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Windup carnival fun



The Winkler branch of the South Central Regional Library wrapped up its summer reading program Monday with a carnival in Bethel Heritage Park. For more photos, check out Pg 8.
PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

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Taking the classroom outdoors

By Lorne Stelmach

Their own experiences growing up are a big part of the motivation for what Julia and Johnathan de Groot are devoting themselves to now.

They have established Groot Outdoors as a forest nature recreational program based in Morden, and a “pop-up in the park” last Wednesday offered a good chance for families to get a feel for what they have in mind.

“I was really privileged to grow up on 17 acres of forest, so when I think back to my favorite childhood memories, they all involve being outdoors,” shared Julia de Groot. “And for my husband John as well, it’s his experiences at summer camps or at his grandparent’s farm that are the highlights of his childhood.

“We live in an age where screens are just everywhere, and we want to be able to connect kids of all ages with nature ... and help families to realize that even if you live in town, there’s still so many opportunities to connect with nature.”

The de Groots are both certified teachers, but it was some of their experiences that led them to follow what is called the forest school

model, an educational approach that teaches a range of skills while building resilience and knowledge of the natural world in children through nature exploration.

“Forest schools are really big in Ontario and B.C. now, but there’s less in Manitoba,” de Groot said. “We spent a lot of time taking our kids into nature experiences in the classroom, and we basically realized that kids’ behaviours change, and they are more successful when they are in nature.

“We pursued that as much as we could as classroom teachers,” she added, “but we then eventually decided that we were going to follow the forest school model that’s been popping up in other provinces and make it something available in Morden as well.”

Working as well with early childhood educator Margaret Morrow, their programs aim to connect children with nature through inquiry and exploration in urban and forest environments.

The goal is to foster an appreciation for the natural world, promote environmental stewardship, and provide participants with opportunities for physical activity, social interaction, and hands-on learning.

As of this past spring, the couple quit their



Groot Outdoors held a pop-up day in Morden Park last week to give families the chance to see the activities they’ll be offering in their forest school programming this fall.

PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

full-time teaching to devote themselves to this idea. They offer a number of programs for both pre-school age children and school-aged kids, as well as for homeschooled youth.

“We’ll be primarily using urban parks like Morden Park, and we have an indoor location across the street inside of the Morden Alliance Church ... so when the weather is not co-operating or it’s unsafe to be outside, we can bring nature inside,” said de Groot.

She emphasized their program is in large part driven by the children themselves.

“It’s really about finding a way that every child can be successful and seeing what they are interested in and then being the guides.

She has been encouraged by the initial response to their programs.

“The response has been great. There’s been lots of conversations and lots of people who are new to this. We have had more buy-in when it comes to our after school programs because we have such a need right now when it comes to after school care ... that’s our biggest program right now.”

You can find more information online at grootoutdoors.ca.

Morden considering all options for wastewater treatment land sites: mayor

By Lorne Stelmach

The City of Morden continues to look at all options for addressing wastewater treatment, and one such alternative could be finding suitable land outside of the city.

The possibility of one location being in the RM of Roland has stirred up chatter locally recently, but Morden Mayor Nancy Penner cautioned it is nothing more than exploratory at the moment.

Inquiries have been made with a number of land owners, but there is nothing concrete on the table, she said.

“We have nothing to confirm because nothing is finalized ... but we’ve

talked to a number of farmers who happen to be in the RM of Roland.”

One challenge faced by the city is that its current lagoon location would not be sufficient to meet the necessary criteria, so the city is exploring all other options for expansion, including possible sites outside of city limits.

“Right now, we have nothing to report because nothing is firm ... until we have secured land and we have land that meets our requirements,” Penner said. “We’re looking everywhere.”

Penner added if or when they have a proposal on the table, there would be a long approval process involved before the project could proceed. That process would give the public time

to weigh-in on the potential site and voice any concerns.

“Any offer to purchase will be conditional on all of the requirements being met ... if all those conditions aren’t met, there’s no sale,” Penner said. “We’re looking for the right land, and we haven’t found it ... we haven’t gotten far enough down the road to make sure an offer on land meets all the criteria that we need to meet.”

The *Voice* reached out to RM of Roland Reeve Jodi Gaultier for comment, but had not received a response at press time. Gaultier has told other local media her council has not yet been officially contacted by the City of Morden about this matter.

Meanwhile, financing the wastewa-

ter treatment project continues to be a challenge for Morden, with spiralling costs and funding shortfalls having council taking another look at its options.

The city thought it had found the answer last May when evaluations for upgrading the wastewater treatment system determined a lagoon-based moving bed biofilm reactor (MBBR) treatment system was the recommended option based on a cost estimate of \$70 million. Over the summer and into late fall of 2023, an engineering firm continued design work on the project, but it came with preliminary design costs ranging from \$88 million to \$108 million.

getinformed

Falk Fehr Fdn. donates \$70K to three local charities

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Falk Fehr Foundation's annual Hockey Champions Charity Golf Tournament was a big hit this June, and last week three local non-profits benefited from that success.

On Friday, the foundation presented the Winkler & District Food Cupboard, South Central Cancer Resource (SCCR), and Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Pembina Valley with \$70,000 raised at the event. SCCR and Big Brothers both received \$20,000, while the food bank got \$30,000.

"We've had some great years the last couple of years and this is another one where all the support came together at just the right time and we were able to have another great event," said Eric

Fehr, who heads up the foundation alongside fellow retired hometown pro hockey player Justin Falk.

The foundation was created with the sole intent of making a difference in the community, Fehr said, and they're always humbled when the community in turn shows up to support that mission. The 2024 tournament, held at the Winkler Centennial Golf Course, had 165 golfers this year.

"There are a lot of people that keep giving year after year," Fehr said. "We're super thankful that they can enjoy the day and also give money to these great causes.

"It's extremely difficult every year to choose which charities we give the money to," he added, noting there's certainly no shortage of wor-

thy causes. "We're trying to spread it around the community, and these are the charities that we thought were in need of some money this time."

SCCR board member Freda Lumgair

says these funds will go a long way in their mission to aid families dealing with cancer.

Continued on page 4



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Milt Olfert (second from right) receives \$30,000 on behalf of the Winkler Food Cupboard from the Falk Fehr Foundation's (from left) Marlin Froese, Eric Fehr, Myra Peters, and Justin Falk.

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➤ **FALK FEHR FDN, FROM PG. 3**

“It’s huge for us. We will be able to support cancer patients with travel into the city for testing, radiation therapy—somebody that is going through radiation therapy, they go Monday to Friday, often for a month or more.”

SCCR’s transportation program provides patients with rides and financial support to help offset the costs that come with frequent trips into the city for treatment.

The agency also supports families who are struggling with income loss due to a cancer diagnosis.

“When we have people that are at the point where maybe the wife is sick, the husband has to take time off work to help look after her and quite possibly the kids ... so now there’s not as much income, if any, coming in, and they still need groceries and they need to get into Winnipeg for treatments.

“When things are tight, they can come and talk to our office staff and, based on need, we have gift cards that we give out to help.”

