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**Spring cleanup**

École West Park School students canvassed for donations and collected trash around Altona last week to support Blue Sky Opportunities. For the full story, see Pg. 2

PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

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# Students spruce up the community, raise funds for Blue Sky Opportunities

By Lori Penner

The final tally is in, revealing another successful day for École West Park School's annual Cleanathon.

Now in its 34th year, the event sees Grade 4-6 students collect pledges for cleaning up Altona each spring and then donating that money to local non-profit Blue Sky Opportunities, which works with individuals with intellectual disabilities.

This year's event raised just over \$30,000.

"That's our second highest year, so far," said executive director Ryan Potter. "Our top record was the event

after the pandemic, after we had to cancel for two years."

After three years of heading up the organization, Potter says he's still blown away by the enthusiasm the students have in participating in the event.

"They get so excited just to go pick up garbage. And when you look at all the money they raise, year after year, it's really quite incredible."

This year's funding will go towards renovating the Blue Sky's day program, geared for clients who work from Monday to Friday at the main building.



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

No garbage was safe during the cleanathon, as these two students demonstrate.

"We'll be upgrading the opportunities room, high level care rooms, and work rooms, and we're hoping to do a kitchen renovation, as well."

Potter says he's deeply grateful to the community and the students for all their hard work and support.

"They're learning about a very important local organization, learning to take pride in their community and establishing life-long habits. It's just a win-win for everybody."

Gr. 5 students Chelsea and Farah were part of a group cleaning the northwest corner of town. Chelsea said it was fun being outside during

a school day and tidying up the community. She said now she'll be even more aware of any garbage she finds lying around town in the future, and she'll be sure to dispose of it.

"Altona needs to be healthy and tidy, and this will help the plants grow better, too," she said.

"It makes our town look good, too, and makes people happy because it's clean," Farah said. "Plus, we're raising money for Blue Sky."

Chelsea added, "Blue Sky is important because it helps people with disabilities. It's also extra special to me because I have a cousin with a disability. I can see why it matters so much."

School principal Derek Sawatzky said it was a fantastic day for staff and students alike. "The weather couldn't have been any better. The

Continued on page 11

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# Massage-a-thon raises \$700 for SCCR

By Lorne Stelmach

A day of massages in Morden Saturday had students working on patients for a good cause.

The massage-a-thon at Morden Massage Therapy Centre saw the proceeds of \$700 donated to South Central Cancer Resource.

Owner and therapist Linda Menzies said the event fit well with her belief that part of being a good health care professional is supporting the community.

"As a mentor for the college students, I always strive to build community with these students ... teaching them so much more than just seeing patients and treating them ... it's actually building community and

a good way to do that is to give back."

The massage-a-thon tied in with an ongoing program of the centre.

"It's part of our 360 program where students come to Morden Massage Therapy Centre to do their clinical as part of their college program," said Menzies. "As a business we take that money and then we always put the proceeds into different community organizations."

The students themselves choose who they want as the recipient.

"And to just up it one, they wanted to take a day and actually volunteer their services and kind of work together," Menzies said.

New acupuncturist Dr. Yali Bai also donated her services for the day, and it was a good opportunity for her to

be introduced to patients.

"She has had really good feedback already. Most of them that have seen her have already booked back in,"

said Menzies, noting Bai is currently taking patients on Fridays.

Continued on page 4



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Staff and massage therapy students at the Morden Massage Therapy Centre raised \$700 from their Saturday massage-a-thon for South Central Cancer Resource.

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# Winkler MCC thrift shop anniversary raffle tickets on sale now

By Lorne Stelmach

A quilt raffle will both raise funds and honour the heritage of the MCC Thrift Store in Winkler.

As part of its 50th anniversary celebrations this year, a quilt was specially made for the raffle, and organizers suggested it was a fitting way to pay tribute for the occasion.

"Quilting has always been a big part of the history of the MCC thrift stores and MCC, and quilt auctions have taken place for many years," noted Doreen Warms, chairperson of the 50th anniversary festivities. "Our celebration committee thought it would be a great idea if we could have a quilt to raffle off to get some funds towards our MCC missions.

"We're hoping to raise some good funds and to honour the quilting heritage part of the MCC. Of course, there are many other things that go on in the MCC organization, but quilting certainly has been a huge part of it," she added. "We still have ladies coming in to do quilts that get sent to the needy and overseas."

Working on the quilt became a labour of love for Lydia Zacharias and Katie Friesen. The former cut and

pieced together the quilt front, while the latter did the machine work.

"They both donated their time and efforts," said Warms. "So we're really excited about this quilt and hope that we have lots of people who are interested in winning the quilt. I know from people who have seen peeks of the quilt they have certainly shown some excitement."

"A lot of work went into it by Margaret Reimer, who shopped for the fabric," Zacharias noted. "She went to the U.S. and to Brandon and to Carman and all over."

She called it a privilege to be involved in this project.

"I found it a real honour to be asked to work on this quilt. I have sewn many quilts for MCC but never one where the pattern of the fabric was chosen specifically. It is a simple design, and the colour choices are pleasing to the eye."

Organizers are hoping to sell 2,000 tickets, and they see the potential to raise between \$6,000 and \$10,000, with individual tickets going for \$5 each, five for \$20, or a book of 15 for \$50.

There is a second prize of a barbecue donated by Parkside Home Hardware

Building Centre, and organizers are also looking at potentially adding an early bird prize as well.

The draw will be Sept. 27 at 3 p.m. as part of



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Katie Friesen and Lydia Zacharias made this quilt to be the prize of the Winkler MCC Thrift Store's 50th anniversary raffle. Also up for grabs is a barbecue donated by Parkside Home Hardware.

three days of celebration planned for the store.

"We have all kinds of things planned for Sept. 25-27 because Sept. 25 in 1974 was the date that 15 ladies got together for a meeting ... that was the inception of this store as a result of that meeting," noted Reimer. "There will be special things happening throughout the store.

"We're going to have a sale, and people can pick their discount," added Warms. "They can pull a discount ticket, and it's going to be anywhere between 10 and 50 per cent ... on items under \$100."

"There will be people selling raffle tickets, including board members, but there will tickets sold here at MCC

in the furniture area. The main sales will probably happen here," noted Reimer. "We've set a fairly ambitious goal for this year ... we want to send half a million [dollars] to MCC ... this is going to help to meet that goal."

Also connected to 2024 being the anniversary year was a recent volunteer appreciation event where a free lunch was provided for the the store's hundreds of volunteers over three days, and there was also a dinner at Central Station Community Centre.

"There is a special volunteer appreciation week that is done nationally," noted board member Don Klassen. "It was great. I think it was very well received by everyone."



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## > MASSAGE-A-THON, FROM PG. 3

Menzies sees the involvement of students at the centre as very much being a win-win scenario for everyone.

"The patients are so good with their understanding, knowing that these students are going to be doing their training," she said. "They get to learn so much more than just working on each other at the college ... you don't see the dysfunctions that they would maybe have in a clinic setting."

"It keeps me on the ball too," Menzies added. "They've got some pretty good questions ... it keeps me on top of my knowledge."

"It was such a humbling experience to be able to participate in this event," noted Jessica Kraemer, a massage therapy student from Wellington College. "It feels great to know we can make a positive difference in our own community. It is the least we could do to show our gratitude to the people who support us as massage students. There are so many patients out there with different conditions who suffer in pain every single day. Just being able to relieve some of that is so rewarding."

Representing South Central Cancer Resource, board member Jack Pethybridge said they were very appreciative of the support.

"Any money that we get, we have to fundraiser ourselves," he noted. "Every little bit we get really helps us because since COVID there's been more and more patients that we see every year or people that we can help."

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# PCAN hosts first community conversation

By Lorne Stelmach

An evening of dialogue around climate change brought an encouraging response for the organization behind it.

The Pembina Climate Action Network (PCAN) held its first community conversation last Tuesday in Morden. There were about 30 people on hand to hear about the organization and share their thoughts.

"It tells me that people are at least interested in talking about it, and I think that is really hopeful," said co-chairperson Sandy Plett. "Conversation is the gateway. We have to start talking before we can start doing anything."

PCAN grew from discussions last fall about what could be done here at the community level about climate change. The organization took shape early this year, modelled somewhat after the like-minded Altona Community Action Network.

PCAN's goal is to help advance the conversation around climate change and to build increased awareness at the local level, so having an evening for dialogue seemed to be a good starting point, Plett said.

"In my view, there can be a progression of becoming conversant and learning to talk about these things and these polarizing things and we can start to make plans together," she said.

"We called it Pembina because we didn't want it to just be Morden," she added. "Even to do a Google search

maybe for this region and find something that has the word climate in it would be important for people who are looking for allies to talk about climate ... when I moved here, I looked for groups, and I couldn't find anything."

Plett sees it as a grassroots effort to take action in addressing something that can be very overwhelming.

"What we need in the world and in the community and in the region, at all levels, is people to stop thinking about just what can they do and think about what we can do," she said. "We have way more potential for change if we work together."

