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Voice

THURSDAY,
JUNE 20, 2024

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Jumping for goodies

Kids jump for treats in the traditional party game pabitin at the Pembina Valley Filipino community's Independence Day celebrations in Morden Saturday. For more photos, see Pg. 14.

PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

news > sports > opinion > community > people > entertainment > events > classifieds > careers > everything you need to know

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Maple Leaf student serves as fire chief for the day

By Lorne Stelmach

A lucky Gr. 1 student at Maple Leaf School in Morden had the honour of being fire chief for a day Monday as part of an annual fire safety initiative.

Oakley Carson earned the opportunity as a result of submitting her fire escape plan for the contest, and it brought a fire truck out to Maple Leaf School in the afternoon for a demonstration that included shooting at a target with the fire hose.

She then had the chance to tour the fire hall before enjoying supper at Boston Pizza, which is the sponsor of the event.

"I liked riding in the fire truck ... I

liked being fire chief for a day," said Carson. "They came to my school, and I got to sit in the fire truck. We got to go in the fire truck ... that was fun."

Jonathan Baumgart, a captain with Morden Fire and Rescue, said they've enjoyed doing this each year ever since they revived the idea about seven years ago.

"Part of the initiative is to get kids to do the fire escape plans at home. It's something that we have found as a department is lacking in homes in the community ... fire escape plans are something that go to the wayside," he said.

"With Gr. 1 students and that age group, they're sponges for informa-

tion," he suggested. "They can be the advocate that kind of brings that fire message safety back home."

"This is one of my favorite activities of the year," Baumgart added. "It's getting young kids involved, and this program is a way to bring home that awareness about fire escape plans."

"It's a lot of fun going out to the schools. It's a lot of fun when the kids can tell you about their fire escape plan ... when they've been practicing at home and gone through it with their families at home," said Baumgart. "They get excited about this kind of thing, and it draws the rest of the family in and gets them into it too."

"It's a good initiative ... and I think we see the dividends on the other end."



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE
Captain Jonathan Baumgart with Gr. 1 student Oakley Carson, who won the chance to serve as Morden's fire chief for the day on Monday.

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Gemstone Dr. incident ends peacefully

By Voice staff

An incident on Gemstone Drive in Winkler ended peacefully last Tuesday night.

Winkler Police were called to a home out of concern for the safety of the lone male occupant inside with a firearm.

The Regional Support Tactical Team set up a perimeter around the residence and neighbouring residents were asked to leave their homes.

The Regional Crisis Negotiation Unit spoke with the man for nearly three hours and was ultimately able to convince him to leave the house, where he was taken into custody. Although he was not physically injured in the

incident, the man was transported to hospital to be seen by a physician.

Winkler Chief of Police Ryan Hunt called it "the best possible outcome" for this situation.

"A call like this requires numerous police officers and personnel from other agencies. With assistance from Morden and Altona Police Services, the RSTT and RCNU, along with the Winkler Fire Department and paramedics from BTHC, we all worked together to accomplish the goal of a successful conclusion where everyone is safe," Hunt said in a statement. "We would also like to thank the citizens in the area for their cooperation. It is much appreciated."

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Language students celebrate their achievements

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Regional Connections Immigrant Services celebrated the successes of its language students with a ceremony in Winkler last week.

The June 13 event, held at the Central Station Community Centre, was a first for the organization.

Though graduation celebrations have been held in the past for local Adult Literacy Program learners, this year's bash encompassed the entire student body, including participants in the Learning Instruction for Newcomers to Canada and English at Work classes in Winkler, Morden, and Altona. The organization also offers these classes at its Dauphin location as well as online.

Continued on page 4



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

At Regional Connections' graduation ceremonies last week, the speaking and listening class students shared how their English language studies have increased their level of confidence.

Our mistake

Our June 13 story on the 2024 Pembina Valley Pride march and rally incorrectly referred to past president Peter Wohlgemut as he/him. Wohlge

mut in fact uses they / them pronouns. We regret the error and any confusion it may have caused.

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Stoney Mtn. storm chaser tracks tornado in our area

By Jennifer McFee

A storm chaser experienced a day to remember last Wednesday while many Manitoba communities were under a tornado warning.

Ethan Caners of Stony Mountain had been tracking the storm and keeping an eye on forecasts, which prompted tornado warnings in municipalities

including Morden, Winkler, Stanley, Victoria, Glenboro-South Cypress, North Cypress-Langford, Oakland-Wawanessa, Neepawa, Carberry and Lorne.

On Wednesday, June 12, he picked up fellow storm chaser Bradyon Morriseau from the airport to began their pursuit.

“He’s Canada’s best chaser, in my

opinion,” Caners said. “We teamed together.”

They drove to Portage la Prairie and picked up another chaser, Jordan Carruthers, as well as a friend named Ethan Haggard.

“We got on one storm that we saw form on the Saskatchewan border and then we kept following it. We followed that individual cell for about 2.5 hours,” said Caners, who has been chasing storms across Canada and the United States for the past two years.

“It produced four tornadoes while we were following it. The first three tornadoes all spawned almost simultaneously with each other near Rivers, Manitoba, but the main one spawned in Swan Lake.”

The tornadoes in Rivers were relatively weak, he said, but that wasn’t the case for the system in Swan Lake.

“The one in Swan Lake did some damage. That one was a little scary for me since my sister lives in Swan Lake right now, so I was on the phone with her, giving her updates, telling her to get downstairs and making sure she was OK,” he said.

“It mainly damaged the powwow

stadium in Swan Lake. It also hit a barn northwest of Swan Lake, which we heard about later.”

In an effort to keep safe, Caners said they mainly rely on visual cues.

“You watch how the storm is moving, and you position yourself in a good area. You make sure you have escape options if you need,” he said.

“We maintained a safe distance from this one because we realized that this could be a strong tornado.”

Beyond the local storms, Caners also keeps an eye on tornadoes throughout the United States. Several weeks ago, he chased a tornado in North Dakota. And earlier in the year, he chased a high-risk tornado in Oklahoma, where he also spent about eight hours helping with search-and-rescue efforts amid the destruction.

But when he reflects on all the storms he’s seen, last week’s tornadoes top the charts for Caners — and he expects another tornado could be on its way to Manitoba before long.

“It was probably the best day we’ve had so far ever,” he said. “I think I’ll be chasing Manitoba again soon.”



SUBMITTED PHOTOS BY ETHAN CANERS

Storm chaser Ethan Caners saw tornadoes in Rivers and Swan Lake on June 12. The storm system caused damage to the powwow grounds in Swan Lake (right).



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Winkler grad parade is this Thursday

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler’s Class of 2024 from Garden Valley Collegiate and Northlands Parkway Collegiate is teaming up for the annual joint grad parade this week.

The community is invited to come cheer on the grads as they parade through town in their formalwear on Thursday, June 20 starting at 7 p.m. If it rains, the parade will be held Friday at 7 p.m.

“I have always enjoyed the idea of the grad parade just as a way of celebrating the kids who are graduating,” says GVC grad Brock Becker, who is a member of the school’s aftergrad committee. “It’s a nice chance for them to show off,

sort of a last hurrah ... for a lot of kids, getting through high school might have been a struggle, a lot of these classes took a toll, and they were able to push through and get it done.”

Having the parade be a joint effort between the two high schools is a neat tradition in unity, Becker observes.

“It definitely creates a sense of camaraderie between the two schools where there’s normally rivalry,” he says. “It could be two separate parades, the way that there’s two separate after grads, but it’s one connected one, the Winkler grad parade—we’re all graduating from the Winkler high schools, we’re all Winkler graduates.”

Continued on page 5

getinformed



> LANGUAGE PROGRAM GRADUATION, FROM PG. 3

Every single student in the language program is to be lauded for their dedication to self-improvement, said Regional Connections executive director Steve Reynolds.

"It's no easy thing as an adult to learn a new language or to improve your literacy skills," he told the assembled crowd. "Your life is already full of commitments, responsibilities, and relationships. Sometimes it feels like there's so much to do and so little time. Then add on top of that the hundreds or even thousands of hours to learn a new language—it's a tall task, but it's worthwhile and you're doing it."