SCCR also offers skin screening clinics, radon awareness and testing, wigs and head coverings, a lymphedema program, accommodation assistance, and other wellness programs.

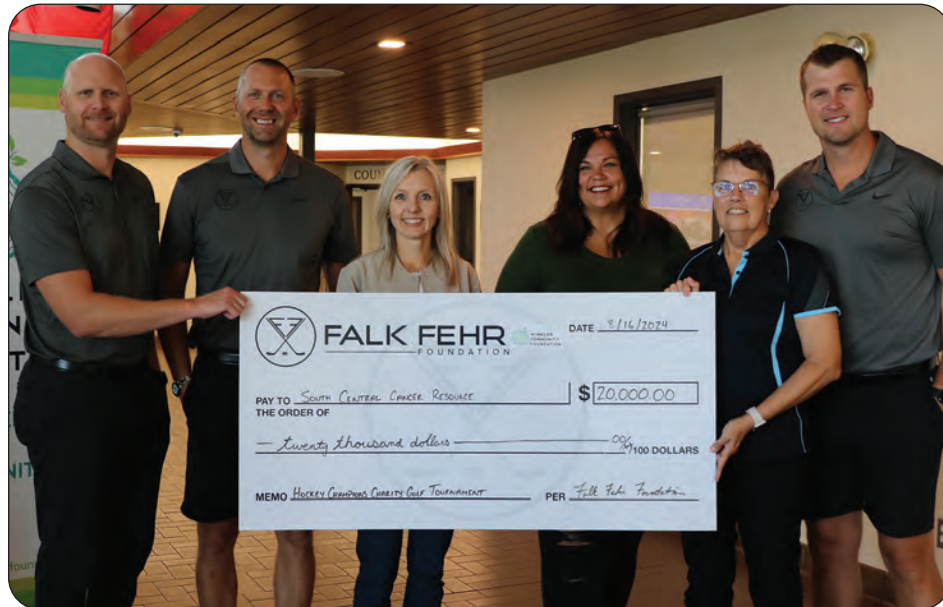
They’re only able to do all this with community support, Lumgair stressed.

“We’re not government funded. We’re all funded by donations,” she said, thanking the Falk Fehr Foundation for including them among the recipients this year. “Their support is just fabulous and we greatly appreciate it.”

Jenelle Neufeld, executive director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Pembina Valley, says the \$20,000 they received from the foundation is a huge support for their various one-on-one and group mentoring programs.

“Something like this is absolutely incredible to us because we are a smaller organization and I think that it is easy to kind of feel like you’re getting lost in the shuffle, but having the Falk Fehr Foundation believe in what we’re doing and choose us for something like this is absolutely amazing.”

The agency currently has six active traditional mentoring matches—teaming up adult volunteers with youth in the community—but



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

South Central Cancer Resource’s Naomi Fehr and Freda Lumgair (above) and Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Pembina Valley executive director Jenelle Neufeld (left) accept donations of \$20,000 from the Falk Fehr Foundation reps.



as the new school year gets underway Neufeld hopes to see significant growth in their in-school mentoring program, in which teens are teamed up with younger students.

They’ll also be launching several group programs in the months ahead designed to foster self-esteem and promote good decision making in youth.

Meanwhile, the \$30,000 the Winkler and District Food Cupboard received will help them stock their shelves for the next couple of months, allowing them to assist hundreds of people experiencing food insecurity.

But the donation represents more than just monetary support, reflected Milt Olfert, chair of the food cup-

board’s board of directors.

“What it means to me is that the community cares about each other,” he said. “It’s not so much about raising a lot of money—it’s about raising money for people that need it.

“When an organization like this goes and raises money for Big Brothers or cancer resource or people with food insecurity, it means they care about the people around them. They care for whether people are having a hard time in their lives, and that’s huge.

“To me it’s not so much about the money—the money is great, but it’s the caring that is behind it for the community, reaching out and helping those that are in hard times.”

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Corn & Apple weekend is here

By Lorne Stelmach

All is set for the 2024 Morden Corn and Apple Festival, and organizers are confident it will be a big weekend for the city.

"It was almost coming up way too quickly. It wasn't too long ago it seemed like we had so much time," said festival chairperson Nathan Knight ahead of the Aug. 23-25 community celebration.

"Everything has fallen into place ... we're making it happen," he said. "Most of our key people have stuck around for us this year as far as volunteers ... we do have a new executive director, but she has been fitting into the role quite nicely. Obviously, it's quite a learning curve.

"There's so many moving parts ... and when you have a street festival like this, it can be one of the biggest charms," he said.

The festival has so much going for it, suggested Knight, citing the sheer amount of options of things to enjoy.

There are activities for people of all ages—everything from the petting zoo and reptile area for the kids to the Wonder Shows midway to the favourite old-time music at the Cottonwood stage

He believes another main appeal for people is the weekend doesn't have to cost you a lot of money.

"You can come here first of all for very little money ... we do want you though to come spend money, of course, because we have amazing

food vendors. I believe we have more food vendors than any other festival in Manitoba.

"It's definitely worth the drive," said Knight, who added he believes their new approach to the main stage entertainment as well is a major draw.

"We made the decision a couple years ago to focus on specific demographics as to who we were going after with our entertainment and not so much focusing on the genre of music, and that seems to have worked well for us."

The '90s rock headline evening Saturday will feature The Watchmen and 54-40 as well as local band Sun Sets West, while Friday will feature a Supertramp and Pink Floyd cover band called Album Sides as well as That 80s Band.

And, of course, the Saturday morning parade again promises to be perhaps the largest in the province.

"I believe entries are very much on par this year with what we had last year," Knight shared. "A lot of the things that we do for the festival are either one of the largest or the largest in the region, so a lot goes into all of it."

In addition, there is not only the Cottonwood dance stage but also the youth stage at the Kenmor Theatre. Aside from all of the other regular features, perhaps most notably the free corn on the cob and apple cider, there are further events that are a draw, such as the car show in the park on Sunday and car racing at Dead



VOICE FILE PHOTO

Get your free corn on the cob at the Corn & Apple Festival in Morden this weekend.

Horse Speedway.

"We do try to have a variety for absolutely everybody," Knight said. "There should be something there for everybody."

He noted being a street festival is a challenge for them in some ways.

"It also limits how far or how fast you can grow," he said, noting as well that any empty street spaces might not be from a lack of interest.

"The power requirement for things like food trucks just gets greater and greater ... so we're not limited by interest. We're actually limited by the infrastructure so that we can properly serve all our vendors.

"We're trying to actively search out

vendors who maybe don't require a lot of power," Knight noted. "And our craft tents are always overflowing. We always have a waiting list ... so I think some of this individuals might opt for full spots on the street."

Finally, Knight said they are always happy to see more people get involved in some way to help out at the festival.

"There's always a need for more volunteers ... it doesn't have to be in too large of a capacity. You can work a two hour shift helping out on the weekend if you want."

You can find more information about the festival's complete schedule online at www.cornandapple.com.