"This is about finding partners and finding the passions and the things that we care about ... and find people who want to work at that together," she continued. "Becoming more informed and more educated about it will help us to move this out of little niche conversations and into the workplaces and into our family circles, our friends."

The group discussions at the gathering last week offered a number of questions for people to consider:

- What about climate change keeps you up at night?
- What gives you hope?
- If you could do anything to adapt to or mitigate climate change, what would you do?
- What barriers and resistance do you see to addressing climate change?
- What alternatives and solutions would you like to see folks try in our



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

A few dozen people came out to learn more about the Pembina Climate Action Network (PCAN) at its first community conversation last week. Right: Co-president Sandy Plett.



area?

In the end, Plett hoped the evening might get more people to join them for their monthly meetings or at least register for their newsletter to stay informed about what's happening in the area.

"It's a chance to connect people with actions," she said. "The other hope from an evening like this is just for people to see each other and to connect."

In the meantime, PCAN may have a few projects already in the works after having been contacted by the Discovery Nature Sanctuary about volunteers and helping with the development of pollinator gardens as

well as perhaps an invasive species removal project at the lake. In the immediate future, they will also be at next month's Arbor Day event in Morden.

"There are people contacting us and saying, 'What about this?' So that is exciting to me," said Plett. "We are dreaming about what we will do then after summer and how the group can dig into different kinds of work."

# Morris council presents \$5.2M financial plan

By Siobhan Maas

Morris town council presented their 2024 financial plan to the public on May 9. The \$5.2 million budget is 4.37 per cent higher than that of last year.

Mayor Scott Crick commented that "it ended up being a challenging year for budgeting" because several "time sensitive projects came together at the same time." These included replacement of the town's main water distribution plant, infrastructure for the new child care facility on the south end of Morris, and the addition of an accessibility ramp to the community pool.

"[The town] had limited control over the timelines once the commitments were made," the mayor noted.

Crick assured that "as a council, we

have done what we can to minimize the inflationary increases we've seen since 2021 to tax payers, [but] the cost of these major capital projects has given us less flexibility in 2024."

Mill rates, the amount of tax paid per dollar of property assessment value, increased 1.73 mills to 26.3. Residential and commercial properties will both see a seven per cent tax increase, along with a 1.3 per cent and 7.2 per cent school tax increase, respectively.

"For someone with a \$200,000 home, this should impact them at \$20/month or less," Crick noted.

Proposed expenditures for Morris in 2024 include a four per cent increase to protective services, a 10 per cent increase for economic development, and an almost 200 per cent jump in fiscal service. Fiscal services cover all

capital expenditures made annually by the town, plus all debt coverage. The flow-through of 100 per cent coverage of funds from the province for the new child care facility has artificially caused the jump in the fiscal services fund.

Transfers to reserves and capital purchases funded by reserves will fall by 27 per cent and 48 per cent, respectively.

In order to balance the proposed expenses, council will be withdrawing just over \$860,000 from reserves. However, since 2019, the town has been able to add \$1.1 million to the reserves fund, keeping in mind value-for-money for all activities in recent years. Several ambitious projects were unable to go ahead as planned, with monies remaining in reserve.

"Therefore, we are seeing the use of some reserves this year as we 'catch up' on a number of projects, including the zero entry of the pool (for which we had just under 40 per cent put aside in reserves), the new Town Community Plan, and a mandatory update to our zoning bylaw," explained Crick. "Unlike past reviews, we're ensuring that the work is being done fully, and that we leave a clear and inspirational plan for the community, and a development-friendly zoning by-law with provision to help with Main Street revitalization."

Crick added, "Where we do see a shift from 2023 is how funds are being spent. In 2023, we had major spends in deferred roadwork, which was ful-

Continued on page 7



# The Voice



**PUBLISHER**  
Lana Meier



**MARKETING & PROMOTIONS**  
Brett Mitchell



**EDITOR**  
Ashleigh Viveiros



**REPORTER**  
Lorne Stelmach



**REPORTER**  
Lori Penner



**REPORTER**  
Siobhan Maas



**SALES**  
Gwen Dyck



**PRODUCTION**  
Nicole Kapusta



**PRODUCTION**  
Tara Gionet



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Christy Brown

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# get heard

EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

• DON'T MIND THE MESS

## Parenting isn't for the faint-hearted

**P**arenting isn't for the faint-hearted. In fact, if we got a glimpse into the future, most of us would have just bought a poodle long before our arms ever developed that ache for something tiny to cuddle.

But thankfully, we aren't psychics or fortune tellers. The world would be underpopulated if we were allowed, just for a minute, to feel the unique level of raw vulnerability and fatigue that only parenthood brings.

We have to pass a test to drive a car or graduate from school, but there's no license or diploma for the biggest task in the world: parenthood. Maybe there should be, but who would get a passing grade? The wealthy? The most educated or creative? The best gene pool?

The consequences of that kind of standard would be unthinkable.

So, the way it stands, most of us enter this important role as green as a Christmas tree.

All we can do is hope that we'll learn as we go, and it's as wonderful and dreamy as we think it is.

I remember visiting a restaurant with my sisters a number of years ago, when we heard the irresistible

cry of a newborn baby. Our baby radar clicked on instantly.

To a woman, that tiny wail was like a siren call or like the heady scent of some kind of nectar that just draws you in. Which is probably part of the reason I had six babies.

I followed the sound of the crying and found a young girl seated with her parents, cradling a tiny, blanket-ed bundle in her arms. I asked if I could just take a peek at her baby. She

smiled in a strange, secretive kind of way, and pulled back the blanket.

I gasped in horror when I saw two plastic eyes staring back at me. The "mama" chuckled a bit, and explained that this baby was actually a doll, with electronics that made it cry when it was hungry or needed a diaper change.

Continued on page 7

## Letters

### SHOW ME THE LIGHT

Please show me the light if you can. Canada in the world accounts for 1.6 per cent of all greenhouse gases. Elimination of Canada would result in zero per cent in saving the world from total anarchy as the climate pundits claim we are heading into.

We are spending billions on trying, as Canadian politicians would have you think, from solely saving the planet from total annihilation. China on the other hand is plowing ahead with their plan. Their Paris Accord commitment is to stop their increase in greenhouse gas emissions by 2035! Noble of them to plan to stop 11 years from now.

Meanwhile, we're on the hook for carbon taxes that do nothing but add to our cost of living. And will do nothing to reduce emissions

globally.

More than one billion people on earth suffer from extreme poverty and look forward to a day when they aren't hungry. Do you think these people give a rat's butt about global warming? They're just looking for a solid meal and have nothing on their mind but rising up. That will take cheap and plentiful energy and if you think they're not going to use it to get ahead you're dreaming.

I agree, we should do everything we can to contribute, but do we throw the baby out with the bath water? Humans are much better at adaptation than mitigation. Let's put our emphasis on that and stop this crazy "only we can save the world" BS ... 'cause we can't even make a difference!

**Bill Potter,**  
Morden

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**NEWS DESK:**

Ashleigh Viveiros Editor  
204-332-3456 news@winklermordenvoice.ca

Lorne Stelmach Reporter  
204-823-2655 lstelmach@winklermordenvoice.ca

**MAILING ADDRESS:**

**Winkler Morden Voice**  
Box 39, Stonewall, MB R0C 2Z0

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# CFDC hosts museum reps from across North America

By Lorne Stelmach

Morden played host last week to around 70 members of an international palaeontology organization.

The talking points at the annual meeting of the Association for Materials and Methods for Palaeontology would not have been of much interest to the general public, but it was important to the curators and lab technicians who came mostly from across the United States but also further afield.

"It's very specialized," said vice-president Marilyn Fox, who is connected to the Yale Peabody Museum. "People probably would be very bored with workshops on adhesives ... but it helps us to take better care of our specimens."

"It's all very technical," agreed Adolfo Cuetara, executive director of the host Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre. "It's built around a high level of fossil preparation. There are people working in the main museums of North America.

"The members are technicians and curators from museums and universities internationally, not only in the United States and Canada but members from all over the world," he noted. "So we have here in Mor-

den a selection of the best technicians and curators in palaeontology from around North America."

The week included a wide variety of presentations and workshops, and it started with a field trip to the escarpment north and west of Morden then concluded with a field trip to Winnipeg that included a visit to the Manitoba Museum.

"We stopped at the main sites that we know to show the geology of the Manitoba escarpment and where our fossils come from," said Cuetara.

He recognized that there were multiple benefits for the attendees.

"It's not only about teaching but more about brainstorming and collaboration between the members to discuss things like the best practices."

Fox echoed that sentiment.

"We're a small group of people from throughout the world," she said. "Mostly in our labs, there's maybe one or two people, so we tried to form this group to kind of share ideas and improve standards throughout the field.

"We get together, and we talk about how we do things, different methods and different materials that we use," she continued. "So we have lots of conversations about glue."

They also very much appreciated



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

From left: CFDC executive director Adolfo Cuetara with Association for Materials and Methods for Palaeontology president Gregory Brown and vice-president Marilyn Fox.

coming to a place like Morden.

