nature preserve, located off Hwy. 14 in northeast Winkler.

"We're continuing to work on the grasslands restoration site. We're hoping to get some more seeding done this spring on that," he said.

"And we're still working on the pollinator," Goossen added. "We'll be doing a bunch of planting in

June in an effort to try to expand the pollinator garden."

Anyone who would like to help out with that planting—scheduled to take place on Thursday, June 13—is encouraged to get in touch with DNS.

"We'd love to have more volunteers to help us with that work," said Goossen.

You can connect with DNS on its website (discoverynaturesanctuary.ca) or Facebook page.

—Ashleigh Viveiros



getinformed

Northern Steel celebrates new home

By Lorne Stelmach

It's a good sign for a business when you have only recently moved to a larger location but have already almost outgrown it.

That is the case for Northern Steel Buildings, which had an official opening and ribbon cutting last Friday for its office in downtown Morden.

"We've actually pretty much outgrown this space as well since fall," said general manager Rick Friesen.

"We've seen a lot of growth in business over the last couple of years ... but a lot of people in the community don't know about us," he noted. "This is downtown Morden, so it's just a really good location and good space for us."

In business since 2016, Northern Steel Buildings was started by seasoned leaders in the local steel building industry, and it takes on projects large and small from residential ga-

rages to commercial truck shops to large manufacturing facilities.

The expansion in Morden came about because the business needed to accommodate the increased demand for pre-engineered steel structures locally and across Canada and the United States.

"We just needed more space. We had two guys in a back office, and now we have nine staff here," said Friesen.

"Business is good. We are seeing lots of growth. We are hiring fantastic staff to work here," he added, noting they have even been getting some walk-in traffic with people who may have a need or a project in mind.

"Our business model is actually pretty rare in western Canada," he suggested. "What we're doing is we're really caring for farmers and commercial guys in providing them with steel structures, so they don't need to necessarily go to a general contractor to get those projects done."



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Northern Steel Buildings cut the ribbon on its new offices in downtown Morden last Friday.

"Our ideal clientele is the DIY person who wants to manage their own projects," he concluded. "That really

has allowed our business to grow because there's not a lot of people like us in western Canada."

Celebrate Arbor Day in Morden Park Sat.

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Morden's annual Arbor Day festivities take place this Sunday afternoon.

The community is invited to Morden Park from 1-4 p.m. to celebrate and learn more about the importance of trees in our environment.

Parks and urban forestry manager Shawn Dias says they have fun lineup of activities for all ages.

"We'll have some aerial lift rides, which are always fun to get up into the tree canopy," he says. "We're going to do a tree planting demo and then Morden Nurseries will do a tree and shrub pruning demonstration."

There will also be a sawmill demonstration, nature-inspired crafts for the kids, educational displays from local environmental stewardship groups, and the old tree at the south entrance to the park will get the final piece of its chain saw carving added to it that day.

"And we're going to have a whole bunch of free trees to give away," Dias

adds, noting they'll also be handing out free hot dogs and drinks (while supplies last).

Up for grabs as well is the chance to win a few 6-8-foot-tall potted trees ready for planting and live edge slabs of wood.

Morden has been hosting an Arbor Day celebration for a handful of years now, and Dias says it's been quite well-received.

"The Manitoba Urban Forest Council is a non-profit organization that has encouraged communities to host Arbor Day celebrations," he explains. "There's been a long history of Winnipeg hosting Arbor Day celebrations but nothing outside of Winnipeg. Now Morden hosts an Arbor Day, Brandon hosts an Arbor, and the council is trying to encourage others to do the same."

"It's a good opportunity to bring your family out to learn about trees and tree care and, really, just enjoy Morden's tree canopy."

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Salem residents, Emerado students Walk for Alzheimer's

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Gr. 6 students from Emerado Centennial School joined Salem Home's residents for Winkler's Walk for Alzheimer's event Monday morning.

Salem's director of community engagement Alana Thiessen says the walk is always a fun way to raise some awareness about the impact of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.

"A lot of our residents do deal with

some form of dementia or Alzheimer's, so it's just really nice to get out there and realize that just because you have a diagnosis it doesn't mean that your life stops—it means that you just have to change the way you approach things and do things," she said. "We can still go for a walk, we can have fun."

Emerado's four Gr. 6 classes have been visiting residents at Salem Home monthly all school year. Monday's walk fell on teacher Tasha Roberts



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Gr. 6 students from Emerado Centennial School helped Salem Home residents take part in this year's Winkler Walk for Alzheimer's on Monday.

and her students' day to visit.

"I just think it's an amazing opportunity that they might not normally get, and it's something that we can do to give back," Roberts said of the vis-

its, which see residents and kids enjoy arts and crafts and other activities. "It's also something that just brings the residents joy, but also brings the kids joy."

CCI ball tournament returns

Ministry puts call out for sponsors, participants, and volunteers

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Children's Camps International is getting ready to play ball once again this summer.

The ministry's baseball tournament returns to the Winkler Parkland ball diamonds Aug. 2-4 after a seven-year break.

The home-run derby is a fun, family-friendly weekend that organizers hope will raise upwards of \$100,000 for its programs around the world, says Tom Penner, CCI's chief marketing officer.

"The last one was in 2017, and they were always a really big hit, no pun this summer."

Continued on page 13



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Children's Camps International is hoping to raise \$100,000 with its slo-pitch tournament in August. They're looking for sponsors to donate per home run hit.

ENBRIDGE
Life Takes Energy

Public Notice is hereby given that Enbridge Pipelines Inc. (Enbridge) intends to conduct the following Pesticide Program from June 1, 2024 – November 15, 2024, to control noxious weeds on Enbridge ROW's, temporary workspaces, stations, and various facilities along the Enbridge Mainline and Bakken corridors.

The herbicide active ingredients to be used include:

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- Picloram
- Mecoprop-P
- Adjuvant
 - o Surfactant blend
 - o Solvent (petroleum hydrocarbons)

Any person may, within 15 days after the notice is published, send a written submission to the department below, regarding the control program or register with the department their written objection to the use of pesticide next to their property.