Province to restrict cell phone use in schools

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Manitoba government is banning cellphones from K-8 schools this fall and putting limits on their use in high schools as well.

Education and Early Childhood Learning Minister Nello Altomare announced the ban last week.

"We want young people to be able to focus in class so they can learn more and feel confident. We know cellphones can be a real distraction for students—studies show it can take up to 20 minutes for a child to refocus on what they were learning once distracted," Altomare said in a news release Thursday. "These provincial guidelines will give teachers the tools they need to keep students

focused and ensure class time is spent on learning. Plus, we will take safety and medical concerns into account so all risks are minimized."

School divisions will be tasked with implementing updated policies to ensure consistency across the province, the minister said.

Those policies include banning cellphone use during school hours, including lunch and breaks, for students in Kindergarten to Grade 8; banning cellphone use for students in Gr. 9-12 during class time, with cellphone use permitted during breaks and lunch; and clear direction for cellphone use in classrooms for school staff.

Continued on page 7



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A message from the RM of Stanley

Eden Fdn. welcomes new director of development

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Eden Health Care Services has a new face at the helm of its fundraising efforts.

Eden Foundation announced last week that Dave Sawatsky has stepped into the director of development role, taking over from the departing Jayme Giesbrecht.

"Sawatsky brings broad leadership, strategy, governance, project/event management, and communications experience to the role from his years in the insurance industry and has demonstrated abilities in working collaboratively to implement new programs and processes at work and in his church," the foundation board shared in a release.

The director of development position oversees all aspects of the foundation's fundraising efforts, including donor relations, major gifts, planned giving, and events. Funds raised go to support Eden's mental health programming across southern Manitoba.

Foundation board chair Barry Dyck said they are "delighted by Dave's en-

thusiasm to be a part of the Eden team, pursuing Eden's mission through all its programs."

Eden CEO Brad Unger emphasized the vital importance of the foundation to the agency.

"It's such a link and a connector between the community and the support from the community, the business community, the church and faith groups, and the general public, and it provides a real critical link both in terms of communication and storytelling and sharing what the work of Eden is.

"And then of course it's the channel through which we receive a lot of financial and in-kind support from the community. That financial support is really vital to so many of our programs ... we wouldn't be able to do the work we do and to the extent we do without the work of the foundation.

"We're really excited that Dave's joined the team," Unger said. "He has a real wealth of experience in leadership and doing some strategic thinking and planning ... we're going to

need to tap into that, because we have a lot of plans and ambitions about our future."

Sawatsky started in the role last week. He will work out of Eden's offices in Winnipeg, Winkler, and Steinbach.

"There's a couple things that drew me to the role," Sawatsky shared on Friday. "One was that I was looking for the kind of involvement and the kind of organization that I could feel was really making a difference in the world, changing the world in a small way."

He cited Eden's leadership team as another big draw.

"I think they're in really good shape in terms of a vision of moving forward. I wanted to be part of that kind of progressive movement," Sawatsky said. "People really have an ownership and knowledge and awareness and visibility for Eden that I think is hard to achieve ... but they've been able to do that for years."

Sawatsky, who lives in Winnipeg but grew up in the Altona area, says among his first tasks in the weeks



SUPPLIED PHOTO

David Sawatsky is the Eden Foundation's new director of development.

ahead is to reach out and build up his connections in the community.

"I have lots more connections to make," he said, noting his people and project management skills will certainly be put to good use in this new role. "I'm new to the world of development and the specifics of fundraising, but I'm really excited to learn."

Odd Job Squad holds final freezie sale

Casey Peters and Rachel Braun were on hand with co-ordinator Anna Nikkel last Friday in Morden as the regional office of the Manitoba Youth Job Centres held its final freezie sale of the season. It supported the Odd Job Squad, which gave teens age 13 to 16 casual supervised first work and volunteer experiences in the community. The centre provides community-based summer youth employment and skills training throughout rural and northern Manitoba for students and youth from ages 13 to 29.

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE



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Fun at the Plum Fest



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Plum Coulee was alive with Plum Fest activities over the weekend, including, clockwise from left, multiple fundraising community meals, main stage performances from artists such as The Dueling Pianos, line and Old Time Dancing under the tent by the elevator museum, and kid's activities including inflatables, a petting zoo, and a bike decorating contest.



> CELL PHONE BAN, FROM PG. 5

There will also be guidelines to include exceptions to support students with medical and diverse learning needs, as well as cellphone use for educational purposes in high school classes when directed by teachers, the province says.

Dan Ward, superintendent of the Garden Valley School Division in Winkler, says most schools and divisions across the province already have cell phone use policies in place, but this move by the province will help ensure everyone is on the same page.

"Certainly all of our schools have cell phone policies, and we have a divisional policy as well," he said. "What this directive does is it provides some common language across the province for

all school divisions and districts."

GVSD's current policy prohibits students from using cell phones and other personal electronic devices during the regular school day, unless otherwise authorized by the principal.

"So most of our K-8 schools already had a very similar prohibition on the use of cell phones throughout the school day, unless it was for a specific educational purpose," Ward said.

Similarly, the provincial edict lines up with what is already happening at the high school level as well.

"Largely in our two high schools, students have had access to their phones during breaks and lunch, and sometimes for educational purposes," Ward said.

"I think what this policy does is it re-centers the

conversation on the responsible use of technology," he said. "Technology is not going away. It's a big part of our lives. It's going to be part of our students' work lives as they enter the workforce after their schooling is done.

"I think the emphasis is on trying to eliminate as much as possible distractions in those formative years of K-8. And in high school, really promoting the responsible use of technology and personal devices.

"This direction [from the province] will require us to look back at our policies. It won't require a whole lot of significant changes, but we'll definitely thread in some of the provincial language and guidance to our existing policy and bring it to the board for final ratification in the fall."

The **Voice**

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Wrapping up SCRL's summer reading program

The Booklands Explorers summer reading program at the Winkler branch of the South Central Regional Library capped up another hugely successful summer with a carnival in Bethel Heritage Park Monday afternoon for its youngest participants and



a trivia night competition at the library Friday night for the teen program. Coordinators Mikaela Warkentin and Isaiah Armstrong share that the summer set new heights in participation, with 670 children signed up for the main program and another 55 in the Teen Reads program. Collectively, the kids read a whopping 20,202 hours, earning prizes throughout the summer and also grand prize raffle tickets for their efforts. "It was a resounding success," said Warkentin. "We've had an exponential increase in kids registered." The program strives to get kids invested in reading outside of school. "Parents say that their kids are spending a lot more time reading even above their grade level, which is the goal," Warkentin said. "The goal of summer programming is to reduce the summer slump, which is essentially a backsliding in reading skills. And I can say with certainty that it's been very successful in stopping that this summer." The program offered younger kids daily activities at the library and weekly teen programming as well.

PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE



Local authors share their stories at the gallery

By Lorne Stelmach

Three local authors of children's books shared the spotlight last week for a special morning reading time at the Pembina Hills Gallery in Morden.

The Kids Morning Read Aloud last Wednesday involved Tammy Hendrickx, Grace Keeling, and Amber Enns reading from their books and taking questions from the kids.

