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THURSDAY,
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Grads on parade

Graduates from Northlands Parkway Collegiate and Garden Valley Collegiate in Winkler put on their finest and hit the streets for the annual grad parade last Thursday. For more photos, see Pg. 14.
PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

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Jaren Hildebrand receives Kaitlyn Marie Reimer Scholarship

By Lorne Stelmach

Another Winkler student is getting some support for their continued studies thanks to the legacy of Kaitlyn Marie Reimer.

Family members were on hand at the Katie's Cottage respite home near Boundary Trails Health Centre last week for the presentation of the third Kaitlyn Marie Reimer scholarship.

Created thanks to a donation by Kerry and Darlene Pollock, who wanted to honor Kaitlyn's legacy and keep her memory alive, the fund under the umbrella of the Winkler Community Foundation is helping carry on Kaitlyn's dream of making a difference.

The beneficiary this year is Jaren Hildebrand, who graduates from Garden Valley Collegiate this week and intends to pursue post-secondary studies at the University of Winnipeg.

"I remember growing up, Katie Cares was involved with a lot of different things," said Hildebrand. "I always remembered her battle and how much she would inspire people around the community.

"It made me think a lot about the opportunities that I've had, and I've

been blessed enough to have," he added. "When I thought about her mission, I certainly could relate ... I related to what she wanted to do.

"I want to give those same opportunities to other people. I want to help, especially kids."

"As a family, we're thrilled to be able to do this," said Ruth Reimer, Kaitlyn's mother and spokesperson for the charity formed in her name, Katie Cares.

"We always try to find someone who we think would be who she would choose, and she would choose someone in education," she noted, adding Hildebrand's application very much connected with them. "It just resonated ... each one has resonated in a different way."

"He's definitely a great candidate," said Kaitlyn's brother John Reimer, who observed how much "Kaitlyn has been a part of my life, even though she is not here.

"This whole entire organization has definitely taken off and definitely shown what this community has valued ... it's a great cause," he said, adding that presenting the scholarship is



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Jaren Hildebrand (left) receives the Kaitlyn Maria Reimer Scholarship from John Reimer, brother to the award's namesake.

"something very exciting for us to do ... it's great to do something like this, and it's a great opportunity.

"It's a great accomplishment, and

it's definitely shown what Kaitlyn has passed on," he said. "I can't believe what this has grown into and has become."

**POV:
You Get
the Hype**



MANITOBA MUSEUM | 49.90022° N, -97.13644° W



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MANITOBA

Lorne health fdn. presents BTHC with \$100K donation

By Lorne Stelmach

The continued expansion and growth of Boundary Trails Health Centre received a further \$100,000 financial boost last week.

The donation to the BTHC Foundation came from the Lorne Memorial Health Foundation based in Swan Lake, and a representative said it made sense for them to support a regional centre that is very important to their community.

"It all started because we had a project that we had allocated funds to, and because now Swan Lake Memorial Hospital is a transitional facility, the board of directors of Lorne Memorial

Health Foundation decided to donate to the expansion project at Boundary Trails," explained Daniel Hacault, a board member with the Lorne Memorial Health Foundation. "Part of the reason for that is our community members use this facility extensively, and it's going to be a great benefit for cancer care, neo-natal care, etc. for the people in our community.

"It was an easy decision to make," Hacault added. "This is something we want to support in our communities, and it had widespread support right from the beginning."

"It's really fantastic to see," said Ben Friesen, chairperson of the BTHC Foundation, who noted the RM of Lorne had also committed to support

"IT WAS AN EASY DECISION TO MAKE. THIS IS SOMETHING WE WANT TO SUPPORT IN OUR COMMUNITIES ..."



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

From left: BTHC Foundation chair Ben Friesen and executive director Shannon Samatte-Folkett accept a donation of \$100,000 from Lorne Memorial Health Foundation board member Daniel Hacault.

the expansion project.

"It's nice to see that people understand the future of health care ... as our facilities are changing in focus, and this facility here is changing in focus and expanding into more care ... it's great to see the support," Friesen said. "They know that this is where they are going to be coming for their health care."

Friesen shared that the foundation had met its original \$10 million commitment to support the hospital expansion, so this donation will go toward what they are calling their Building for the Future Fund.

"We know that by the time this five-year project is going to be finished, there's going to be more stuff to be built, and while we are doing it, they are going to need more equipment, and we're going to be working on different forms of being able to get more health care workers into the area."

"It's just really encouraging to see the support of the community, the whole region, not only Morden, Winkler, Stanley ... it's just the whole region of southern Manitoba ... people can see that this is the future for health care."

Winkler man arrested in child abuse investigation

By Voice staff

A Winkler man is facing multiple charges after a police investigation into reports of child abuse.

On May 16, the Winkler Police Service was made aware of a two-month-old child who had injuries consistent with maltreatment. The child was apprehended by Child and Family Services and police began an investigation.

Police learned that earlier that week the child had been brought to the Boundary Trails Health Centre with a serious injury. The child was then transported by ambulance to a Winnipeg hospital for further examination and treatment. It was determined that the child had extensive, serious injuries that appeared to have been

caused over a period of time.

Police say their investigation over the next month determined that the child's father had violently assaulted the child on numerous occasions. Officers also learned the child's 25-year-old mother and a two-year-old relative had been assaulted by the suspect over the past year.

The man, a 26-year-old from Winkler, was taken into custody on June 2 and charged with aggravated assault, assault causing bodily harm, assault with a weapon, seven counts of failing to provide the necessities of life, and seven counts of criminal negligence causing bodily harm.

In order to safeguard the identities of the young victims, police are not releasing the name of the suspect.

Clarification

A cutline in our June 13 edition noted that the Farm Fest musical performances June 8 were on track to raise nearly \$10,000 for Love All Ministries.

Organizers have since reached out to share the weekend in fact raised \$7,145 for the ministry.

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PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Volunteers from the local Truth and Action Working Group (above) made bannock last week for students (left) at Maple Leaf School in Morden to enjoy in honour of Friday being National Indigenous Peoples Day.

Enjoying some bannock for Indigenous Peoples Day

By Lorne Stelmach

Morden students got a little taste of tradition for National Indigenous Peoples Day last week.

Spearheaded by Maple Leaf School teacher Andrei Mardli and in partnership with the local Truth and Action Working Group, the initiative saw students get to enjoy some bannock last Friday.

A group of volunteers got together Thursday to make all of the bannock that was then served up by students.

It was part of activities at the school that also included Indigenous related phys-ed games as well and other classroom activities, and it was supported by a \$1,000 grant from the Manitoba Teachers Society for social justice initiatives,

"I was very happy that we are able to collaborate on this project," said Mardli, who explained he idea was to just expose the kids to some kind of Indigenous culture, and food seemed to be a good way to do it.

"It was just kind of an entry point," he suggested. "It's a very hands-on activity, and there's a school community piece to it where we make some-

thing and we're giving it to the school.

"There's lots of positive benefits to it," Mardli said. "They're enjoying it, and they get to taste something new."

The Truth and Action Working Group volunteers were keen to get involved, said group member Dianne Hildebrand, who noted they had

Continued on page 7

Regional youth job centre is open for business

By Voice staff

Manitoba Youth Job Centres are now open province-wide, with the regional office based in Morden.

The centre provides community-based summer youth employment and skills training throughout rural and northern Manitoba.

Students and youth from ages 13 to 29 can receive free assistance finding a seasonal job or figuring out their next career steps.

"The centres provide students and youth with important information and education on career development," said Morden youth engagement leader Anna Nikkel. "The goal is to increase awareness of job opportunities for youth within the community."

The program is funded by the provincial government to assist employers, students and youth with their employment needs.

The centres provide students and youth with information and education on such areas as career development, resume preparation, interview assistance, job-search techniques, labour regulations, work-

place health and safety and post-secondary assistance.

For kids aged 13 to 16, the Odd Job Squad program offers casual supervised first-work and volunteer experiences for young people looking to gain hands-on career-related skills and experience.

For students and youth aged 16-29, the centre can assist in finding your next job or guide you on your desired career path.

For employers, there can be benefits to hiring young employees: they can provide new ideas and innovation to the companies they work for, and youth can be adaptable. By providing opportunities to youth, businesses are helping them grow into driven, confident, community-minded individuals.

If the job is a good fit for a youth, the centre can refer them to help ensure businesses receive the most suitable candidate for the job.



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Anna Nikkel is the youth engagement officer at the Manitoba Youth Job Centre in Morden.

The Morden office is located at 160 Stephen Street, and you can contact Nikkel by email at Annabella.Nikkel@gov.mb.ca or by calling 431-349-1337.

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Morden Adult Ed. Centre celebrates 16 graduates

By Lorne Stelmach

The 16 graduates of the Morden Adult Education Centre were celebrated at a ceremony Monday afternoon.

A common theme among those who spoke revolved around how each of their journeys have been different, but they share the ability to overcome whatever challenges they faced along the way.

"I am forever grateful to Morden adult ed and the child development care centre for changing my life," said valedictorian Judy Neufeld, who recalled having thought at one time that she would never go back to school because high school was not a good experience for her.

