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Come on in, the water's fine!

The Altona Aquatic Centre kicked off the summer with a splash on its opening day Saturday with free public swimming. Hadley Fehr and Zoey Stoesz were among those who went for a dip.
PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

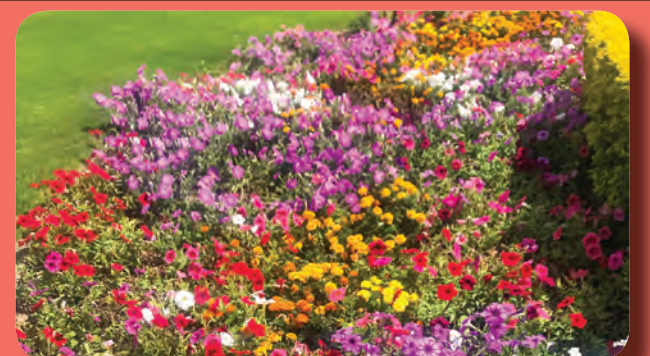
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Montcalm Heritage Festival is this weekend

By Lorne Stelmach

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

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

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

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

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

This year's festival is this weekend

with a full lineup of events and entertainment Saturday and Sunday.

The festival represents an important source of identity, branding, and pride in the communities, noted Fisette-Mulair, adding the celebration is an interactive, inter-generational and homegrown event that can be enjoyed by all age groups.

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

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

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

"Our feature event is the Saturday and Sunday barbecue suppers, and those are the only things you have to pay for other than if you're buying food or beverages at the canteen.

"We have a bundle of activities for



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

The community comes together for food, fellowship, and fun at the Montcalm Heritage Festival in St. Joseph this Saturday and Sunday.

children," she added. "And there is the family baseball tournament that is held on Saturday.

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

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

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



Grow Morris plans expands to community feedback

By Siobhan Maas

On Tuesday, May 25, the Town of Morris and partners at M. Richard & Associates Ltd. hosted an open house to showcase the Grow Morris initiative.

A long-term community plan, Grow Morris lays the foundation for the town's future land use, zoning, transportation, parking, pedestrian mobility, and infrastructure improvements. Last week's event followed a similar Invest Morris Open House held in March.

Both come-and-go events encouraged feedback from business and community members in helping

shape the decisions made by town council in further developing the community.

Every 10 years, communities are required by the province to update their development plan and zoning by-law. Rather than isolating this review and simply updating the documents, as has been done in the past, Morris town council used the community's 2023 strategic plan to shape these zoning by-laws.

"Importantly, the Grow Morris project provides us with an inspirational document about what council and the public believe Morris can be," said

Continued on page 11

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CNIB mobile hub makes a stop in Morden-Winkler

By Lorne Stelmach

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Continued on page 4



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

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

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Winkler Harvest Festival announces headliners

By Voice staff

The Winkler Harvest Festival unveiled its 2024 headliners on Monday. The Aug. 9-11 community celebration will welcome Sass Jordan, Chayce Beckham, and Austin French to the stage.

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

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

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

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

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

Finally, rounding out the weekend



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

> CNIB MOBILE HUB, FROM PG. 3

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

"There's a small client base with-

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

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

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

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

Fabian lost her sight as a result of

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

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

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

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

People are more adaptable than they realize, she suggested.

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

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



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getinformed

Philippines Independence Day celebration in Morden June 15

By Lorne Stelmach

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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SUPPLIED PHOTO

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

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

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

Pembina Valley Pride march in Altona Saturday

By Lori Penner

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

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

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

"These are regional artisans with

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

bottled water will be available.

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

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

Continued on page 7

The **Voice**

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• GUEST COMMENTARY

How Emerado school staff saved my son's life

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Continued on page 7



By Daren Redekopp

Letter policy

The *Voice* welcomes letters from readers on local and regional issues and concerns.

Please keep your letters short (excessively long letters are less likely to be published), on-topic, and respectful.

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

Please include your full name, address, and phone number for verification purposes. Your name and city will be published with your letter. We do not print anonymous letters.