Having the opportunity to engage with a smaller group of children made for a good experience for the writers.

"This was the first time reading my book to kids outside of my classroom, so this was actually very special for me," said Enns, who read from *Lana's Little Yellow Tent*.



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Authors Grace Keeling (above), Tammy Hendrickx (right), and Amber Enns were part of the Kids Morning Read Aloud event at the Pembina Hills Gallery in Morden last week.

Continued on page 9

Art camp kids have a blast getting their hands dirty

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler Arts and Culture's Summer Art Camp has kept participating budding artists busy this summer.

Its Creator's Camp for kids age 8-12 and Junior Creator's Camp for 5-7-year-olds have been running since early July. Sessions wrap up for the summer this week.

They've been offering kids a mix of indoor art activities and outdoor fun and games, says program assistant Jane Unruh Thiesen.

"We really are aiming to show them that art doesn't have to be something fancy, or even have to have a purpose—it's about having fun," she said last Wednesday as the afternoon class, having completed their paintings of watercolour creatures, set their focus on the creation of homemade slime.

The arts centre is currently putting the final touches on the schedule for its After School Art programs this fall and winter.

To start, they're offering Creative Builders for Lego fans age 9-12 Wednesdays from 4-5:30 p.m. and also an Intro to Painting course for ages 5-8 Thursdays from 4-5:30 p.m.

"It's been a big hit with the kids," Unruh Thiesen said of the builders class, in which kids get to create Lego masterpieces both



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Wafi Wahed, Mariia Belialova, Maliha Peters, Louisa Wiebert, Gordon Wiebert, Aubrielle Grenier, Jillian Guenther, and Eden Suderman with their slime creations at last week's WAC summer art camp session.

on their own and as a group.

The painting class, meanwhile, will introduce youth to both acrylic and watercolour paint styles.

of the differences between them to the kids," Unruh Thiesen explained.

Both six-week programs begin mid-September and are \$50 per child. Registration information is available online at winklerarts.com.

"We'll be introducing the idea



SUPPLIED PHOTOS



Kids have spent the summer learning how to do all kinds of arts and crafts.

> MORNING READ, FROM PG. 8

"I just love reading to kids because they often pick up on things that I don't see or hear in my stories," said Hendrickx, who read from *My Grandma's Doll*. "It was a great opportunity. I was happy to be part of it."

Keeling read from her book *Daddy Goes to Police Training: Whatever Happens, I'll Be Okay*. It's based on a true story of a child grappling with a mix of emotions as his father is away from home for a long time.

"It's nice to get our books out there," observed Hendrickx. "Every once in a while, it's nice to get

it out there again and read it, and maybe more kids or families will get interested."

Her book, *My Grandma's Doll*, is about a loving grandmother sharing a story about getting her first doll and how it disappeared.

"They listened really well and had really great questions and things to say," Hendrickx noted of the kids last week. "This was a smaller group. I've read in the schools before, and you can't get as personal, or they are on such a tight time schedule you can't get too involved ... I felt I could engage more with a smaller group."

Enns likewise loved being able to read to and interact with a smaller group.

"It is nice because then you can answer questions ... they asked all sorts ... and maybe they can be inspired to write something themselves," she said.

Her book, *Lana's Little Yellow Tent*, is a story about a girl who makes a special wish on a star that changes her life.

"It's great to see how engaged they are and how they look when they are listening and responding," Enns said. "Seeing the kids who really love books and seeing the joy on their faces and how they react, it's something that you just can't find anywhere else. It's very special."

sports & recreation

Altona Bisons knock out Winkler Whips

East Div. champs now move on to face Twins for league title

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Altona Bisons knocked out the Winkler Whips and now square off against the Cartwright Twins for the Border Baseball League title.

The Bisons-Whips series was a drawn-out affair plagued by delays late last week, but it all finally came to a head Sunday in Winkler.

The Whips had extended the series—which became a race to six points thanks to a tie in game two after the match had to be called due to darkness—by winning their do-or-die game five 7-4 last Tuesday.



PHOTO BY EDWARD VINCENT ARCENAL/VOICE

The Whips managed to extend the series with a 7-4 win in game five last Tuesday night in Altona (above), but it was the Bisons who came out ahead in game six 5-0 win the East Division title. They now face Cartwright in the Border Baseball League championship final.

Game six was slated to be played Wednesday and then Thursday, but rain interfered both times, and then Friday's rescheduled game got bumped to Sunday due to a lack of available umpires.

The extended rest worked out well for the Bisons, who won it 5-0 to take

the series seven points to five, win the East Division title, and earn a seat at the championship table with the Twins.

Cartwright had won their semi-final series against the Pilot Mound Pilots in four games to earn the West Division title and advance.

On Monday, the Twins took game one of the championship series 4-0, playing in front of a home town crowd.

A schedule for the remaining games was not available at press time.

Flyers bid farewell to Falk as head coach, GM

By Ashleigh Viveiros

After three seasons and the team's first championship win in 26 years, Winkler Flyers head coach and general manager Justin Falk is moving on from the role this fall.

The junior hockey team announced over the weekend that Falk has resigned to pursue a position at the professional level.

"Justin has played such a critical role in the success of this organization both on and off the ice since he joined us for the 2021-22 season," said team president Caleb Suderman. "The on-ice results speak for themselves, but it's the amount of time, effort and care behind the scenes and what he put into this community that are crucial to making junior hockey in Winkler possible.

"We wish him nothing but the best as he moves on and look forward to watching his career progress over the years."

For his part, Falk sent thanks out to

everyone he's worked with over the past three years, as well as to the community and fans who support junior hockey in Winkler.

"Thank you to the community and board of directors for the opportunity to coach and general manage in our home town," he said. "Within the last three seasons have come many in-

credible experiences for myself and family and we are forever grateful for the continued relationships that have been built and will carry forward in Winkler."

Current assistant general manager and coach Coltyn Bates steps into Falk's old role on an interim basis as the club sets out to hire a permanent

replacement.

The team has its first exhibition pre-season game Sept. 6 against Steinbach. The MJHL regular season starts Sept. 20.

Winkler heads into the 2024-2025 campaign as the defending champions, having won their first Turnbull Cup since 1998 this spring.

Storm teams near end of season

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Storm 1 downed the visiting Grant Park SC 4-1 Sunday night.

Phillip Unrau led the home team in scoring with two goals, bolstered by singles from Cornie Siemens and Janick Richter.

The win follows up on the 4-1 defeat the Storm suffered at the hands of AK Academy in Winnipeg a few days ear-

lier.

With that, at press time the team retained its hold on first place in the Manitoba Major Soccer League's Division one with a record of 10-2-2 and 32 points, three up on second-place Winnipeg FC and four ahead of Galacticos FC in third place.

Winkler Storm 2, meanwhile, didn't have such a good week, falling to Lucania United FC2 4-2 last Tuesday. Scoring for Winkler was Ehtha H.

Moon and Janick Richter.

Monday night the team was slated to play the last-place Richmond Kings, but the Kings forfeited.