"We like to go to smaller places. It's very welcoming, and it's kind of less pressure than a big city," said Fox, who also noted the importance of the CFDC. "We were very excited to come here ... I was really excited to see the collection.

"We're really interested in seeing how other museums do things, and how can we all work together to improve the standards for this kind of field," she said. "People have been telling me other researchers come here from all over the world ... if you have good fossils, people will travel from far and wide to do research on them."

Cuetara was pleased to have the opportunity for the CFDC to play host.

"The annual meetings normally are in big cities ... we are talking about big museums with big facilities, so the fact that they selected Morden shows they believe that Morden is an important location," he said. "It's recognizing the importance of the collection of the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre.

"This is huge for us, and it's also the impact of this being in Morden with 70 people spending a whole week here. We are filling up the hotels and restaurants," he added. "We want to do something like this more often ... we can contribute to the community."

## > MORRIS BUDGET, FROM PG. 5

ly funded from saved gas tax money."

Completed 2023 projects included equipment renewal for both the public works and fire department, repaving of Charles Ave West, and a mower purchase for the recreation department.

"In 2024, we have more modest road plans, but are now spending \$355K more on the pool, which is only partially funded from savings and grants," said Crick. "We are also seeing the borrowing cost

for the industrial park going up, mainly as we cannot budget around property sales until they are contracted/assured. This amount will come down with any sales made during the year. And as mentioned, we now have additional borrowing for the water distribution plant."

Additional projects for 2024 include appliance upgrades and truck purchases for both public works and the fire department and asphalt overlay on the baseball diamond road, among others.

The town plans to contribute financially to the community by awarding monies and grants to the Valley Ag Society, Riverview Golf & Country Club, the community gardens, Red River Valley Food Bank, and Morris Area Senior Services, to name a few.

Crick is optimistic as council looks towards 2025's budget.

"The 2024 budget is somewhat atypical due to the timing and size

of multiple projects occurring, [but] council believes [2025] will be much less challenging due to the completion of a number of projects, and that most 'catch up' will have happened in 2024. Although we cannot predict things fully at this time, council's goal will be to hold or reduce the amount of tax residents and businesses pay in 2025."

## > PENNER, FROM PG. 6

"It's part of our Life Studies class," the teenage girl explained. "It's supposed to show us how much work it is to care for a real baby."

The computer chip inside the doll recorded exactly how much care and attention the baby received, or if it was neglected.

"That must impact your social life a bit," I chuckled.

"Not really. My little sister babysits a lot." Another life lesson down the drain, I thought.

To be fair, the joy and anguish of real parenting isn't something you can program into an animated doll.

Unless there's one that takes your car past curfew, screams like a banshee for candy, can hug you tight enough to forget every sleepless night, or melts your heart with a drawing that says, "I love mommy" for your fridge door.

We learn that sharpest words can come from a mouth full of braces, and the sweetest smiles in the world come without teeth.

Real parenting is hard because our heart is at stake, not our report card. We give our energy, time, financial security, and basically our lives for this

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

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Send your letters to us by e-mail at [news@winklermordenvoice.ca](mailto:news@winklermordenvoice.ca).



# FIINN takes the stage at Manitou Opera House June 1

By Lorne Stelmach

There is a family dynamic in play when the Manitoba musical group FIINN takes to the stage.

The band is built around three brothers —Daniel, John and Matt Baron—who have taken their unique friendship and musical talents to craft one of the best musical acts to come out of the prairies in recent years.

As they prepared for a Saturday, June 1 gig at the Manitou Opera House with local opening act Lakes and Pines, they reflected on how they navigate their relationship while collaborating on music.

“As brothers do, we weren’t always really the best of friends, but eventually, through music, we developed an amazing rapport of writing and working together,” said John. “That’s probably my favourite thing to do: write music with Dan and Matt.”

“I don’t think we have a rivalry because that would make three different bands then,” said Matt “We’re able to be honest with each other in the creative process and we’re on the same page enough that we understand each other’s ideas.”

“We take our sibling rivalries out on the soccer field,” he added.

The double bill featuring Lakes and Pines and FIINN will be an opportunity to take in two up-and-coming bands in the alt-rock/indie-rock scene in Manitoba.

Lakes and Pines released their first full-length album *Peace Comes at Last* in 2017. Its 11 tracks showcase dynamic compositions that delve into themes of nature and the human condition. Each song intertwines acoustic roots with ambient guitars, varied rhythms and a prominent string section.

FIINN meanwhile also features Charlotte Friesen and Michael Dunn alongside the Baron brothers, and the five of them together create haunting melodies, clever rhythms, and unique soundscapes.

FIINN was initially formed in 2014 when it put out a folk-inspired EP. In 2016, they changed musical direction and decided to write music that they enjoyed playing, not particularly paying attention to a specific genre. This inspired their EP *Godsend* in 2017 and then later the full-length album *Try Me* in 2021.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

FIINN, featuring siblings Daniel, John, and Matt Baron alongside Charlotte Friesen and Michael Dunn, perform in Manitou next month.

Now FIINN are excited to be releasing the *Already Gone* album this coming fall with a collection of songs written with some vulnerability in mind.

Some of the biggest influences in FIINN’s music come from another local band, Royal Canoe, but they have a wide variety of musical influences behind their sound.

“Most of our EP songs are riddled with existential metaphors, historical references and references to landmarks such as the infamous Red River,” noted Daniel, who added that a change was in the works for *Try Me* with a shift in focus to writing music that reflected personal experience. That album’s songs were written pri-

or to COVID-19’s appearance in the world.

“It wasn’t really by design the album has that theme, it just came together that way,” said Matt. “A lot of the songs cover that internal monologue.

“These are really fun songs to hear live, if you can imagine, and really fun to play,” he concluded.

Proceeds from the Manitou show will go towards the maintenance and upkeep of the opera house.

The concert begins at 7 p.m. The doors and cash bar open at 6 p.m.

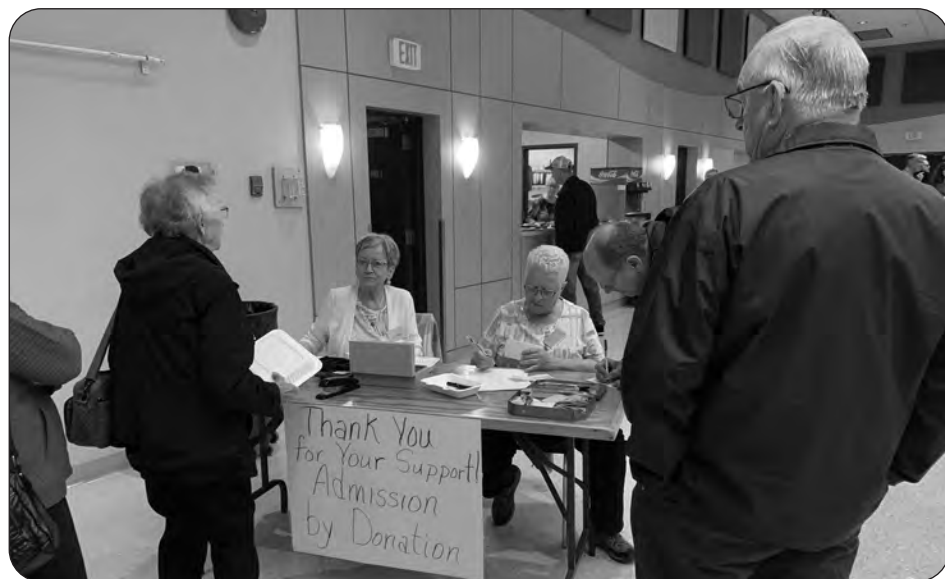
Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for 17 and under. You can call or text 204-242-4287 for tickets.



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

The Altona Health Care Auxiliary raised about \$23,000 at their Taco Buffet Fundraiser on May 2 at the Rhineland Pioneer Centre. “This far exceeded our expectations, and we are deeply grateful to the community for their support,” said board president Elaine Friesen, thanking the event’s sponsors as well. All of the proceeds are going towards the purchase of 16 ceiling lifts and two specialized wheelchairs for the Altona Community Memorial Health Centre. “Our fundraising goal is \$35,000, and this is a great start,” Friesen noted. Donations can be sent to Altona Health Care Auxiliary, Box 660, Altona, MB, ROG OBO

## Auxiliary supper raises \$23K for Altona hospital



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What's *Your* story?



# getinformed

## Run & Walk to Remember raises over \$15,000

By Lori Penner

The Curtis Klassen Memorial Fund (CKMF) enjoyed a record turnout at last Saturday's Run & Walk to Remember.

Over 180 people participated in the 5k and 10k events, which co-organizer Eric Hildebrand says is a big jump from last year's numbers.

"It's just fantastic to see this kind of increase from previous years. I can't be sure, but I have a feeling that the release of the documentary *Altona* might have played a part in encouraging more people to get on board. It brought back a lot of awareness about what took place, and how this event came to be."