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• GUEST COMMENTARY

Green Team funding frustration

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

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



By MLA
Carrie
Hiebert

> REDEKOPP, FROM PG. 6

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

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

> PRIDE PARADE, FROM PG. 5

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

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

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

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

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

Tangible love.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Carrie Hiebert is the MLA for Morden-Winkler

Letters

IN FAVOUR OF MORDEN'S SUNCATCH PLAZA

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

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

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

street being closed would not be what stops me.

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

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

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

**Elaine Ivey,
Morden**

Rainy weather eases drought concerns, but water conservation still advised

By Lorne Stelmach

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Conditions can change quickly, she added.

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

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

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

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



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

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

to capture some of that water.

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

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

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

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

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

thing they are working on, he noted.

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

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

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

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

New Altona Musical Theater Co. looking for sponsors, members

By Ashleigh Viveiros

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Individuals can get involved as well

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

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

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

Costen says she's spoken with a

Continued on page 9



Rocking the Back 40



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

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

> THEATRE GROUP, FROM PG. 8

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



THANK YOU!

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

Your support made this event a success!



Seniors, students meet at Discovery Nature Sanctuary

First of four intergenerational excursions

By Ashleigh Viveiros

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

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

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

Future excursions include Doug Kelso talking about plants on July 12

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

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

DNS looking for volunteers

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

—Ashleigh Viveiros



Altona Home Hardware celebrates new ownership

By Lori Penner

Altona Home Hardware was buzzing with activity on May 30 as they celebrated their grand reopening under new ownership.

The Suderman family took the reins at the Altona Mall location six months ago, and family patriarch Henry Suderman said they've been growing consistently ever since.

"It's looking good this far," he shared. "The response has been awesome. Local ownership seems to be what people want to see."

When the opportunity to purchase the store arose unexpectedly, Suderman seized it, eager to work alongside his family. His wife Nettie, daughter Emily, and son Jason, who manages the store, all play integral roles in the business.

Suderman emphasized their commitment to customer satisfaction and business growth.

"At this point, we're listening to what the customers want, and we bring it in. There are some things that have surprised us. Like lawn mowers. We brought mowers in and it's amazing, and they're gone."

He also noted a surge in the paint department's activity.

"It's picking up, and we're happy with the way things are going."

Responding to numerous customer requests, they recently introduced a reverse osmosis water fill station. Suderman plans to expand this service by setting up a regular delivery schedule.

"We will set up a milk run, per se, and try, at least once a week, to deliver water to whoever wants it."

The dedication to local customer service doesn't end there. The store ensures home delivery for any appliance ordered through the company.

Business hours will stay the same under the Suderman family's ownership.

"But if ever somebody needs something, people know me," Suderman says. "I'm here for people. I have no problem coming down, unlocking a door, and writing a SKU number down so you can take your sump pump home. We'll deal with it. And that's what happens when you know people locally."

Service remains Suderman's top priority.

"If you come in here and you don't get service, I sure hope I hear about it."

Suderman is a businessman at heart.



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

Altona Home Hardware's new owners Emily, Nettie, Henry and Jason Suderman received a commemorative saw from territory manager Heather Brincheski, BeautiTone Paint consultant Norm Demeulenaere, and Addie Streibel, retail execution specialist for Western Canada, at the store's grand reopening Saturday.

He's been the Altona Mall manager since 1997 and has developed a sense of traffic flow and what customers are looking for.

"Most people don't see what I see. Location for me is huge, because the mall is obviously a good customer of ours. We're here to stay."

Home Hardware territory manager Heather Brincheski said, "It's great when we have somebody who is local, and so committed to the community."

Referring to their offerings, she added, "As Jason and Henry are learning the Home Hardware way, we're constantly introducing new products. From trampolines, to paint, to toasters, we've got it all. It really is a one-stop shop. Customers have access to over 50,000 items, along with our website, as well. And we're always bringing in new items that the town needs. And local ownership is so important."

> GROW MORRIS, FROM PG. 2

Mayor Scott Crick. "Having this completed helps guide the council's decisions and leaves a legacy for future councils to help guide their decisions."

If citizens were unable to attend the open house, the comprehensive plan, with many pillars and strategies, is available online at mrichardassociates.ca/growmorris for review and feedback.