It bolsters the team's record to 3-11-2, good for 11 points and second-last place in the eight-team Division 2.

Coming up, Storm 1 host the Hanover Kickers this Sunday at 7 p.m. while Storm 2 faces the Scorpions on the road next Monday night.



A day at the races

The Moto Park X track in Altona hosted last weekend's Grassroots Motocross races, pitting competitors from across the province against one another in over two dozen event classes. The season continues with races in Grunthal this Saturday and Sunday and in Pilot Mound Sept. 14-15.

PHOTOS BY EDWARD VINCENT ARCENAL/VOICE



PUBLIC NOTICE / AVIS PUBLIC
 PROPOSED TELECOMMUNICATION TOWER / PROPOSITION DE TOUR DE TÉLÉCOMMUNICATION
 25019 PTH 3W, STANLEY, MB

SUBJECT/SUJET:

- Type: 65m self-support tower / Tour de style autoportante
- Location address: 25019 PTH 3W, Stanley, MB
- (Coordinates/ Coordonnés: 49.194129, -98.027564)
- Legal Description / Description légale: PARCEL 2 PLAN 1695 MLTO
- Facility / Installation: The facility will comprise a proposed 15m x 15m compound. / L'installation comprendra un complexe proposé de 15 m x 15 m.
- Site: The structure will accommodate initial and future loading for all cellular providers, and additional fixed wireless equipment as required. / La structure peut accueillir le chargement initial et futur de tous les fournisseurs de services cellulaires, ainsi que de l'équipement supplémentaire sans fil fixe, au besoin.

Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) is the governing body for this type of installation and can be contacted at: / Innovation, Sciences et Développement économique Canada (ISDE) est l'organisme directeur de ce type d'installation et peut être contacté à l'adresse suivante:

ISED – Manitoba District Office / Bureau de district du Manitoba
 400 St. Mary Avenue, 4th floor
 Winnipeg, MB R3C 4K5
 Tel: 1-800-665-3421 or 204-984-4257
 Fax: 204-984-6045
 Email: spectrumwinnipeg-winnipegspectre@ised-isde.gc.ca

ANY PERSON may make a written submission to the individuals listed below no later than 5pm (ET) on **Monday, September 16th, 2024**. Please reference the site code **TOWM009** in your correspondence. / **TOUTE PERSONNE** peut faire une soumission écrite aux personnes mentionnées ci-dessous au plus tard à


17:00 le **lundi 16 septembre 2024**. Veuillez indiquer le code de référence du site, **TOWM009** dans votre correspondance.

Further information may also be obtained through the following contact: / De plus amples informations peuvent également être obtenues auprès du contact suivant:

APPLICANT CONTACT / CONTACT DU DEMANDEUR
 SLI Towers Inc.
 146 Thirtieth Street, Suite 100
 Etobicoke, ON, M8W 3C4
 T: (437) 425-3982
 E: municipal@slitowers.ca

MUNICIPAL CONTACT / CONTACT MUNICIPAL
 Melissa Groening, CMMA | Planning and Development Officer
 Rural Municipality of Stanley
 T: 204.325.4101
 E: mgroening@rmofstanley.ca

SITE LOCATION MAP / PLAN DE LOCALISATION DU SITE



Tower location shown with the star / Emplacement de la tour indiqué par l'étoile

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NOTICES

URGENT PRESS RELEASES - Have a newsworthy item to announce? An exciting change in operations? Though we cannot guarantee publication, MCNA will get the information into the right hands for ONLY \$35 + GST/HST. Call MCNA 204-947-1691 for more information. See www.mcna.com under the "Types of Advertising" tab for more details.

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HEALTH

Are you suffering from joint or arthritic pain? If so, you owe it to yourself to try elk velvet antler capsules. Hundreds have found relief. Benefits humans and pets. EVA is composed of proteins, amino acids, minerals, lipids and water. Key compounds that work to stimulate red blood cell production & cartilage cell regeneration & development. Stonewood Elk Ranch Ltd., 204-467-8884 or e-mail stonewoodelkranch@mymts.net

EMPLOYMENT



.57 FTE TERM TEACHER Competition #2024-50 Manitou Elementary School

Prairie Spirit School Division invites applications for a .57 FTE Term Teacher position to start as soon as possible to March 28th, 2025. Deadline for applications: **Noon August 30th, 2024.** Details available at: www.prairiespirit.mb.ca or phone 204-836-2147.

PUBLIC NOTICE



TOWN OF ALTONA PUBLIC NOTICE 2025 BOARD OF REVISION

The 2025 Real Property, Personal Property and Business Property Assessment Rolls have been deposited in the Office of the Clerk at 111 Centre Avenue East (Town of Altona Civic Centre) and will be open for inspection by any person(s) during regular office hours.

The Board of Revision will sit at the Council Chambers of the Town of Altona located at 111 Centre Avenue East in Altona on Tuesday, **October 8th, 2024** at 6:00 P.M. for the purpose of revising the Assessment Rolls of the Town of Altona.

Complaints against any of the above noted assessments must be received by the Secretary of the Board by Monday, **September 23rd, 2024** and may be made as follows:

Application for revision

42(1) A person in whose name property has been assessed, a mortgagee in possession of property under subsection 114(1) of *The Real Property Act*, an occupier of premises who is required under the terms of a lease to pay the taxes on the property, or the assessor may make application for the revision of an assessment roll with respect to the following matters:

- liability to taxation;
- amount of an assessed value;
- classification of property;
- a refusal by an assessor to amend the assessment roll under subsection 13(2).

Application requirements

43(1) An application for revision must

- be made in writing;
- set out the roll number and legal description of the assessable property for which a revision is sought;
- set out which of the matters referred to in subsection 42(1) are at issue, and the grounds for each of those matters; and
- be filed by
 - delivering it or causing it to be delivered to the office indicated in the public notice given under subsection 41(2), or
 - serving it upon the secretary, at least 15 days before the scheduled sitting date of the board (no later than **September 23rd, 2024**) as indicated in the public notice.

Dated at Altona, in Manitoba, this 22nd day of August, 2024, A.D.

Town of Altona

Box 1630,

Altona, Manitoba ROG OBO

Terry Fehr, Secretary

Board of Revision for the Town of Altona

EMPLOYMENT



Prairie Rose School Division

is searching for Educational Assistants

The following positions are available Sept 4/24, positions are 5.5 hours per day unless otherwise specified:

- #068-24-25 - Blooming Prairie Colony
- #069-24-25 - Skyview Colony
- #070-24-25 - Miami Colony
- #080-24-25 - Eagle Creek Colony
- #091-24-25 - Waldheim Colony
- #087-24-25 - Carman Collegiate
- #096-24-25 - Carman Collegiate
- #093-24-25 - Elm Creek School
- #072-24-25 - Elm Creek School
- #092-24-25 - Elm Creek School
- Term, Sept/24-Jun/25
- #085-24-25 - École Carman Elementary
- Term, Sept /24-Jun/25
- #064-24-25 - Miami School
- 5.0 hours per day

Collective Agreement under review, wage increases will take place.