The weather was balmy and beautiful as participants made their way down the trails and roadways in the community, past crowds of cheering fans, many ringing cowbells and holding signs.

"There was a slight breeze, which was great for the runners," Hildebrand notes.

They were from all walks of life, from dedicated athletes and families with strollers to seniors, youngsters, and groups walking or running together for a cause.

At the end of the day, everyone gathered back at the Altona Centennial Park for a barbecue supplied by Sun Valley Co-op, with bouncers on hand to occupy the little ones.

"We're very thankful for their support this year, and over all the years," Hildebrand says. "As a committee, we are extremely grateful for the community support we receive for this event, from the phenomenal support from local businesses, as well as our volunteers. We couldn't host this community event/fundraiser without everyone involved."

Between registrations and donations, Saturday's fundraiser generated just over \$15,000. This pushed the CKMF to surpass a total of \$100,000 raised over the last decade and re-

vested back into the community.

A flow-through fund of the Altona Community Foundation, the CKMF was established by a group of Klassen's friends. It supports young athletes in the Altona area by helping to fill the needs of grassroots sports organizations and even a few community projects.

This year, they donated funds to the Altona Youth Soccer Program to allow them to purchase a set of jerseys for another team.

"By us being able to facilitate that, they can keep their registration fees affordable," Hildebrand says.

"Every cent that we bring in, we put it right back into the community," he adds. "Wherever there are needs, we are eager and excited to be part of those needs."

Smaller donations go out to other groups such as Altona Minor Baseball, who are helping some families with registration fees.

Community-based events and projects are also included in their giving, such as the play structure at the Centennial Park and the Altona Memory Garden.

The CKMF also offers two annual high school scholarships at W.C. Miller Collegiate for students pursuing post-secondary education with some interest in sports.



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER

The 2024 Curtis Klassen Memorial Fund Run & Walk to Remember last weekend raised over \$15,000 for local projects.

"We're always looking for local needs, and we encourage people to come forward with their asks," Hildebrand says. "We want to be a

place where people can look for support."



Oakview Golf & Country Club executive have been working on replacing the aged wooden bridge with a state of the art steel bridge for sometime on hole #7.

With the generous support of Elmer's Mfg, Klassen Repair, LET Construction, Loadline Inc and Rosenort Credit Union, we were able to complete the project.

Thank you everyone for your support.

**Oakview Golf & Country Club Executive**



L to R Richard Klassen, Steve Friesen - Loadline, Les Harder- LET, Matt Hildebrand- Elmer's Mfg, Ernie Klassen- Klassen Repair, Sam Giesbrecht, Vern Gevers - Rosenort Credit Union, Glen Wiebe- Oakview executive, Andrew Penner- Grounds Superintendent



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# A stroll through nature

The trail at Lake Minnewasta was the setting last Wednesday evening for one of the Mental Health Week activities in Morden. Brooke Mos led a group on a nature photo walk as part of the programs aimed at promoting mental health awareness and personal well-being through relaxation, fitness and creativity. Other activities included kids zumba, slow flow yoga, pilates, public skating, and a paint night.

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

## National **POLICE** Week

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### Canada's police system is one-of-a-kind



contract policing with the RCMP. Provincial police officers enforce both provincial laws and regulations, as well as federal laws within their jurisdiction.

#### 3. Municipal police

At the municipal level, police services are provided by local law enforcement agencies. These agencies are responsible for policing within specific cities, towns or municipalities. Officers at this level handle various duties, including responding to emergency calls, conducting investigations and patrolling neighbourhoods to ensure public safety.

During National Police Week, from May 12 to 18, educate yourself on how the police operate in your area and how they work collaboratively to ensure the safety and security of Canadians across the country.

Did you know that Canada has a policing system that's unique in the world? There are three distinct policing levels: municipal, provincial and federal. Each level is crucial in maintaining law and order within the country.

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#### 2. Provincial police

Provincial police services operate at the regional level, providing law enforcement in specific provinces or territories. While some provinces have dedicated police forces, such as the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) or the Sûreté du Québec in Quebec, others rely on

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# Cutting the ribbon on Two Sparrows Greenhouse

By Lori Penner

Two Sparrows Greenhouse in Altona officially opened their doors on May 11.

Owner Nicole Wood said she is overwhelmed by the community response and is looking forward to a busy and productive summer.

“Thank you to this beautiful community for embracing us and thank you to my staff,” she said. “Two Sparrows’ success is truly a reflection of all the hours of hard work you have put in. The fact that we’re still smiling and laughing at the end of the day speaks volumes.

“Thank you, also, to my wonderful family for believing in me and supporting me on this crazy ride. For putting up with my long hours away from home in this very busy season. I couldn’t do this without you.”

The celebration included reflections and congratulations from Altona Mayor Harv Schroeder, Municipality of Rhineland Reeve Don Wiebe, Borderland MLA Josh Guenter, and MP for Portage-Lisgar Branden Leslie.

“I believe you’ve worked tirelessly to get to this day, and it’s good to see our young entrepreneurs start new businesses in our community,” Schro-

eder said. “We appreciate your efforts here, and what you’re doing. I look forward to the wonderful contributions that Two Sparrows Greenhouse will bring to our community.”

Borderland MLA Josh Guenter noted the number of grand opening events he’s already attended in Altona this year, and that he’s excited to see this business join them.

“Altona is growing, literally, with all these plants and people excited to grow their gardens. I wish Nicole all the best in her endeavours here, and I know the best is yet to come. Congratulations on all the hard work and the effort that you, your family and your team have put in.”

The ribbon was cut by Wood, a seasoned nurse turned passionate gardener and entrepreneur,

“Never say never,” she said. “I was never going to be a nurse. I’ve been a nurse for over 16 years. I never imagined myself as a business owner, and yet here I am. Today we celebrate our second season. Part of the vision for Two Sparrows is that it be a place where everyone feels welcome.”

She noted that whether you’re an experienced gardener or a beginner, this is the place to share knowledge. The motto on their sign—“Learning, Shar-



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

Local dignitaries joined Two Sparrows Greenhouse staff in cutting the ribbon on the Altona business on Saturday.

ing and Growing Together”—reflects that vision.

“Last week we hosted a large group from Regional Connections for the English Café evening. And in a couple of weeks, we have a group from the Buffalo Apartments coming for a workshop on creating flower arrangements in pots,” Wood shared. “We are not just growing plants; we are growing a community.”

The one-stop plant and garden shop, located on 2nd St. NE, already enjoyed a huge response from the community when they opened two temporary structures last year, which gave them the positive sign they needed for the expanded journey ahead.

Wood said it was always their plan

to expand.

“We knew we had to put up something quick to get our toe into this market that we felt there was a niche for, so the two greenhouses that we operated last year were a quick, economical way to start. And just to get a feel for what the community needs would be. We completed the construction over the winter, and here we are.”

The added height of the newer structure provides a feeling of airiness and space and allows them to offer more varieties.

“We have vegetables and blooms of all kinds, perennials, annuals, baskets, trees and shrubs, and our pricing is competitive,” said Wood.

## > CLEANATHON, FROM PG. 2

kids were so enthusiastic getting out there to go pick up big and little scraps of garbage. They’re always proud of what they find and we’re so proud of the effort they put out there. The kids who participated in the fundraising never cease to amaze us. There were kids who, on the first day of canvassing, had already gathered a sheet of 21 names, and then they just went out there for more.”

He said it’s a great way for the students to raise awareness about what Blue Sky Opportunities does for individuals with disabilities and for the community at large.

“We really appreciate that through this process, we also get a tour of the facility, so the kids can see firsthand what it is that they do, so that helps motivate them even more.”

After a full afternoon of foraging for trash, the students headed back to school to enjoy a hot dog, drink and ice cream treat sup-

plied by Blue Sky.

“They can just relax and look back on all their hard work,” said Sawatzky. “They make us proud, year after year.”

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PHOTOS BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

Left: At the expo last week, HEART co-founder and dive team member Paul Maendel and his son Kalen showcased some of the remote operated vehicles used during rescues. Above: A group of visitors proudly sporting their fireman's hats.

# Altona hosts Emergency Preparedness Expo

By Lori Penner

Residents had a chance to chat with emergency responders and check out their equipment at the second annual Altona/Rhineland Emergency Preparedness Expo on May 9.

Joining members of Altona's public works department, police service, and Altona/Rhineland Emergency Ser-

vices this time around was the Plum Coulee Fire Department, Rhineland public works, the Hutterian Emergency Aquatic Response Team (HEART), Manitoba Emergency Measures Organization, the Red Cross and RCMP.

Each organization set up at the Sunflower Gardens arena, including their response vehicles, ready to share the role they play in emergency response.

The recovery vehicles used by the HEART team was a big draw at the event. Visitors were able to climb aboard the rescue boat and check out the sonar equipment used during recovery missions. The remote operated vehicles, for example, allows their teams to search beyond 300 meters.

Every year, water claims countless victims, many of which are never recovered, leaving behind unanswered questions and heartache. HEART specializes in finding and recovering these drowning victims, using state-of-the-art equipment and a highly-trained crew.