Once the plan has been approved by council, "we will return to the public for ideas on how to accomplish some of the strategies within the document," Crick said.

He likens this to the example of Strategy 6.2.2 to "protect and expand urban trees and green

infrastructure." Council would approach the by-law renewal and strategic plan by focusing on details such as "where are the most important areas of town to target," "what type of green infrastructure would we like to see," or "how can the town partner with local businesses and the province, especially along PTH 75?"

Town council will continue to look for public feedback opportunities, with partners from M. Richards attending the Stampede this summer to obtain feedback from citizens.

"As council begins prioritizing strategies for 2025 and determine budget capacity" feedback will be reviewed and taken into consideration, Crick said.

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Altona Panthers shine at provincial track meet

By Lorne Stelmach

The Altona Panthers Special Olympics club was well represented at the track and field meet hosted by Special Olympics Manitoba last weekend.

Family and friends joined six coaches and 11 athletes from the Panthers club to compete in Selkirk on Saturday.

Events included the 50, 100, and 200 metre runs as well as long jump, shot put, and mini javelin.

The Panthers' weekly practice sessions paid off in a big way, as the team had a strong showing with lots of ribbons earned, noted coach Jason Hildebrand.

"Everyone came away with a ribbon, so that was awesome," he said. "Everyone just did amazing. Everyone had a great time. Everyone did really good in their events."

There were multiple divisions in each event, with ribbons for the top



From left: Altona Panthers Special Olympics Natasha Sarrasin and Brenda Klassen, Jeffrey Reimer, and Curtis Loewen, coach Brian, Jeffrey Reimer, Eli Martin, coach Jason Hildebrand, and Isaiah Goulet at the provincial track meet last weekend.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Altona Panthers Special Olympics athletes and coaches competed at the track meet in Selkirk last weekend. The team came home with a bevy of ribbons for their efforts.

finishers in each category.

"All our athletes did well ... some first places, some seconds, some thirds," said Hildebrand.

"It was a long day. We left Altona at 5:45, 6 a.m. on the bus for a long bus ride," he shared. "They all did great. They were out there, and lots of cheering and lots of supporting each other ... it was awesome, and it was so much fun."

An event like this is a special thing

for these athletes.

"Most of them have done it before, but some of them were first-timers," Hildebrand said. "Last year it was cancelled because of the heat, so that was disappointing."

"They practiced for a couple months, and they just did a lot of hard work leading up to it, and then they all just did great," he added. "You've got to love all their attitudes and happiness."



Altona Youth Soccer seeks dedicated facility amid rapid growth

By Lori Penner

Altona Youth Soccer is on the rise, and the organization is in need of a dedicated facility to accommodate its expanding program.

Currently utilizing playing fields at two local schools, supporters assert that the community's burgeoning interest in soccer warrants a space of its own.

Karl Enns, chair of the organization's board, reflects on the program's substantial growth since its inception by Rodrigo Bravo and Jackie Harms in 2018.

"They started with three teams and 50 players. Today, we have around 115 players across eight teams, including two U10 teams, three U12 teams, one U14 team, and two U17 teams.

"Most years, we've grown by about 10 per cent, but since last year, we've seen a 20 per cent jump. This surge is largely due to the introduction of the U17 level. We started the U16 program last year and expanded it to U17, allowing us to field full 11 vs. 11 teams, as opposed to the seven vs. seven formats in the younger groups."

The Altona program is part of the Pembina Valley Youth Soccer league, which includes teams from Morden, Winkler, Carman, Rosenort, and Morris. Collectively these communities have approximately 40 teams and 500 players. The soccer season spans May and June, kicking off as soon as the fields are playable.

"We're seeing similar growth in

Continued on page 14



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Altona Youth Soccer has seen a 20 per cent jump in interest in the sport this year, with over 100 players on eight different teams.

Morris native and history buff wins Lt.-Gov. award

By Siobhan Maas

Sabrina Janke, born and raised in Morris, received the Lieutenant Governor General Award for Historical Preservation and Promotion at Government House in Winnipeg last month.