Language and literacy classes for locals and newcomers to Canada alike stretch back over 40 years, Reynolds shared.

"The English at Work program started in 1983. Our adult literacy program started in 1988 and our ESL program for newcomers started in 1998," he said, noting these programs have grown today to support more students than ever. "Over 1,300 people registered for classes at Regional Connections this past year. Our staff worked tirelessly to address a wait list that was often 100 to 200 people long waiting for a spot in a language class."

In his valedictory address, Danylo Olehov reflected on what learning English has meant to him.

"The importance of learning a new language cannot be overstated. It's not just about acquiring a new set

of words or mastering grammar, it's about unlocking new opportunities and opening doors to a world of possibilities.

"Through language we connect with people, understand different cultures, and build bridges across diverse people in the community," Olehov said. "During our time at Regional Connections we have experienced that transformative power of language.

"The dedicated teachers and supportive environment have been instrumental in our process," he continued, thanking the program's staff for their patience and encouragement. "Each lesson has brought us one step closer to fluency and has instilled in us the confidence to navigate this new world.

"Mastering English will lead to better job prospects, higher education, and a successful, more fulfilling life. It allows us to fully participate in society, express our thoughts and ideas, and contribute to our community."

Fellow student Diana Kravchenko echoed those sentiments in her thank-you address to the teachers.

"A different language is a different



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Above: Students from Winkler, Morden, and Altona file into the meeting space at Central Station in Winkler to mark the end of another language program school year. Some will return for additional classes this fall, while others have completed their studies after years of work. Left: Valedictorian Danylo Olehov shared that learning English has had a profound impact on his life.

"THROUGH LANGUAGE WE CONNECT WITH PEOPLE, UNDERSTAND DIFFERENT CULTURES, AND BUILD BRIDGES ACROSS DIVERSE PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY."

vision of life," she said, quoting Italian film director Federico Fellini. "[It is] in the knowledge of this new view of life, in the knowledge of a new language, the Regional Connection teachers have [given] us.

"I sincerely credit you for your constant self-sacrifice and daily dedication," she said. "Thank you, our dear teachers, for believing in us and always giving us an incentive—sometimes a powerful kick—and for being honest with us."

Language program director Rhoda Keck said these classes have a profound impact on the hundreds of students they reach each year, no matter what level of speaking or literacy skills they come with.

"It is definitely life-changing. It makes a difference between being isolated in your home, being isolated when you walk out into public and you don't know what people are saying, you don't know what the words on the street signs mean, and then being able to slowly make out words, being able to greet people, your neighbours on the street, being able to get a job, and to not just get a job, but also upskill in your job.

"So even the higher-speaking students, when they come to class and they learn a lot about workplace culture and about improving their workplace or their writing skills, it has huge impact on their life in Canada."

> GRAD PARADE, FROM PG. 4

The parade will get underway at the Meridian Exhibition Centre, head south down Park St., east briefly on South Railway Ave., south down 8th St. to Pembina Ave., west down Pembina all the way to 15th

St., and then north to turn on Grandeur Ave. and end things near the exhibition centre.

"There's going to be a lot of cool cars," Becker says. "And kids are going to be wearing suits and dresses

as well, and those are always spectacular.

"It's a fun show to be had and a fun thing to watch."

The 2024 graduation ceremonies happen next week, with GVC's taking place Tuesday and NPC's on Wednesday.

The **Voice**

getheard
EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS



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OUR SISTER PUBLICATIONS



A house becomes a home

It's hard to believe now that my wife and I bought our current home nine years ago in the late summer of 2015.

The story goes as follows: I was executive director at the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre, and I was looking for housing options for a visiting fossil preparator coming from Alberta to work on a shark specimen (now excellently displayed by the current CFDC E.D. Adolfo Cuetara).

Our visitor would be in the museum for more than a month and so options were potentially very costly, even at the least expensive motels. With that I turned to old faithful: Facebook.

While Facebook may be a cesspool in a number of ways, its ability to be used to quickly spread information and need is relatively unparalleled. I posted our housing requirements and within a few hours my old friend and former Morden mayor Doug Wilson reached out with a proposal.

His house was sitting unoccupied and for an unbeatable price we could let our visitor stay there for the month.

I asked if I could check it out and Doug agreed. The second I walked up to and into the house I fell in love with it. Every square inch of the 1890ish Scottish field stone house was packed with an abundance of character.

I called Doug and told him I we would love to rent it for the month and in passing said, "Hey, if you ever

think of selling the house let me know. I'd love a chance to bid."

He mentioned that he had tried to sell it over the years, and he'd still be willing to. With that, the gears began to turn.

I called my wife and I said, "Hey ... want to buy a house?"

Her response was a figurative, "Come again?"

I explained the circumstance and argued we had nothing to lose by simply looking. She agreed—with no small amount of skepticism—and joined me on a walkthrough.

Now please understand, I am usually the impulsive one in our relationship while my wife is often the steady and well-researched partner. We balance each other out well here. It was a testimony to the house's impact on her that she was willing to explore moving forward with a purchase after having seen it.

After more research, conversations with Doug and a real estate agent, followed by a six-hour home inspection and voluminous report, we took the plunge and bought the house.

Neither of us have ever loved a house as much as we love this one. Over the years we have renovated a few things, but the general character remains the same. This place with

walls more than three-quarters of a meter thick that keeps the sounds out while keeping the warmth in the winter and the cool in the summer has become a part of us.

It is safe to say that over the years we have fallen in love with this space. Its covered porch is great during a thunderstorm and set back far enough from the street to feel private. The back yard is rimmed in trees and has become a small oasis for us where we can gather family and friends around the firepit.

I think we began to realize how much this house had become our home when we rented a cabin near Lake Winnipeg and spent a weekend away together often talking about how much we missed being at home.

A house is a house is a house whether you own it or rent it. A home however is something different. A home is a space imbued with memory, joy, love and even sadness from time to time. A home is a witness to your life such that it becomes a part of it beyond the sum of its wood and stone.

We are grateful that this house has become a home to us and my wish for you is the same: no matter where you live, may you find your place transformed to a home you love.



By Peter Cantelon

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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A new look for Access CU Winkler

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Access Credit Union celebrated the new look of its Winkler branch with a ribbon cutting celebration last week.

The downtown branch has been undergoing major renovations in recent months to create a space with a more modern feel that better meets the needs of customers and staff alike, said Access CEO Larry Davey.

"Probably the biggest thing is we wanted to focus on bringing the light in from outside for not only the members when they're here so that it's brighter, but for the staff who are working here ongoing," he said.

"We did a huge transition on offices and the availability of light, downstairs and upstairs," Davey continued. "And we also had to factor in

people's work patterns now, having changed after COVID. So there are offices here for hotelling where people can come and use them."

That last feature has become increasingly necessary as Access CU continues to expand across southern Manitoba, which means more staff are traveling to work between branch locations.

"[IT] WILL SERVE US WELL FOR YEARS TO COME."

The renovations also carved out room for Access to move its training centre from the corporate offices in the Stanley corridor to Winkler, and created larger spaces for its IT and call centre departments.

The financial institution has been at this location for decades, Davey observed, so the time had come for a remodel.

"We renovated in the '90s and early 2000s, and after 20 years, 25 years, it



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Cutting the ribbon on the newly renovated Access Credit Union Winkler branch last week was (from left) Winkler Mayor Henry Siemens, branch managing partner Mark Peters, Access CEO Larry Davey, Morden-Winkler MLA Carrie Hiebert, Winkler Chamber executive directory Tanya Chateaufeuf, and (front) Laurie Keith with Bill, Access CU's "Director of Greetings" (DOG).

was time to do that refresh because the branch experience has transitioned so much over the last number of years," he said, pointing, in example, to the increasing use of electronic banking in that time, necessitating fewer in-branch member services representatives.

"This this is the type of look that we're looking for for Access as we continue to renovate offices," Davey said. "We took some of the learnings for our Innovation Centre and our Carman branches and put them into this. We will continue to learn as we move into other branches for renovations as well."