As a non-profit, they rely heavily on sponsorship and donations to provide the necessary training and equipment

required to do the job to the best of their abilities and be able to offer their services for free.

Co-founder and dive team member Paul Maendel says, "It's a mission to the living to show love. We want to show families that the person they lost isn't just a number. They are special and as much as we can, these families become part of our family. We can't promise miracles, but we can bring them some closure."

Chief Greg Zimmerman from the Altona Fire Department was on hand to give tours of their trucks and hand out free plastic fire helmets, just for fun.

Continued on page 13

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201

CENTRE AVE

# Bike safety course for kids at Morris Multiplex Thursday

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Maas Driver Training and the Morris Area Recreation Commission are teaming up with Manitoba Public Insurance to host a bike safety course this week.

MPI instructors will be at the Morris Multiplex on Thursday, May 16 from 5-6:30 p.m. to walk kids through proper helmet use, safe biking habits, how to interact with vehicles, and the use of hand signals. An obstacle course will also be set up for kids to navigate.

Organizer Siobhan Maas says concerns have been raised of late about youth cycling unsafely around town. "They're on the road where they shouldn't be, or they're not wearing

their helmets," she says, "and I can see how that impacts drivers, especially new drivers ... it's a hazard."

"I guess this is the flip side of being able to teach driver's education," Mass reflects. "Having other road users, cyclists and pedestrians, knowing how to move safely on a roadway as well."

Any community can invite MPI to hold one of these safety courses, Maas notes, which are offered to participants free of charge.

Advance registration is appreciated, though same-day walk ups will be accommodated, space allowing. This session is aimed at kids age 5-12.

For more information, contact Maas at 204-232-3724.





Left: Cpl. Mark Legal described the various features of the Altona Police Service's electric bike. Right: Fire Chief Greg Zimmerman offers a little visitor a fireman's hat, and some helpful preparedness information for her mother.

PHOTOS BY LORI PENNER/VOICE



> EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS EXPO, FROM PG. 12

"People pay a lot of money for this equipment, so it's good to let them see it. We do have multiple equipment, and in the event of a disaster such as a tornado, we are capable. For example, we have the heavy-duty struts that are capable of holding up parts of collapsed houses, to enable us to do a search."

Visitors were also able to tour the mobile command centre used by the Manitoba Emergency Measures Orga-

nization during a disaster.

"We had great representation for this event. It takes some effort to get everything together, but this was a great venue for it," said Perry Batchelor, Altona/Rhineland municipal emergency coordinator. "The point, of course, was to show the community what kind of resources come together in the event of a disaster."

The event enjoyed a good turnout. Visitors were able to meet and chat

with responders and gain information from a variety of displays. They also learned the importance of having a 72-hour emergency kit at the ready in their homes.

It's a message that Batchelor emphasizes often.

"Those first 72 hours are on you, so you have to be prepared to manage your household, your family for 72 hours. If there's no power, food or water, how are you going to survive until emergency responders arrive?"

Emergency supplies include canned

goods, a manual can opener, candles, and a battery-operated radio, to name a few.

Residents of Altona and the Municipality of Rhineland were also able to register for each community's Connect service. The free emergency notification system sends alerts to your email, cell phone, or landline.

"People who aren't signed up, please do," urged Batchelor "It's fairly new, but we need to get those numbers up, in Altona and Rhineland. It's the best way for us to communicate with you."



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# getinformed

## Sprucing up Altona's Gallery in the Park

By Lori Penner

Altona's Gallery in the Park recently received some much-needed repairs, as part of a project to upgrade the building.

"They're pretty much done with the roof now, as per schedule," says Altona recreation services manager Eric Hildebrand. "They replaced the cedar shakes. When they removed the original product, there was some wood that also needed to be replaced. So, they added a moisture barrier, and a metal roof that has a cedar shake appearance."

He says they opted to use this instead of actual cedar shakes, for lower maintenance.

"Cedar shakes are wonderful, but we went with a product that's essentially maintenance free. They look just like shakes, but they won't split or rot. This product gives you the aesthetic and can be locked on all four sides for exceptional watertightness. We won't have any uplift caused by high winds or rains. It's a nice product."

The gallery will also be getting new siding this fall.

"We're going through a few different options. Whether that's a steel siding with a woodgrain appearance, an engineered wood product, or a fiber cement board. We're just waiting for some visual samples to come in, to determine what colours would work well from the different product lines, with the roofing product that's in place now."

There are a bunch of intricate wood details that will be done with a maintenance-free PVC product that can resemble wood and cut to any shape as needed, to honour the detailing

that gives the building that historical charm.

The structure was built in 1902. Being two and a half stories tall, with no tall surrounding trees for shelter, Hildebrand says the building really takes a beating from the elements.

"It's pretty exposed to the strong winds and the sunlight. We're looking at a product right now that would give it 25-30 more years, maintenance

**"IT'S A BEAUTIFUL ASSET TO THE COMMUNITY, AND A REAL DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH."**



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

Altona's Gallery in the Park has a new roof and is getting new siding this summer.

free, and that product will only arrive in late summer or fall. We want to make sure it's something the committee is happy with, that fits the budget, gives the aesthetics, and provides the

charm."

While it would have been nice for the gallery's facelift to be complete by its season opening in June, Hildebrand says the goal was never to have both the roof and siding completed together.

"The goal was

to finish the roofing prior to the opening of the season, enjoy the season as it is over the summer, and continue the renovations in fall. The siding will likely not take as long as the shingles, where they had to deal with all the various pitches and peaks. It all depends on how much trim work they find, and how much is exposed when they start to remove some of the older product. I'm not sure how much of it is original. A lot of the wood was recreated when the building was renovated many years ago."

The plan, he says, is for this to be a long-term solution.

"We're exploring a low maintenance product that still provides the charm and that historical look. It's a beautiful asset to the community, and a real diamond in the rough."

### GROW MORRIS PUBLIC NOTICE

What: Open House, Town of Morris Development Plan By-law 03-24  
When: Tuesday May 28, 2024 at 6:00pm-8:00pm  
Where: North Hall, Morris Multiplex, 380 Stampede Grounds, Morris, Manitoba  
Website: [www.mrichardassociates.ca/growmorris](http://www.mrichardassociates.ca/growmorris)

Join us for this come-and-go session and share your thoughts on *Grow Morris*, a Comprehensive Community Plan for the Town of Morris.

This Plan will guide future land use and development in the Town. It provides clear policies for land use and zoning, transportation and parking, pedestrian mobility and streetscape improvements within the municipality.

A copy of the Plan can be found on our project website. For more information please visit [www.mrichardassociates.ca/growmorris](http://www.mrichardassociates.ca/growmorris) or contact us below.

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# Your FARM



## From Latin dance to farming: a tale of agricultural passion

By Lori Penner

In a surprising turn of events, Cheryl Jolly-Nagel traded her dance shoes for work boots, leaving behind a thriving career as a Latin dance instructor at Club Med to embark on a new journey in agriculture, much to



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE  
Cheryl Jolly-Nagel believes it's time to share the good stories about farming, and educate the public on what the modern farmer actually does.

the shock of her friends and family. Reflecting on that decision more than two decades later, Jolly-Nagel, formerly the president of the Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association, said, "I left a dream job, and when I fell in love with agriculture, I found my other dream job. I loved what I was doing, but it was a personal challenge to find my place on the farm." Little did she know that her encounter with her high school sweetheart and her newfound love for agricul-

ture would redefine her career trajectory. Today, alongside her husband David, Jolly-Nagel manages a bustling family farm in Mossbank, Saskatchewan. But her contributions to the agricultural world don't end there. She has become a prominent voice in the industry, hosting Farm Show TV and engaging audiences across the country on various agriculture-related topics. However, Jolly-Nagel's journey hasn't been without its hurdles. She

recalls a time when morale among producers was low, and the agricultural industry faced skepticism and disinterest from the public. "When I got into agriculture, I didn't know that farmers are their own worst enemy. At that time, I realized it wasn't the general population losing enthusiasm for the agricultural industry, it was the farmers themselves." "Newspapers shared nothing but doom and gloom financial projec-

Continued on page 16



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# Your FARM



## “Start sharing stories about life on the farm”

From Pg. 15

tions. There were no jobs and no young people who wanted to be part of it. When I graduated, farming was not a popular career choice. And yet, there I was, massively gung-ho to join the ranks of the farming crew.”

Over the next 20 years, agricultural policy became her focus.

“I should have known that was going to be my fate because I always loved to argue. I will forever be in debt to the Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association that welcomed me to that table with zero experience. They let me cut my teeth on the policy issues that we were working so hard at, and represent that organization. I had the enthusiasm they needed.”

Over the years, Jolly-Nagel has tirelessly advocated for the industry, emphasizing the importance of promoting its practices. She highlights the need to bridge the gap between farmers and the public, dispelling misconceptions and building trust through open dialogue and shared values.