Janke was nominated by Alex Judge, her *One Great History* podcast co-host. From a friendship formed as they pursued their university history degrees, the duo started the podcast in 2020 to share various stories from Manitoba's past.

The Manitoba Historical Society presents these awards each year to five deserving Manitobans who are promoting and preserving the province's history and heritage. Two awards are reserved for emerging historians, mid-30s and younger, for which Janke was nominated this year.

In speaking about the honour, Janke shared how her background shaped her current accomplishments with the Manitoba Craft Museum, as a committee member for the Association of Manitoba Archives, and co-author of an Osborne Village tour guide book.

"I come from a family that loves puzzles," she said. "History is like puzzle solving. You have a fragment of information and you need to build something out of it. We're always using the past to try and recontextualize our present – you know, to answer these sorts of big questions: what happened here, who are we, what does this mean to us?"

Janke hasn't always been attracted to history.

"Canadian history was not so interesting in high school. I became interested [in history] while doing tours of the Exchange District in Winnipeg during university."

Today, she's full of historical tidbits.

"Not many Manitobans realize that singer William Prince is a descendant of Chief Peguis," she offered.

"Sometimes older documents are not stored in Manitoba," Janke noted, which can make it hard to find accurate information. "For example, the trial notes of Ambroise Lépine, a cabinet member of Louis Riel, are property of the Hudson's Bay Company and are kept in a United Kingdom archive. It's becoming easier for me to



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Sabrina Janke was awarded the Lieutenant Governor General Award for Historical Preservation and Promotion on May 14th by Lieutenant Governor Anita Neville and local historian and author Gordon Goldsborough.

solve puzzles because I now know of good databases to find information."

If individuals are interested in history, Janke suggests they "dig to find what [history] resonates with you. Family history can be hard to uncover

in certain families but Manitoba history is quite young and still has many recent connections."

More information on Janke's *One Great History* podcast can be found at onegreathistory.wordpress.com.

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getinformed

Marking Decoration Day



PHOTOS BY SEAN CONWAY/VOICE

The Royal Canadian Legion Morris branch marked Decoration Day with a ceremony Sunday at the Morris Cemetery that honoured the locals who served and saw dignitaries and service representatives lay wreaths at the cenotaph in their memory.



> YOUTH SOCCER, FROM PG. 12

all the other groups as well," Enns notes.

He attributes soccer's rising popularity in part to its growing visibility on the global stage.

"With women's soccer performing well in the Olympics and the World Cup, and the men's team making it to the Gold Cup for the first time in years, it's really gaining attention. It's more present in school programs and communities because it's in the news."

Immigration also plays a significant role in the sport's growth.

"Newcomers bring a passion for soccer with them," Enns explains. "It's a global sport, played in every country, culture, and climate. New immigrants may not have a historical connection with baseball or hock-

ey, but they do with soccer, which is a major driver of our growth."

At \$100 per season, Altona Youth Soccer remains an affordable option for families.

"We're committed to keeping it accessible," says Enns. "Some families can't pay, but local sponsors and businesses step in to cover the costs. We've been very fortunate with community support."

Organizations like the Curtis Klassen Memorial Fund have been instrumental in providing jerseys and equipment. However, the dream of having their own field persists.

"We have a fantastic partnership with the Altona Rec Office and Borderland School Division, sharing facilities at no cost," Enns says. "But with our growth, we're reaching the

limits of available space."

Most activities currently take place at Parkside School, which has a makeshift soccer field. The U17 team uses the high school field. It's working for now, but further growth will strain these facilities.

The idea of a dedicated soccer complex was first presented to Altona town council a few years ago by Bravo and Harms, but the pandemic stalled progress. Last year, the organization renewed its pitch to the council, receiving positive feedback.

"It's now part of the conversation as Altona embarks on a five-year recreation visioning study," Enns shares. A soccer field complex is being considered in the long-term plans for Altona and Rhineland. "We'd be excited to help design it. We want

soccer to be on par with baseball and hockey in our community."

The envisioned project includes green space for two to four soccer pitches, with proper landscaping for drainage and specific grass types.