She expressed gratitude first and foremost to their loved ones who have supported them.

"To our family and friends, thank you for your endless love and support," she said. "You've been our rock through ups and downs, celebrating our successes and cheering us on through every challenge. You're unwavering support hasn't gone un-

noticed ... we couldn't have done it without you."

She also applauded her fellow graduates, adding they have made new friendships with people she likely would have never met otherwise.

"This experience has brought us together, creating a supportive and inspiring community."

Neufeld also thanked the centre staff for their unwavering support.

"Thank-you for believing in us even when we doubted ourselves," she said. "Completing my education has boosted my confidence and opened many new doors. I am now excited to pursue a fulfilling career."

Centre director Todd Folkett praised the students for the "extraor-

inary dedication, resilience and perseverance that each of our graduates have demonstrated."

He too noted how they had overcome all manner of barriers and obstacles along the way and had to make sacrifices, but they did not give up.

"Adult education is a journey that requires juggling various responsibilities, and each of you has shown

"COMPLETING MY EDUCATION HAS BOOSTED MY CONFIDENCE AND OPENED MANY NEW DOORS."



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The Morden Adult Education Centre's class of 2024 received their diplomas at a ceremony Monday afternoon.

incredible commitment in balancing work, family and studies. This path you have taken is not an easy one, but it is one that is profoundly rewarding and transformative.

"Each of you has a story of struggle and triumph ... you chose to push forward," said Folkett. "Behind every graduate stands a network of support and love."

"Graduates, as you step out into the world with your newfound knowledge and skills, remember that education is a lifelong journey. Continue to be curious, seek knowledge and embrace the opportunities that come your way."

Western School Division board chairperson Brian Fransen noted the division has long made supporting opportunities like the adult education

centre a priority.

"It is not easy to come back, but you did, and for this group of grads, there is no shortage of high quality traits that can be used to describe what it took to get here today," said Fransen.

Morden Mayor Nancy Penner also celebrated the hard work and determination and incredible achievements of the graduates and how they have shown "that it's never too late to learn, to grow and to transform one's life."

"It's about opening doors to new opportunities, enhancing skills and realizing potentials that were once thought to be out of reach."

Morden-Winkler MLA Carrie Hiebert said the achievement speaks vol-

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PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Centre director Todd Folkett turns the tassel for one this year's graduates (above) and shares some praise and advise in his address (right). Far right: Valedictorian Judy Neufeld thanked her family and friends, classmates, and adult ed. centre staff for their support.



The **Voice**

get heard

EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS



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OUR SISTER PUBLICATIONS



• FAITH FOCUS

Thoughts for Canada Day

I think I grew up with a sense of idealism about the country of Canada.

My families of origin came from other countries and had settled in to be citizens. We worked to make a living, celebrated with our neighbours and community with some sense of appreciation, and hoped for the best for this land we call home.

It may be my imagination but it seems to me that today we have less hope and more despair. We moan about the things we do not like and seldom stop to be thankful and express our thanks to God, or offer encouragement to fellow citizens as we seek to not only survive but to find a peace in our hearts in the midst of our present circumstances.

In the Bible there is a fascinating description of engaged citizenship. It was included in a letter of encouragement from the prophet Jeremiah to people who had been taken against their will from Jerusalem and region to live in Babylon. Maybe we can find some encouragement in this text from Jeremiah 29.

“Build houses and settle down. Plant gardens and eat their produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters. Take wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Multiply there; do not decrease. Seek the prosperity of the city to which I have sent you as exiles.



By Randy Smart

Pray to the LORD on its behalf, for if it prospers, you too will prosper.”

The people had been hoping to go back to their homeland. The message was that they should stay where they were and be good citizens engaged in daily life and raising their families. Beyond themselves, they were to seek the prosperity of the city God had providentially sent them to live in. In addition to being skillful, they were also instructed to pray on behalf of the city they were living in “for if it prospers, you too will prosper.”

In our day many are occupied with the subject of their rights, but we should consider what our privileges are. We have the privilege to seek to earn a living and live in a place far more peaceful than many countries in the world. We have the privilege of seeking the wellbeing of our families, and taking an interest in the ways that we can help others to also find courage and a sense of security in their daily existence.

If we understand the privilege of prayer, we can also pray to God for those individuals who lead and serve in our community. Our elected representatives, police, firemen, medi-

cal providers, teachers and more are everyday people like us. Praying for them does not mean that we always agree with them but it does mean that before God we value them as individuals who have a responsibility to help us and our communities to “prosper.” When you have concerns, talk to God first, and then talk to them.

On Canada Day, and every other day of the year, we can practically and prayerfully seek God’s blessing for the communities and country God has providentially provided for us.

Randy Smart has been a pastor in Southern Manitoba since 1979.

> GRAD, FROM PG. 5

umes about their character. “Graduating as an adult is a remarkable accomplishment,” she said. “It takes a tremendous amount of courage, dedication and hard work to return to school while managing your responsibilities of daily life.”

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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PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The Steps for Pets walkathon Saturday was a success again for the Pembina Valley Humane Society. There were fewer participants, but they still succeeded in raising just under \$14,000, which was not too far off from their goal of \$15,000. The day included a variety of vendors and displays as well as an agility demonstration by X-Treme Dogs. Steps for Pets is one of the main annual fundraising events for the organization, supporting the work of the humane society, including veterinary care.

Step for Pets raises nearly \$14,000



BASF Canada supports ÉMMS playground project

\$10,000 donation bolsters fundraising efforts

By Lorne Stelmach

A project to replace an aging school playground structure in Morden got a big financial boost recently.

BASF Canada presented a \$10,000 grant through its the Agricultural Solutions community donations program towards the new playground structure for École Morden Middle

School.

The playground structure is important not only for the school but for the community as a whole, and it fit very well with its ongoing commitment to give back to the communities where the company lives, works and serves, said a company representative.

“We really put the opportunity in the hands of our local reps to help share where there is an opportunity in their local communities,” said Tabetha Boot, senior communications specialist for BASF Canada. “We’re just really happy and proud to be able to support the community.”

“For us, one of our goals is to support rural and agricultural communities across Canada. It’s really the heartbeat of Canada,” she said, not-

ing the project was brought forward by Dana Hill, an AgSolutions retail representative for this region.

It has been estimated replacing the existing basic play structure could start at a cost of about \$80,000 and upwards depending on the features. The school’s parent advisory council has been getting closer to its goal for the project, receiving support as well from a number of sources, including the Morden Area Foundation, Morden Thrift Store and Western School Division.

“We’re hoping this is a good stimulus to spur the project along and get it across the finish line soon and be a catalyst for potentially more donations and to get the playground built,” said Boot.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

BASF Canada regional rep Dana Hill stopped by École Morden Middle School recently to present staff and students with a donation of \$10,000 towards their playground revitalization project.

> BANNOCK, FROM PG. 4

been considering how they could participate in and support the celebration of Indigenous Peoples Day this year.

“We were pleased with how the event came together in Morden in 2023 and are grateful for local support ... but we were concerned that the majority of support and funding came from Indigenous groups themselves.

“We decided our focus this year would be to advertise and encourage participation in Indigenous-led

events, including those closer to our area,” she noted, citing such examples as the Indigenous Day celebrations in Winnipeg as well as the powwow at Swan Lake First Nation this weekend.

“Our hope is to continue building relationships, both personally and among our communities, schools and leaders, as this is the basis for steps toward reconciliation.”

You can follow the Truth and Action Working Group on Facebook.

“Getting to this point has not been easy”

52 students graduate from RRC Winkler

By Lorne Stelmach

Red River College Polytech celebrated the 52 graduates of its Winkler campus at a ceremony last Thursday at the P.W. Enns Centennial Concert Hall.

The class of 2024 included graduates in programs including Administrative Assistant, Business Administration, Early Childhood Education, Educational Assistant, Health Care Aide, Health Unit Clerk and Mature Student High School Diploma.

“It is indeed a celebration and a very special occasion for all of us,” said academic vice-president Dr. Christine Watson. “I’m confident that some of the lifelong bonds that have developed as part of our small class sizes and our very bonded community will allow everyone to get to know each other.”

President and CEO Fred Meier started by thanking the community for embracing RRC Polytech, citing how

he believes very strongly in the power of partnership and working together.

“It means so much to us as an institution to be embraced by leadership in the community,” said Meier.

“Graduation is a milestone achievement, and I’m honoured to be here as you’re recognized for everything that you’ve accomplished and to celebrate what you’ve worked so extremely hard for,” he continued.

“I know that getting to this point has not been easy. It’s likely that time has been filled with challenges and also difficult decisions or sacrifices that you have had to make, but through it all, you have persevered.

“I want to take this opportunity to thank you for trusting us with your education,” Meier said. “One of the college’s greatest strengths is that of our instructors who all bring real world experiences with them to the classroom and which has provided you with a direct connection to industry and unparalleled mentorship.”