The Winkler branch has 45 staff working there on a daily basis, shared

branch managing partner Mark Peters.

"Being in the heart of the city is awesome for us," he said, noting they often see members from the neighbouring businesses walk over to do their daily banking.

"We did analyze whether it should relocate, but this was viewed as the perfect location for us," added Davey.

The renovations make for a much more efficient layout, Peters observed.

"We were able to add a lot more offices on the main floor so all banking can be done on the main floor, and the upstairs is more of a support system for the main floor staff."

The refreshed branch will "serve us well for years to come," Davey said.

New owners for Morden Home Hardware



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

A ceremony last Thursday officially celebrated the opening of Morden Home Hardware under new ownership, with Richard Dyck on board as the general manager/co-owner. The new ownership group see the business growing further with the expansion of what was formerly just a hardware store but is now a full building centre. The lumber side of the business has already grown, and there are plans for expanding the warehouse space on the yard as well. Above: Home Hardware territory manager Heather Brincheski presented the store with a golden saw to mark the occasion. From left: BeautiTone Paint Consultant Norm Demeulenaere, owner John Froese, owner Alan Froese, owner/general manager Richard Dyck, Brincheski, and owner Jack Froese. Left: Store staff and owners.

Buying kid's clothing is as easy as ABC

By Lorne Stelmach

It's been quite a wait for Crystal Harsant's business idea to come to fruition.

Officially celebrating the opening of ABC Already Been Chosen Kids Clothing at 339 Stephen St. in Morden last Thursday, Harsant noted it is something she has had in mind for years.

"It's actually been a dream of mine for a very long time. My youngest is 17, so it's actually been since he was born," she shared. "It's a fabulous location, and it's actually been a bit of a whirlwind. I've had it on my heart for a long time. I've been collecting clothes for over a year already."

The store offers good quality used kids clothing at affordable prices with sizes ranging from preemie to extra large, and her goal is to have some clothing options for perhaps up to age 16.

"The city of Morden doesn't have a whole lot of places to go to just find your kids clothes, so I just wanted to make sure there was a place where you could do that," Harsant said.

"You're not going to find everything you need at other stores and especially affordably, and this is an opportunity too for people to bring in their clothing and make a few extra dollars there as well," she added. "I want to try to purchase as much as I can and try to have a variety and different sizes."

Harsant also wants to be invested in the community.

"I have been in touch with the Morden Family Resource Centre as well, so I want to advocate for them as well and help anybody I can."



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

ABC Already Been Chosen Kids Clothing owner Crystal Harsant (second from left) cut the ribbon on her new store with the help of (from left) Morden Chamber executive director Clare Agnew, Morden-Winkler MLA Carrie Hiebert, and Jason Dyck, economic development officer for the City of Morden.

Harsant noted the response has been encouraging so far, and she is grateful to have finally had the opportunity to open for business.

"I ended up on sick leave and just never went back to work. I just did this ... and the building came available, and it was a good price and a

good location. I wanted to be in Morden. That was number one priority," she said.

"People seem thankful that there's somewhere to go now ... kids grow out of their clothes so terribly fast that to go buy brand new all the time is just not logical or economical."

Pembina Hills Gallery hosts 'To Be Between'

By Lorne Stelmach

Leana Brandson recognizes her artwork will perhaps be challenging for some to grasp, but she is good with it being that way.

It means it may make it more engaging for people who come to see her exhibit *To Be Between* while it is featured this month at the Pembina Hills Gallery in Morden.

"I think that's one of the major draws of sculpture in that it is an immersive experience," said Brandson, who will be on hand for a closing reception next Friday (June 28) from 6-9 p.m. "It makes for more of a dialogue between people ... and I like the offer of con-

versation and the offer of dialogue."

Brandson is a ceramic artist, art instructor, and technician currently situated in Nova Scotia who graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree with honours in 2021 from the University of Manitoba.

A lot of the work now on display in Morden was done over the past two to three years while she was finishing her undergraduate studies.

"U of M went into lockdown, and I was one of the only ceramics honours students ... so I spent a lot of long hours alone and reflecting and kind of being in this vacuum, and it provided both a fantastic horrible, weird isolating time but also this opportuni-

ty to reflect and kind of slow down," Brandson said. "It was like a reprieve, and it was such a privilege to have access to that as well ... so it was an interesting time."

She describes her work as seeking to pinpoint fragile connections between layers of perception and self-expression, and she creates works compartmentally, building in sections to allow for precise fine-tuning.

She also creates to address gender identity, queer expression, and environmental destruction. The exhibition coincides with June being Pride Month.

"The idea behind the work itself ... is like the idea of compartmentaliz-

ing and compartmentalizing parts of a person but then translating that into a physical deformation or change within the body," shared Brandson. "So it's like this idea of how we sort of set aside thoughts and feelings, we set aside part of ourselves ... there's so much more, kind of like the act of pruning a tree."

"A lot of my works are created as like a response for small things like idioms and metaphors that come up in conversation ... then I go let's make that," she said, adding there is an aspect of self-reflection. "The work is a result of continued dialogue both in-

Continued on page 10



A night of gospel music

The Glencross Quartet and Vic and Linda Wolfe took the stage in Winkler last Friday night in support of Sixteen13 Ministry. "It was a wonderful time, with amazing gospel music," shares ministry president Harold Espinosa. Funds raised at the by-donation concert are going towards the ministry's work supporting marginalized people both here at home and abroad. If you missed the show, you have another chance to support Sixteen13 at its watermelon fundraiser this Saturday, June 22 at JS Autozone (35 Reinfeld St. South) in Reinfeld. They'll be serving up watermelon, roll kuchen, and farmer sausage by donation from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

SUBMITTED PHOTO



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Fly Day Fridays are back at the Morden Flying Club, and it kicked off last week with a young aviators event where 60 flying enthusiasts got the opportunity to go up for a short flight and also learn a bit about planes and flight. The next Fly Day Friday events will be the evenings of July 12 and Aug. 9 at the Morden Airport.

Fly Day Fridays are back



Senior living

Questions to ask when choosing a nursing home

When choosing a nursing home for your loved one, there are many things to consider. You want a place that offers the required medical services, high standards for hygiene, top-notch caregivers, attractive amenities and good meals. To ensure that the nursing home you choose meets your family member's various needs, you must make extensive inquiries. Here's a comprehensive list, by category, of questions to ask when deciding where to place your loved one.

MEDICAL SERVICES

First and foremost, the nursing home has to be able to meet your loved one's health care needs. Ask the following:

- Is the nursing home equipped to attend to your family member's particular health concerns? For instance, if he or she has dementia or Alzheimer's, does the nursing home have a specialized care unit for the condition?
- Which professionals and staff members will be involved in creating and implementing your loved one's care plan? What credentials and training do they have?
- What health care services are available on site? For instance, is there physical therapy, wound care or hospice care?
- How does the facility monitor residents' health? And how does it ensure that medications are taken on time and in the correct dosage?
- Are residents routinely checked from head to toe for bedsores?

HYGIENE

Cleanliness and hygiene are essential with regards to both the residents and the facility itself. Ask the following:

- Are residents well groomed and dressed in clean and comfortable clothes?
- How many baths are provided per week?
- What housekeeping and laundry services are provided?
- How clean is the facility? Are there any unpleasant smells that cause concern?

CAREGIVERS

The caregivers in the nursing home you choose will be in charge of keeping your loved one safe, clean, happy and healthy. You want to ensure that they're equal to the task by asking the following:

- Are the staff warm and welcoming?
- Are they attentive, personable and patient with the residents? Do they treat them respectfully? For instance, do they knock before entering a room and call residents by their names?
- What's the resident to staff ratio?
- What's the staff turnover rate?
- Do residents have the same caregivers every day?

MEALS

Meals have a major impact on the level of satisfaction experienced by residents in nursing homes. Therefore, it's worth paying particular attention to this factor. It's recommended that you visit the nursing home at least once during mealtime. While you're there, ask yourself the following:

- Is the dining room clean and inviting?
- Does the food look appetizing?
- Are the meals nutritious?
- Do residents who need help eating get timely assistance?