"Our dream is for a space with two full-size pitches and two junior or half pitches. A few acres would be good, but 20 acres would be ideal."

Such a facility, Enns adds, would benefit local kids and boost the economy.

"We could host training events, refereeing, and coaching clinics. Altona already hosts big sporting events in baseball and hockey. A soccer complex would benefit many other sports, like rugby and cricket. It's always great to offer alternatives."

News or sports tip? E-mail news@winklermordenvoice.ca or call 204-325-6888

You may now KISS THE BRIDE



Delicious alternatives to traditional wedding cake

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

Savoury cakes

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

Individual treats

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

Gluten-free cake

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

Designer biscuits

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

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

4 tips for a winning marriage proposal

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

1. Think about your personalities

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



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

2. Plan your proposal

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

3. Pay attention to your presentation

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

4. Consider the element of surprise

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

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

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- **Insider knowledge.** A pro knows which vendors best suit your preferences and needs. Moreover, since your planner brings them steady business, you may get better deals.

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

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Teamwork
on the track



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH
VIVEIROS/VOICE

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



Orioles, Bisons post weekend losses

By Lorne Stelmach

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

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

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

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

It was a pitcher's duel then in game

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

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

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

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

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



PHOTO BY EDWARD VINCENT ARCENAL/VOICE

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

ing out four.

Statistics and details for game two were not available.

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

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

Flyers pick Schofield first in MJHL Bantam Draft

By Voice staff

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

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

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

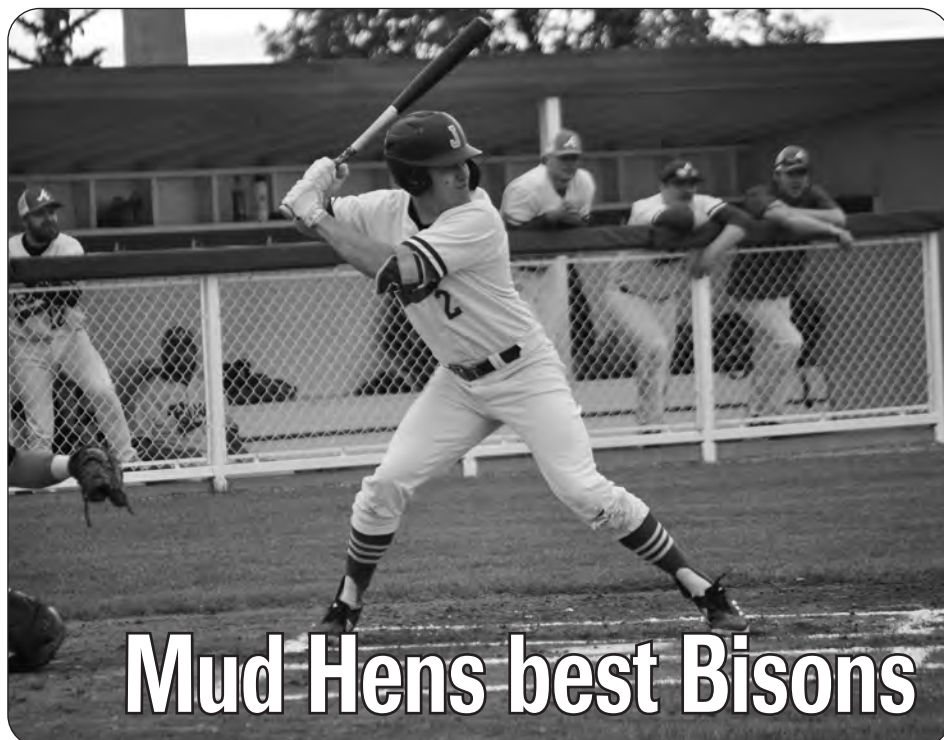
The La Salle forward played with the RINK Hockey Academy Winnipeg U17 team last season, contributing eight goals and 15 assists in 29 games.

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

last season.