Meier went on to address what he sees as key values that always rise to the top as the most sought after characteristics in employees, and learning



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Red River College Polytech graduated 52 students at a ceremony at the P.W. Enns Centennial Concert Hall in Winkler last week.

of course was the starting point.

“It’s not a one-time event ... be curious, upgrade your skill sets, learn new things and seek out continuous improvement in yourselves as you go forward.”

Other key values he touched on include respect, integrity, inclusivity and even sustainability.

“Sustainability is one of humanity’s greatest challenges. Now, more than ever, we need bright minds like your’s to take on this challenge.”

Finally, Meier also emphasized the importance of collaboration.

“Everyone has unique gifts and aspirations, but only by working together can we reach our goals and dreams together,” he concluded. “As you embark on your careers, they will continue to point the way towards prosperity and success.”

Jenaya Hunt read a message on behalf of Portage-Lisgar MP Branden Leslie, and it touched on how education can break down so many barriers.

“Education is a great equalizer. It

will open doors and enable you to pursue your passions and dreams.”

“Today marks a significant milestone in your academic journey,” said Morden-Winkler MLA Carrie Hiebert. “As you stand on the edge of a new chapter in your lives, it is important to reflect on the hard work, determination and dedication that has brought you to this point.”

Winkler Mayor Henry Siemens reflected on the many decisions that always have to be made in our lives.

“There are some decisions that we immediately recognize as having greater significance ... some time ago, each one of you made a decision to continue your education ... today, the direction of your life changes forever because of a decision that you made,” he concluded.

“We know that great things are in store for you. We’re excited for you ... for what is coming next,” said RRC alumni representative Fred Thiessen, who is also an instructor at the Winkler campus.



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

RRC Polytech academic vice president Christine Watson addresses the crowd. Right: President and CEO Fred Meier presents diplomas to the class of 2024.



The **Voice**

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What's *Your* story?

Princess tea party



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Nice weather and the historic setting of Bella's Castle in Morden made it a perfect day for the annual princess tea party last Wednesday. Staff and participants were in full costume for the occasion, which also had Lindsay Rae providing musical entertainment. A collaboration between Bella's Castle, A Country Princess, and Pure Anada, this year's gathering had a record of



over 100 princesses attending.

Winkler Arts & Culture launching Chalk the City next week

By Ashleigh Viveiros



VOICE FILE PHOTO

One of the entries in last year's Chalk the City contest, which is back for six weeks this summer starting July 1.

Winkler Arts and Culture (WAC) invites you to help them add some colour to the streets of Winkler this summer.

They're bringing back "Chalk the City" for a second year, with a weekly prizes up for grabs for everyone who participates.

"We had such a great response from the community last year that we wanted to run the same program again" says executive director Jered Hildebrand. "So we're encouraging Winkler residents to decorate and create chalk-based artistic masterpieces on their driveways and their sidewalks throughout town."

Your work of art completed, simply post a photo of it on social media and tag the gallery (@winklerarts) or send it to them via email (admin@winklerarts.com) so they can share it online.

You can enter each week for a chance to win prizes donated by a host of local businesses. Prize details will be announced next week.

The campaign runs July 1 to Aug. 10, though it could be extended if more sponsors step up to provide prizes.

The contest is open to all ages and skill levels.

"Last year it was mostly kids and families, but some adults did some pretty neat work as well," Hildebrand says. "This is for anyone who's interested. And if a business wants to submit a picture, they're in for the prizes as well."

Chalk the City is just one way WAC is engaging with the community this summer.

"We have our summer art camp and that kind of dominates our programming for those two months," Hildebrand says. "So this is our way of kind of reaching out to the broader public and engaging with them and just encouraging artistic expression in a summer fashion throughout the community."

"It's just great to see so much colour all around town. It really makes the sidewalks come alive."

The ***Voice***

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PETER CANTELON

Cantelon's first collection, *Psalms of Bone & Sinew*, was briefly Amazon's #1 book in the Canadian Poetry category. Cantelon's recent influences have been many and diverse including poets such as Kenji Miyazawa, Forough Farrokhzad, Rupi Kaur, Noor Hindi and Amanda Gorman. He has been published in various journals and magazines including *Poetry Scotland*, *Synaesthesia*, *Bricolage*, *Gez* and the award-winning *Lakeview International Journal of Literature and Arts*.



AVAILABLE ON AMAZON NOW - SEARCH FOR PETER CANTELON

GenAg open house focuses on the future of farming

By Lorne Stelmach

An open house last week at GenAg in the highway corridor between Morden and Winkler was all about doing things differently.

The day was less about a sales pitch for the products as it was to just help producers be informed and get them thinking about moving farming forward in terms of efficiency and healthier profits.

There were a variety of presentations on topics ranging from finances to mental health to tie into the overall theme.

“Our theme for the day is “Change Farming,” and that’s kind of our theme for the business,” said Eric Braun, who handles business development for GenAg.

Organizers of the June 19 open house, dubbed DOWN2EARTH, had hoped to take participants out into the fields, but the wet conditions did not allow it, so they carried on with presentations on the main GenAg property as well as displays of some of the most cutting-edge manufacturers under their umbrella, such as CLAAS and HORSCH.

“What we do is we curate Europe-



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

GenAg invited agricultural producers to its site between Morden-Winkler for its DOWN2EARTH open house last week.

an farm equipment, so we’ve gone and what believe is we’ve brought in the best of the best ... we work with some of these European manufacturers,” said Braun. “One big thing we’ve found across the lines of all of the brands that we offer is they seem to shine in adverse conditions, and we’ve seen that here this year.

“The biggest thing that sets all of this apart is it’s a different way of thinking about farming. It’s a different way of thinking about getting your crop in, getting your crop off. The whole idea of today was to actually be able to showcase in the dirt and in the field

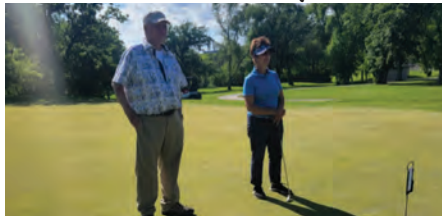
what some of these differences are,” he continued.

In a way, they hoped producers might come away from the day with some answers but also perhaps with even more questions about “how are they currently getting their seeding done, how are they currently getting their harvesting done, how are they currently getting their spraying done?”

“Everything that we do offer has a vastly different approach to agriculture,” Braun suggested. “I don’t know that they are necessarily looking for it yet, so we want to bring it to them.”

11th Annual Golf Tournament – Morden Activity Centre

The Morden Activity Centre would like to offer a heartfelt thank you to the community and businesses who came out to support our largest fundraiser of the year. If you were unable to make it to the tournament, we are still accepting donations. As a new way of supporting the Centre, we also encourage community members learn about the Morden Activity Centre Endowment Fund through Morden Area Foundation. By Supporting Morden Activity Centre, we can continue to offer support to the community through our three meal programs, our Services for Seniors department, Senior Advocacy, Recreation Activities and Outreach.



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Before & after



What a difference a few days make. The left photo was taken by reader Lois Dudgeon in the Morden Giant Tiger parking lot on Saturday while the bottom shot shows the aftermath of Monday's crazy high winds, which knocked down trees and caused power outages across the region.

PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY LOIS DUDGEON





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HAPPY CANADA DAY!

Lake Minnewasta to host Canada Day Beach Blast

By Lorne Stelmach

Lake Minnewasta will again be the place to be to enjoy and celebrate Canada Day.

A variety of activities, events and entertainment are planned for July 1, and City of Morden staff are, as always, excited to see this usher in the summer season.

“There’s lots of people using the lake and the trail up there ... this is kind of your kickoff to summer,” said Chris Moffatt, director of community services for the City of Morden.

The fun gets underway with a schedule that includes, from 1-4 p.m., face painting, a sand castle competition, and a trivia/treasure hunt. At 2 p.m., the Hoop & Hat comedy and fire show take the stage.

Canoes, kayaks, and paddleboards will be available for rental throughout the day, and the evening entertainment will include music from M’Ladies (8 p.m.)

“We cap it off with the band and then of course the fireworks at the end,” said

Moffatt, adding there will also be at least three food trucks onsite, including Superior Smash and Two Brozz as well as mini-donuts and lemonade.

Moffatt noted the City of Morden is truly fortunate to have an amenity like Lake Minnewasta for a community celebration like this one.

“It’s a gorgeous venue to host something like this ... and fireworks off from the lake, it can’t get any better,” he said.

Moffatt also sees it being a draw for people from further afield.

“I know we’ve got a lot of feedback from people who have come into the community ... they will fill it up, and it’s always nice to see,” he said.

“We love doing it. It’s become such a tradition now ... it’s a must now. We love it. It’s a lot of planning, and it’s a lot of work, but we all love doing it,” said Moffatt.

“There’s some staff but also some volunteers involved, and we wouldn’t be able to do community events like this without volunteers as well ... it’s a real plus that people want to help out with this event.”



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HAPPY CANADA DAY!

Winkler's Canada Day festivities include Culture Fest fun

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler's Canada Day festivities are a fitting mix of multicultural celebration and hometown pride.

