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The **Voice** *Altona • Rhineland • Morris*

THURSDAY,
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PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

Altona residents came together June 4 for a heartfelt Memory Walk in support of the Alzheimer Society of Manitoba. See more inside this edition of the Voice.

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



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Crystal City manufacturer growing

By Lorne Stelmach

PhiBer Manufacturing was founded in 1996 with a single piece of haying equipment designed to solve a challenge experienced by a farmer.

That one item has evolved into 13 different product lines and countless equipment iterations that are being sold all over the world, and the continued growth of the company in Crystal City led to a sod-turning ceremony last Thursday for a new 60,000 square foot facility.

To be able to do something on a world stage from a small town in rural Manitoba shows what is possible now, said president and owner Derek Friesen, whose father Phil and partner Harvey Bergen started the company.

“What they first dreamed of, I think this has gone beyond that in lots of ways ... and yet, some of the things why they started this whole thing, their whole reason for it, is still the same today,” said Friesen.

“What their dream was was to bring hope to a very small community that didn’t have a lot of other employment

opportunities,” he said. “They just really wanted to bring hope.”

Crystal City was the obvious choice for them, added Friesen, who noted they were from the town, and they even asked the new road built in the community be named New Hope Drive.

“This was their home town, and they just wanted to bring something back to it,” he said. “We try to keep that legacy going ... this is home for us.”

On a diary tour of Wisconsin, Phil Friesen saw the inefficient way farmers were spreading small, square bales onto their ginseng, and he believed he had a better more efficient way. Seeing an opportunity and market for his straw, he knew he first needed to get a machine into their hands that would easily spread big square bales.

Researching what was on the market, he soon realized there was not a machine that would accomplish what he needed, thus motivating him to innovate and create a something new. With an idea in hand, he sought out Bergen, a skilled machinist with years



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Co-founders Harvey Bergen, left, and Phil Friesen, right, joined Derek Friesen for the sod-turning ceremony for a new 60,000 sq. ft. facility in Crystal City.

of experience working with farm equipment, to help him build his big square bale spreading machine.

When Phil’s visions and ideas were coupled with Harvey’s inherent abili-

ty to build and transform those ideas into reality, an incredible partnership was born. While Phil’s initial intent

Continued on page 4

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From the Council and Staff of the
Municipality of Rhineland



Local volunteers joining the fight

By Lorne Stelmach

A half dozen firefighters from the region including three Mordenites headed to northern Manitoba last week to help with fighting the forest fires.

The Morden trio along with the department's water tanker were joined by two firefighters from Plum Coulee and one from St. Jean.

Morden fire chief Andy Thiessen observed that it speaks to the dedication of fire department volunteers that they will always be prepared to step up and help.

"These guys are all taking time away from work, so they're maybe using holiday time to go up and do this, and the employers are generous enough," said Thiessen. "It's pretty sweet when there's a need like this that everybody bands together, and everybody gives a little bit to help out.

"There's been some multiple deployments over the last two or three weeks, so quite a few other departments have sent guys," he added. "We went up with our tanker because

it can carry a lot of water, and it can also pump and drive at the same time. A lot of other trucks can't do that, so it's a good asset for them."

Local fire departments such as Morden and Winkler are among nine that belong to the Pembina Triangle Mutual District, and it's co-ordinator will receive requests from the Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) to assist with community-based structural fire protection needs. Fires that are outside of more urban settings are separately co-ordinated through the Manitoba Wildfire Service.

The PTMAD departments determine the equipment and manpower that can be provided to assist the OFC for the need at hand. The coordinator and the fire chiefs will also ensure that they can still cover all the 911 calls in their own communities - aka 'the mutual aid shuffle'.

Winkler is still on standby but have not yet been asked to send help, although it did provide some support a few weeks ago in connection to a

Continued on page 4



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

A crew of area firefighters went north this past week with the Morden water tanker truck. Local firefighters are always prepared to help such as when Winkler assisted in connection to a fire in the area of Woodridge and Badger recently.

United in colour



PHOTO BY LANA MEIER/VOICE

A large crowd of supporters marched through the streets of Carman with rainbow flags, umbrellas and signs during the 2025 Pembina Valley Pride parade and celebration on June 7.

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More changes at Rendezvous

By Lorne Stelmach

There are more exciting changes happening at the Rendezvous Brewery and Taproom.

There has been a change in ownership along with the addition of a new chef who is also bringing new ideas and menu options with him.

Sonia Funk and her sister Leane remain on board as the owners, while Noah Friesen and Dustin Peltier have chosen to move on now.

The foursome had stepped in last year to rescue Rendezvous and keep it open when original owners Grant and Caylie Nicholson opted to shut down in order to focus more on family, and they also were no longer living here.