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

Continued on page 19



Mud Hens best Bisons

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



PHOTOS BY EDWARD VINCENT ARCENAL/VOICE

U13 Central Energy split weekend games

By Ty Dilello

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

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

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

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

Central Energy couldn't keep up

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

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

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

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



SUBMITTED PHOTO BY HALEY CVAR

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

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

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

Zodiacs make provincial finals



FACEBOOK/GVC ZODIACS

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

By Lorne Stelmach

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

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

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

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

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

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

"We thought we could join forces

Continued on page 19



SUPPLIED PHOTO

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

Maple Leaf hosts fundraising children's market

By Lorne Stelmach

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fellow Gr. 4 student Eva Taloshna



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

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

made bead key chains to sell.

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

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

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

Keeling said they appreciated that

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

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

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

> FLYERS, FROM PG. 17

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

Prior to Sunday's draft, the Flyers

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

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

> FREE KICKS, FROM PG. 18

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

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

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

Each participant went home with

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

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

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



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

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

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING UNDER THE PLANNING ACT

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

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

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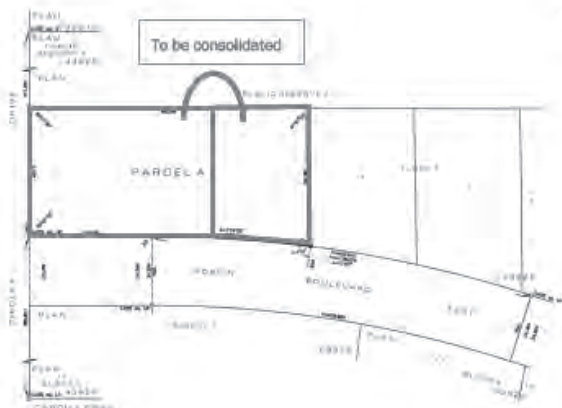
A copy of the above By-Law No. 2320-24 and supporting material may be inspected by any persons between the hours of 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday to Thursday and 9:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Friday, in the City Office.

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

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

Schedule "A"

METRIC

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The public is invited to attend
**BOUNDARY TRAILS HEALTH
CENTRE FOUNDATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**
Monday, June 24, 2024
7:00 pm

In the Multi-Purpose Rooms

At the Boundary Trails Health Centre
At this meeting, we will be discussing and voting on proposed amendments to Bylaws: 2.1, 16.1. You are encouraged to review these changes in advance and attend the meeting to participate in the discussion and vote. Please contact the office for more information. Financial Year-End Statements will be available at the meeting and upon request. For more information, please call or email 204-331-8808 ext2 or info@bthcfoundation.com
Refreshments to follow

AUCTION

ONLINE ONLY FARM AUCTION SALE For Deborah and the late Herb Robinson, Arborg, MB

Sale starts online: Monday, June 10, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.
Closes: Soft close starting at
10:00 a.m., Wednesday, June 26, 2024
To register: go to: www.apro.bid (Bidding site)

Over 300 lot items for sale - J.D. 7210 w/J.D. 710 Snow bucket, power quad, right hand reverse, 7891 hrs showing; Ford 7840 MFWA Tractor w/Allied 795 loader, bucket & bale fork J.D. Turbo 7720 Combine, hydro-static, Dicky John 1055 grain monitor, airflow sieve, variable spd pickup, 3161 hrs showing; D7F Caterpillar, running; HN 1475 Haybine 16ft, 2300 series; J.D. 4020 w/J.D. 148 Loader; J.D. 4010, series 3720.

Land sale: 76.06 acres, located at Parcel A, Plan 41143 WTLO, in SE ¼ 7-22-2 EPM, Title #1914607

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Viewing by appointment only Tuesday, June 11th & Wednesday, June 12th from 10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.
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Turn west for 2.9 km (Sign #8030)
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Municipal Notice of Intent

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

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

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

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

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

Date this 31st day of May, 2024.

Tracey French

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

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Ron D. Rempel
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CAREERS



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

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



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OBITUARY



David J. Klassen

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Classifieds
Announcements

The Winkler Morden Voice

OBITUARY



Henry J. Siemens

March 10, 1925 – May 24, 2024

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

take a break
> GAMES

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

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!