Culture Fest is back again as part of the celebrations taking place at the Parkland hill Monday afternoon and evening.

Culture Fest organizer Shepherd Chiwandire from Regional Connections says moving the festival to July 1 proved a popular decision last summer.

"It just made sense to do it on Canada Day because we're celebrating Canada and also celebrating multiculturalism," he says. "I think it was a success for the first year, and hopefully this year it gets better and better."

From noon to 4:30 p.m., you can travel the world at the educational tables manned by people eager to share their native cultural foods, dress, and traditions. Get your passport stamped at each table for a chance to win prizes.

"We've got a few new countries joining us this year," Chiwandire shares.

There will also be free face painting and henna tattoos on offer, and a diverse lineup of entertainment on the Triple E Stage, including Jason Lepine and Lionel Desjarlias, Busisi from Uganda, Congolese youth dancers, Leo Sharma from India,

Island Breeze, and more.

Culture Fest serves as a great bridge between newcomers to our community and longtime residents alike, Chiwandire says.

"For us, it's one of our biggest events where we can get our clients and our community and the surrounding communities together," he says. "As an immigrant myself, it's a chance to have a day where I get to celebrate where I come from ... while also connecting with the community in what is now our home."

Culture Fest is just one part of Canada Day in Winkler's packed-full lineup, shares Maria Froese, who's heading up the party on behalf of the City of Winkler.

"We also have the Co-op Kids Zone from 12 to 8 p.m.," she shares. "We'll have bouncy houses, a petting zoo, free glitter tattoos, free cotton candy, and characters from A Country Princess for a meet and greet [from 2 to 4 p.m.]."

Nearby will be the Dead Horse Creek Speedway stock car show from noon to 8 p.m.

"Their races are on the next weekend so we thought it'd be wonderful to have them come in and showcase things," Froese says. "They're going to bring in some stock cars ... and they're also partnering with Greenvalley Equipment, so they're bringing in tractors as well."




The Triple E Stage schedule begins at 6 p.m. with opening ceremonies followed by a performance by Eric the Juggler at 6:30 p.m., The Seven Pines from 8-9 p.m., and The Quonset Brothers from 9:30 to 10:30 p.m.

The party will wrap up with the return of Canada Day fireworks at 10:30 p.m.

"It's been a long time since we've had them here, so I love that we get to bring them back," Froese says. "We looked at it and decided our Canada Day isn't complete without fireworks ... we want people to be able to have that access to fireworks in their own town, in their own city."

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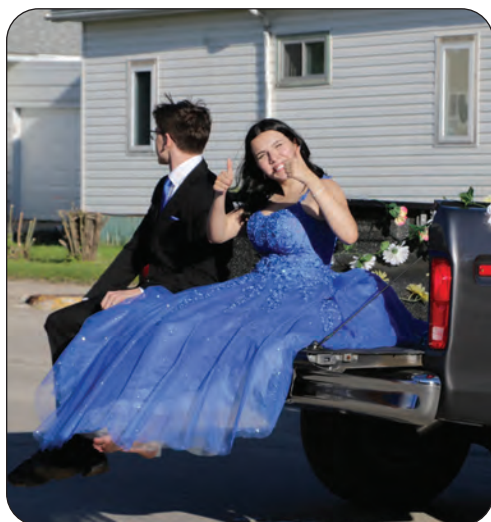
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Class of '24 hits the road



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE
Winklerites lined the streets last Thursday night to cheer on the class of 2024 from Garden Valley Collegiate and Northlands Parkway Collegiate in the annual joint grad parade. The event found grads parading through town on all manner of festively decorated vehicles—including boats, horses, and flatbeds. Both schools hold their graduation ceremonies this week.



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Genesis House marks 40 years of walking alongside the victims of domestic violence

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Genesis House, the regional shelter for the victims of domestic violence, marked its 40th anniversary Sunday with a come-and-go garden party in Bethel Heritage Park in Winkler.

It was a chance, says executive director Ang Braun, to mark the milestone and also thank area residents for their decades of unflagging support.

"We have so much community support," she says, noting not every shelter is so lucky. "It is the significant difference between our agency and many of my colleagues' agencies."

"It's not even always the financial support or the donated goods that come through the door, but I have literally been brought to tears by people just calling and telling me a story or sharing the value of our work. Sometimes just knowing that it has made a difference for people makes a difference for us when we do the work."

The South Central Committee on Family Violence Inc. was formed in the early '80s to address growing concerns about the lack of support for abused women and their children in the area.

"There was some discussion between the police, the RCMP, and, if I recall correctly, staff at Eden and MCC Family Services," Braun shares, noting there were families in crisis, but not much in the way of aid. "They just had no idea how to support them."

Concerned community members rallied together to address the matter, starting with launching a telephone crisis line manned by volunteers.

"And that crisis line was answered in people's homes, if you can imag-

ine," Braun says.

A small house was repurposed a few years later to serve as a shelter.

"There was this need for shelters, but there wasn't something ready-made," Braun says. "So they bought a house, a three-bedroom bungalow, and they retrofitted it with special locks, special windows."

"But, honestly, inside they didn't do a whole bunch," she says, recalling her early years with the agency in the '90s working in that original building, which housed clients upstairs and offered counselling and support services from the basement. "I can remember we had shag green carpet, we had gold carpet, purple carpet. It was totally a house of the '70s."

They were eventually able to build the current shelter to order.

"We were one of the first purpose-built shelters, so we had input into the design, into where it was going to be placed," shares Braun.

Looking back on the past four decades of service, Braun says the Genesis House staff have a lot to be proud of.

"We realize we are a small shelter in a big world, but I think our team does a really good job of taking care of the person in front of them right now in the moment," she says. "The service that each person needs won't be the same, but we try to provide what you need versus what the next person might need."

"One of the biggest things that we offer that might seem fairly simple is we offer somebody to listen and believe you. We validate what has happened to you. A lot of times, that can be absent. People will try to make



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

From left: Genesis House executive director Ang Braun, Leah Klassen, and Morden-Winkler MLA Carrie Hiebert at the shelter's 40th anniversary garden party Sunday afternoon in Winkler, where the need for transitional housing for woman leaving abusive situations was highlighted.

it seem like it's not as bad as you're making it sound or maybe ask what did you do to bring it on. That's not a position that we will take.

"We offer, first and foremost, that we believe you and we'll support you, whatever you decide."

That includes providing a safe space for a woman and her children, counselling, and, if needed, ongoing support as she attempts to leave her abuser.

But it also means being there for a woman who decides to return to the person who hurt them.

"We are not judging people," Braun stresses. "If they need to go back and give that relationship another try because they believe change is possible ... you have to let them make their decisions and just be there for them."

"We have no vested interest in the outcome," she notes. "Sometimes with family and friends and in-laws,

everyone feels like they should have a say because people really want that relationship to work out. But if there's violence or abuse, the person choosing that behaviour has to make the decision to stop, otherwise this cannot be a healthy relationship."

Braun lauds staff as well for leaning on each other in what can be a difficult job, walking alongside women dealing with pain, fear, and uncertainty.

"One thing we really do well is take care of each other, too," she says. "And if we are not taking care of ourselves, one of our colleagues will call us out. That part is really important, that strength of the team."

Braun estimates they've had over 2,000 women find safe haven at the shelter through the years, and about 2,600 children.

"That would add up to about 56,000 bed nights," she says, adding "that's just residential programming. We have lots of non-residential programming and group programming that I haven't even counted into those numbers."

"It's okay to come forward for help"

The need for transitional housing for women fleeing domestic violence was highlighted at Sunday's 40th anniversary garden party for Genesis House, and Morden-Winkler MLA Carrie Hiebert shared some of the work she's been doing to try to make such second-stage housing a reality in our area.

It's a very personal cause for Hiebert, who shared that she made use of Genesis House's support in her younger years.

"I used the shelter as a woman needing help with my family, so I have a really big spot in my heart for this organization," she said. "It's not a secret: Manitoba has one of the highest percentages of intimate partner violence in the country, and I think that we as a province can do better and need to do better to meet the needs."

Reducing the stigma is also key, Hiebert added, stressing domestic abuse can happen to any woman.

"It doesn't matter what background you come from—

there's intimate partner violence everywhere and in every community and we just need to address that and know that it's okay as a woman to come forward for help."

Hiebert is currently serving as the Conservative critic of housing, addictions, homelessness, and mental health, which puts the transitional housing issue firmly under her purview.

She says she's been bringing up the matter in Question Period and reaching out to her colleagues across the aisle to lobby for the needs right here in the Pembina Valley and across the province.

"Genesis House is full almost every night and we need some place of transition for women to go to to get to continue to stay in a safe place and continue to stay on their feet and bring them to a place where they can have that wonderful life that they that they deserve."

—Ashleigh Viveiros

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

While the current shelter continues to serve Genesis House well when it comes to providing emergency housing, longer-term housing for woman looking to make a fresh start remains a challenge.