Funk was especially excited to be joining forces with Henri, who comes into the role of executive chef with over 20 years of culinary experience across the country, so she believes he brings an extraordinary level of skill and knowledge to the kitchen.

"It's exactly what we needed here," said Funk. "With just Leane and I owning the place now, we needed something very specific in the back because I think we've learned a lot the last six months ... about what the community here is looking for and what they want and figuring out how we can do that for the community."

Born and raised in Winnipeg, Henri and his family moved here in 2020 amidst the pandemic, and they have bought an acreage just outside of Morden.

"Me and my family are here to stay and want to see this community grow," he said.

He had not been in Rendezvous, but he became interested last year when he heard about the new ownership.

"It kind of piqued my interest, and I thought maybe at some point they would need a new chef," he said. "I came in and checked it out, and I've really just fallen in love with the place."

Funk said she has come to appreciate the strong support of the community here as they continue to tweak things and make changes.

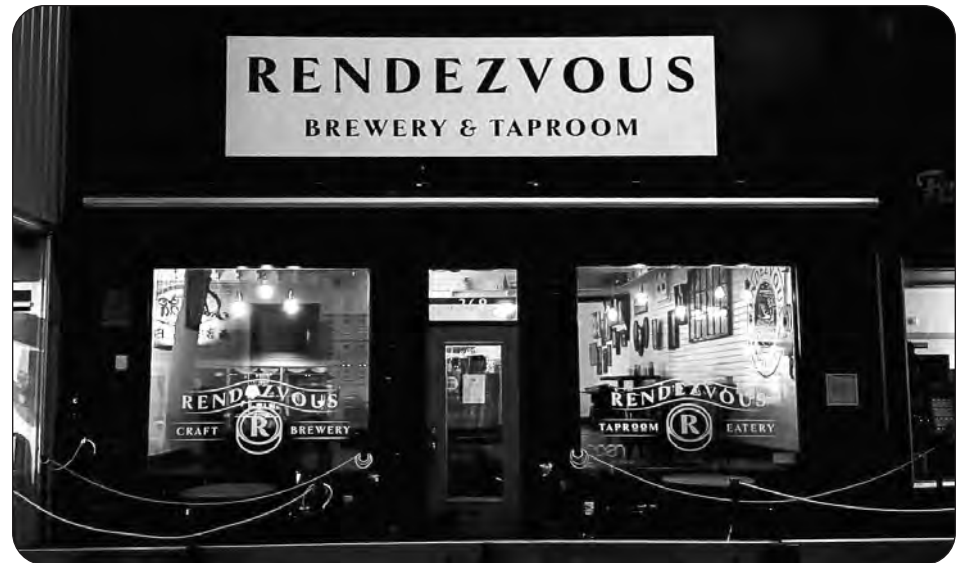
"I think, for the last six months when we were making the changes ... the gratitude from the community almost made me cry a couple times. People were so verbal in their appreciation that this was still here and that we were making the changes," she said.

"It's been very encouraging, and it just makes us feel that we're heading in the right direction."

Henri said he is emphasizing having a variety of quality choices.

"Having the freshest ingredients possible, locally sourced if we can where we can and just making sure that there is a variety for everybody," he said. "And we're doing the weekends with the BBQ now. There's not a lot of BBQ in the area."

Rendezvous is introducing some more changes to the menu, and they are having an opening celebration this Friday and Saturday with some new menu items such as fish tacos and na-



FACEBOOK PHOTOS

There has been a change in ownership at Rendezvous along with the addition of new executive chef Mark Henri.



chos, and special features will include lobster and oysters along with having Rendezvous beers discounted.

You can find more about Rendezvous online as well as on social media.

> LOCAL VOLUNTEERS, FROM PG. 3

fire in the area of Woodridge and Badger.

"It happens maybe every five or six years perhaps," suggested fire chief Richard Paetzold. "We went to Ashern somewhere around 2018 or 2019 when they had wildfires.

"Manitoba is well co-ordinated in this aspect through the Office of the Fire Commissioner that, at the drop of a hat, you can have a co-ordinated effort going anywhere in the province," he said. "The co-ordination on our part is to have people freed up to go and the apparatus to go.

"We're kind of at the farthest corner of the province from the current situation ... but they've been kind of moving from the north to the south ... even Carman sent a crew up as well."

The firefighters from here who were sent up last week would be

playing support roles, suggested Thiessen, adding he expected his initial guys would be there perhaps for a week.

"If things were still in rough shape, we'll maybe send another three or four guys up ... we'll leave the truck up there for awhile," he said, noting they can manage here without the tanker right now thanks to favorable conditions but also because they can call on equipment from Winkler and Darlingford.

Thiessen said he feels for everyone who is up north battling the fires on the front lines.