AMENITIES

Think of what your loved one requires to live happily and then form a personalized set of questions. You might start with the following:

- Are the rooms nice and are they spacious enough?

- Do the common areas have a pleasant atmosphere? Do they include desired amenities (television, games, reading material, activities, etc.)?
 - Is there a daily calendar of activities? Are the activities interesting? If your family member is room bound, can activities be brought to him or her?
 - Are there restrictions on visiting hours?
 - Are there private rooms for family gatherings?
 - Do the current residents seem happy and comfortable? Do they socialize with one another?
 - How much freedom do residents have with regard to their daily schedule and daily activities?
- Add to your checklist any categories and questions that you judge as pertinent, then start your search for the nursing home that best suits your loved one's needs.



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Volunteers take on invasive plant

By Lorne Stelmach

Volunteers are working to help restore some of the natural balance at Lake Minnewasta.

The Stanley Trail Association in partnership with the City of Morden and with the help of a Trans Canada Trail grant is taking on an initiative around invasive plant species at the lake.

A number of people gathered at the lake June 6 to learn about the effort to remove and replace European Buckthorn, which is a tier 3 invasive species.

A work day is planned for June 22 with the goal to remediate a 250 metre section of European Buckthorn infestation on the north shore of the lake to help restore and maintain it with new native plant material.

It is important to prevent the loss of native plant diversity and maintain the integrity of this designated natural area, suggested Doug Kelso, a volunteer with the Stanley Trail Association.

"It's a rehabilitation for the lake trail," said Kelso. "This lake trail has, over time, developed and become popular, a bunch of folk have done a lot of work to make it a nice trail."

"There's hundreds and hundreds of different species of plants here. It's very beautiful. It's very rich in bio-diversity and plant diversity ... it's a real gem, and it's worthy of being protected and managed well to rehabilitate it

when necessary."

The focus right now is on European Buckthorn, which is native to Eurasia but is believed to have been introduced to North America as an ornamental shrub for fence rows and wildlife habitat.

This invasive alien species is a large problem because of its tolerance of a wide range of moisture and light conditions along with its prolific seed production.

European buckthorn is able to successfully invade many habitats and grows throughout Manitoba and southern Ontario in a variety of habitats, often in woodlands and open fields.

It forms dense thickets that crowd other plants and can alter nitrogen levels in the soil, which prevents native species from growing. This plant produces a large number of seeds, allowing the species to spread and grow quickly.

Kelso became aware of this particular plant and other species as he became more interested and involved at the lake.

"I realized there's something going on here," said Kelso, recalling walking at the lake and realizing how it was really starting to spread further and that there are a number of other plant species in the area as well that could be troublesome.

"I got interested in plants along here ... and then it became apparent to me



A number of people gathered at Lake Minnewasta earlier this month to learn about the effort to remove and replace European Buckthorn, which is a tier three invasive species.

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

that we had this big infestation at a certain part of the lake with this European Buckthorn, which is one of a few invasive species," he said. "There's lots of invasive species around, and they impact to varying degrees. This particular plant is an issue for the plant diversity here."

"Buckthorn is just a really competitive plant," he continued. "It's an attractive tree, and there's really nothing wrong with it other than it's very aggressive, and it will take over a section of forest."

"It's very prolific in seeding, and the seedlings will just cover the ground, and they'll just take over so it will make it impossible for other plants and particularly native plants to compete."

Kelso recalled having had discussions about this a few years ago, but it didn't go any further then, and it now became possible with the grant and support of the City of Morden.

They now would like to go further with this but want volunteers to get involved and help remove invasive species.

"Morden is doing more with some of its natural areas, and they're supporting and promoting this trail and this natural area here, so it's sort of timely that way," said Kelso. "You can't do this in a day. It's a multi-year thing. It's probably at least twice a year to go out and pull buckthorn, and some day, with any luck, we'll get it under control."

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> TO BE BETWEEN, FROM PG. 8

ternally and with other people as well."

Brandson finds it interesting and engaging then to try to portray it physically in a sculptural way.

"I'm always very envious of people who work two dimensionally even because of things like transport and the logistic of it," she said. "But three dimensional is so compelling because you're not just looking at from one set perspective ... you have to consider every angle which a person can view it."

"You can layer those perspectives, and so as you travel around a work of art, as opposed to being directly in front of it, I find that for me it allows more of a full or natural engagement," she said. "It gives me less control over how people are going to look at things."

Brandson concluded with a thought on what she hopes people take away from seeing the exhibit.

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"I'm hoping that people can kind of connect with myself as like a queer person in the space and sort of get to know me individually but also relate with and commune with some of the themes presented."



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE



Paddling fun at Lake Minnewasta



Lovely weather made it a good day to hit the water at Lake Minnewasta Saturday for the annual Morden Paddlefest. The event gives people the chance to try out canoes, kayaks, and paddleboards free of charge. The Manitoba Paddle Association was also in town with two dragon boats for participants to take for a spin. The event serves to promote the Morden Paddle Club, which offers rentals at the lake throughout the summer.

PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE



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PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Winkler's Salem Home residents got the chance to see some vintage wheels up close at the care home's annual Classic Car Show last Tuesday night. The facility's south parking lot was filled with vehicles, and food vendors were also on site to offer up snacks and supper. Also on hand were reps from the Pembina Valley Humane Society, which has been bringing a few of its adoptable dogs to Salem weekly in recent months for the residents to cuddle with. Director of community engagement Alana Thiessen says the visits always bring a big smile to the residents' faces, as does the car show each year. In thanks, donations collected at the event were earmarked for the regional animal shelter. Right: Hope Landry, Ali Suderman, Carly Buhler, and (front) Madison and Riley Thiessen manned the evening's refreshment stand.

Salem hosts classic car show, raises funds for PVHS



Walk for Alzheimer's



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PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Supporters gathered with residents of Tabor Home Saturday morning in Morden for the IG Wealth Management Walk for Alzheimer's. The Morden walk raised \$1,150 to go toward local programs and services that improve quality of life for people living with dementia and their families and support awareness and education about dementia. Another regional walk is planned for this Saturday morning in Darlingford.

Friesens: The success of employee ownership

In a business landscape dominated by shareholder demands, Friesens Corporation shines as a beacon of success through employee ownership.

This distinctive structure empowers the book manufacturing company based in Altona, MB to prioritize values alongside profits, guided by the best interests of their customers and fellow employee-owners.

"Employee ownership is more than just sharing profits," says CEO Chad Friesen. "It is a mindset, an attitude that if we think and act like owners, we will outperform other companies where employees don't share in the success of the business."

Historically, employees of Friesens bought and sold shares in the company.

"That worked well for a long time, but between the 1990 and 2010, the company realized there was a mature group of shareholders that needed to sell their shares so they could retire," Friesen explains.

"At the same time, we had a younger generation joining the company that either didn't have the wherewithal or as much interest in acquiring enough shares to make that internal market successful. Part of that was also influence by society in general. We had moved away from an investing and saving focused society, to more of a credit focused society today."

This challenge led to the creation of a more inclusive structure called an employee ownership trust (E.O.T).

"The company lent money to the trust and the trust bought shares back from the shareholders who wanted to retire. The trust became a bigger and bigger shareholder for the company because it kept buying back shares from these retiring owners. The goal was to one day sell the trust shares to the younger incoming employees. But when you're in your twenties and thirties, you just don't have the financial wherewithal to buy shares at that rate."

In 2010, the company decided to make the trust the sole owner of the company. This followed some trying times in 2008 when Friesens faced

challenging markets, the introduction of e-readers, and foreign competition.

"The U.S. economy was in a freefall. We had a whole bunch of nervous shareholders on the shop floor, worried about their investments," Friesen recalls.

"We wanted to avoid having employees leave the company to try and salvage their shares. We knew the company was in a good financial position, so Friesens lent money to the trust and the trust bought back all the shares from all the employee-owners, essentially derisking the situation for them.

"So, while previously we were a directly-owned company with individuals owning shares, we became an indirectly-owned company where the trust owns the shares, but all the employees of the company are beneficiaries of the trust. We still refer to ourselves as employee-owners because employees are the only ones who participate in ownership benefits"

This shift brought numerous benefits to Friesens.