**Environment and Climate Change
Environmental Approvals Branch
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Winnipeg, Manitoba R3Y 0L6**

Local kids shine at MB arts festival

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Budding young artists from across the region held their own at the 2024 Associated Manitoba Arts Festivals' Provincial Music & Arts Festival held in Winnipeg May 25-26.

The youth all qualified for the festival thanks to their performances at their respective community arts festivals this spring.

Brother and sister duo Samuel Li and Charis Li, of Morden, earned their spots with nominations from the Winkler Festival of the Arts.

Samuel, 14, clinched second-place finishes in both the Advanced Piano and the Advanced J.S. Bach categories while Charis, 11, came in second in the Junior Piano competition. Both have several years of piano training under their belts.

This was Samuel's second consecutive year competing provincially and he says he's pleased by what he accomplished.

"I'm really proud of myself because getting second place is such an honour and it shows that all my hard work paid off."

He says the adjudicator notes competitors receive at these festivals can be incredibly helpful in focusing in on where he can improve his performance.

"I work on them every single day so

that I can be much more better," he says. "I write down notes about it and talk with my teachers about it."

"I really love playing the piano because I love the challenge of mastering complex pieces and creating beautiful music," Samuel shares, noting he has aspirations of perhaps being a professional pianist one day. "Playing the piano is such a wonderful way to relax and express myself."

Charis likewise says the festival experience—be it locally or provincially—is a learning exercise for her.

"I enjoy seeing how other people play," she says. "It's good to listen to them so that we can learn from other competitors."

Competing provincially is a whole other level, Charis notes.

"There less people but the competitors are higher levels," she says, adding that makes it even more fun for her.

Other local top finishers, all of whom earned scholarships for their efforts, include:

- Rachel Hesom, Winkler, second place in Elementary Vocal.
- Augustus Sanders, Manitou, second place in Junior Vocal.
- Jackson Hacault, Manitou, second place in Advanced Vocal.
- Seolah Kim, Altona, second place in Junior Strings.
- Micaiah Redekopp, Winkler, sec-



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Siblings Samuel Li (right) and Charis Li (left), shown here with their respective events' adjudicators, came in second in their categories at the 2024 Associated Manitoba Arts Festivals' Provincial Music & Arts Festival held in Winnipeg May 25-26.

ond place in Junior Classical Guitar.

- Hannah Williamson, Manitou, first place in Primary Woodwind.
- John Jordan, Manitou, first place in Priary Brass.
- Denise Howatt, Manitou, second place in Elementary Popular/Contemporary.
- Everett Wiens, Winkler, first place in Primary W.A. Mozart.

- Augustus Sanders, Manitou, first place in Junior Operetta
- Andrea Ronceray, Somerset, first place in Poetry and Prose Grades 4-6.
- Tarik Harra, Morden, second place in Poetry and Prose Grades 4-6.
- 2nd Place: Veronica Sanders, Manitou, second place in Poetry and Prose Grades 7-9.

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

> CCI BALL TOURNAMENT, FROM PG. 12

intended," he says, noting starting it back up again in Winkler just made sense. "Obviously the roots of Children's Camps International is local—it was started by people in the Winkler area. Our reach is across Canada, however we have a really strong donor base in Southern Manitoba, so that's why we chose to hold the baseball tournament there again."

Penner says they'll have room for about 18 co-ed slo-pitch teams, who will compete in a round robin tournament and do their best to hit the ball out of the park as often as possible.

"What we're aiming to do is find sponsors to commit to a certain number of home runs in terms of dollar value," Penner says. "So that for every home run hit, X amount of dollars is donated from the sponsors to our charity."

The last tournament raised over \$80,000. Penner has just begun promoting the event, but he's already feeling optimistic about the \$100,000 goal.

"We want to surpass [the last event] and we have some volunteers in the area who have stepped up to help us organize this," he says, noting they're looking not just for teams and players but volunteers (umpires, scorekeepers, etc.) and, of course, donors. "So any way people want to get involved ... you don't need any special skills to be involved. We'll take anyone—from donors to people who want to put a team together to just general volunteers."

All the money raised will go to the churches CCI partners with in Asia and South America to host Christian day camps for kids.

"It goes directly to our mission," Penner says.

Over four million kids have attended CCI camps since the ministry was founded in 2003. Last year alone they reached 357,590 children.

If you'd like to get involved as a team leader, a player, sponsor, or volunteer, head to baseball.childrenscampsintl.com for more information.

INVITATION TO SUBMIT AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST AS TO THE AVAILABILITY OF SPACE FOR LEASE IN MORDEN, MANITOBA FILE NUMBER: 81002984

Public Services and Procurement Canada is asking interested parties to submit a response by June 8, 2024, with respect to providing office space for lease in buildings in Morden, for a term of 15 years commencing on or about April 1, 2027.

To view the complete text of the request and to respond to this invitation, visit <https://canadabuys.canada.ca/en/tender-opportunities> or contact Marlene Chow at 403-605-5759 or marlene.chow@pwgsc-tpsgc.gc.ca.



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

There was plenty of family fun Saturday as the Morden Family Resource Centre hosted its annual Morden Teddy Bear Picnic. The event supports the centre's fundraising efforts, but it was more about the games and activities, including a number of stations where all manner of stuffed toys got some tender loving care from a variety of local health care professionals.

Montcalm Heritage Festival is on this weekend

By Lorne Stelmach

It's now just shy of 50 years since its inception, and the Festival du patrimoine - Montcalm Heritage Festival has come a long way in that time.

It had its humble beginning as a bicycle marathon, and it is now a full two-day, activity-filled weekend.

The festival celebrates the culture and heritage of the RM of Montcalm and the communities of Saint-Jean-Baptiste, Letellier, and Saint Joseph.

"It's a heritage festival, and we also celebrate the agricultural aspect of the region ... and I would say the main focus is the food in St. Joseph," shared Camille Fisette-Mulhaire, executive director of the Musée Saint-Joseph Mu-

seum, which hosts the festival.

"It is a draw, and it makes for a great family day ... and it's a great educational tool as well," she added. "It does bring a lot of people ... and I am always amazed at the volunteer commitment to the festival. It is amazing to see. St. Joseph is a very small town, and yet we have 190 names of people who volunteer for it."