Here's How It Works:

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

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 1 |
| 5 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 6 |
| 8 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 7 |
| 8 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 8 |
| 6 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 8 |
| 4 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 5 |
| 1 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 2 |
| 9 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 4 |
| 7 | 8 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 9 |

Sudoku Answer

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

Crossword Answer



CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Breezed through
- 5. Supervises interstate commerce
- 8. Unruly group
- 11. Backs away from
- 13. Expression of understanding
- 14. Have concern for
- 15. Monetary units
- 16. Congressman (abbr.)
- 17. Iranian city
- 18. Eating houses
- 20. 2,000 lbs.
- 21. Grandmother
- 22. They include North, South and Central
- 25. In an early way
- 30. Foes
- 31. Shuttered British entertainment magazine
- 32. One who unloads cages
- 33. Another term for sesame
- 38. Formally forbid
- 41. Make clear
- 43. Inaccessible
- 45. Get through
- 47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- 49. Decameter
- 50. Type of sword
- 55. Actor Idris
- 56. Affirmative (slang)
- 57. Afflicted
- 59. One point north of northeast
- 60. Born of
- 61. Arabic name
- 62. Traditional Hong Kong street food: __ pai dong
- 63. Termination point
- 64. Email function

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Sign language
- 2. In style
- 3. Helsinki neighborhood

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

- 4. Unable to hear
- 5. More rapid
- 6. An idea accepted as a demonstrable truth
- 7. In a cagy way
- 8. Kate and Rooney are two
- 9. Algerian port
- 10. Community in Ladakh
- 12. Midway between south and southeast
- 14. Town in Galilee
- 19. Satisfy
- 23. Italian impressionist painter
- 24. Brass instrument
- 25. Chest muscle (slang)
- 26. Transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm
- 27. Records electric currents generated by the brain
- 28. Woman (French)

- 29. Aircraft designed to carry lots of passengers
- 34. Baseball stat
- 35. Pointed end of a pen
- 36. Popular sports league
- 37. Body part
- 39. Unlikely to provoke dissent
- 40. Yellowish cotton cloth
- 41. Domesticated house pet
- 42. Untruths
- 44. Set out to attract
- 45. Spiritual leader
- 46. Abba __, Israeli politician
- 47. Repair
- 48. Genus of flowering plants
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Prejudice
- 53. River in central Europe
- 54. Harness
- 58. Father

High-octane fun with Rumble in the Valley

By Sean Conway

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

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

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

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

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

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

kids pedal pull.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



SUPPLIED PHOTO

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CCI ball tournament returns

Ministry puts call out for sponsors, participants, and volunteers

By Ashleigh Viveiros

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

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

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

"The last one was in 2017, and they were always a really big hit, no pun intended," he says, noting starting it back up again in Winkler just made sense. "Obviously the roots of Children's Camps International is local—it was started by people in the Winkler area. Our reach is across Canada,

however we have a really strong donor base in Southern Manitoba, so that's why we chose to hold the baseball tournament there again."

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

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

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

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



SUPPLIED PHOTO

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

donors to people who want to put a team together to just general volunteers."

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

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

Over four million kids have attend-

ed CCI camps since the ministry was founded in 2003. Last year alone they reached 357,590 children.

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

get inspired

> MEAL IDEAS



Cellentani Caprese Pasta Salad

4 tablespoons lemon juice
8 basil leaves, julienned
2 cups small mozzarella cheese balls, halved
salt, to taste
black pepper, to taste
Bring large pot of water to boil. Cook pasta according to package directions and drain. Drizzle pasta with 1 tablespoon olive oil and place on sheet tray to cool. Set aside.

In large bowl, combine tomatoes, lemon juice, basil, remaining olive oil and cheese. Season with salt and pepper, to taste. Add pasta and stir.

Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 15 minutes
Servings: 7
1 box Barilla Protein+ Cellentani pasta
4 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, divided
2 pints grape tomatoes, mixed color, halved



Linguine with Zucchini Carbonara

1 box Barilla Linguine
1 tablespoon fresh mint, chopped
black pepper, to taste

Bring large pot of water to boil. In bowl, mix egg yolks, 1/3 cup Pecorino Romano cheese and milk. Season with salt, to taste. Set aside.

In large skillet, heat olive oil and cook zucchini.