"First, it put the company in a position where it would be owned in perpetuity by a trust," Friesen says. "In today's ownership model, everyone participates, equitably. Even in your first year, you start to participate in some of the ownership benefits. Instead of only benefitting those who can afford to buy shares, we have more equitable participation for everyone. It's a much more inclusive ownership model than we had before."

Becoming an employee-owner at Friesens is straightforward—the only requirement is to be a full or part-time employee and to pass your probationary period.

The impact of employee ownership translates into high standards, superior quality products, and a team proud of their collective achievements. Employees often describe the company as a big family that supports one another through good times and bad.

"Employee ownership at Friesens means different things to different people," Friesen says. "For some,



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Friesens Corporation's employee ownership system empowers the Altona book manufacturing business to prioritize values alongside profits, and gives staff a vested interest in the company's success.

it's about giving back to each other and the community. For others, it's a chance to forge their own career paths. Despite these varied perspectives, a common thread unites all employee-owners, whether they've been with the company for two years or thirty: a sense of belonging and family."

This sense of unity and shared purpose, he says, is integral to the success of Friesens Corporation. Over the last 12 months, Friesens has shared over \$5 million with its employee-owners.

The company employs nearly 600 people, which translates to roughly 14 per cent of the community (although 1/3 of the employees live outside of Altona).

"Total employee ownership benefits have added up to over \$27 million over the last 10 years," Friesen shares. "That's a huge economic spinoff for the community."

"When our employee-owners receive these ownership payments, hopefully some of them are saving for retirement, but many of them are buying cars, doing home renovations, buying tools and equipment, or sending their kids to better schools ... things that help the community grow.

"If our company was owned by an individual or family, it's very unlikely that they would choose to spend all that money at the local level. Whereas if the same proceeds are divided 600 ways, you've got more chance of it being spread out throughout the community. That's a big win for Altona and southern Manitoba because every time we make a distribution, there's this flood of cash that goes into the community in some shape or form. I think that's a bigger benefit than most people in the community realize."

This sense of unity and shared purpose is integral to the success of Friesens Corporation, illustrating how a business model rooted in employee ownership can yield exceptional results for the company, its employees, and its community.

"Yes, it feels awesome to hand out cheques," Friesen says. "But ultimately, you want people to be a part of the whole story. I take pride in telling people how this company started, how we're owned, and how that benefits the lives of the people who work here."

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Filipino community celebrates



The Pembina Valley Filipino community came together in Morden Saturday to celebrate their homeland's Independence Day. Suncatch Plaza was packed with people out to enjoy traditional food, dances, music, and dress from the Philippines.

PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE



Your FARM



Cultivating wellness by managing stress

By Lori Penner

As anyone in the agricultural industry will attest, farming has its fair share of challenges.

But according to Louise Sanders, that doesn't mean you have to be stressed out.

As a stress management trainer and coach, and the founder of The Stress Experts, she helps her clients become their own "stress expert" by empowering them with scientific knowledge and practical skills to handle life's challenges, big and small.

Raised on a farm near Manitou, Sanders' journey from the fields to the clinic unveiled a profound truth: the importance of addressing stress in farming communities.

The agricultural industry is riddled with stressors, aggravated by the unpredictable financial landscape of farming and the profound sense of identity tied to the land. From consecutive years of poor yields to livestock epidemics and equipment break-downs, each unforeseen setback inflicts profound financial strain, which can lead to a cycle of despair.

"Stress is a human condition, that's felt the same with every industry. But each industry has unique stressors. It's about managing the emotional dysregulation that those stressors can produce," Sanders says.

"When you understand the basics of stress and have some simple, powerful tools to conquer stress anywhere, at any time, you can experience the benefits of increased resilience including less overwhelm and anxiety, more energy, better sleep, and increased efficiency."

For Sanders, the mission is clear: equip farmers with the tools to navigate the turbulent seas of stress. Drawing from her background in physical therapy and complementary therapies, she delved into the heart of stress management, seeking holistic solutions.

Sanders utilizes a multifaceted approach, integrating scientific insights

with practical techniques. Collaborating with institutions like the Institute of HeartMath, she empowers farmers to harness the innate resilience within.

"There's a lot of misconceptions about stress, which makes the topic of stress, stressful. Everything nowadays is called stress. But there's a difference between the stress and the stressor. A stressor is an event, circumstance, or situation that you have little or no control of. It's something that's external to us. Stress, on the other hand, is a negative or ineffective response to the event, situation, or circumstance. This is something you do have control over."

Stress is an internal response. When traffic is moving slow, the combine breaks down, or the cows are getting stuck in the mud... you think you don't have a choice but to be angry, worried, confused or overwhelmed. But you do have a choice, Sanders stresses.

"The reason it doesn't feel like you have a choice is because it's become your habitual pattern of response. A

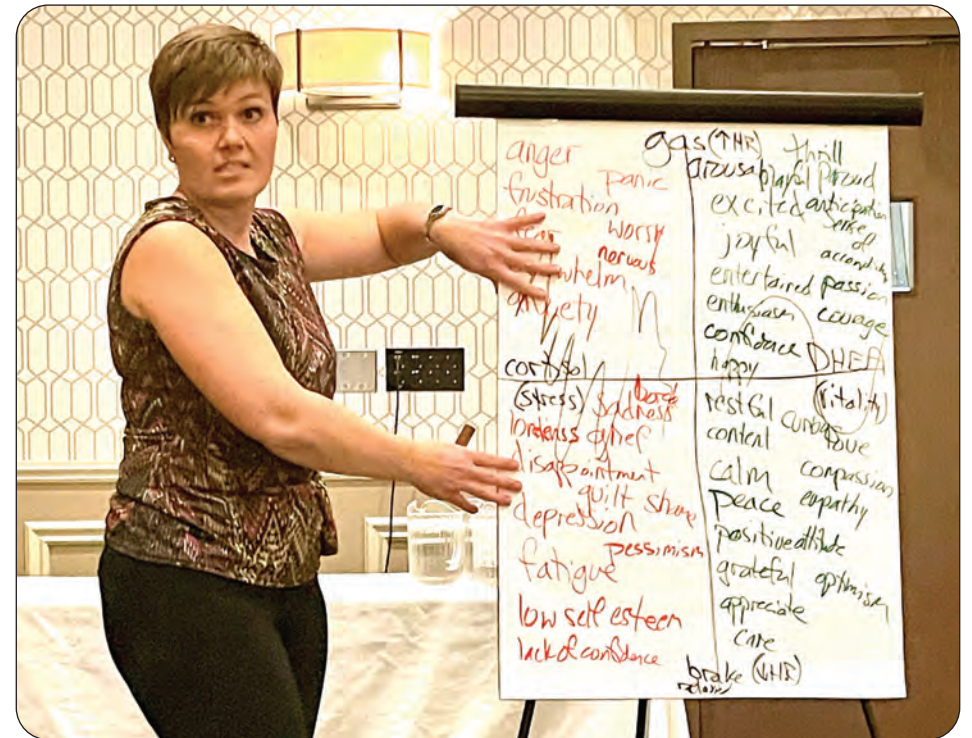


PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

Stress management trainer and coach Louise Sanders explains a learning tool she uses during conferences to demonstrate the relationship between the emotions, the nervous system, and the hormone system.

negative response becomes second nature."

In farming, stressors can include weather, finances, policies, labour, farm transitions, succession, or even little things like sour milk or a broken dish. Anything can become huge.

"What if you can't get the harvesting done? You're in control of your response, but you're not in control of

the weather."

Sanders calls stress physiological disharmony.

"The gas pedal is the sympathetic nervous system. The parasympathetic nervous system is the brake. And your heart is the gauge. That's what HeartMath is all about. The greater

Continued on page 16



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Your FARM



Second annual Poultry Fun Show to take place at Carman Fair

By Ty Dilello

The Dufferin Agricultural Society (DAS) will be holding its second annual Poultry Fun Show at the Carman Fair on July 13 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Agriculture Education Tent north of the Carman Arena.