This year's festival is this weekend with a full lineup of events and entertainment Saturday and Sunday.

The festival represents an important source of identity, branding, and pride in the communities, noted Fisette-Mulhaire, adding the celebration is an interactive, inter-generational and homegrown event that can be en-

joyed by all age groups.

The weekend includes live entertainment as well as demonstrations and free tours of the historical village and agricultural machines. Other activities include historical interpretations, musical entertainment, and the beer garden.

The festivities kick off Saturday with a free pancake breakfast from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. followed by a parade at 1 p.m. and a barbecue meal in the evening.

"We have a big historical village, which is always interesting to a lot of people," said Fisette-Mulhaire.

"Our feature event is the Saturday and Sunday barbecue suppers, and those are the only things you have to

pay for other than if you're buying food or beverages at the canteen.

"We have a bundle of activities for children," she added. "And there is the family baseball tournament that is held on Saturday."

"The parade is the longest parade in the smallest town I've ever seen," she noted. "By the time the first float goes around, the last float is leaving the museum grounds."

Special to this year will be the unveiling of a new mural.

For more information, you can call 204-737-2244 or email museestjoseph@gmail.com.

You may now KISS THE BRIDE



Delicious alternatives to traditional wedding cake

If fruitcake isn't your idea of the perfect wedding cake, have you considered serving something more reflective of your tastes? From flourless confections to savoury takes on the traditional, there are plenty of ways to create a wedding cake to remember.

Savoury cakes

Imagine cheese wheels set on pillars in the style of a traditional wedding cake garnished with grapes, figs and nuts. Another savoury option is a tiered meat pie.

Individual treats

Rather than one large cake, why not have a showpiece of bite-sized confections? Macarons make elegant and delicious treats. Pull out all the stops with decadent single-serving wedding cakes, individually decorated with marzipan and fondant.

Gluten-free cake

A Scandinavian favourite, the *kransekake* — Norwegian for "wreath cake" — is made with almonds, confectioners' sugar and egg whites. It's baked in moulds and then stacked to create a tower of many thin layers.

Designer biscuits

A designer biscuit shop can bake and decorate bespoke cookies with messages or images tailor-made for the bride and groom. Imagine edible surfboards commemorating your first date or little bride- and groom-shaped treats. Make it extra special with personalized place marker biscuits.

Your local bakeshops may offer sampling sessions. Contact them early to ensure they're available for your big day.

4 tips for a winning marriage proposal

Has the subject of marriage come up in conversations with your sweetheart? Does it feel like the right time to pop the big question? Here are four tips to help you make your proposal unique and unforgettable.

1. Think about your personalities

If you or your partner are shy, a public proposal with lots of people watching might not be the best idea. Instead, choose



an intimate moment. For example, in the comfort of your home, while taking a walk or during a romantic picnic. If you don't want it to be entirely private, consider including a few of your closest friends to make it meaningful.

2. Plan your proposal

Ideally, choose a moment when you won't be too pressed for time to avoid needless stress. While it may seem there's never an ideal time to propose, it's in your best interest not to rush it.

3. Pay attention to your presentation

Even if an engagement ring isn't essential to you, the moment of presentation is the heart and soul of the marriage proposal. Choose the ring carefully, subtly taking note of your partner's tastes while passing a jewelry shop window, for example.

4. Consider the element of surprise

Even if you and your partner frequently talk about marriage, the element of surprise is key to a memorable proposal. Make your plans discreetly, and be sure that the loved ones you enlist help keep the secret safe.

Start exploring your area to find the perfect ring and plan the perfect place and time for your marriage proposal.

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Here are a few ways a pro can make your wedding day perfect for you and enjoyable for your loved ones.

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- **Personality management.** You need someone to advocate for you when interpersonal conflicts arise. Be it the guest list, the seating plan or a problematic relative, your wedding planner will handle uncomfortable conversations for you.
- **Quality control.** A pro ensures nothing gets overlooked. They may also have unique and fun ideas you may not have thought of.

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PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH
VIVEIROS/VOICE

Over 500 athletes from 18 schools were in action at the Zone 4 Track and Field Championship in Winkler last week, which served as a qualifier for the provincials taking place in Winnipeg this weekend. Clockwise from above: Morden Collegiate's Mason Leite (left) grabs the baton from Tyson Mullin in the relay event; Zodiac Kim Fedrau gives it her all in the long jump, earning a third-place finish; Morris School's Molly Sanders tosses the javelin; Morden's Ojie Ikhurioa came in first in the boys high jump; Hezekiah Doerksen from W.C. Miller Collegiate's releases the discus. Morden Collegiate came home with the first-place girls junior variety banner (W.C. Miller placing second and Portage third) while Northlands Parkway Collegiate came in first in the girls varsity division (Sanford coming in second and Carman third). On the boys side, the division banners were won by Portage (junior varsity) and Carman (varsity). Morden and NPC had second and third-place finishes in JV, while W.C. Miller and GVC had the same in the varsity division, respectively.



Orioles, Bisons post weekend losses

By Lorne Stelmach

The Pembina Valley Orioles and Altona Bisons both suffered losses in their Sunday doubleheaders.

The Bisons have yet to get into the win column after first falling 17-2 Friday to Interlake and then suffering narrow 2-1 and 3-1 losses to the St. James A's Sunday.

The Orioles meanwhile picked up an 11-2 win last Wednesday over the St. Boniface Legionaires, but their three game winning streak then came to an end with a pair of doubleheader losses Sunday to the Elmwood Giants by scores of 5-1 and 5-0.

Interlake drove five runs across the plate in both the first and third innings as they outhit the Bisons 15-4. Dillan Thiessen had a tough go on the mound, giving up eight runs on six hits in two innings of work.

It was a pitcher's duel then in game

one against St. James, which had a slim 5-4 edge in hits. Maddux Mateychuk struck out 11 through six innings of strong pitching for the Bisons.

Statistics and details for game two were not available at press time.

Jason Penner drove in four runs off two hits as the Orioles took command of the game against St. Boniface with five runs off four hits in the bottom of the fourth inning. Pembina Valley recorded nine hits overall in the game.