"I can only imagine what it's been like, although I was involved a bit years ago where we were right on the front line. It's pretty horrific," he said, "And communication up there is not as good as you would like."

> GROWING, FROM PG. 2

was to simply let farmers use his machine if they bought his straw, there immediately became a demand for the machine as well as his big square bales.

Now though, PhiBer is currently at capacity from a manufacturing standpoint, so they are aiming to move into the new facility in early 2026.

The new facility will enable PhiBer to manufacture more products in-house including their 3,000-plus gallon plastic tanks to accompany their popular DASH spraying unit.

As well, PhiBer's new roto-moulding equipment will make them one of the few manufacturers in all of Canada that is capable of producing these

bulky components in-house. PhiBer will be installing the largest roto-moulding equipment in Canada in the new building, which means they can produce tanks up to 4,000 gallons in size.

Taking control of their parts supply chain is more important than ever in this uncertain era of tariffs and counter tariffs, they added.

"We'll be able to bring a lot of our stuff that we outsource both in the U.S. and in Canada, bring that back home ... a lot of that stuff we want to produce here," said Friesen, who added they are looking at a lot more automation and the possibility for 24 hour production.

Police chief brings career to an end

By Lorne Stelmach

Morden will have a new face in the police chief's office later this year with the announcement last week of Brad Neduzak's retirement.

Stepping aside from the role will initially feel as strange to Neduzak as it will be for the community which has become so accustomed to him being the police chief.

"It's going to be strange in a lot of ways. This is kind of my second home," said Neduzak. "It's going to be a very big change, but I think still keeping busy will be the key with everything."

He aims to ease into the transition rather than a cold abrupt stop, and he gave his notice back in April but will remain on the job until the end of September.

"I just wanted to give enough notice so that they had time to run the process," he said.

Neduzak officially announced his retirement from the Morden Police Service after 40 years of dedicated service to the community.

He began his career in policing in 1985, and he was appointed chief in 2000, and under his guidance, the Morden Police Service has grown into a respected and community-focused organization.

For Neduzak, also turning 60 in April made it feel like the combination of the two milestones made it seem like a good time to step aside.

"It's certainly not an easy decision. You would

think after this many years, 40 years, that it would be pretty simple," he said. "I think it's just time to move on and to have someone else take up the reigns.

"It's been an incredible career in Morden and having been able to serve here my entire time is something very special to me."

Neduzak noted how serving with the police service and especially as chief has been much more than just a job or a career.

"Moreso in a smaller community, you are so much more involved and connected to everybody and everything in the community."

He also noted how much policing has changed over his four decades of service.

"It's incredible ... starting back then with only four constables, five members when I started to now with a staff of 21," said Neduzak.

"And with all the things that we are able to do now and move forward with like the specialized units and training that we started over the years here, things have changed and expanded so much.

"It's always for the community. All of these things that we do are to help keep our community safer," he concluded. "We hope that we meet that goal in keeping everybody safe and that everybody feels safe."

A social media post by the City of Morden paid tribute to Neduzak.

"Throughout his career, chief Neduzak has been



PROVIDED PHOTO

Brad Neduzak began his career in policing in 1985, and he was appointed chief in 2000.

known for his steady leadership and deep care for the well-being of both the officers under his command and the residents of Morden. His approach to community policing has strengthened public trust and built meaningful relationships between the police and the citizens they serve.

"As he embarks on this new chapter, we thank chief Neduzak for his outstanding service, exemplary leadership and lifelong dedication to public safety. His legacy will leave a lasting impact on our community and the policing profession."

Gretna's Gemma advances in Jr. Ranger Competition

By E. Antonio

Seven-year-old Gemma from Gretna has advanced to the third round of the Jr. Ranger Competition and is calling on her community for support to keep her in the running.

The online contest, open to nature-loving kids aged four to 12, offers a grand prize valued at US\$40,000. The winner will receive US\$20,000 in cash, mentorship sessions with wildlife expert Jeff Corwin, and a feature in Ranger Rick magazine.

To move forward, Gemma must place in the top 10 of her group by June 12.

Anyone with a Facebook account can vote once daily at www.jr-ranger.org/2025/gemma-40db.



Scan the QR code to vote for Gemma.

Bonus votes can also be cast by making a donation to the National Wildlife Federation through Gemma's voting page.



STANDARD PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Gretna's Gemma, 7, hopes to win the Jr. Ranger Competition, which carries a prize package worth US\$40,000.

life Federation through Gemma's voting page.

Arrest made for Carman break-ins

By Lorne Stelmach

The Pembina Valley RCMP made an arrest last week after a string of commercial break-ins.

A male suspect was arrested for his involvement in four break and enters at various businesses in Carman.

On May 4 at 1:30 a.m., two suspects broke a window at a business on Main Street but left the scene before entering.