Cook pasta according to package directions. Reserve 1/2 cup cooking water.

Mix pasta in pan with zucchini. Add egg yolk mixture and 2 tablespoons cooking water. Combine well.

Add remaining cheese and mint; mix. Season with salt and pepper, to taste.

Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 10 minutes
Servings: 8
5 egg yolks
1 cup Pecorino Romano cheese, grated, divided
1/2 cup milk
salt, to taste
1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
1 medium zucchini, julienned



Heart-Healthy Pita Pizzas

cooked
2 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese
1 tablespoon fresh basil, rinsed, dried and chopped (or 1 teaspoon dried)

Preheat oven or toaster oven to 450 F.

On each pita, spread 1/4 cup tomato sauce and top with 1/4 cup chicken, 1/4 cup broccoli, 1/2 tablespoon Parmesan cheese and 1/4 tablespoon chopped basil.

Place pitas on nonstick baking sheet and bake 5-8 minutes until pitas are golden brown and chicken is heated through.

Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 8 minutes
Servings: 4
4 whole-wheat pitas (6 1/2 inches each)
1 cup chunky tomato sauce
1 cup grilled boneless, skinless chicken breast, diced (about 2 small breasts)
1 cup broccoli, rinsed, chopped and

Ask the money lady

Dear Money Lady Readers,

Today's column came from a conversation with one of my ATML Partners, Ana Cruz in Burlington, Ontario. Ana is a mortgage agent in Halton and shared a story about a good friend of hers who was able to reduce her mortgage and shed years off her amortization. Something we should all consider doing, especially due to the higher lending rates.

Here's what Ana said: "In 2019, I reworked a mortgage for a friend who was buying out her partner with a new mortgage of \$380,000. Let's call this friend, Karen (not her real name and she did give me permission to share this story). In order to qualify, Karen would have to take a 30-year mortgage with monthly payments at \$1,597. For the first year of Karen's five-year mortgage term, she didn't do very much other than move to accelerate biweekly payments. Now, you may think accelerated biweekly payments are a small change, but let me explain, this small move from \$1,597 monthly to \$798 biweekly means Karen could shave off 3 years of her mortgage and saved close to \$9,000. The next year Karen increased her payments by 15%, (\$120 bi-weekly) and made lumps sum payments of \$3,000 every quarter towards her mortgage. After 5 years, upon her mortgage renewal, Karen's mortgage balance was \$312,575 with an amortization of 11.8 years. If she had only made her monthly payments on her original 30-year mortgage, she would have had a renewal balance of \$337,668, and her amortization would be 25 years. Instead, by making a few simple changes and extra lump sum payments she had saved thousands of dollars in interest and reduced her overall amortization by 13 years."

This is a great success story and one we can all do so simply. Often times we stick with the payment structure our banker or broker give us when we sign a new mortgage. We fit this payment into our lifestyle and don't think about it anymore. Of course, this is to the benefit of the lender, not the borrower. Canadian mortgages are calculated "semi-annually, not in advance," which means they are broken into two interest calculations with all banks working on a calendar year. So as of January 1, your interest



Christine Ibbotson

is calculated based on the payment selection you chose, and interest is laid down over the first 6 months. On July 1, the mortgage balance is reviewed again, and interest is calculated on the remaining balance, based on your payment selection, until December 31. This is a basic analogy but demonstrates how Canadian banks calculate interest semi-annually. Obviously, the best payment selection to reduce the amount of overall mortgage interest would be accelerated weekly, and the best time to do your lump sum payments would be in November-December or May-June. Most banks provide online mortgage calculators for you to work out different payment options. At the very least, try to line up your amortization on your mortgage with the year you plan to retire since you want to make sure you are debt-free at retirement. For example, if you are 45 years old and want to retire at 60, then your mortgage amortization should be no more than 15 years. If you are able to manage the payments with an amortization to match your retirement, then push it a little more and go with accelerated weekly payments. After a while this payment should fit into your new monthly budget but be careful not to stretch your cashflow too much. Paying off debt, especially a big mortgage, is a tremendous accomplishment, one that we should all strive for sooner rather than later.

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

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