In five innings of work on the mound, Chris Peters gave up only four hits and two runs while striking out four. In relief, Karsten Peters gave up only one hit through one and two thirds innings

In game one against Elmwood, four runs in the first inning provided the margin of victory for the Giants, who had a 9-2 edge in hits. Owen Goertzen took the loss in giving up the four runs through four innings while strik-



PHOTO BY EDWARD VINCENT ARCANAL/VOICE

The Interlake Blue Jays came to Altona Friday night to square off against the Bisons, and headed home with a win of 17-2 to add to their record.

ing out four.

Statistics and details for game two were not available.

The Orioles were scheduled to host the Bisons Wednesday then have a visit to Winnipeg South Friday fol-

lowed by a home doubleheader Sunday with St. James. In addition to the game with the Orioles, the Bisons are to host St. Boniface for a Sunday doubleheader.

Flyers pick Schofield first in MJHL Bantam Draft

By Voice staff

The Winkler Flyers added a host of new players to their roster at the Manitoba Junior Hockey League Bantam Draft on Sunday.

Winkler had the opening pick in the first round of the draft, and they used it to add Layne Schofield.

"After seeing the recent success of Trent Penner and Dalton Andrew moving on to NCAA Division 1 and the familiarities with his size and game, we anticipate Layne to be hungry for a similar development plan to follow in their footsteps," Flyers coach and general manager Justin Falk said of the choice.

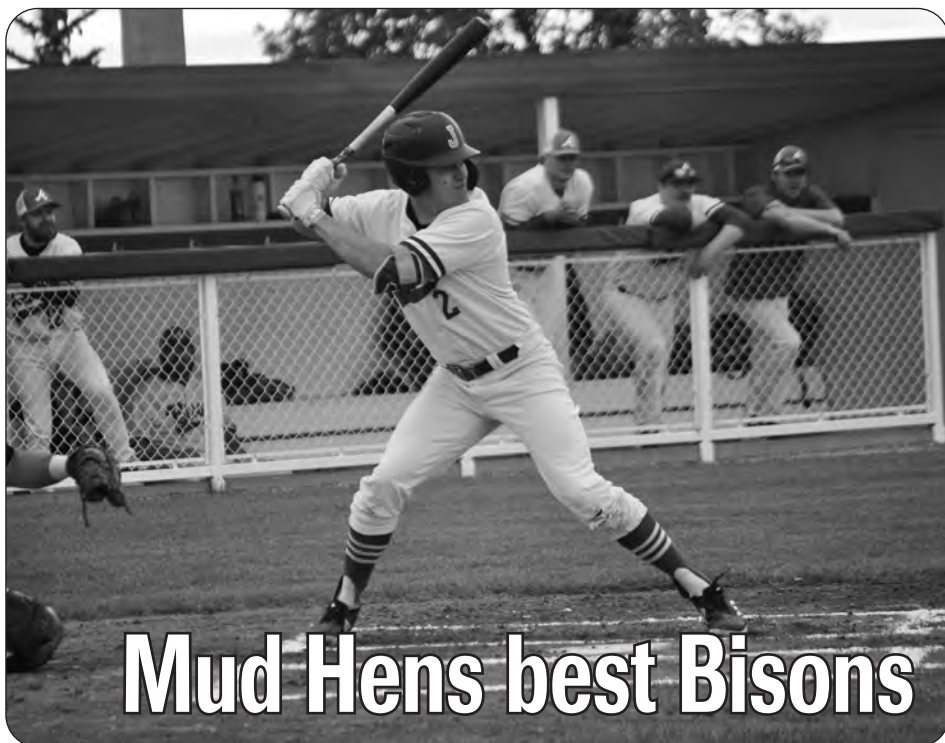
The La Salle forward played with the RINK Hockey Academy Winnipeg U17 team last season, contributing eight goals and 15 assists in 29 games.

The Flyers also secured fellow RINK player and forward Aiden Jacobson as the 12th pick of the opening round. Jacobson had 13 goals and 17 assists

last season.

Other draft picks for the Flyers included Southwest Cougars defenceman Jack Swaenepoel and Pembina Valley Hawks goalie and Carman native Ryler Gates in round two, forward Noah Stott from the Eastman

Continued on page 19



Mud Hens best Bisons

The Altona Bisons (left) dropped a 3-2 home game to the Morden Mud Hens (right) last Tuesday night in Border Baseball League action. The week also saw the Bisons split a Sunday doubleheader with the Cartwright Twins, winning game one 6-3 and then losing game two 11-1. The Winkler Whips, meanwhile, downed the Carman Cardinals 4-2 on the road last Tuesday and then fell 13-8 to the Pilots in Pilot Mound Friday night. This week Carman hosts Morden Tuesday, Morden hosts Winkler Friday, and Altona hosts Carman Friday.



PHOTOS BY EDWARD VINCENT ARCANAL/VOICE

U13 Central Energy split weekend games

By Ty Dilello

The U13 Central Energy squad split a pair of games last Saturday to improve to 2-6 on the season in the Manitoba Premier Softball League (MPSL)

It came down to the wire on Saturday at Stonewall's Quarry Park, as U13 Central Energy snatched the victory in walk-off fashion, 13-12, over the Smitty's Terminators. The game was tied at 12 in the bottom of the sixth when Cassandra Lanthier tripled, driving in the winning run.

Both offences were strong at the plate as the Energy collected five hits and Terminators 12 in the high-scoring affair. Bianca Lanthier pitched three innings in relief for Central. The reliever surrendered one hit and one run (zero earned) while striking out four and walking one.

Collins Vrooman began the game, allowing nine hits and ten runs (eight earned) over one and one-third innings, striking out two and walking one. Brady Wiebe also pitched one inning, allowing two hits and fanning one batter.

Central Energy couldn't keep up

with Interlake Phillies and fell 13-3 in Central's second game of the day. Brady Wiebe stepped in the circle first for Central. The righty gave up six hits and eight runs (two earned) over two innings, striking out two and walking one. Cassandra Lanthier pitched one inning, allowing five hits, and striking out two. Kylie Wiebe went 2-for-2 at the plate to lead Central Energy in hits. She also was quick on her feet, stealing two bases in the game.