There will be eight classes at the show: Best Layer, Best Feathered Leg, Best Other Breed, Best Game Bird, Best Bantam Duck, Best Medium/Large Duck, Funky Poultry, and Little Britches (for five-and-under competitors, where everyone wins).

The show will have a Senior and Junior section, with a champion and reserve champion for each section. Entry is a mere \$3 per bird, and over \$800 in prizes will be handed out this year to the most outstanding birds in the first, second, and third classes.

"We have a judge for the show coming in from Oakbank, who has been breeding for 18 years and showing poultry for over five years," said Jacqueline Rudd of the ag. society. "She has extensive knowledge of colour patterns and genetics of many breeds of chickens and waterfowl.

"My big push for this Poultry Fun Show is to try and increase interest

from the younger generations to learn and perfect the art of poultry keeping and showing," she said.

Rudd and her chickens will be participating in the show. She and her parents, Cathy and Bill Rudd, own and operate the Ruddneck Ranch out of Roland.

"This all started with a trip to watch a poultry show in Portage la Prairie," said Rudd. "I walked into the show, and my jaw dropped. I saw all of the different varieties and breeds and how magnificent and beautiful the birds were. I walked past a row of Silkies (a breed of Chickens known for soft, fluffy feathers and almost black skin and turquoise earlobes) and fell in love. I told my parents right there that I wanted to get a few chickens, specifically silkies, for our farm."

The Rudds knew nothing about poultry other than how to feed and water it, so they started this adventure by purchasing a few birds at a time, correcting mistakes, and talking to others who had poultry farms.

Today, Ruddneck Ranch has over 13 breeds of poultry, totalling around 150- 200 birds.

"My obvious favourites are my Silk-

ies, which I am currently working on breeding and correcting my genetics to get them as close to standard as possible," shared Rudd.

Rudd comes from a poultry background. Her great-grandmother J.A. Mclardy from Miami was featured in a newspaper in 1927 for having one of the first chickens to lay a record 302 eggs in one year. Mclardy went through extensive breeding programs with the Manitoba poultry keepers under the rules of a Manitoba-approved flock plan of the Dominion livestock branch.

At one point, Mclardy had a flock that consisted of over 80 hens, 155 pullets and 150 cockerels. Some of her birds were even selected to participate in the World's Poultry Congress as part of the Manitoba Record of Performance exhibit.

"So you could say that poultry keeping is in my blood, and I hope to pass this knowledge and love of poultry down to further generations, including my eight-year-old daughter Beau, who also shares in my love for birds and all animals," said Rudd.

The Ruddneck Ranch's petting zoo is open for bookings this summer and

is perfect for birthday parties, family gatherings, etc. The cost is \$90 per hour, plus mileage, and the animals can include chickens, goats, sheep, a pig, turkeys, and ducks.

For more information or to check availability, email Rudd at Jacq_18rudd@outlook.com or call 204-312-0542.

> STRESS, FROM PG. 15

medical community thought that to become healthy, you want your heart rate to be like a metronome. Very consistent. Now we know that is not true. We do not want that. We want natural variation. It doesn't matter what you're doing, your heart rate should be varied."

The heart and the brain are in constant communication, she adds.

"The heart does most of the talking, and it speaks in rhythms. The info from the heart goes to the brain, which affects the way the brain functions: your memory, choices, creativity, emotions, and relationships. Better brains become people who make wiser decisions."

But when you experience a negative emotion—fear, anger, worry, sadness, loneliness or worry—the brain goes offline.

"You can't think clearly. You can't make decisions. You can't solve problems on your farm or in business. It's like driving your internal car with one foot on each pedal. You'll cause mechanical wear and tear, and breakdown in your systems. And your ride through life will not be fun."

But there is hope.

"When we experience positive, renewing emotions, such as appreciation, care, love, peace, calm, excitement, we create a completely different rhythm in our heart, and that rhythm gets sent to our brain. It optimizes brain function. You make wiser decisions. You can plan. We get to choose what's happening in our brains, by choosing our emotions," Sanders asserts.

"At the core of it all lies understanding what stress truly is, its origins, and how it impacts us. Armed with this knowledge, farmers can reclaim control over their emotional well-being."

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sports & recreation

Winkler Storm in Division 1 top five

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Storm are holding their own in Division 1 of the Manitoba Major Soccer League so far this summer.

The team was in a three-way tie with Grant Park SC and Niverville Force SC for third place in the standings heading into their game against Niverville Monday night. All three teams had 10 points to their names coming out of the weekend, putting them behind Winnipeg FC (16 points) in first place and Galacticos FC (15 points) in second.

Monday's match went Winkler's way 5-4, with Matheus Ruffini scoring three goals and Santi Bergen and Ekh Moon contributing singles.

The win followed the Storm losing to Winnipeg FC 1-0 June 11.

Coming up, Storm 1 host CSSE Juventus this Sunday at the 15th St. pitch in Winkler at 7:30 p.m.

Winkler Storm 2, meanwhile, had no



Bisons down Whips

PHOTO BY EDWARD VINCENT ARCENAL/VOICE

In Border Baseball League action this past week, the Altona Bisons downed the visiting Winkler Whips 7-6 last Tuesday night (above) and then went on to trounce the Baldur Regals 13-1 and 13-3 in Friday evening's doubleheader. Elsewhere in the league, the Morden Mud Hens blanked Pilot Mound 4-0 and Clearwater 14-0 while the Whips lost game one of their Sunday doubleheader against Clearwater 7-5 before bouncing back with an 11-0 win. This week Tuesday sees Winkler in Pilot Mound and Carman in Morden. Friday night has Altona hosting Pilot Mound, Morden in Clearwater, and Winkler hosting Cartwright.

games in the past week.

They're sitting in sixth place in the

eight-team Division 2 with a record of 1-3-1 and a game in hand.

They play next at home June 24, against the Bonivital Flames 2.

Orioles 1-2, Bisons 0-2 in MJBL action

By Lorne Stelmach

The Pembina Valley Orioles were one for three this past week in MJBL action, while the Altona Bisons went winless.

The Orioles lost 9-2 last Wednesday to the Interlake Blue Jays, while the Bisons fell 13-3 to the Winnipeg South Wolves.

Then, in the Sunday doubleheader, Pembina Valley beat St. Boniface 9-2 but were edged 2-0 in game two.

Altona that day came up just short in falling 3-2 to Elmwood in game one and then were blanked 10-0 in game two.

Six runs on five hits in the second inning did in the Orioles against the Blue Jays, with Interlake holding an 8-6 edge in hits overall. JT Martine took the mound after going two innings and giving up the six runs, and Thomas Titchkosky pitched three innings and surrendered just one hit and one run.

Five runs in the sixth inning led Pembina Valley to the win in game one against St. Boniface. The Orioles connected for nine hits overall with Thomas Titchkosky, Darius Peters and JT Martine each collecting two hits.

Game two was a pitcher's duel with

Jackson Friesen recording nine outs and allowing just one hit and one run through three innings for the Orioles, while Mike Heppner was two for three at the plate.

Winnipeg South drove in seven runs in the sixth inning to finish off the Bisons while having just a 7-4 edge in hits overall. Kasen Mateychuk allowed six runs on six hits through three and two-thirds innings on the mound for Altona.

Game one was so close for Altona against Elmwood with the game tied at two in the seventh before a Giants' single scored the winning run in the bottom half. Maddux Mateychuk al-

lowed seven hits but just two runs over six and one third innings for the Bisons while picking up 12 strikeouts.

In game two, six runs in the bottom of the third turned the tide in favour of Elmwood with the Giants out hitting Altona 9-2 overall.

Pembina Valley sits in fifth place at 5-9, while Altona is last in eighth place at 1-11.

Altona was to host Pembina Valley Wednesday, and the Orioles were then to visit Elmwood Saturday. The Bisons are also scheduled for a Sunday doubleheader with Winnipeg South.

The Voice

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What's *Your* story?

Wiwchar, Scott honoured for a lifetime of baseball

By Lorne Stelmach

Two Mordenites were honoured last weekend for their lifetime dedication to baseball in Manitoba.