"Some of the challenges we've had over the years have remained, like finding child care, finding transportation to move around our super huge rural area," Braun says. "But housing has become the biggest—it always has been in the top three, but it is now the biggest challenge that is faced by the women that we are serving."



Fun at the Rendezvous



PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE



The Pembina Valley Rendezvous and Trade Fair took place in Darlingford last weekend, providing a glimpse into the trapper way of life. Clockwise from above, left: Mountain man Brayden Noordenbos fires his flintlock muzzle loader in a demonstration; Grant Armstrong shows his furs to some interested visitors; Bob Hunt with some of his three-string cigar box guitars; Kenan Bartsch competes in the archery competition.



Morden 4H Achievers year in review

Submitted by the Morden Achievers 4-H Club

The Morden Achievers 4-H Club wrapped up another successful year with Club Achievement Night on May 13.

Thirty-one members completed projects this year, including Foods, Crafts, Babysitting, Pottery, Fibres and Fabrics, and more.

Members were led by 14 volunteer leaders. Members' projects were reviewed, and a sampling of well-made and interesting items has been collected to be included in a club display at the Carman Fair in July.

This year's club executive was elected by the members at the November 2023 club meeting. Jeri-Lynn DeJaegher (president), Elyana Rowley (vice-president), Cameron Davison (secretary), and Heidi Buelow (treasurer) learned about leadership in their roles on the executive.

Members participated in many events through the year, including the Red River Area 4-H Curling Rally, a first aid kit fundraiser, a family 4-H Christmas party, 4-H Day at the Royal Winter Fair in Brandon, and the Morden Corn and Apple Festival.

Public speaking is an important part

of the 4-H program. Club members prepared speeches and visual presentations for the Club Communications Event in February.

Winners from this event included Hudson Derksen (Cloverbud Speech), Madelyn Chawrun (Alternate, Cloverbud Speech), Priya Rowley (Cloverbud 1-Person Visual), Ella Hiebert (Junior Reading), Leah Rachul (Alternate, Junior Reading), William Derksen (Junior Speech), Caleb Hoepfner (Alternate, Junior Speech), Emily Chawrun (Junior 1-Person Visual), Raquel Vallotton (Alternate, Junior 1-Person Visual), Nevéah Stein & Lucy Rocha Routhier (Junior 2-Person Visual), Brynn Bobbie & Jayda Stafford (Alternate, Junior 2-Person

Visual), Vanessa Hildebrand (Intermediate 1-Person Visual), Leah Wolfe (Intermediate Speech), Caleigh Davison (Alternate, Intermediate Speech), Kolbie Saltel (Intermediate Creative Expression), Destiny Rimmer & Elyana Rowley (Intermediate 2-Person Visual), Cameron Davison (Senior Speech), Samantha Neudorf (Adult 1-Person Visual). Thanks to the volunteer judges for this event, Paula Wilson, Ti'an Hildebrand, and Jeanette Bergmann.

Public speaking winners (William Derksen, Hudson Derksen, Emily Chawrun, Nevéah Stein, Lucy Rocha Routhier, Leah Wolfe, Vanessa Hildebrand, and Cameron Davison) went on to compete at the Red River Area 4-H Communications event in March.

In April, the club was represented by Nevéah Stein, Lucy Rocha Routhier,

and Emily Chawrun at the Provincial 4-H Communications Extravaganza in Portage la Prairie.

4-H members and leaders are recognized with certificates and seals for their 4-H participation of five years and more. This year, Emily Chawrun, Raquel Vallotton, and Leah Wolfe receive their five-year member certificates. Jeri-lynn DeJaegher receives a six-year seal. As well, leaders Teresa Hildebrand (five years), Janelle Chawrun (eight years) and Norma Wood (42 years) are recognized for their volunteer service with the 4-H program.

The club plans to participate in the parade and volunteer in the Cider House at the Morden Corn and Apple Festival this summer.

4-H registration for youth ages 7-25 and up for next year will be held in September.

> GENESIS HOUSE, FROM PG. 15

Leaving an abusive relationship is difficult enough without having no place to go. The shelter has for years had one transitional, "second stage" house to offer clients, but more are needed.

"It's not statistically significant because it's just one house, but the women that have lived in that house and been closely connected to our

programs have not most often found themselves back in a dangerous relationship," Braun shares.

The shelter is determined to give more women that chance. They're currently in the planning stages for a project that will provide additional second-stage housing in their service area.

"We're actively working on making that happen ... we have the need and

we're in a good position to start that conversation," Braun says, explaining they intend to release plans—including fundraising goals—in the months ahead.

This summer will also see Genesis House release a series of videos on its social media feeds sharing stories from past clients, shelter staff, board members, and supportive community members.

Manitoba's Passion Play returns for its 24th year

By Lorne Stelmach

Manitoba's Passion Play is set for its 24th year of presenting the life, passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ in the scenic Pembina Valley near La Riviere.

Set for the first two weekends of July, this outdoor theatrical performance is an experience that has continued to draw people back to be involved year after year, whether as a member of the cast or the audience.

"We have people who have been there from the beginning ... but we have a lot of new cast again this year," noted artistic director Belita Saunders.

"You can start off as children because we have all age groups in this, so it's really a beautiful way to involve families as well," she said. "We are seeing a second generation coming through already. It's really beautiful. They maybe started off as a teenager, and now they come back and maybe their children are involved in it."

The award-winning play has been seen by over 47,000 people in the past 23 years.

There are substantial logistics involved in the production, which in-

cludes a cast and crew of upwards of 150 people making the show possible each year.

Weekly rehearsals started in April, and the show is drawing on cast and crew members from all over southern Manitoba.

Sanders noted viewers have reached out with stories of the impact the play had on them, and some have even decided to get involved with the production. In light of this, added to the website this year will be video clips of testimonials of how attending this show has impacted them in their faith walk.

"A lot of people really enjoy the vision and enjoy putting on this passion play," she said. "It's a beautiful story, and it's a beautiful way to unveil the story in a beautiful outdoor setting."

"The message of the story obviously is something that touches a lot of hearts ... so a lot of people want to be involved with it," Sanders suggested. "It's far more than an acting experience. The commitment that brings people back year after year is that it touches their hearts."

Sanders reflected on the passion play now having been so successful



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Manitoba's Passion Play brings the story of Jesus to life July 5-7 and July 12-14.

for almost a quarter of a century.

"We had hoped that this was a project that could continue for years and years. We feel honored to be part of this, and I am always touched to see that it is important to so many."

"There are still many that are coming to see Manitoba's Passion Play for the first time or they plan family visits around it so that they can see the production," she concluded. "It truly is an honor to be part of this project and touched by the support of those

who come to see it as well as those who volunteer."

Food concessions are available at the site, and there is also a meditation trail leading you through a gentle hill with 14 stations to pause and reflect on the passion of Jesus.

Performances take place July 5-7 and July 12-14 at 7:30 p.m. nightly. For more information and tickets, head to www.passionplay.ca or call the box office at 1-888-264-2038.

Prairie Red Coat Band to perform at Roseisle Canada Day bash

By Lorne Stelmach

A grassroots community band continues to draw together people of different ages, backgrounds, and professions to make music together.

The Prairie Red Coat Band has been going strong now for 45 years with players from across southern Manitoba who regularly meet to practice and play for local parades, events, and celebrations in their black and red uniforms.

Member Lori Neufeld likened it to how a good recipe can bring all sorts of ingredients together to create something remarkable.

"The beauty of music is that when you're all playing together, it just sounds so amazing," she said.

Some members have been in the band since the Prairie Red Coats rose from the ashes of the Tiger Hills division band 45 years ago. The band currently include performers from Win-

kler, St Alphonse, Holland, Altona, Carman, Roland, Roseisle, Altamont, Rosenfeld, and Morris.

The number of members has varied from as high as 30 and down to perhaps 15 at the lowest.

"Our band director likes to have a full roster of instruments," noted Neufeld. "If there's a missing section, we try to recruit people, or we can give some of the people in the band a different instrument ... or we say, 'Hey, learn this one.'"

Practising each Tuesday in Roland under director Bernard Helfter, the 18 or so regulars look forward to their weekly meetings as necessary "therapy sessions" to calm the stream of responsibilities that course through their daily lives.

From baritones to bass clarinets and trombones to tubas, they enjoy the challenge of learning new music and keeping the beat together, said Neufeld, who noted they have ac-



SUPPLIED PHOTO

The Prairie Red Coat Band is always looking for new members.

cess to some instruments that can be loaned out.

"If someone wants to join the band, we usually say, 'Okay, what do you want to play' and we find them an instrument and lend it to them if we can."

Neufeld also noted the level of experience among the band members varies.

"Our director tries very hard to pick music that will appeal to everyone. He doesn't want to make it too much easier music because then the advanced players may get bored," she said. "And you don't everything too hard because then the elementary players may be afraid to make a mis-

take. So you kind of have a balance.

"It's a very supportive group with a lot of good teamwork. Everybody is helping everybody."

The band has a performance coming up which has become a tradition for them: the Roseisle Canada Day celebrations. This July 1 will mark the 10th time they have performed at the event, and their morning performance will mark Canada's birthday with a bass drum bang.