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CAREERS



MAINTENANCE MECHANIC/MILLWRIGHT

Bunge Altona has an opening for a Maintenance Mechanic/Millwright. Work involves process equipment installation, maintenance and repair, lubrication, steel fabrication and welding.

Preference will be given to those candidates holding a valid provincial Millwright or Industrial Mechanic ticket. Candidates who do not hold a valid ticket will be expected to enrol in the apprenticeship program to obtain their ticket as soon as possible.

Overtime and on-call duties are required. The successful applicant will possess excellent written and verbal communication skills, trouble shooting skills, and be a team player.

The following would be considered an asset for this position:

- Experience in grain handling, processing, or manufacturing facility
- Experience in industrial equipment maintenance and repair
- Ability to read blueprints and technical documents
- Pressure or structural welding tickets and related experience

This is a regular full time position providing an excellent wage and benefits package. Bunge is committed to providing a safe, healthy, and rewarding workplace for all employees.

Starting Wages:

- Mechanic \$32.70/hour
- Red Seal Millwright: \$38.08/hour

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.

Bunge Canada is an equal opportunity employer.

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EMPLOYMENT



1.0 FTE TERM TEACHER Competition #2024-49 Crystal City Early Years

Prairie Spirit School Division invites applications for a 1.0 FTE Term Teacher position to start as soon as possible to June 27th, 2025.

Deadline for applications: **Noon August 30th, 2024.**

Details available at: www.prairiespirit.mb.ca or phone 204-836-2147.

Book Your Classified Ad Today - Call 467-5836 or Email ads@winklermordenvoice.ca

EMPLOYMENT



PRSD Division Office is recruiting for a:

Payroll Administrator

Position:

- 7 hours/day
- Salary depending on experience
- Starting ASAP

and a

Payroll Assistant

- 7 hours/day
- Salary depending on experience
- Starting ASAP

PRSD Division Office is located in Carman, MB

Apply to hr@prsdmb.ca
For complete posting, please visit www.prsdmb.ca.

take a break > GAMES

SUDOKU

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

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

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

Sudoku Answer

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

Crossword Answer

X CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

- Mongolian city __ Bator
- Coconut palms
- Rounded knob
- Japanese city
- Type of sandwiches
- A type of shape
- Son of Shem
- French modernist painter
- Grandmother
- Mammary gland of female cattle
- Hill or rocky peak
- Secret political clique
- Songs to one's beloved
- "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
- Father
- Chinese philosophical principle
- Restrict the number or amount of
- Combined into a single entity
- Brother or sister
- Evil spirit
- Materials in the earth's crust
- Partner to cheese
- Of the sun
- Baseball great Ty
- After B
- Place to relax on the beach
- Folk singer DiFranco
- Partly digested food
- Small dog breed
- Japanese honorific
- Salts
- Beard moss genus
- Mountain pass
- Type of sword
- Albanian language
- Metric weight unit
- Italian Seaport
- Longtime late night host
- Extremely angry
- Wading bird
- Days in mid-month
- Omitted from printed matter
- Upper body part

CLUES DOWN

- Two-toed sloth

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21		22				23				
			24		25				26					
27	28	29		30				31			32	33	34	
35			36				37				38			
39						40				41				
42					43				44					
45				46				47				48		
			49					50			51			
52	53	54				55				56		57	58	59
60						61				62		63		
64						65						66		
67						68						69		

- Cooking ingredient
- Iranian city
- Accuses
- Corrie
- Delivered a speech
- Collection of sacred books
- Theatrical
- Very fast airplane
- Arm bones
- Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- fide: legit
- Gemstone
- Counsels
- Corporate bigwig
- Cool!
- Touch lightly
- Small Milky Way constellation
- Satirical website
- Border lines
- Soft drinks
- Capital of Guam
- Six-membered ring (chemistry)

- Bar bill
- Car mechanics group
- Notable Bill Murray character
- Health care for the aged
- Gurus
- A passage with access only at one end
- Reduce
- Spy organization
- The upper surface of the mouth
- Plants of the lily family
- Type of reef
- Oral polio vaccine developer
- Mottled citrus fruit
- Lose
- Former Brazilian NBAer
- Baseball great Ruth
- Clapton, musician
- Chance
- Spanish soldier
- CNN's founder

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The *Winkler Morden* Voice

OBITUARY



John Neufeld

Johan (John) Dyck Neufeld, beloved husband, father, and friend, passed away on Saturday, August 3, 2024, in the RM of Roland, MB, at the age of 49. He entered into the presence of his loving Heavenly Father, leaving behind a legacy of kindness and faith.

Born on September 4, 1974 in Greenfield, Mexico, Campo 109, John's early years were spent in Mexico before his family relocated to Manitoba. John and his family later lived briefly in Alberta and Ontario before settling permanently in Manitoba.

John was preceded in death by his father, Jacob Neufeld; his sister, Tina; his niece, Chelsea; his nephews, Matthew and Jonathan; and his mother-in-law, Anna Harder.

He is lovingly remembered by his wife, Tina (Harder) Neufeld; his children, Victoria (Riley), Michael (Claudette), Bradley (Lena), Joshua, Adam, Tamara, and Solara; and his cherished grandchildren, Ashton, Paisley, Oliver, Ezekiel, and baby Neufeld. He is also survived by his mother, Katharina, and his siblings, Nancy (Jake), Cristina (John), Isaack (Nettie), Jake (Tina), Helen (Bill), Pete (Heather), and their families.

John and Tina's love story began in 1989. He was baptized in 1994 in the Reinland Mennonite Church. They were married the following year and were looking forward to celebrating their 29th wedding anniversary this September. John began working at Meridian in 1994, starting as a painter and quickly advancing to the role of team manager. His dedication, leadership, and warm smile earned him respect and admiration in every aspect of his life—whether at work, in church, or within the community.

John was known for his joyful spirit, always spreading his love for Jesus, people, and life itself. He had a gift for making others feel special, and he never hesitated to offer a kind word, a helping hand, or a heartfelt laugh. He was passionate about cooking, baking, spending time with family, traveling, and trying new things.

In the last three years of his life, John discovered a new passion—motorcycle riding. After obtaining his learner's permit in August 2021, he enjoyed many adventures with his riding buddies. In addition to riding, John took pride in dressing well, singing in the choir, and helping his children plan memorable events.

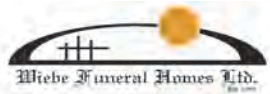
If you have cherished memories, stories, or photos of John, we warmly invite you to share them with us. Your contributions will help celebrate his life and keep his spirit alive in our hearts. Every memory is a treasured gift, and we deeply appreciate your willingness to share.

https://form.jotform.com/242211437179050

His celebration of life was held on Wednesday, August 14, 2024 at 2 p.m. at the Winkler Bergthaler Mennonite Church. A public viewing was held at the Winkler Wiebe Funeral Chapel on Tuesday, August 13, 2024, from 1 p.m. – 6 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Wiebe's Funeral Home to support other families facing unexpected funeral costs.