Joe Wiwchar and Glennis Scott were presented honorary lifetime memberships to the Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame at its annual induction banquet Saturday in Morden.

"I am so proud and humbled to also receive this honour. Many people have contributed to my receiving this honour," said Wiwchar.

"I feel humbled really," echoed Scott, who added he was not sure how to adequately express his appreciation. "There's a lot of good baseball people in this room, so to receive recognition like this in front of my fellow baseball people, that makes it extra special."

Scott's achievements include being selected for Manitoba's all-time dream team in 2016. Honours came mostly because he was one of the best pitchers the province has ever produced, but he also became an outstanding coach and clinician.

He competed for Canada in the 1967 Pan Am Games and won two games at Canada Games in Halifax in 1969. Scott also pitched two games for Team Canada at Cartagena, Columbia in 1970 and was pitcher-manager in Cali, Columbia in 1971 and was at world championships in 1972 at Managua, Nicaragua. He also was player-coach for Team Canada at an Intercontinental Cup in Bologna, Italy.

Closer to home, Scott held various offices for Baseball Manitoba and Baseball Canada, and he is now being recognized for his enormous contributions to the hall of fame. He was

one of the original directors and banquet chairman for the first 23 years.

Inducting Scott, Morris Mott praised him as always being good-natured and co-operative as well as both dedicated and well informed about the sport in Manitoba.

"He knew baseball people in this province. He knew the teams. He knew the players, umpires, media people, everyone," he said.

Scott's involvement in the game just came naturally to him.

"We had a family of six of us at home, and we all played ball including my sisters, some who were even better at baseball," he noted.

"This is a great opportunity to rub shoulders with some of the other baseball people in Manitoba ... and this has really developed into a great museum, and the organization has grown considerably," Scott said. "I've really enjoyed my association with the directors of the Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame ... and all baseball people."

Wiwchar was inducted into the Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame in 1999 and the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame in 2023.

He was an outstanding coach for half a century at the local, provincial and national levels and also served Baseball Manitoba in many capacities for more than three decades.

He was also cited for his efforts as a volunteer administrative manager of the museum located at the Access Event Centre in Morden. He held the position for the first 24 years of the museum's existence.

Wiwchar worked constantly to add



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Glennis Scott (above with Morris Mott) and Joe Wiwchar (below with Murray Zuk) were presented with honorary lifetime memberships to the Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame at the organization's induction banquet Saturday night in Morden.

to the museum's collections as well as to improve the way they were displayed. He looked for old equipment, uniforms and photographs as well as good deals on display cases, lighting, flooring and computer terminals.

And his name came up as part of the Manitoba 1977 Summer Games team, which was also inducted in the special team category and won Manitoba a silver medal.

Inducting Wiwchar, Murray Zuk noted how the hall of fame and museum has become what it is today largely through the efforts of Wiwchar.

"He had little or no money and very little memorabilia," Zuk recalled. "The result is that we now have what many have described as one of the finest provincial sport museums in Canada. Joe worked tirelessly as a volunteer museum manager for over 25 years, working five to six days a week except when he was away coaching.

"With all that Joe has done for the sport of baseball, you must assume that he has had many awards and recognitions. I counted 10 provincial, inter-provincial and national awards including last year's induction into the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame.

"There are not many volunteers who have shown such dedication to the sport of baseball."

"Hopefully this is the culmination of my career," said Wiwchar, who was somewhat reluctant to receive further honours for his work.

"It means so much. I'm so humbled and proud to be chosen as a life member," he said. "It's because of the people who have contributed to me being selected ... all of the baseball players, all of the coaches."

Among the other honoured inductees were members of the Tycoles family of Reston in the family category

"It was definitely an honour for us,"

said father Ross Tycoles, who gave credit to others, including primarily his wife.

"Carol liked baseball, but I don't think she loved it," he said lightheartedly. "She's been the organizer and driver of our family's baseball life."

"As the family grew up, there was a love for the game. This passion is still growing, and it is now into a new generation in our family."

The other 2024 inductees include:

- Special team category: 2010 Manitoba Junior Baseball League all star squad, which won the 2010 junior national championship.

- Ryan Boguski, Brandon. Chosen three times (1992-94) for the Manitoba Youth Team; in 1994 he made Team Canada.

- Eleanor Callow, Winnipeg. Played in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League.

- Stuart Gilman, Calgary. Part of two provincial championship junior teams and played for Team Manitoba at the Canada Games in 1981.

- Chris Hofer, Warren. In 1994 was Manitoba's senior AA player of the year and MVP of the Manitoba senior AA championship tournament.

- Derrick Mudge, Winnipeg, was part of a provincial championship 18U team from the Interlake that went to nationals.

- Ollie Schroeder, Winnipeg. Nominated for more than 40 years of service to baseball and sports in Winnipeg.

- Derek Shamray, Oak River, for over 40 years as an important contributor to baseball and hockey in the Oak River and Hamiota area.

- Ken Sharpe, Minnedosa. Played 15 years of intermediate and senior ball and played at provincial all-star tournaments and provincial championships.



Continued on page 19



Rick Wiebe Memorial raises \$33K for SCCR



PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

The Rocking W Rick Wiebe Memorial Charity Barrel Race was a resounding success in Carman last weekend, attracting competitors from across the province and raising \$33,000 for South Central Cancer Resource. Left: Event organizer Dusty van der Steen, daughter of Rick Wiebe, presents SCCR president Dianne Mestagh with the donation, which beat last year's total by over \$2,300. Above, left: Haily Klassen from the RM Of Stanley rounds the barrel. Above, right: Altona's Chris Wheel on the course. Right: Stetson Reimer, from Carman, competes in the peewee event.



Local track athletes bring home the hardware

By Voice staff

High school athletes from across the region cracked the top 10 in countless events at the Dairy Farmers of Manitoba Provincial Track & Field Championships held in Winnipeg earlier this month.

Several brought home medals for their efforts, including:

- Reegan Stoesz, W.C. Miller Collegiate, third place in the varsity boys 5 kg shot put.
- Molly Conrad, Prairie Mountain High School, third in the varsity girls triple jump.
- Amery Roberts, Northlands Parkway Collegiate, third in the varsity boys 1.5 kg discus throw.
- Soren Reid, Nellie McClung Collegiate, first in the JV boys triple jump and second in the JV boys pentathlon

> HALL OF FAME, FROM PG. 18

- Bryan Swaenepoel, Souris, was a power hitter and a 15 time all-star in the MSBL and was part of six MSBL championship teams.

- Maria Gundrum, Prairie Mountain, third in the varsity girls long jump.
- Angela Gundrum, Prairie Mountain High School, first in the JV girls triple jump, first in the JV girls 800 metre run outdoor pentathlon. Gundrum also set a new record in placing first in the JV girls pentathlon with 2,938 points.
- Taya Wall, Northlands Parkway Collegiate, second in the JV girls triple jump
- Jaden Mah, Pilot Mound Collegiate, second in the JV boys 1.5 kg discus throw.
- Nikkel Hudson, Morden Collegiate, second in the JV boys long jump.
- Ashley Morrow, Pilot Mound High School, first in the girls varsity 1 kg discus throw.
- Ava Earl, Morden Collegiate, first in the JV girls 80 meter hurdles.
- Payton Wytinck, Prairie Mountain, second in the JV girls 800 metre run outdoor pentathlon

- Ky-Lynn Jenner, Morden Collegiate, third in the JV girls 800 metre run outdoor pentathlon. Jenner also earned a second-place finish in the JV girls pentathlon.

What's *Your* story?

We want to hear from you.

The Voice connects people through stories to build stronger communities. Do you know someone who has a unique hobby? Will be recognized by a local organization for volunteer service? A teacher that goes above and beyond? A hometown hero? A sports star? A business celebrating a milestone or expansion? A senior celebrating their 100th birthday? A young entrepreneur starting out? Please share your story ideas at news@winklermordenvoice.ca Phone 204-325-6888

The **Voice**



Menzies clinic BBQ raises \$4,100

The community gathered at Suncatch Plaza in downtown Morden Wednesday in support of the Menzies Medical Centre. Spearheaded by community board members and volunteers, the barbecue fundraiser had support from local businesses including Giant Tiger, Co-op, and Winkler Meats as well as Old Dutch, Westside Church's coffee truck, and Alice's. It raised over \$4,100 to go towards new medical equipment and physician recruitment efforts.