For more information on performances or how to join the band, you can email Prairie.Red.Coats@gmail.com or visit the Facebook page.

Check out the Voice online at www.winklormordenvoice.ca or altonavoice.ca

sports & recreation

U17 Central Energy splits doubleheader over the weekend

By Ty Dilello

The U17 Central Energy squad split both games of its doubleheader on Saturday and Sunday afternoon to improve to 9-4, which is good for second place in the Manitoba Premier



Central Energy's Kennedy Funk connects at the plate against the Eastman Wildcats in U15 softball action on Sunday in Morden.

Softball League (MPSL) standings.

U17 Central Energy took the first game on Saturday in dramatic fashion, with a 2-1 walk-off victory over the Eastman Wildcats. Central Energy was down 1-0 in the bottom of the seventh when Kara Buhler doubled, scoring two runs to win the game.

Molly Cowan pitched the whole game for Central Energy, giving up six hits and one run over seven innings, striking out three and walking none.

In the second game on Saturday, the Eastman Wildcats defeated U17 Central Energy 9-2, thanks partly to a five-run outburst in the fourth inning.

Gabrielle Hildebrand started in the circle for U17 Central Energy. She surrendered seven hits and nine runs (two earned) over four innings, striking out none and walking two.

On Sunday, U17 Central Energy got back in the win column with a swift 8-0 victory over the Westman Magic, thanks partly to five runs in the second inning. Nelia Fehr drew a walk, scoring one run; Molly Conrad singled, scoring two runs; and Tori Mangin singled, scoring two runs.

A ground out by Molly Cowan, and a walk by Gabrielle Hildebrand



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Shyanne Goertzen picks up a bunt against Eastman Wildcats on Sunday in Morden. Mya Richard and Sinead Convery are ready to help and Bree Pearce covers first for the out.

helped U17 Central Energy extend their early lead in the third.

Nelia Fehr stepped in the circle first for U17 Central Energy. The starting pitcher surrendered five hits and zero runs over five innings, striking out eight and walking one.

The rubber match against Westman Magic was a heartbreaker for U17 Central Energy, as they lost the lead late in a 7-6 defeat.

Karli Toews stepped in the circle first for U17 Central Energy. She gave up five hits and seven runs (four earned) over six innings, striking out eight and walking six. Maddy Friesen also hit a home run to center field, which helped U17 Central Energy tie the game at two in the top of the fourth inning.

Continued on page 19

Altona split pair with Winnipeg, fall to Orioles

By Lorne Stelmach

The Altona Bisons finally got back into the MJBL win column with a split of their Sunday doubleheader.

The Bisons first dropped a sixth straight game in falling 6-4 to Winnipeg South but they turned things around with a 9-6 win in the second game.

The game one loss came despite Maddux Mateychuk striking out 18 batters while giving up only four hits and three runs through six and one third innings. The game was decided in the top of the seventh with the Wolves collecting five runs on five hits.

In game two, Altona fell behind by

four runs in the top of the first, but they then collected seven runs on just two hits Nolan Marriott got the win on the mound in allowing three hits and six runs over five innings of work.

Earlier last week, on Wednesday, a game between the two regional rivals saw the Pembina Valley Orioles breeze to a 14-0 win over the Bisons.

The Orioles opened the game with three runs in the first inning, and they later sealed the deal with three in the fifth and six more on four hits in the sixth inning.

Pembina Valley outit the Bisons 12-4 and five different players collected two hits each for the Orioles. Chris Peters earned the win on the mound in allowing just four hits and zero



PHOTO BY EDWARD VINCENT ARCENAL/VOICE

Action at home plate in last week's Bisons-Orioles game, which the visiting Pembina Valley won 14-0.

runs over six innings, striking out six and walking none.

Pembina Valley remains in fifth place with a 6-9 record, while Altona is in the cellar in eighth place at 2-13.

This week had the Orioles and Bi-

sons meeting again Wednesday evening in Winkler. The Bisons were to then host the Carillon Sultans on Canada Day.



Miami hosts Heartland Rodeo

The Miami Fair and Rodeo last weekend featured some high-flying action in the rodeo ring at the Heartland Rodeo Association event. Clockwise from left: Beau Bridgeman in the steer wrestling event; a contestant is bucked off in the ranch saddle bronc competition; father and daughter duo Terry and Jacey Boyes partner up for team roping; a contestant hangs on for dear life in the bull riding event.



PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Altona leads the pack in Border Baseball standings

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Altona Bisons had a winning week in Border Baseball League action, downing the visiting Pilot Mound Pilots 10-5 and 7-6 Thursday evening.

Meanwhile, the Winkler Whips dropped a 7-5 decision to Cartwright Twins Friday night while the Morden Mud Hens downed Clearwater 3-0 that same night.

Altona leads the East Division standings with a record of 11-2. Morden is in second place at 7-1 and with several games in hand, followed by Winkler at 2-6 and Carman at 1-8.

In the West Division, Cartwright leads the pack (10-1) followed by Pilot Mound (5-4), Baldur (2-8), and Clearwater (2-10).

This week, the Morden Mudhens are in Winkler to play the Whips Tuesday

> CENTRAL ENERGY, FROM PG. 18

"We played great this weekend," said U17 Central Energy head coach Cam Zacharias. "On Sunday, we had awesome pitching, winning the first game, but then lost the second game by one run. We hit well in both games, but just fell short at the end of the second game."

U17 Central Energy is back on June 26 for a doubleheader against the Manitoba Thunder at the East St. Paul Sports Complex. The game times are 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

U17 Central Energy will then go to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, for a tournament at the beginning of July. From

night and then hosts Baldur Friday. The Altona Bisons, meanwhile, hosts

Winkler Wednesday night.

there, they will take part in the Manitoba provincials, where they hope to qualify for the Nationals with a top-two finish.

The U13 Central Energy team split its doubleheader on Saturday. They lost the first game 7-1 to the Manitoba Angels but won a close 2-1 barnburner with the Eastman Wildcats. The next day, Sunday, wasn't too kind for U13 Central Energy. They lost both games of their doubleheader with the Eastman Wildcats by 9-2 and 10-3 scores.

U13 Central Energy is back in action with a doubleheader on June

28 against the Interlake Phillies at the Winkler Parkland Diamond. The game times are 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

The U15 Central Energy squad won its first game of a doubleheader on Saturday by a 9-2 score against the Manitoba Angels. However, the second game was rained out, and the diamond was unplayable.

U15 Central Energy will return on June 28 with a doubleheader against the Manitoba Angels at the Winkler Parkland Diamond. The game times are 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Check out the Voice online at www.winklermordenvoice.ca or altonavoice.ca

Legendary Penner continues to defy Father Time

Lettelier farmer captured first two races of Manitoba Motocross season

By Jeremiah Knight

Motocross is said to be a young man's sport.

Don't tell that to Josh Penner, the 38-year-old who has continued to defy Father Time and grow his legacy as one of the best racers to come from Manitoba.

The grain farmer from Lettelier (about 15 kilometres north of the U.S. border) is off to a blistering start in the Manitoba Motocross season, winning the first two races of the campaign in Brandon and Grunthal, fields that are made up of mostly 20-somethings.

"I put a lot of work in the offseason and I got a new bike this year, a Honda from Westside (Powersports in

Selkirk), and it's really been comfortable for me so I had a lot of confidence coming in this year and it seems to be working out just fine," Penner said recently.

"My younger career, when I was their age, I got a lot of injuries and a lot of things didn't go my way and I fell like I had a rough career in the beginning, so, now that things are going my way it feels like I kind of deserve this, you know?"

Penner has been entrenched in the sport since his dad took him to watch a race as a nine year old. The youngster was immediately hooked and began racing competitively by 11.

He's certainly paid his dues along the way in the form of many losses, crashes and injuries owing to a reckless driving style.

In recent years, however, Penner has become a model of consistency on the local scene. A strict diet and training



PHOTOS BY ADAM ORVIS

After an inconsistent start to his career, Josh Penner has grown into a local legend in Manitoba's motocross scene as a three-time provincial champion and X Games competitor.

regimen, which is comprised of 90 minutes of exercise each day after he tends to his farm, has kept his best races in front of him en route to three provincial pro championship titles.

In fact, Penner asserted he's in the best shape of his life and that he's never been faster.

"What drives me is to keep challenging myself and seeing what more I can do. I feel smarter on the bike now throughout all the years of experience that I know my limits and I know where I can get better so I'm always trying to improve each year," he said.

"It makes me happy knowing I can still beat the younger kids coming up, the guys that are supposed to be winning. I makes you feel good."

Chris Mellen has been one of Penner's biggest supporters since he took up the sport. Penner's dedication to motocross is unlike anything Mellen has seen, he said, and a big reason why he's sustained success locally and at events in the U.S.

Mellen shared a story about a then-21-year-old Penner who one winter committed to changing his diet and get in the best shape possible.

He shed 40 pounds that winter and hasn't looked back.