She admits that she grossly underestimated the importance of building relationships with the public and showing them how much farmers truly care about the land and the environment and the safety of our food system.

“I took for granted that because my family has been farming some of the same land for more than 100 years, that was enough to gain their trust. We thought we were always going to have their trust. And we just walked out

of the tractor one day and wondered why doesn't anybody trust us? And we didn't realize that we needed to be building a relationship with the public first.”

So much of the confusion stems from public perception. Or rather, misconception.

“Most consumers picture farms as that little red barn and farming practices from 50 years ago. And we have not done enough of the effort to bring them back up to the present day. Agriculture has gone through tremendous technological change. From precision planting to drone technology. It's the most scientifically advanced industry on the globe. The public doesn't know how we're farming, but even more, they don't know who is farming.”

Misinformation runs rampant, she says.

“We haven't done a good job explaining not only what we do in agriculture, but who is doing it. We just never took a lot of time to fill in that gap.

“Canadians are now two generations removed from the family farm. From having relatives on the farm, to losing the common sense of how food is grown. If they're only getting their information online, what are they finding? It's not good. If they look up meat, it's bad. GMOs are the worst. Pesticides. Sugar is bad. Chemicals are bad. Everything they read online about farming is bad.”

How do we change it? Sharing your values, Jolly-Nagel says, is three to five times more effective with building trust than sharing scientific facts and expertise.

“We don't take a minute during the day to think about the values that are behind every decision we make on the

farm. I would suggest if you're using fungicides, and you don't know why, you shouldn't use them. If you really haven't taken a minute about why you use pesticides and why choose to grow genetically modified canola, then maybe that privilege won't be there forever. And I realized if I don't really know why I need access to fertilizer, that privilege can go away real fast.”

When those horror stories hit the media, producers are forced to react to them.

Jolly-Nagel says farmers need to get to a place where they can promote the industry rather than always being on the defence.

“Start sharing stories about life on the farm. I spend much of my time speaking to an urban audience and sharing the good news stories and I encourage you to do the same.”

By sharing stories of life on the farm and championing the values that guide their decisions, Jolly-Nagel believes they can shape a brighter future for agriculture and inspire the next generation of proud farmers.

“We all agree it's important that the next generation is proud of the agricultural industry and a part of that heritage is acknowledging the role that farmers need to play. We must share the good news stories and put our values first. Those tools that we have available to us are a privilege. And if you're using one of those tools today, on your farm, think about it as a privilege so that the next generation will continue to be able to use it. When I think of all the tools that can be taken away, it's a pretty bleak future for the next generation.”

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# sports & recreation

## Lots of action at boys high school baseball tourney



PHOTOS BY EDWARD VINCENT ARCENAL/VOICE

Top row, the Morden Thunder lost 3-0 to a strong Boissevain/Wawanesa (Co-op) team in the semi finals of the W.C. Miller Baseball Classic high school tournament held May 10 and 11. Boissevain/Wawanesa (Co-op) defeated the Steinbach Regional Sabres 9-0 to win the Manitoba High Schools Athletic Assoc. tournament. The Bottom row, Northlands Parkway Nighthawks lost 15-10 against the Steinbach Regional Sabres in the semi finals. Other teams competing included the Stonewall Rams, W.C. Miller Aces, River East Kodiaks, and the Lord Selkirk Royals.

## A rocky start to the season for Orioles, Bisons

By Lorne Stelmach

The Pembina Valley Orioles and Altona Bisons both opened their MJBL seasons with a pair of losses last weekend.

The opening day showcase Saturday in Winnipeg saw the Orioles fall 4-1 to the Carillon Sultans and 15-11 to the Interlake Blue Jays, while the Bisons lost 11-3 to the Blue Jays and 12-0 to the Sultans.

Hits were 7-3 in Carillon's favour

against the Orioles, who had Owen Goertzen on the mound; he allowed four runs on six hits while striking out eight over four innings.

It was a wide open affair between Pembina Valley and Interlake with the hits 15-13 for the Orioles, who opened with five runs in first inning. Interlake countered with three in the second and five in the fourth and sealed it with a grand slam home run in the seventh inning.

Mike Heppner took the loss with

seven runs on five hits in one and two thirds of an inning. Sam Blatz started on the mound and allowed eight runs on eight hits over five innings.

In the Bisons' loss to Interlake, hits were 9-3 for the Blue Jays with the turning point being five runs on three hits in the top of the fifth inning.

Maddux Mateychuk pitched four innings, giving up six runs on three hits while striking out nine.

Altona then got tagged for four errors while having a 9-6 edge in hits

in the shutout loss to Carillon, which drove in eight runs on four hits in the top of the fourth. In three and one third innings, Nolan Marriott gave up 11 runs on seven hits while striking out six.

This week had the Orioles set to head back to Winnipeg Wednesday to face the Elmwood Giants, while the Bisons are off until they host the Orioles next week Friday, May 24.



# U15 Central Energy earns two big wins over the weekend

By Ty Dilello

On May 12, the U15 Central Energy team earned two big victories in the Manitoba Premier Softball League (MPSL) standings when they dismantled Smitty's Terminators in both games of their doubleheader by 11-2 and 20-0 counts.

With the wins, U15 Central Energy moves to second place in the MPSL standings with a record of 3-1.

"Hot bats and great pitching today made us tough to beat," said U15 Central Energy coach Kevin Perin. "We are a skilled group of athletes who are fun to coach, and I'm excited to see how far we can take this team. The season has started off with a bang, going three wins and one loss to start, with only giving up two hits in the game we lost."

In the first game, Mya Richard collected three hits in three at-bats as Central Energy cruised to an 11-2 win. She tripled in the second inning, doubled in the first inning, and singled in the fourth inning. Central Energy scored seven runs on multiple hits in the second inning on the way to victory. And Shyanne Goertzen earned the win for the team as she only gave up four hits and two runs over three and one-third innings, striking out seven and walking two people.

Game 2 of the doubleheader saw Ella Conrad collect three hits in three at-bats as Central Energy won again by a 20-0 scoreline. Conrad doubled and singled in the first inning and added another single in the third inning. Addison Nikkel earned the win for Central Energy on the mound as the lefty gave

up one hit and zero runs over four innings, striking out eight and walking none.

The U15 Central Energy team is off to Calgary this weekend for the May Long Invitational Tournament and looks forward to competing against some strong competition. They will return to MPSL action on May 25 with a doubleheader (12 noon and 2 p.m.) against the Interlake Phillies at Quarry Park in Stonewall.

The U13 Central Energy team was also in action over the weekend as they dropped both games of its doubleheader with Smitty's Terminators by 8-7 scores in both games.

In the first game of the doubleheader, Kelsey Dyck led the Energy with two hits in an 8-7 loss. Central Energy trailed early but took the lead in the top of the sixth. Lindsay French grounded out, scoring three runs, to give Central the lead, 7-6. The Terminators scored on a passed ball, which helped Smitty's tie the game at seven in the bottom of the sixth and go on to eventual victory. Dyck led things off in the circle for Central Energy. The left-handed pitcher gave up four hits and two runs over three innings, striking out five and walking none.

In the second game, Central Energy once again outhit Smitty's eight to four but again fell 8-7 in the final score. Hailey Baldwin led Central Energy with two hits in three at-bats. They fought back in the game after falling behind by five runs in the first inning, but the comeback fell just short. Collins Vrooman started the game for Central Energy in the circle and gave up two hits and seven runs (five earned) over three innings, striking out five and



Central Energy's U15 pitcher Addison Nikkel earned the 20-0 shutout win in Game 2 against the Smitty's Terminators Sunday afternoon.

walking six. Brady Wiebe pitched three innings, allowing two hits and accumulating three strikeouts.

The U13 Central Energy falls to last place in the MPSL standings now with a record of 1-5. The U13 squad is back in action with a game at 2 p.m. on June 1 at Stonewall's Quarry Park against the Interlake Phillies.

The Central Energy U17 team had the weekend off but will return to the diamond on May 18 with a doubleheader against the Smitty's Terminators at 12 noon and 2 p.m. in Morden on Diamond 2.

# First of three speedway race weekends coming up May 25-26

By Lorne Stelmach

The roar of the engines will soon be heard at Dead Horse Creek Speedway, and the Valley Motorsports Association is excited to get racing underway again at the track west of Morden.

"We're still pretty new at this ... but we've got one season under our belt, and we learned a lot. We're going to keep at it and continue finding ways to improve it," said president Chris Unrau. "There was pent up demand here for a long time. There's a lot of gearheads in this area, and motorsports is hugely popular ... people need a place for it."

The association formed as a not-for-profit corporation in 2023 and took over operation of the former ALH Motor Speedway. It's made up of a group of grassroots enthusiasts whose mission is to advance motorsports for the enjoyment of the region.

A lot of their efforts last summer focused on revitalizing the track, starting with reshaping and resurfacing it, and there are more improvements being made this year.

"We've put quite a bit of time and energy and effort into further improvements to the facility," said Un-

rau.