Next up for the U13 Central Energy team is a doubleheader against the Winnipeg Lightning at Riel Park in Winnipeg on June 9. The game times are 12 p.m. and 2 p.m.

The U15 Central Energy squad enjoyed an off weekend and are gearing up for the Wheat City Classic tournament in Brandon this upcoming weekend. U15 Central Energy is then back in MPSL action with a doubleheader on June 15 against the Smitty's Terminators and Interlake Phillies at Stonewall's Quarry Park. The game times are 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Finally, the U17 Central Energy club had its scheduled doubleheader on Sunday postponed due to rain. The



SUBMITTED PHOTO BY HALEY CVAR

Central Energy's Brielle Friesen keeps her eye on the ball Saturday against the Phillies. The Interlake Phillies won the game 13-3.

U17 squad is back in action on June 22 with a doubleheader against the Eastman Wildcats at Friedensfeld

Community Centre. The game times are 12 p.m. and 2 p.m.

Zodiacs make provincial finals



FACEBOOK/GVC ZODIACS

The Garden Valley Collegiate Zodiacs boys baseball team made it the final round of the provincial championship over the weekend. GVC posted wins against Steinbach, Reston/Elkhorn/Melita/Pierson, Stonewall, and Garden City before falling to Boissevain/Wawanesa 11-2 in the final. Zodiacs Jackson Friesen and Koen Bleznuk were named to the provincial all-star team. The Morden Thunder, who had clinched the Zone 4 banner a week earlier, were also representing our region at provincials. After coming in first in the round robin with wins against Stonewall and Vincent Massey, the Thunder beat Steinbach 5-1 but then fell to Boissevain/Wawanesa the semi-finals to get knocked out of the running. Meanwhile, in the provincial girls fastpitch tournament, also last weekend, the Northlands Parkway Collegiate Nighthawks ranked second in the round robin, won their first playoff game against Mikisew Mikisew, but then were knocked out of the running when they came up against Vincent Massey, who went on to take the title.

Morden Minor Soccer host "free kicks" event

By Lorne Stelmach

A special initiative led by Morden Minor Soccer last week not only introduced some youth to soccer but also aimed to help integrate them into the community.

The "free kicks" event May 26 in Winkler was supported by a \$1,000 grant through Canada Soccer with the goal to reach out to newcomers or minorities.

It attracted about 20 families and 50 kids, and local organizers were pleased with the response.

"We had all different backgrounds. We had people from Colombia, Vene-

zuela and from Africa as well. It was really great to see all these different cultures there," said Daniel Rocha Lopez. "I think it was a great opportunity to connect with these families and to do it through soccer. It was a good time."

The event included two hours of activities related to soccer, and it had kids ranging in age from four to 17. Gardenland Co-op sponsored the event with drinks and snacks, while members of the Morden Eagles U12 boys team led the soccer activities.

"We thought we could join forces

Continued on page 19



SUPPLIED PHOTO

About 50 kids came out to learn and connect over soccer last weekend.

Maple Leaf hosts fundraising children's market

By Lorne Stelmach

A special project culminated this week with Maple Leaf School kids having created their own products for sale to the community.

The Monday evening children's market for Kindergarten to Gr. 4 students featured a variety of items ranging from Pokémon cards to bracelets to suncatchers and more.

A further bonus was the students could then choose to save, spend, or share their earnings at the end of the night. A portion of the proceeds is going to either Many Hands Resource Centre or the Boundary Trails Health Centre expansion, and it will be further matched by the Morden Area Foundation.

"Some of these kids are hustling. It's crazy," said Grace Keeling, a volunteer with the parent advisory council. "They're just so hardcore about it."

About 20 students have been learning about how to run a business as part of a six-week workshop. Each group was making product to sell, and it culminated Monday with an hour-long market open to the community.

In addition, other students who were not part of the workshop were also participating in the market, so it was expected there would be about 60 vendors in total.

At the end, there were going to be a number of awards for the top salesperson and most innovative participant.

"We have been working with Community Futures to teach them a little bit about business, how to make money, how to save money and how to share it. So they're learning commerce

or business lingo too, and they're learning customer service and what advertising is," said Keeling.

She said the students were enthusiastic about the venture and keen to learn and ask questions.

"A lot of things came out of this that we really didn't expect," she said. "For example, kids are picking up way faster than we thought, so it's really cool how we would be able to speak about adult terminology but they would just pick it up really fast and run with it."

"They're acting; they're role playing. They're shaking hands with each other. It's like little 40-year-old men shaking hands with each other, so that's really cute," she said. "In the workshop, we're seeing that lots of kids are raising their hands, and they're not shy to ask."

"The really cool thing that we noticed is we're catching the market of kids who are not athletic; they're not artsy. So it's kind of their own little niche."

Gr. 4 students Chaslyn Dejaegher and Blake Penner were making and selling suncatchers last week in the lead-up to market day.

"Chaislyn came up with the idea to make suncatchers because last year her sister made suncatchers too, so she thought that it was going to be a good idea to do it too," said Penner.

She said it was fun to learn a lot about money and how to sell the product and how to present it, and she had some plans for her portion of the proceeds.

"I thought it would be fun and I'm saving up for Ontario ... we're going on a family road trip."

Fellow Gr. 4 student Eva Taloshna



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

From left: Eva Taloshna, Chaslyn Dejaegher and Blake Penner with the handcrafted items they made for this week's Maple Leaf School children's market.

made bead key chains to sell.

"You can play with them ... put on your backpack and so on," she said. "My goal is to make about a hundred of them, and my plans are to try to add extra colours to them, make them extra big."

She also said it was fun to learn some things about being in business.

"If you run a business, you have to have plans and have enough money to change," she said.

Keeling said they appreciated that

the school and others in the community were on board with the project.

"I'm really wowed by the volunteerism and the amount of openness ... they've really opened their doors to this wild idea," she said. "It's our first time doing it, and it was a lot of figuring out solutions last minute ... finding business panelists."

"I think next year, if we do it again, it would be a better turnout just because people understand what it is."