"That's what he needed to do to get to that next level," Mellen said. "He definitely knew the commitment it would take end went full speed ahead, and since that day he hasn't

stopped training — the guy's a beast."

The legend of Penner grew in 2016 when he became the first Manitoban to compete at the Winter X Games, which he did in the snowmobile freestyle. He did so again at the 2017 X Games, while continuing to train for motocross.

"Josh does not know the word 'Quit,'" Mellen continued, "and there's not a thing he does that isn't 100 per cent. Josh rides his dirt bike in Manitoba all winter. No one else on earth does this type of stuff. It's not just a local thing, he is a freak of nature when it comes to how hard he trains to be able to put his body through what he can over and over again at a high level."

"It's pretty rare. This is a young man's sport. You get beat up. It's not if you get hurt, it's when and how bad."

Which has kept Penner in the moment as he tries to ride this string of success as long as possible. The Manitoba Motocross circuit has six races remaining until the season concludes in September.

His goal is simple: "Just stay on two wheels and keep staying consistent," he said. "I don't have to win them all that's for sure. If I can keep placing in the top three that'll be fine."



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

CSSE Juventus's Jordan Goetting tries to take the ball away from the Storm's Mosi William in Sunday's Division 1 soccer match in Winkler, which the Storm won 6-1 to bolster their record to 5-1-1. Scoring for the home team was Matheus Ruffini and Santi Bergen with three goals each. Storm 1 next take to the field Tuesday, July 2 against Kucame FC in Winnipeg. The Winkler Storm 2 team, meanwhile, lost their match against Bonivital Flames 2 by a score of 4-1 Monday night. Pat Dah scored Winkler's lone goal. They're now 1-4-1 for the summer so far. Storm 2 host FC IPAC-UKRAINE this Friday at 7:30 p.m.

"JOSH DOES NOT KNOW THE WORD 'QUIT' AND THERE'S NOT A THING HE DOES THAT ISN'T 100 PER CENT."

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MORTGAGE SALE

MORTGAGE SALE

The land and building known as 308 Fuller Avenue, Municipality of Pembina, Manitoba, as described in Certificate of Title No. 2845922/4 will be sold by public auction by a Licensed Auctioneer on July 17, 2024, at 10:30 a.m.

The auction sale will be held by way of video or teleconference.

There will be no in-person attendees at the auction.

In order to participate you must pre-register at least 24 hours prior to the auction by contacting Matthew Underwood at either (204) 957-8382 or auctions@fillmoreriley.com

The Vendor is informed that the property consists of a 1 1/2 storey dwelling approximately 1,255 square feet with living room, dining room, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, part unfinished basement, single detached garage on a lot approximately 50 feet x 125 feet.

Realty taxes (excluding any accruing water charges) are paid to December 31, 2022.

Prior Charges: Nil.

TERMS OF SALE

A deposit of \$10,000.00 by way of certified cheque or bank draft payable to Fillmore Riley LLP, or cash (the cash component of the deposit not to exceed \$7,500.00), and the balance according to conditions which will be available electronically by contacting the individual below prior to the auction. The property will be sold subject to a **Reserve Bid** of \$90,000.00 plus such other additional and incidental costs which may be incurred by the Vendor from the 18th day of June, 2024 to the date of auction and which costs will be announced prior to the commencement of the sale.

The auction sale will be conducted pursuant to an Order for Sale issued by the District Registrar. Certain parties may be prohibited from purchasing the property, including but not limited to, parties who by virtue of their employment or relationship to a person involved in the sale process would have special knowledge of the circumstances pertaining to the sale. For more information and a list of prohibited purchasers please visit: www.teranetmanitoba.ca Should the successful bidder have attended by teleconference and/or video conference, the bidder will have 24 hours to execute the Auction Sale Conditions and to provide them together with the deposit to our office as set out below.

Further information may be obtained from:

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CAREERS



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A job description for this position can be found online on the Bunge website: <https://obs.bunge.com/>. enter "Altona" in the field "Search by Location". Click on "Maintenance Mechanic/Millwright" to read the description. Applications should be made online with an attached resume.

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MORTGAGE SALE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF KENNETH ARTHUR TOEWS

late of the City of Morden, in the Province of Manitoba, Deceased.

ALL CLAIMS against the above Estate duly verified by Statutory Declaration must be sent to the undersigned at P.O. Box 1150, 1-655 Main Street, Winkler Manitoba, R6W 4B2, on or before Wednesday, July 31, 2024.

DATED at the City of Winkler, in the Province of Manitoba, this June 18, 2024.

DOELL LAW OFFICE

per: Christopher G. Doell
Solicitor for the Administrator

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OBITUARY



Bill (William) Fehr

William "Bill" Fehr of Winkler was born on February 02, 1940 and at the age 84 years, went to be with his Lord and Saviour. After a long struggle with ALS at home and a short time at Boundary Trails Health Center, Jesus came for him on Saturday, June 15, 2024.

He is survived by his wife Mary (nee Kehler); their children Dan (Jeanne) Fehr, Bonita (Dornel) Collison; eight grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Bill was predeceased by son Clifford, son-in-law Darrell, and one grandchild.

Funeral service was he held on Thursday, June 20, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. at the Winkler Bergthaler Mennonite Church. Interment at the Winkler Cemetery.

Donations in memory of Bill may be made to the ALS Society of Manitoba.



OBITUARY



Lorraine "Bob" Schroeder

August 30, 1932 – June 16, 2024

Lorraine "Bob" Schroeder, age 91 years of Winkler, MB passed away on Sunday, June 16, 2024 at Salem Home, Winkler.

He is survived by his wife Mary Schroeder (nee Braun); their children Larry (Sharon) Schroeder, Allen (Dale) Schroeder, and Bernice (Gord) Wiebe; as well as four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by one grandchild.

Funeral service was held on Wednesday, June 19, 2024 at the Winkler Bergthaler Mennonite Church. Interment took place at the Winkler Cemetery.

Donations in memory of Lorraine may be made to the Salem Foundation, or to MCC.



OBITUARY



Dean Rolfe

1964 - 2024

It is with heartbreak and sadness that we announce the passing of Dean Rolfe.

He is survived by his loving wife of 18 years, Christina Lengyel, and amazing sons Gabriel and Bolton.

Dean was a ray of sunshine wherever he went. He was devoted to his family and his clients that he served as an Insurance Advisor. His kindness and humour will be missed. We love you to the moon and back.

Funeral arrangements made by Glen Lawn Funeral Home. Dean's Celebration of Life will be held at Springs Church at 725 Lagimodiere Blvd on June 28, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. The service will also be live streamed, link to be posted 30 minutes prior to service on the Glen Lawn website.

Glen Lawn Funeral Home
204-982-7550

OBITUARY



Jake Unrau

1956 - 2024

Jake Unrau passed away on June 14, 2024 at Boundary Trails Health Centre, at the age of 67. He was born on July 23, 1956 in Winkler, and raised in Chortitz, Manitoba. Jake was the youngest of 11 children, born to Peter and Margaret Unrau.

Jake started his career as a mechanic, but after finding out how dirty it was, decided a career in parts was more fitting. Jake's incredible attention to detail was evident by the cleanliness of his cars. He also had an amazing memory for endless part numbers and people's vehicles. Jake had a love for cars which led to him owning, cleaning, and eventually selling a total of 88 vehicles, including campers and motorcycles. Jake was also very involved with serving in the church: teaching Boys Brigades, ushering, serving on various committees and as a Deacon.

In August 1977, Jake married Katy Dyck, and together they raised three children, Amanda, Eric, and Karlton. Their 25 years together were filled with the joy of family life: camping, motorcycling, and watching sports. Jake was deeply involved in every aspect of his family's lives. Tragically, Katy's battle with cancer began in February 2002. Jake stood by her side with unwavering support until her passing later that year.

Jake found love again and married Judy Wiens in July 2004. Over the next 20 years, they joyfully embraced their roles as Papa and Nana to seven grandchildren. Jake's love for his grandchildren was boundless, and he cherished every moment spent with them. He was always there to celebrate their significant milestones.

Jake retired after 40 years at Hometown Ford in the summer of 2016. While his retirement didn't go as planned due to his cancer diagnosis in September, he and Judy were still able to make many memories doing what they loved. Through it all, he was endlessly positive and encouraged others who were fighting similar battles. He genuinely cared for everyone with whom he came in contact.

Throughout the seasons of his life, Jake's faith remained steadfast. This faith guided him through the loss of Katy and his own battle with cancer. It also left an enduring legacy of strength for his family and all who were touched by his life. He truly was built Ford Tough.

Jake is survived by his loving wife, Judy; his children Amanda, Eric and Amy, Karlton and Jillian; his grandchildren: Kate, Brook, Peyton, Liam, Koen, Finley and Kacey; one mother-in-law, eight siblings, numerous in-laws, nieces and nephews.

A memorial service to celebrate Jake's life was held at Winkler Bergthaler Mennonite Church on Tuesday, June 18, 2024.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to South Central Cancer Resource and Boundary Trails Health Centre Palliative Care.