"We've got some permanent lighting that's getting installed. Little Morden Service has come forward to sponsor a lap leaderboard so we can see how many laps remaining in each race and what position are the top four at any time, so that's really exciting.

"We're going to have a large LED video screen this year," he added. "We're also hoping to move towards some kind of a streaming operation where we would get the races streamed live online ... I'm not quite sure when we will get there, but that is a goal."

Three weekend special events are on tap for 2024.

The McNaught Cadillac Cup will be May 25-26 and will include the attendance of the Northern Late Model Racing Association with a top level of late model competitors.

"That's the best of the best in the region ... the top late model drivers from North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Manitoba," said Unrau. "It will bring the top competitors and the top high-powered cars. I can't stress with enough excitement how big of a deal it is to have the NLRA come here to



VOICE FILE PHOTO

The Dead Horse Creek Speedway holds its first weekend of races May 25-26 with the McNaught Cadillac Cup.

our track."

The GVE Deere Run will go July 5-6 featuring the Watermelon Cup modified special as well as the Brad Wall Memorial.

Closing out the season then in conjunction with the Corn and Apple Festival is the Proven Seed King of the Corn Aug. 23-24.

"It's very exciting. We had such a great response from the community last year that we decided to expand a little bit to three race weekends," said Unrau, noting they are grateful to

have all three races fully sponsored.

"The response from the community has been fabulous, and what we hear is that there's a lot of people planning to come out to these events this year."

Tickets are on sale at the Gardenland Co-op convenience store locations as well as online. Unrau encouraged people to get their tickets early.

"The sense I get in the community is that there are a lot of people who want to come out."

More information is available online at [deadhorsecreekspeedway.ca](http://deadhorsecreekspeedway.ca).



# Winkler Flyers 2-1 at Centennial Cup

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Flyers are 2-1 in the opening games of the Centennial Cup.

The team punched their ticket to the national competition by winning their first MJHL title in 26 years last month, downing the Steinbach Pistons in four straight games.

In their first game of the national championship last Thursday, the Flyers downed the Sioux Lookout Bombers 4-2.

Dalton Andrew scored all four of Winkler's goals to lead the Flyers to victory and earn himself a player of the game nod.

Malachi Klassen made 19 saves in net as the Flyers outshot the Bombers 48-19.

Game two put them up against the Melfort Mustangs Saturday. The close match saw Winkler up 2-0 after 20 minutes thanks to goals from Jakob

Jones and Brody Beauchemin.

That lead became a tie in the second period when the Mustangs scored three to Winkler's one (Connor Jensen).

Both teams found the mark twice in the third. Winkler's came courtesy of Andrew and Zach Nicolas to force what proved to be a fruitless overtime.

The shootout went the Mustangs' way to give them the win 6-5.

On Monday, the Flyers squared off against the Oakville Blades.

A scoreless opening frame was followed by Winkler scoring two unanswered goals in the second, courtesy of Andrew and James Richards.

Avery Anderson and Nicolas McKee fired home two empty-net goals in the game's final minutes to give Winkler the win 4-0.

Klassen got the shutout in net, turning away all 24 shots he faced. His teammates sent 29 the other way.



PHOTO BY HEATHER POLLOCK/HOCKEYCANADA

The Winkler Flyers downed the Sioux Lookout Bombers 4-2 in their opening game at the Centennial Cup last week.

not available at press time.

The Flyers were scheduled to face off against the Miramichi Timberwolves Tuesday night. Results were

The playoffs get underway this weekend.

# Sotheran leads Winterhawks to WHL finals

By Kieran Reimer

Sanford's Carter Sotheran is causing a stir in the playoffs of the Western Hockey League.

The 2023 fifth-round draft pick for the Philadelphia Flyers has been a dominant presence on the Portland Winterhawks' defence throughout the entire season. Sotheran is a key reason the team will play in the WHL Championship.

Standing tall at 6'3, 198 pounds on the blue line, Sotheran can be found making plays all over the ice while having a sense of when to jump into a play or stay back.

In his second season with the club, the 18-year-old defenceman scored 13 goals and 27 assists in 66 regular-season games and is continuing to improve in the playoffs, where he has 4 goals and 7 assists in 15 games and a plus-20 rating.

"My skating has gotten a lot better, and a lot smoother," said Sotheran following a 2-1 double overtime victory over the Prince George Cougars that sent the Winterhawks to the

WHL Championship.

"Just confidence, playing with the puck, having poise, stuff like that. That's my biggest improvement since the off-season."

Sotheran's Winterhawks features one of the most stacked rosters in the WHL, with multiple 100-point players and seven NHL draft picks.

In the regular season, the Winterhawks finished first in the WHL's U.S. Division and third in the league overall.

During the playoffs, they swept the first two rounds against the Victoria Royals and Everett Silvertips before eliminating the Cougars in six games in the semi-finals.

Sotheran points to his team's tight bond, which for some Winterhawks players dates back to the 2019-20 season when some of their current players joined the team.

"It's easy just knowing each other and having each other's backs," said Sotheran. "The depth we have is pretty crazy the way anyone can go out there and do their thing and put pucks in the back of the net, play

good defence, and it's been kicking for us all season. It's been a good year, and everything is coming together full circle."

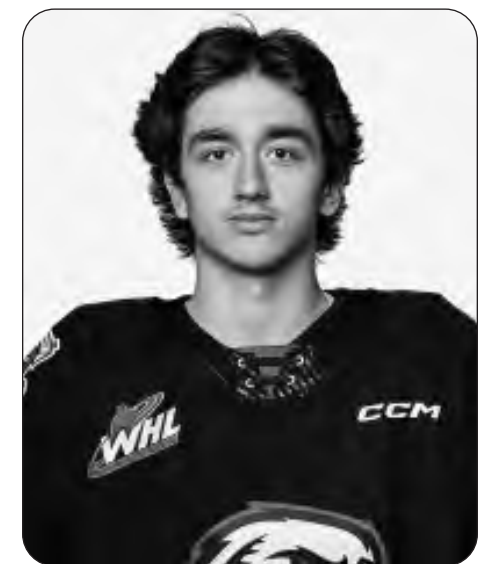
The Winterhawks are one of the more Manitoba-heavy teams in WHL with four players from across the province.

Winnipeg's Alex Thompson and Russell's Ryder Thompson play alongside Sotheran on the backend, while Birtle's Aiden Sotas has been absent from the forward group all season with injury.

For them, representing their province is something they are embracing as Moose Jaw features only one Manitoban in Dominion City's Denton Mateychuk.

"It's a huge honour," said Sotheran. "Being from Manitoba, not a lot of guys are left (in the playoffs) so just trying to represent my town and my province is a huge thing for me and hopefully we can take it all the way."

The Winterhawks now head to Moose Jaw, SK for games three and four where they will aim to even up the best-of-seven series.



Carter Sotheran

Games three and four will go Tuesday and Wednesday night at 9 p.m. central time from Moose Jaw Events Centre.

The winner of the series will represent the WHL in the 104th Memorial Cup in Saginaw, MI at the end of the month.

News or sports tip? E-mail [news@winklermordenvoice.ca](mailto:news@winklermordenvoice.ca) or call 204-325-6888



# Kicking up their heels



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Local dance students took to the stage at the P.W. Enns Concert Hall in Winkler last weekend for the annual recital that marks the conclusion of the season. The performances were around the theme of A Tribute to Musicals and featured students of all ages. The Morden-based dance studio has over 350 dancers from ages three to adult, and classes that include dance exploration, ballet and contemporary, film, hip hop, Irish, jazz, musical theatre, stage combat, tap, competitive classes, and Xplor Drama.

## Mateychuk leads Warriors to finals

By Kieran Reimer

Dominion City's Denton Mateychuk is off to the Western Hockey League Championship. His Moose Jaw Warriors defeated the Saskatoon Blades in overtime of game seven by a score of 3-2 Wednesday night.

Lynden Lakovic was the overtime hero for Moose Jaw scoring the game winner only 36 seconds into overtime on a backhand shot from the goal line that fooled Blades goaltender Evan Gardner.

The Warriors are now set for a best-of-seven series against the Portland Winterhawks with a WHL Championship and a trip to Saginaw, MI for the 104th Memorial Cup on the line.

Mateychuk has been a force for the Warriors' blueline all playoffs scoring 8 goals and 19 assists for 27 points. He is tied with teammate Jagger Firkus for the WHL's playoff points lead. His contributions have helped the Warriors to series wins over the Brandon Wheat Kings, Swift Current Broncos, and now the Saskatoon Blades.

He is also the front-runner for WHL Playoffs Most Valuable Player accord-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Denton Mateychuk, #5, defence with the Moose Jaw Warriors

ing to the league's online poll.

Game one of the championship series against Portland begins Friday night at 9 p.m. central from Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Portland, OR.



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### PUBLIC NOTICE

**Winkler Senior Centre  
Annual Meeting  
of Membership  
May 30, 2024  
at 2:00 p.m.  
Music by  
Don Pritchard  
Refreshments Served**

**Biz Cards**  
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## WANTED

Coins, Coin Collection, Old Jewelry,



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USA, Canada, World Coin Sets & Coin Collections. Will buy entire collections & accumulations!