> FLYERS, FROM PG. 17

Selects in round three, forward Ethan Stanley from the Brandon Wheat Kings and Winnipeg Wild defenceman Connor Zuk in round four, RINK Hockey Academy forward Zachary Lansard in round five, and forward Colter Martens from the Eastman Selects in round five. The Flyers passed in the sixth and seventh rounds of the draft.

Prior to Sunday's draft, the Flyers

selected forwards Tegan Fehr of Reinfeld and Carson Hiebert of Winkler as their two auto-protect list players.

Fehr had 28 goals and 14 assists in 36 games with the Central Plains Capitals U17 AAA team while Hiebert recorded 11 goals and 10 assists in 32 games with the Notre Dame Hounds U17 Prep 2 team.

> FREE KICKS, FROM PG. 18

with Regional Connections, as they have connections to all these families and newcomers here," said Rocha Lopez. "We provided soccer activities so they could integrate into the community and introduce them to soccer as well."

He felt the initiative was well received and that it showed there is a need and an interest in the region.

"We see that reflected in minor soccer when we have registrations for our programs," he said. "We see people coming from Roland, from Miami, Manitou, and Altona."

Each participant went home with

a goodie bag that included a soccer ball, so it would be a bonus if something like this could lead to more kids signing up for soccer.

"Some kids did not have experience at all with soccer, but some did have some experience," said Rocha Lopez. "Soccer is one of those easy sports where you just need a ball and shoes and you go out and play. It's very accessible."

"If this grant shows up again next year or in the future, we will try to do it again with Regional Connections and maybe reach more people."



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Mariyam Tsygankova, executive director of Many Hands Resource Centre, addressed the students about the organization, which was selected to be a beneficiary of some of the market proceeds.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING UNDER THE PLANNING ACT

The City of Winkler, under the authority of The Planning Act, will hold a hearing at which time and place the council of the City of Winkler will receive representation from the applicants and any other persons who wish to make representations in respect of the Rezoning Application No. RZ2024-002 and By-law No. 2320-24, being an amendment to Winkler Zoning By-law 2271-21 of the City of Winkler. The general intent of the above By-Law No. 2320-24, is to zone the land described below, Namely:

715 Circle K Drive & 435 Roblin Blvd East, legally described as Parcel A, Plan (Deposit No. 469/2024) MLTO as shown outlined in a heavy solid line on the map attached hereto as Schedule "A", and forming part of this by-law, be rezoned "M" HEAVY INDUSTRIAL & "SI" SERVICE INDUSTRIAL

FROM: "SI" SERVICE INDUSTRIAL
TO: "SI" SERVICE INDUSTRIAL

A copy of the above By-Law No. 2320-24 and supporting material may be inspected by any persons between the hours of 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday to Thursday and 9:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Friday, in the City Office.

Date of Hearing: June 25, 2024
Time of Hearing: 6:30 p.m.
Location: Winkler Council Chambers, 185 Main Street, Winkler, Manitoba

DATED at Winkler, in Manitoba, this 27th day of May 2024.
Designated Officer
City of Winkler

Schedule "A"

PUBLIC NOTICE

BOUNDARY TRAILS HEALTH CENTRE FOUNDATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Monday, June 24, 2024
7:00 pm
In the Multi-Purpose Rooms
At the Boundary Trails Health Centre
At this meeting, we will be discussing and voting on proposed amendments to Bylaws: 2.1, 16.1. You are encouraged to review these changes in advance and attend the meeting to participate in the discussion and vote. Please contact the office for more information. Financial Year-End Statements will be available at the meeting and upon request. For more information, please call or email 204-331-8808 ext2 or info@bthcfoundation.com
Refreshments to follow

AUCTION

ONLINE ONLY FARM AUCTION SALE For Deborah and the late Herb Robinson, Arborg, MB
Sale starts online: Monday, June 10, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.
Closes: Soft close starting at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, June 26, 2024
To register: go to: www.apro.bid (Bidding site)

Over 300 lot items for sale - J.D. 7210 w/J.D. 710 Snow bucket, power quad, right hand reverse, 7891 hrs showing; Ford 7840 MFWA Tractor w/Allied 795 loader, bucket & bale fork J.D. Turbo 7720 Combine, hydrostatic, Dicky John 1055 grain monitor, airflow sieve, variable spd pickup, 3161 hrs showing; D7F Caterpillar, running; HN 1475 Haybine 16ft, 2300 series; J.D. 4020 w/J.D. 148 Loader; J.D. 4010, series 3720.
Land sale: 76.06 acres, located at Parcel A, Plan 41143 WTLO, in SE ¼ 7-22-2 EPM, Title #1914607
List also includes a full line of haying, seeding and cattle equipment, tools, shop and mink farm items.
Check websites for full listing
Viewing by appointment only Tuesday, June 11th & Wednesday, June 12th from 10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Municipality of Emerson-Franklin

Municipal Notice of Intent

TAKE NOTICE that on March 12th, 2024, the Council of the Municipality of Emerson-Franklin gave first reading to By-Law No. 2024-05 to designate as a municipal heritage site under The Heritage Resources Act, the lands and premises commonly known as the Tolstoi Heritage Centre, (formerly known as the Tolstoi Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church) at 9 Main Street Tolstoi, Mb. The land is described in Certificate of Title No. 2898123 as follows:

SP Lot 3 Block 1 Plan 16289 WLTO Subject to the reservations and provisos contained in the original grant from the crown in SE ¼ of 35-1-5EPM.

A copy of the proposed By-Law can be inspected at the Emerson-Franklin municipal office at 115 Waddell Avenue East Dominion City, Mb between the hours of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and on the municipal website www.emersonfranklin.com.

A public hearing will be held at the Municipal Office at 115 Waddell Avenue East Dominion City, Mb on July 9th 2024 at 10 a.m.

At that time, any person may submit an objection or other representation on the proposal. If there is no objection, council may resolve to adopt the proposed By-Law, or not to proceed with it.

Date this 31st day of May, 2024.