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Lifelong friends make good on promise to qualify for rodeo nationals together

By Jeremiah Knight

The National High School Rodeo is the ride Jill Goff and Alana McCarthy promised they would only take together.

It was three years ago that the lifelong friends from the Pembina Valley region made a pact that they would only attend the National High School Finals Rodeo if they were both invited.

It's time to saddle up.

The teen cowgirls qualified for the NHSFR after outstanding performances in the Manitoba High School Rodeo Finals in Richer earlier this month. The NHSFR, affectionately known as the 'World's largest rodeo,' is really an international meet that welcomes 1,500 of the top young rodeo athletes from Canada, the U.S., Mexico, Australia and New Zealand.

This year's event will be held from July 14 to 20 at the Sweetwater Events Complex in Rock Springs, Wyoming.

To qualify, Goff, who was fourth among Manitoba riders in average score this season, capped a marvelous campaign with the second-highest average in the finals.

"I've been dreaming about doing this since I started high school rodeo," said Goff, 15. "To earn my spot in nationals has been an amazing experience, I may have cried a little when I found out."

With the top four finishers from the province punching their ticket to the international event, McCarthy, who finished fifth in the local event, appeared to have fallen just short of the mark. That is until one of the top four finishers bowed out of the competition shortly after qualifying.

"It's an incredible opportunity. I feel like I rode very well at finals," said McCarthy, also 15. "I just want to represent (Manitoba) as best I can and show them that even though I was a roll-up, I still deserve to be there and I still have what it takes."

Rodeoing has been in McCarthy's family for generations. She was born into horse riding, and her aunt and uncle introduced her to breakaway roping at a young age—a variation of calf roping in which a calf is roped but not thrown and tied.

Though she's ridden horses since she was five, Goff is a first-generation cowgirl and has only been riding for three years.

In fact, McCarthy roped Goff into

"I'VE BEEN DREAMING ABOUT DOING THIS SINCE I STARTED HIGH SCHOOL RODEO."

trying rodeo months before they started high school.

"She walked into my house, and she said, 'I signed up for high school rodeo; I'm signing you up too; the first rodeo is in August.' And that was it — I was hooked." Goff said.

Shortly after, they made their pact.

"We're best friends, and, honestly, going into rodeo alone is just not—you'll make so many friends, but you always want to go in there with someone, and who's better than Jill?" McCarthy said. "I'm so happy that I brought her into it because I don't know what I would do without her in the real world now."

"Tears after a bad run, laughs after a good run — she's there."

Goff's commitment to rodeo has increased substantially over the last two years. During the summer months, she trains as hard as possible in her hometown, Carman. She trains even harder in Arizona, where she and her family head for the winter months to accommodate her brother, whose disability hinders him in snow and ice.

Goff does online schooling while down south and has taken full advantage of being perhaps the only teenager from Manitoba who gets to train for the sport year-round. She estimates that she ropes a dummy calf 50 times a day to improve her muscle memory.

In just a few short years, Goff has developed the necessary skills to compete in seven events, including breakaway roping and trap shooting, which she will do at nationals.

"I started on my dad's rope horse, running barrels, poles and goat tying — it was not very pretty, but I've had some amazing people help me along my way... and I've slowly transitioned to different horses and built my skill level up enough to make it," said Goff, who aspires to compete professionally one day.

Meanwhile, McCarthy, who does not have the luxury of training on horses all year in Miami, has improved her mental toughness during the winter



PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Alana McCarthy of Miami will be travelling to Wyoming next week to compete in breakaway roping at the National High School Finals Rodeo July 14-20.



Carman's Jill Goff will compete in two events, breakaway roping and trap shooting at the nationals.

months. Physically, she knows she's as capable as anyone, but it's between the ears that has plagued her in the past and now has her feeling as confident as ever entering the biggest rodeo of her young career.

McCarthy will focus on breakaway roping, her favourite event, at nationals.

"My auntie got me into breakaway, she's the reason I wanted to start and she went down to Las Vegas this year

to compete and roped for the crowd, which was so cool because she won our Manitoba circuit. So, I feel like I'm kind of like a mini her going into this and I'm going into what would potentially be my Las Vegas, but as a kid," said McCarthy, who also intends to be on a professional rodeo circuit in the future.

"I really want to represent that well, and I want to rope hard, rope fast, and rope consistent."

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What's *Your* story?

Canadian Dental Care Plan Misconceptions

The Government of Canada started implementing a \$13 billion Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP) last month. This plan represents a significant opportunity to improve oral healthcare access for Canadians without dental access to dental benefits.

Today, over two million Canadian seniors have been approved to receive dental care coverage. By next year, an estimated nine million uninsured Canadians will be eligible for the plan. This is excellent news. Yet only a small percentage of Canada's 25,000 dentists have registered to participate in the program so far.

Despite our continued advocacy for changes to **reduce** program complexity, **protecting** patient privacy, and **securing** clarity on terms and conditions, the program remains flawed. Further, issues and misconceptions about the program by the public persist.

In fact, in a survey conducted this month by the Canadian Dental Association (CDA) and the Provincial and Territorial Dental Associations (PTDAs), we learned that while many seniors require extensive dental work, 40% seniors would struggle to afford \$100 copay and 60% are not aware they will face additional costs under the CDCP.

This is a problem. Our primary concern with these troubling findings is that patients will not receive the care they need under this program. Additionally, this misunderstanding about the program is likely to add extra pressure on dentist visits.

Unless things change and the government makes a concerted effort to clearly communicate the parameters and limitations of their plan, many people in Canada will experience difficulty in accessing a dentist.

Dentists are deciding how and when they may participate. They care about their patients and their oral health and are looking for a program that can integrate efficiently with their staff and practices.

Although we acknowledge Health Minister Mark Holland's responsiveness and the progress that has been made to date to address dentists' concerns with the program, there are still some fundamental issues that directly impact patients that have been left unresolved.

Dental offices across Manitoba and Canada are faced with having difficult conversations with patients about CDCP misconceptions. In fact, recent surveys with dentists show that dental office staff spend on average 50 minutes per day explaining the federal program to patients. This creates a huge administrative burden to dental offices.

Canada has a severe shortage of skilled dental office staff, particularly dental hygienists & dental assistants. There is concern these shortages may affect dental offices' ability to participate with the CDCP.

The Manitoba Dental Association, PTDAs, and the CDA are undertaking an education initiative encouraging people who are eligible for the CDCP to **Know Before you Go**.

Based on what we're hearing from our patients and know about our profession/practice, this is what Manitobans and Canadians need to know before they go to their dentist and seek treatment under the CDCP:

"For many patients, treatments under the CDCP will not be free."

Many people are under the impression the CDCP will cover all the costs for their care. This is not the case. Patients with an adjusted net family income between \$70,000 and \$90,000 are responsible for a federal government required "co-payment" of between 40-60% of fees set out by the government. In addition, the coverage provided by the federal government for all eligible CDCP patients (regardless of family net income) is less than full cost of the dental service. The difference will be on you.

"Patients can receive CDCP covered treatments from any dentist."

Until July, patients can only see a dentist registered to participate in the program.

After July, patients can also see a dentist that will participate through the government claim-by-claim pathway. However, this non-registration pathway still requires dentists to accept the same unclear terms and conditions with patient privacy concerns and not all dentists are willing to do so. This lack of clarity will leave patients confused and, in some cases, they may be unable to find a dentist to treat them under the CDCP.

"The CDCP will cover all oral treatments today."

Currently, the CDCP offers limited coverage and treatment options. Care options like sedation, crowns, partial dentures and additional units of scaling, as needed by youth, seniors, and persons with disabilities, will need government pre-approval which does not start until November of 2024. We still don't know how long you, our patients, will need to wait for the government to approve the treatment we know you may need.

Canada's new national dental plan still has the promise of being a true game-changer for oral health, enabling expanded access to care for many Canadians, but only if done correctly. Troublesome aspects that are holding dentists back from participating have not been fully addressed. While there's still time to fix what's wrong with CDCP, the clock is ticking.



The Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP) Information for Patients

The Manitoba Dental Association is deeply committed to assisting the Government of Canada in designing, implementing and sustaining a successful and effective Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP) for the benefit of all Manitobans.

1. The Manitoba Dental Association has advocated for the right of patients to see their provider of choice.
 - a. Starting after July 8, 2024, patients will no longer be restricted to Sun Life Canada-registered dentists.
 - b. Please contact your dentist to see if they are accepting the Canadian Dental Care Plan in their office.
2. The CDCP is not a free dental program. It is a dental benefit program administered by Health Canada.
 - a. Health Canada is not paying for the full cost of your dental care.
 - b. Patients may be required to make a payment up to 75% depending on their adjusted net family income.
3. Not all services are covered.
 - a. It is not a comprehensive plan, so please talk to your dentist about your oral health needs.
4. The Manitoba Dental Association will continue to advocate for positive changes for CDCP-eligible patients.

Know before you go.

Visit the Health Canada website at

www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/dental.html

Talk to your Dentist
Good for you. Good for life.