Todd  
306-774-2420

### CARD OF THANKS

In memory of  
Walter H Mueller

The family of the late Walter H Mueller wish to express their deep appreciation to those who have offered such kindness, support and messages of sympathy and comfort in our bereavement. The Walter Mueller family would like to thank all who attended his funeral, sent cards and/or flowers. A special thank you to Al Thorleifson, Lane Curry, Cindy Hunter, Don Stewart, the ACW, Sharon Shultz, Lindy Sharpe, Marg Remillard and the United Church.  
-Bette, Terry, Jaxon, Natalie, Lewis and Ella Mueller

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

Siemens-Suderman Reunion  
Sunday 02 June 2024 from 1-5 p.m.  
Program at 2

Plum Coulee Senior's Centre  
on Main 265 Main Street, Plum Coulee  
Bring faspas/snacks and beverage for yourself

Contacts: Verna Pfrimmer at 204 626-3230 or vernapfrimmer@gmail.com Peter Suderman at 204 774-3312 or psuderman@shaw.ca

### OBITUARY

## Susan E Hildebrandt 1927 – 2024



It is with sadness that we as the extended family announce the peaceful passing of Susan Hildebrandt, age 96 on Saturday, February 10, 2024 at Boundary Trails Health Centre. We can also rejoice in her stated wish to "go home".

Susan was predeceased by her parents, Heinrich P and Anna Hildebrandt along with 11 siblings and their spouses.

She will be lovingly remembered by her remaining sister, Eva and her many nieces, nephews and their families.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 18, 2024 at the Blumenort Mennonite Church in Rosetown, MB, 16 km south of Plum Coulee.

Wiebe Funeral Chapel, Morden  
In care of arrangements  
www.wiebefuneralhomes.com



*Your memory will live forever Engraved within our hearts*

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# get inspired

> MEAL IDEAS



## Chocolate Ice Cream with "Caramel" Sauce

Recipe courtesy of "Chelsea's Messy Apron"

Servings: 8  
 1 large sweet potato  
 1 bag (10 ounces) dark chocolate chips, plus additional for topping (optional)  
 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract  
 1/2 teaspoon fine sea salt  
 1/4 cup coconut sugar  
 1 Premier Protein Chocolate Protein Shake  
**"Caramel" Sauce:**  
 3 tablespoons coconut oil (measured when solid)  
 3 tablespoons real maple syrup  
 1 1/2 tablespoons almond butter  
 1/8 teaspoon fine sea salt  
 1/4 teaspoon pure vanilla extract  
 Wash and scrub sweet potato. Pierce with fork several times. Place on microwave-safe plate and microwave 5 minutes; flip and microwave 5 minutes. Allow to cool.  
 In microwave-safe bowl, microwave

chocolate chips in 20-second increments, stirring between each increment until smooth and melted. Set aside.

Remove sweet potato skin and thoroughly mash. Pack into 3/4 cup measuring cup. Place in large blender.

Add melted chocolate to blender along with vanilla, sea salt, coconut sugar and chocolate protein shake.

Place lid on blender and blend on high at least 1 minute, or until ingredients are smooth and incorporated.

Transfer to ice cream maker and prepare according to manufacturer's directions then transfer to airtight container and freeze 2-3 hours.

To make "caramel" sauce: In microwave-safe bowl, microwave coconut oil and syrup 30 seconds. Stir and microwave 30 seconds, or until melted and smooth. Stir in almond butter and whisk until smooth. Add sea salt and vanilla extract; whisk to combine.

Set "caramel" sauce aside at room temperature about 30 minutes. Top ice cream with sauce and additional chocolate chips, if desired.

## Peanut Butter Jelly Ice Cream

Servings: 12  
 1 cup whole milk  
 1/2 cup Premier Protein Strawberries & Cream Protein Shake  
 1/4 cup packed brown sugar  
 1/2 teaspoon salt  
 1 large egg, lightly beaten  
 2/3 cup creamy peanut butter  
 2 cups heavy whipping cream  
 2 teaspoons vanilla extract  
 1/2 cup sugar-free strawberry jelly  
 In large, heavy saucepan, heat milk, protein shake, brown sugar and salt until bubbles form around sides of pan.

Whisk small amount of hot mixture into egg. Return to pan, whisking constantly.

Cook and stir over low heat until mixture thickens and coats back of spoon. Remove from heat; whisk in peanut butter. Quickly transfer to bowl; place in ice water and stir 2 minutes. Stir in cream and vanilla. Press wax paper onto surface of custard. Refrigerate several hours or overnight.

Fill cylinder of ice cream freezer 2/3 full; freeze according to manufacturer's directions.

When ice cream is frozen, spoon into freezer container, layering with jelly; freeze 2-4 hours before serving.



## Chile Bacon Straws

around each skewer, making sure to overlap edges of bacon so there are no gaps. Don't wrap too tightly or it will be difficult to remove skewers; try to ensure each end of bacon ends up on same side of skewer.

Place each wrapped skewer on wire rack set over sheet pan with end seams down. Sprinkle spice blend over each skewer.

Bake 25-30 minutes until bacon is brown, crispy and fully cooked to give straws their shape. Remove from oven and allow to cool.

Gently slide skewers out of each straw using twisting motion.

Insert straws into Bloody Marys.

Prep time: 10 minutes  
 Cook time: 30 minutes  
 Servings: 6  
 6 slices Coleman Natural Hickory Smoked Bacon  
 6 wooden skewers  
 1 teaspoon Mexican spice blend prepared Bloody Marys  
 Preheat oven to 400 F.  
 Wrap one bacon slice diagonally

# Ask the money lady

Dear Money Lady,  
 I need to purchase a new car this year and I am not sure if I should invest in an EV, Hybrid, or regular vehicle. What do you think? Thanks, Gord.

Hi Gord, this is a great question and one I think a lot of Canadians are wondering since the Canadian government mandated that all light-duty vehicle sales be 100% electric by 2035. The problem for me is the current costs of EV's. Now that vehicle pricing is truly the second highest investment purchase a Canadian will make next to buying a home, is it worth it to invest in electric vehicles now? Maybe not.

Most vehicles have a life span of 10+ years and to get the most value out of your purchase, you should plan to keep it this long. The problem is, we are just a little too far off the 2035 electric switch over date and the current vehicle manufacturers really aren't offering a great selection of electric vehicles at competitive pricing yet. Yes, we are provided with rebate offers from every province to encourage us to "buy-in," but we still have the issues with the scarcity of EV charging stations, especially in rural areas. The best-selling car today is actually not a car at all, rather it remains a light truck. The Ford F-150, Chevrolet 1500 and Dodge Ram 1500 series of light trucks (or pickup's) are still our North American best-sellers. Today, electric vehicles sales only make up approximately 10% annually and most automakers rely heavily on the generous profits realized from their light-truck sales to fund their EV development efforts. Toyota, the world's largest automaker, has announced that for every EV produced, they can make 10 or more hybrids with much less impact to the earth than the energy required to mine and extract precious rare earth minerals from the ground which is what constitutes the average EV battery.

The Canadian government now offers up to \$5,000 in rebates towards the purchase of a fully electric or plug-in hybrid electric vehicle. It's a good idea to check the Government of Canada website under "Incentives for Zero-Emission Vehicles" since not all vehicles qualify for this full rebate and there will be variations to the amount if you plan to lease your new purchase. To be honest, in my opinion, you can still get a better deal on a regular gas vehicle today, but if your budget allows, it would be a good idea to consider a hybrid



Christine Ibbotson

option. Plan to keep this vehicle for at least 10 years to get your money's worth out of it. Remember that most new car sale markups start at 7%-8% and dealerships are more willing to haggle on their pricing at the end of the month. Aim for a 3%-4% reduction in the list price of the vehicle and be prepared to walk if the sales manager won't bend. Guaranteed, if they know you are a serious buyer, they will give in to this reduction in pricing, (a hint from one of my friends who is been in the new car sales business for over 20 years).

If you are leasing your vehicle and writing off the costs as a business expense, then definitely consider an EV or hybrid. This will give you the opportunity to "try it out" since you will most likely be trading in your vehicle after 3-5 years anyway. One thing you need to watch out for – if this is your 2nd or 3rd lease, make sure the car dealer discharges the old lease and sets up a new one. I have seen many times in the past, when we have pulled credit bureaus for clients wanting loans at the bank, that they have had multiple leases registered to their name. This is a banking "no-no" and can definitely hinder your prospects of acquiring future credit. Each lease must be clearly discharged, not transferred. By transferring a lease to a new vehicle, it creates two lease payments on a client's credit report, one for the old vehicle (not discharged but still registered with the VIN number) and one for the new vehicle. Be careful.

Written by Christine Ibbotson, Author, Finance Writer, National Radio Host, and now on CTV Morning Live, and CTV News @6 syndicated across Canada. Send your questions through her website at [askthemoneylady.ca](http://askthemoneylady.ca)





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