Tracey French

Tracey French
Chief Administrative Officer
cao@emersonfranklin.com
204-427-2557

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Preference will be given to those candidates holding a valid provincial Millwright or Industrial Mechanic ticket. Candidates who do not hold a valid ticket will be expected to enrol in the apprenticeship program to obtain their ticket as soon as possible. Overtime and on-call duties are required. The successful applicant will possess excellent written and verbal communication skills, trouble shooting skills, and be a team player.

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If you are interested in this career opportunity, please email your resume and cover letter with reference to Competition #164-23/24 to:

careers@assiniboine.net

We thank you for your interest. Those selected for further consideration will be contacted.



ASSINIBOINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PUBLIC NOTICE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

for Central Manitoba Tourism on June 12 at Boyne Bistro
 120 - 4 Avenue, Carman, MB
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OBITUARY

David J. Klassen



Peacefully, with Mary, his beloved wife at his side, on Thursday, May 23, 2024, David Klassen, age 91, was called home by his Lord and Saviour

Dave, as most people called him, was deeply devoted to his family and will be sadly missed and forever cherished by Mary Kehler Klassen, his loving wife of 13 years; his five children and 19 grandchildren, Ken and Laura Klassen of Winnipeg (Amanda, Christopher and Bethany, and April and Tegan), Jim and Darlene Jackson of East St. Paul (Leigha and Eric, Jeremy and Stephanie, Evan and Renee, and David and Sydney), Wayne and Dianne Klassen of Selkirk (Darcy, Marisa, Stephanie, and Riley), Steve and Lisa Klassen of Newmarket, Ontario (Iliana and Nate, Veronica, and Luke), Tim and Cindy Heppner of Altona (Rebekah and Ian, Michelle, Adam and Kamden, and Kalli), his grandson, Cody and

Laura Klassen of Emerson, as well as his 12 great-grandchildren (Avery, Erin, Sarah, Isaiah, Collins, James, Logan, Thomas, Arthur, Aliah, Ezra, and Audrey). Also, Dave's two sisters (Trudy Hildebrand and Helen Sawatzky), and three brothers (John, Abe, and Martin Klassen). He will also be sadly missed by Mary's family, her six children, John and Barb Kehler of Lowe Farm, Pete and Melinda Kehler, Sara and Bernie Bergen, and Darlene and Rod Bergman all of Plum Coulee, Esther and Larry Dueck of Pinawa, Janice and Greg Doerksen of Steinbach, her 20 grandchildren, and 32 great-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his loving wife Hilda, their son Michael, one sister, and three brothers.

The funeral service for David J. Klassen was held on Wednesday, May 29, 2024 at the Sommerfeld Mennonite Church, Altona, with burial at the Altona Cemetery.

If friends desire, in lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The Cerebral Palsy Association of Manitoba.

Wiebe Funeral Home Altona
in care of arrangements
www.wiebefhaltona.com

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OBITUARY

Henry J. Siemens

March 10, 1925 – May 24, 2024

Henry J. Siemens, age 99 years of Altona, MB, formerly of Rosenfeld, MB passed away on Friday, May 24, 2024 at Eastview Place, Altona.

He is survived by his wife of nearly 75 years, Mary (nee Letkeman); their children Norman (Reta), Larry (Liz), Leona (Harold) Schmidt, Erwin, Darrel, and Conrad; as well as five grandchildren, four step-grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, 12 step-great-grandchildren; two sisters, and two sisters-in-law.

He was predeceased by his parents Jacob F. and Eva Siemens, four sisters, and three brothers.

A celebration of Henry's life will be held on Saturday, June 8, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. at the Altona EMM Church. Viewing will be at Wiebe Funeral Home Altona on Thursday, June 6, 2024 from 1:00 – 9:00 p.m. A private family interment will be held prior to the service.



If friends so desire, donations may be made to a charity of one's choice.

The family would like to thank Dr. Haq and the staff at Eastview Place for their excellent care of Dad the past three years. Thank you also to the home care staff that cared for Dad and Mom before their move to Eastview.

Wiebe Funeral Home Altona
in care of arrangements
www.wiebefhaltona.com

take a break
> GAMES

SUDOKU

					3			
		8	2		5			
	3			9		4		
5		1						
	6	4	1					9
						5		3
		6				9		
			6		2			
1	8	5	9	4				

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

2	3	8	9	7	4	6	5	8
5	7	1	2	8	9	3	4	6
8	4	9	1	3	5	6	2	7
3	1	5	4	9	7	2	6	8
6	2	7	8	1	5	4	9	3
4	6	8	9	2	3	1	7	5
1	5	4	9	6	8	7	3	2
9	6	3	5	7	2	8	1	4
7	8	2	3	4	1	6	5	9

Sudoku Answer

D	N	S		D	N	E		V	I	D	
V	I	B	A	R		E	N	E	N	B	E
D	L	I	A	P	E	A	V	B	E	L	E
R	E	R	S	A	B	B	E	R	O	M	O
E	L	E	V	L	V	V	N	U			
Y	F	E	R	L	C	N	B	A	V	G	E
N	E	N	N	E	B	E	S	E	R	E	G
V	A	N	N	O	T	S	F	E	V	O	
D	R	A	V	A	D	S	E	N			
A	R	E	C	A	V	A	H	A	S	H	E
M	O	B									

Crossword Answer

X CROSSWORD

- CLUES ACROSS**
- Breezed through
 - Supervises interstate commerce
 - Unruly group
 - Backs away from
 - Expression of understanding
 - Have concern for
 - Monetary units
 - Congressman (abbr.)
 - Iranian city
 - Eating houses
 - 2,000 lbs.
 - Grandmother
 - They include North, South and Central
 - In an early way
 - Foes
 - Shuttered British entertainment magazine
 - One who unloads cages
 - Another term for sesame
 - Formally forbid
 - Make clear
 - Inaccessible
 - Get through
 - Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
 - Decameter
 - Type of sword
 - Actor Idris
 - Affirmative (slang)
 - Afflicted
 - One point north of northeast
 - Born of
 - Arabic name
 - Traditional Hong Kong street food: __ pai dong
 - Termination point
 - Email function