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

U15 Central Energy moves to second place in MPSL standings

By Ty Dilello

The U15 Central Energy squad won both games of its doubleheader on Saturday afternoon to improve to 6-2, which is good for second place in the Manitoba Premier Softball League (MPSL) standings.

U15 Central Energy defeated the Smitty's Terminators 6-0 in the first game and then dispatched the Interlake Phillies 4-2 in the second game. Shyanne Goertzen, Taylor Wall, Addy Nikkel, and Kennedy Funk were all

outstanding in the pitching circle as they led Central Energy to two victories.

"A big focus on mental toughness and mental preparation, and lots of reps is creating some good habits," said U15 Central Energy coach Kevin Perrin. "We've also been having a lot of focus on strategy and aggressive base running which is helping lead to our success."

U15 Central Energy's next game is a doubleheader on June 22 against the Eastman Wildcats at the Morden

Ball Diamonds. The game times are 12 p.m. and 2 p.m.

Looking ahead, the U15 Central Energy squad is preparing for a tournament in Fargo, North Dakota, during the first weekend in July, as they prepare for the upcoming provincials.

"Our goals for the rest of the season are to win the provincials and then to place in the top six at the Nationals later this summer in Montreal," said Perrin.

The U13 Central Energy team had the weekend off from MPSL action

and will play their next games on June 22 with a doubleheader against the Manitoba Angels and Eastman Wildcats at the Winkler Parkland Diamonds. Game times are 12 p.m. and 4 p.m.

The U17 Central Energy squad also had the weekend off, but will be back in MPSL action on June 22 with a doubleheader against the Eastman Wildcats at Friedensfeld Community Centre. Game times are 12 p.m. and 2 p.m.

Cutting the ribbon on One Insurance

Staff from Winkler's One Insurance, formerly BSI Insurance, cut the ribbon at its rebranding celebration last week. One Insurance and BSI merged last fall to create the largest Manitoba-owned brokerage, with 28 locations across the province, including at 575 Boundary Trail in Winkler. Their range of services includes MPI Autopac, home, tenant, and condo insurance as well as business, commercial, and farm coverage.

SUPPLIED PHOTO



The **Voice**

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OBITUARY



Peter Friesen
November 18, 1928 – June 11, 2024

Peter Friesen of Winkler, Manitoba passed away on June 11, 2024 at the age of 95. Peter was born on the family farm outside of LaSalle, Manitoba on November 18, 1928, to Johann and Helena Braun Friesen. He was the sixth of 12 children born to German Mennonite immigrant farmers who fled to Manitoba, Canada from Siberia, Russia in 1926.

Peter spent his first eight school years in the country grade school and exhibited an early love for music. He contributed along with his siblings to the farm work until the family farm was hailed out in 1950. Peter did not attend high school, starting his piano and voice education at age 15. Through a series of evangelistic meetings held at his church Peter gave his life to the Lord at age 18. Serving the Lord through music became Peter's life's calling.

At age 21 Peter's love of music took him to Mennonite Brethren Bible College in Winnipeg, Manitoba, then to Pacific Bible Institute in Fresno, California, and completing a Bachelor of Music in 1963 at Tabor College, Hillsboro, Kansas. He followed that with a Master's degree in counseling at Emporia State University, Emporia, Kansas, in 1972, and finally completed a Master's Degree in Music at Emporia State University in 1981.

Peter met Marilyn Schafer at Pacific Bible Institute and they were married on May 18, 1957 at the Harvey, MB Church in Harvey, North Dakota. They raised a family of three children, Jenny Lynn (1958), Susan Grac (1960) and Douglas Andrew (1964).

Peter spent his career teaching music, choir, private piano and voice lessons, and heading music departments at Berean Academy, a Christian high school in Elbing, Kansas (1964-1973), Calvary Bible College, Kansas City, MO (1973-1980), Freeman Junior College, Freeman, South Dakota (1981- 1985) and Winkler Bible Institute, Winkler, Manitoba (1985-1994). He led these choirs in many tours, singing in churches across Canada and the US, and one tour to Europe. He also directed church choirs in many churches he attended throughout his life.

During Peter's retirement years he stayed involved with music by teaching private voice and piano lessons, organizing community music concerts, and was founder and first conductor of Prairie Singers, a community choral ensemble. Peter was also the chair of the music celebrations of the Winkler Centennial. In the early 1990's Peter provided two summers of music teaching and choral experience for the fledgling Lithuania Christian College Summer Institute in Klaipeda, Lithuania. Peter participated in several opportunities to direct alumni choirs at Berean Academy and at Calvary Bible College and served on the Winkler Bible Camp Board. Throughout his life, Peter championed talented young musicians and spent many hours counseling and encouraging individuals. During these years Peter and Marilyn often traveled to visit their children, grandchildren and relatives across Canada and the US.

Peter is survived by his wife of 67 years Marilyn; daughter Jenny and husband Robert Wall of Wichita, Kansas, daughter Susan Friesen of Spokane, Washington, daughter-in-law Monica Clem (John) of Freeman, South Dakota and grandchildren Kate Friesen and Richard Friesen of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Sara (Matthew) Fideler of Springfield, Oregon, Allison Wall and Jessica (Jordan) Langford of Wichita, Kansas, Nathan Buchheit of Post Falls, Idaho, Claire Buchheit of Spokane, Washington; sister Martha Ede; brothers Abraham (Joyce) Friesen, Jack (Marianne) Friesen, Henry (Diane) Friesen, Victor (Heidi) Friesen; sister-in-law Sandy (Ron) Flickinger and many nieces, nephews and cousins in Canada and the US.

He is predeceased by son Douglas Friesen; parents John and Helen Friesen; sisters Mary in infancy, Ann and husband Peter Suderman, Helen and husband Henry Dick, Frieda Friesen; brothers John and wife Margaret Friesen, Isaac and wife Eleanore Friesen, and sister-in-law Gerry Friesen.

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One Insurance: A legacy of service

Its merger with BSI Insurance means One Insurance is now the largest Manitoba-owned brokerage, with 28 locations in as many communities.

At one time known as Hartry Agencies before becoming BSI Insurance, the Morden location has been a key business pillar in the Pembina Valley, and One Insurance wants to continue to build on that legacy.

"Both started as family companies, both with rural roots," said Nicholas Rawluk, president and CEO of One Insurance.

One Insurance had 12 branches in the Inter-lake region and near Winnipeg, while BSI was based in southern Manitoba with 16 locations.

The two merged last fall, and the company has been doing a lot of community outreach in the months since to get the word out.

"It is a relationship business, and it's a community business. We try to be really active in the community, and we're actually trying to be more purposeful about it too. BSI's team had a really good focus on that," said Rawluk, noting they want to build on the theme of BSI's "Because We Care" community endeavours.

He said they will continue looking to support the community through partnerships and sponsorships like the One Insurance Skate Plaza, a popular spot that they are honoured to support annually.

"I came from the credit union background, so I took a lot from that playbook and just talk to the people."

One Insurance now comes to the table with over 70 years of collective experience in the insurance industry.

With a deep understanding of the unique challenges, it offers a comprehensive range of insurance options designed to meet specific insurance needs and budgets.

Its team provides MPI Autopac along with home, commercial, and farm insurance coverage options, and it takes pride in creating customized solutions for its clients.

Rawluk noted all of the merger locations were successful established businesses, so they were really able to hit the ground running and keep it



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One Insurance president and CEO Nicholas Rawluk says the company is eager to continue to grow in the Pembina Valley.

business as usual.

"There was no reason to close any as a result of the merger ... and we really kind of had the same values," he said. "We've been doing a bit of restructuring as far as reporting lines, but that's actually created positions."

First and foremost, it is always about the connection with their clients, and that will remain at the core of what they do.

"We want to have clients be able to walk into anyone of our branches and be served," said Rawluk. "You don't have to go to the one that's local."



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