Wiebe Funeral Home Winkler
in care of arrangements
www.wiebefuneralhome.com



OBITUARY



Elmer Howard Evenson

Elmer Howard Evenson, affectionately known as "Papa" to his grandchildren, passed away suddenly in the early hours of Thursday, August 8, 2024, at the age of 87.

Elmer first lived on a farm just west of Haskett, and later south of Lake Minnewasta. When Elmer was just 14, his father passed away, and he left school early to help his mother and his sister on the farm.

Elmer became a skilled farmer, raising both beef and grains. In the late 1950s, Elmer met Catherine Muriel Vick, and they married in 1961. Together, they created a loving home for their children, Scott and Debora, on the property they called "Ironwood Farm," named for the Ironwood trees growing near the lake.

Elmer's ingenuity was evident in the many projects he undertook, from building a treehouse complete with electric lights and a television to crafting a motorized go-kart and a rocket ship made from oil drums. The garden tractor he built was featured on the cover of the *Welding Magazine*.

A devoted father, Elmer was known for his patience and support, with his family. He and Catherine were actively involved in the Scouting movement. They were involved in the local theatre organization – "The Company" with Elmer contributing his skills to being the stage manager, building sets, and operating the lighting and sound boards for the amateur productions. He was an avid dancer and enjoyed entertaining at personal care homes across southern Manitoba with Friends of Dance.

His long-time membership at St. Thomas Anglican Church found him teaching Sunday School, singing in the choir, serving as a Lay Reader and on Vestry as both Peoples' and Rector's Wardens.

Elmer and Catherine sold their farm in 2016 and moved to a condo in Morden. In the fall of 2023, Elmer moved to Tabor Home where he spent his final days.

Elmer was predeceased by his parents, Clarence and Martha (nee Link), his sister Dorothy, his brother-in-law Elmer, his parents-in-law Walford and Jean Vick and numerous other relatives.

He is survived by his wife of almost 63 years, Catherine; his son Scott (Carrie); his daughter Debora; grandsons Dakota, Dallas, and Tyler and great-grandson Benji, his granddaughter Kayla; his sister-and brother-in-law Barbara and Don Rothenberger and nephew Philip as well as many cousins.

Thanks are extended to members of St. Thomas Anglican Church for their support and prayers and to the staff and residents of Cedar House, Tabor Home for their friendship and care during the past year.

If friends so desire, donations may be made in Elmer's memory to Alzheimer's Society or South Central Cancer Resource.

Funeral service was held on August 17, 2024 at 2 p.m. and the burial was held prior at the Lakeside Cemetery, Morden.

Wiebe Funeral Chapel, Morden
in care of arrangements
www.wiebefuneralhome.com



Remember Your Loved Ones
with an Announcement in the
The Winkler Morden Voice
Call 204-467-5836 or
ads@winklermordenvoice.ca

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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IN THE MATTER of the estate of DENNIS IRVEN ZIMMERMAN, late of the City of Winkler, Manitoba, Deceased.

ALL CLAIMS against the above Estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be sent to the undersigned at 504 Stanley Avenue, Winkler, Manitoba, R6W 0M3, within four (4) weeks of the date of this publication.

GBH LAW OFFICE
Solicitor for the Estate

PUBLIC NOTICE

CARMAN MEDICAL GROUP

Drs Clayden, Kruk and Engel are pleased to announce that **DR AIMAN DABLOUK** has joined the Carman Medical Group and is now accepting new patients. He is a family physician with an interest in babies and children, and he is also offering office based prenatal care. He speaks Arabic, Russian and Ukrainian as well as English. **Please phone 204-745-2024 for an appointment.**
182 Main Street South
Carman MB R0G 0J0

Online McSherry Auctions

Estate & Moving
August 28th @ 7:00PM

Estate & Moving
September 4th @ 7:00PM

12 Patterson Dr.
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JJ Riverside Mfg. Tractor & Equip. Auction
September 5th @ 7:00PM
JD 1050 Dst, 51 Merc Stepside P/U, 59 Ford 541 Workmaster, 53 Ford Jubilee, Cockshutt 540, 58 Oliver, 61 Ford Workmaster, Ford Ferguson 8N, Case 410B, Ferguson TA, Hough 120C Loader, 59 Oliver, Ford 851 Powermaster, MF 135, Ferguson TEA 2080, Oliver Super 55, Ford 600, MF 1100 Dst, Case VA, Int Farmall A, Case 300, Case 310, (6) Ford 8N, MF TE20, (2) Cockshutt 30, MH 555, Case 610B, Ford 2N, Case 510B, Ford 9N, Oliver 1800 Cab, Int. Vibrashank Hyd. 9ft Box Trailer, Farm Implements, 5 FELs, 3PTH Snowblower, 3PTH Cultivators
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PRESTIGE ROOFING

“Not everybody gets a chance to do this”

54-40 member reflects on band's four decades of music

By Lorne Stelmach

Brad Merritt never imagined he would still be out on the road more than 40 years after the formation of 54-40.

One of the original founding members of the band fronted by lead singer Neil Osborne, Merritt recently recalled early on being the opening act at the famous Commodore ballroom and thinking, “It could have ended at that point, and I would’ve been quite happy.

“Once things started to go, and we were kind of getting more into writing songs and performing then recording ... dabbling in the beginning ... we actually sat across from each other, Neil and I at the table, and said well why don’t we decide right now we’re going to do 10 records ... when that finished, it was well, want to make a few more?”

“You have to go out there and make a living somehow, and we can still do that ... but also we consider what we do it’s own reward. Not everybody gets a chance to do this,” he said. “We didn’t get into it for the fame. We got into it because it’s where we derive satisfaction. Everything’s still there. We still get excited about the next thing, the next record, so that kind of keeps you going.”

Established over 43 years ago on the west coast, 54-40 come to Morden this weekend to share the headline double bill that also features fellow Canadian music hit-makers The Watchmen.

The band take their name from the slogan “54-40 or Fight” as coined to express the expansionist agenda of James Polk’s presidency, which was intent upon controlling a contested U.S.-Canada border area in the Oregon boundary dispute.

54-40 has had a successful career, with four of their albums being certified platinum in Canada. They’ve been nominated for eight Juno Awards and, between 1996 and 2016, were among the top best-selling Canadian artists in Canada.

“We have different songs. We’ve done rock songs and we have songs which could have been a rhythm and blues song,” said Merritt. “We have those classic influences that I think a lot of bands do have from our generation.”

They came on to the scene in the 1990s, which was an era when music trends took another turn such as with the Seattle grunge music.

“There was a bit of a rock and roll revival going on, and rock music was important again in the ‘90s, and that was a neat thing to be part of,” he said.

“Our paths crossed with all sorts of bands,” added Merritt, who noted having just recently played with Grapes of Wrath and Northern Pikes, two other Canadian bands from that era who have returned to music.

“We’re one of the few bands that sort of kept on going though,” he suggested. “We didn’t know how to stop.