- CLUES DOWN**
- Sign language
 - In style
 - Helsinki neighborhood

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10			
11				12		13			14					
15						16			17					
	18				19		20			21				
					22	23			24					
25	26	27	28	29										
30							31							
32									33	34	35	36	37	
					38	39	40		41	42				
					43				44					
				45	46									
47	48						49			50	51	52	53	54
55							56				57			58
59							60				61			
62							63					64		

- Unable to hear
- More rapid
- An idea accepted as a demonstrable truth
- In a cagy way
- Kate and Rooney are two
- Algerian port
- Community in Ladakh
- Midway between south and southeast
- Town in Galilee
- Satisfy
- Italian impressionist painter
- Brass instrument
- Chest muscle (slang)
- Transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm
- Records electric currents generated by the brain
- Woman (French)
- Aircraft designed to carry lots of passengers
- Baseball stat
- Pointed end of a pen
- Popular sports league
- Body part
- Unlikely to provoke dissent
- Yellowish cotton cloth
- Domesticated house pet
- Untruths
- Set out to attract
- Spiritual leader
- Abba __, Israeli politician
- Repair
- Genus of flowering plants
- Swiss river
- Prejudice
- River in central Europe
- Harness
- Father

High-octane fun with Rumble in the Valley

By Sean Conway

Manitoba's largest and loudest truck and tractor pull takes over the Morris Stampede grounds this weekend.

The Valley Agricultural Society offers two days of high-octane fun this Friday and Saturday with its Rumble in the Valley.

"We are excited to have pulling teams from across the prairies and the U.S. attending Rumble in the Valley, including teams like Supertrax Motorsports out of Saskatchewan," shares ag. society president Brian Wiebe.

Rumble in the Valley began in 2017 and has continued to grow as a family-friendly event.

This year's fun kicks off on Friday with the opening of the food trucks and beer gardens at 4 p.m.

The motor pits will be available for spectators to get up close to the vehicles to take pictures and talk to drivers. Monster truck rides will be touring the event and, new this year, is a

kids pedal pull.

Just like the big kids in their trucks and tractors, youngsters can sign up to pull a weight transfer sled with a tractor being driven by their pedal power. The kid who pulls the sled the farthest is the winner. The event is open to children 10 and under.

During happy hour from 4-6 p.m., country crooners Prairieline will deliver '90s tunes with edge and energy.

Finally, the truck and tractor pull itself gets underway at 7 p.m.

Following the pull at 9:30 p.m., Prairieline will again take to the stage and entertain fans into the evening.

Saturday at noon, the beer gardens throw their doors open for refreshments.

For those wishing to show off their personal ride, registration will be available for the event's car, truck & bike show.

At 1 p.m., concessions and the pits open for fans to have a nosh and get a look under the hood of their favourite



SUPPLIED PHOTO

The Rumble in the Valley truck and tractor pull takes over the Morris Stampede grounds this weekend.

truck or tractor. Monster truck rides and the kids pedal pull event will also be available.

From 2-5 p.m., fans can take in Manitoba's Strongest Man and Woman competition, featuring six events showcasing the athletes' agility and herculean abilities.

Starting at six, the Charlie's Place liquor service opens followed an hour later by the truck and tractor pulling festivities at 7 p.m.

Last November, the Valley Ag Society's won the 2023 Event of the Year at Manitoba Country Music Awards for The Manitoba Stampede and Exhibition.

Keeping with that standard of excellence, five-time Manitoba Country

Music Association nominee country/rock performers JR Charron will take stage Saturday at 10 p.m.

With a commanding voice and high-intensity show, JR Charron will power through the night, captivating the audience with old and new school country influences powered by gritty rock vocals.

Two-day passes for Rumble in the Valley are \$45 for those 13 and older. Children 7-12 are \$30. Admission for children under six is free.

Single-day tickets are \$30 for ages 13 and up and \$20 for children 7-12.

Visit the Valley Agricultural Society website, valleyag.ca, to get your tickets.

Miami Museum raising funds for a new roof

By Lorne Stelmach

The Miami Museum officially kicked off the season this past weekend with a fundraising effort for a new roof for a section of the historic building.

The project involves installing a metal roof on the former Anglican Church portion of the museum, which serves as its main entrance and office and houses the military and church-related exhibits.

The roof to be replaced was built over 110 years ago, so, like other parts of the original structure, it has been showing its age, said president Joe Brown.

"The roof had deteriorated, so we are putting a metal roof on it to make it more stable," he said, estimating the cost to be about \$12,500.

The museum has pursued a provincial grant, but much of the cost will need to be covered through fundraising.

Brown noted they have had some successful fundraising campaigns in recent years that raised in excess of

\$20,000. One was for the mosasaur fossil exhibit, including replacing the roof on the former Albert School portion of the museum that houses the fossil, and another one was to purchase new computer equipment to digitize the collection of over 2,500 artifacts, books and photographs.

"We've been successful in the past ... we replaced the roof on the other part of the building, which was the old school," he said. "It comes on heels of two other projects ... so we've faced about \$30,000 in capital costs in the last six years, but we've been successful in raising money.

"The museum's been in place just over 50 years. We've had good ongoing support. We've been able to renew the exhibits, been able to maintain the buildings," said Brown, who suggested the museum is very important not only to the local community but also the greater region.

"We've got a very good story here," he said, noting the wide array of items ranging from pioneer, military, and Indigenous artifacts to prehistor-



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

From left: Miami Museum's Joe Brown, Jim Pankiw, and Nedra Burnett cut the ribbon Saturday on its fundraising efforts for a new roof.

ic fossils.

"People are a bit taken aback when they come through," Brown said. "They don't realize how big it is, firstly—it's about 2,500 square feet, which I think is bigger than your average home.

"It's jam-packed. We've got about 2,500 artifacts here," he said. "The history represented here is quite comprehensive, which I think is unusual for a museum like this here."

The Miami Museum is a non-profit

and will issue a tax donation receipt for all donations of \$10 or more. For this campaign, they will add names to a new plaque recognizing bronze (\$50), silver (\$100), gold (\$500), and platinum (\$1,000) donors.

You can send donations to the Miami Museum at Box 153, Miami, Mb., R0G 1H0. For more information, you can call Brown at 204-435-2888, Jim Pankiw at 204-435-2370, or Nedra Burnett at 204-435-2191.

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