“We’re not on the nostalgia circuit yet, but we do play some of those kinds of shows, and they can be a lot of fun,” he said. “We’re not part of the zeitgeist anymore, but what we do is seen as kind of different from what’s happening ... we’re like a sub-genre. It’s a sub-culture.”

The band has recently released new records, including *Live At The El Mocambo* and *West Coast Band*.

West Coast Band is the first single from the album of the same name, and the track is an origin story that pays homage to the Vancouver music scene that inspired the band. It was recorded remotely during the pandemic lockdown.

“We started telling stories, mostly Neil and I, about the very early days,” recalled Merritt, who added they didn’t set out to make a new record, never mind one that autobiographical. “We never thought about putting a record out ... it was just for our own benefit, but then we thought let’s just put it out.

“Neil refers to it now as our comedy record. It’s a bit tongue in cheek ... it wasn’t meant for general consumption, but we thought we would share it,” he said. “We don’t want to mythologize ourselves. We’re just recounting things and having some fun with it.”

“This record already feels like a success to me,” Osborne said in a news release. “The fact that we created it while really enjoying playing together



SUPPLIED PHOTO

54-40 join fellow Canadian rock stars The Watchmen as the Saturday night headliners at the Corn and Apple Festival in Morden this weekend.

is an accomplishment and why Brad Merritt and I started the band in the first place.”

He also commented on never having expected to still be playing and performing four decades after getting started.

“When I started playing, I was an angry young man with a big mission,” said Osborne of their New Year’s Eve start in 1980. “I used to say if I’m still doing this when I’m 30, I’m going to shoot myself. And then I said if I’m still doing this when I am 40, someone please shoot me. Then it was like if I am still doing this at age 50 and over ... wow!”

Merritt was looking forward to hitting the stage here this weekend, as he enjoys going to smaller centres like Morden.

“I love it ... it’s kind of a neat thing to be able to go all over this country and play places I’ve never been before and see things that most people don’t get a chance to, so I’m starting to appreciate that again.”

Winkler council updates bylaw to officially allow for temporary signs

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler city council has tweaked parts of its zoning bylaw at the advice of the community’s planning committee.

Some of the changes deal with things like the allowed projections off residential buildings (how much space decks, for example, are permitted to take up in a front, side, or rear yard), driveway widths for residences, commercial, and industrial facilities, and how the exterior storage of products or materials need to either be in a rear

yard or screened from public view.

One interesting change has to do with temporary signs on public property.

City manager Jody Penner explained that most of these kinds of signs were not technically allowed under the old bylaw.

“Garage sale signs—those were not permitted, but yet we didn’t really enforce on that,” he told council.

Also not officially allowed were the temporary signs you often see at intersections directing people to things like the weekly farmers’ market,

sporting competitions, or other community events.

“We want to take the approach that if we’re never going to enforce on them, then why don’t we allow it?” Penner said. “There’s still some timing restrictions and everything, but if we’re going to allow it, we need to make it official.”

Some of those restrictions include that temporary signs must be under 16 sq. ft (1.5 sq. meters) unless otherwise approved, they must indicate the date of the event, not be placed within 50 feet of an uncontrolled intersection or

traffic circle, be placed no more than seven days before an event, and be removed within 36 hours of an event, unless otherwise approved.

The bylaw lays out that temporary signs permitted include those dealing with public service announcements, real estate, political campaigns, construction, directional signage, garage sales, and community events such as fundraisers and sporting events.

The amended bylaw passed unanimously at council’s Aug. 13 meeting.

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

get informed



PHOTOS BY
LORI PENNER/VOICE

Legends charity drag races a success

By Lori Penner

Another Legends Car Club Charity Airport Drag race is in the books, and organizers are thrilled with the turnout.

Alex Loewen, co-chair for the races and Legends Car Club president, says while the numbers haven't been crunched yet, based on overall attendance last weekend, he's certain they did well in fundraising for their three chosen charities: Genesis House, South Central Cancer Resource and STARS Air Ambulance.

"Crowds were good, racers were happy, both days ran smoothly, with only a few small delays, but otherwise everybody left happy."

About 53 racers competed each day, and the stands were full.

"Crowds on Sunday were even bigger than Saturday this year, and our reader boards were back and up and running, so that improved the spectator experience."

Other charitable organizations who benefitted from the weekend are also pleased. Loewen says The Community Exchange was busy at the cold shack, and Sixteen13 Ministries did a smooth job with parking and managing the crowds. The Bunker's food truck, Industrial Eats, had two long lines all day, both days.

Chris Hildebrand and Emilia Kehler ran The Bunker truck.

"We sold 750 burgers, 817 orders of fries and 243 hot dogs over the weekend, which is amazing," Kehler says.

Hildebrand adds, "No other food truck that I'm aware of can push out meals as fast as we can, with the quality that we can, so it's something that we really take a lot of pride in. It's one way of building self sufficiency for the nonprofit, and to provide job opportunities and work and life coaching for the youth and young adults that need a bit of guidance."

While the weekend offered a lot of thrills for the crowd, it also provided valuable experience for the racers, and Kennedy Letkeman is one of them.

At eight years old, in her junior dragster, she was the youngest bracket racer on the track. She received the dragster as a Christmas present from her grandfather, Rod Fehr, who is an experienced competitor himself, and has not missed a single Legends race.

Racing is a family tradition, Fehr says.

"I found a guy close to the Saskatchewan border who had three for sale, so I bought them. A friend of mine drives one. My oldest granddaughter drives one, but she decided to wait to race next year. We have a long history with Legends, and it's always a great experience."

Fehr adds, "We're really proud of

Over 50 racers came out last weekend to take part in the Legends Car Club's annual charity drag races at the Altona airport. Among them was eight-year-old Kennedy Letkeman (right) who was the youngest bracket racer on the track in her junior dragster. It was her first time racing and she says she had a blast.

Kennedy. She did so well, considering she only played around with it at the farm. Her mom still has a license and may get back into it next year. I guess after three generations, the legacy continues."

"This was my first time racing," Kennedy says. "It was so much fun. It feels really cool to go straight against the wind, and your hair just goes whoosh."

"She's been running very consistently, with an almost perfect reaction time," says her mom, Stephanie Letkeman, who has also competed in a number of races.

Letkeman explains how in bracket racing, it's not about beating someone else's speed, but whoever comes the closest to their estimated time.

"She was the only one in her bracket, so she's been getting good experience, and it was a really fun day. I'm unbelievably proud of her."

In terms of safety, Stephanie says, "As a mom, you always want your kid to be as safe as possible. But realistically, it's more dangerous to ride



your bike around the neighborhood, than to be in this. They have really good roll bars, and she's fully kitted out with equipment to keep her safe. I don't think they could make it any safer if they tried at this point."

Kennedy's friends are impressed with her new hobby. On one of the last days of school this year, her mom and grandfather brought a few of their dragsters to school to give the students a chance to see the equipment and sit inside one of the cars.

"They think it's really cool," Kennedy says. "They had never sat in a race car before."

While the racing season is nearly over, her dragster won't sit still for long.

"We might try to get her into Gimli, to get her fully licensed," Stephanie says.