Then on June 1 at about 1:15 a.m., officers responded to a report of break-in at a business on 1st Street SW. When officers arrived, the door had been damaged, and an undisclosed amount of cash had been stolen.

The next day at about 1 a.m., officers attended a business on 4th Avenue SW after a report of an alarm. A glass door had been smashed, and a golf club used in the break-in was left

behind, while alcohol was stolen from the premises.

Finally, on June 3 at about 2 a.m., officers attended a break-and-enter in progress at the same business on 1st Street SW. Officers, along with RCMP police dog services attended but were unable to locate the suspect after he fled on foot.

After reviewing video surveillance, RCMP were able to identify a suspect

and arrested a 30-year-old from Winnipeg at a home in Carman. He has been charged with mischief under \$5,000, four counts of break and enter and possession of weapon and was remanded into custody.

The investigation continues with Pembina Valley RCMP still searching for a female suspect who was involved in some of the incidents.

The Voice



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OUR SISTER PUBLICATIONS



getheard

EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

Peddling over pedestrians

Recently my wife and I were out for a walk when, at the last possible moment, we heard the distressed sounds of a cyclist behind us and then BOOM we were run into. Hard.

My immediate instinct after pulling ourselves up was to respond in an uncontrolled rage. However, I saw the young teen cyclist looking absolutely distraught at what had happened. I took a breath, and perhaps more harshly than was necessary after a stream of apologies poured out of his mouth I simply said; RIDE. ON. THE. ROAD. NOT. THE. SIDEWALK.

I have written about these things before to no avail. Perhaps the average cyclist does not read the newspaper, who knows. What I do know is a significant number of cyclists in our communities ride on the sidewalk.

Now, to set the stage, you should know my wife and I are avid cyclists. My wife even more so than me. She regularly commutes to and fro between Morden and Winkler for work and is about the most visible thing you will see next to the rising sun.

I tell you this, so you know that when I complain about these things I am not hating on cyclists.

Listen, rules matter, especially when it comes to pedestrians, vehicles, cyclists, scooters, etc.

I don't like some of the rules but we

both follow them. Wearing a helmet? Yep. Hate wearing a helmet? Yep. Cycling on the road as close as possible to the curb as the law states? Yes. Light on front and back at night. Of course. Etc.

If you, your child, uncle, grandchild, cousin, aunt, dog or cat cycle (or scooter etc.) DO NOT, EVER, RIDE ON THE SIDEWALK.

Ever.

Like, ever.

Despite how clear this is I recognize it will have a limited effect.

I was ready to write a VERY angry column about all this when my wife, ever the voice of reason, suggested a more nuanced and researched perspective. She has done a LOT of research into cycling and cycling infrastructure and has been wildly helpful in the creation of this piece.

To truly have a plan to deal with an issue you should first understand the issue. It's all well and good to cite and ticket cyclists, scooters, etc. for riding on the sidewalk (do we even do that?) but reacting only goes so far to effect change.

The question that should be asked is why are people riding on the sidewalk in the first place?

Well, there could be a number of reasons but let's look at two very likely key culprits. 1. they are unaware of

the law and/or the reasons behind it. 2. There is an infrastructure issue driving them to the sidewalk.

The issue of awareness, or education is actually not a difficult one to deal with, but it is an ever existing one. By the time you educate a current crop of cyclists, scooters, etc. a whole new crop is ready to go. C'est la vie.

I remember when I began cycling in Guelph we were required to have a license on the bike. To get the license you had to listen to a boring presentation from a local police officer about the laws around cycling, why they existed and the consequences if you broke them. This often happened at school.

Sometimes the school would host a bike rodeo/competition that the local police would judge and offer awards, during which they would reinforce the rules.

Well, that deals with one segment of the population but there are others. Perhaps it would be wise to distribute easy to digest/understand information throughout numerous venues—Pembina Valley Local Immigration Partnership for newcomers whose countries of origin may have different laws and practices related to cycling, for example.

A free booklet given away by local

Continued on page 7

Correction

An article in the May 29 issue of the Winkler Morden Voice mistakenly left out mention of a Morden player who was part of Team Manitoba at the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships in Kamloops, B.C.

Delaney Darby was an alternate on the roster but ended up getting to play in six of the eight games, and Team Manitoba beat Alberta 4-2 for the gold medal. Darby also plays on the Pembina Valley Hawks AAA team.

See inside this edition of the Voice for more on this story.

All columns and letters published on our Get Heard pages are the personal opinions of the submitting writers. They are not objective news articles, nor are they necessarily the viewpoint of the Voice.

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New care service starts

By Lorne Stelmach

A new business based in Morden is aiming to help and support the seniors in the community to live independently and respectfully.

A ribbon cutting ceremony Saturday celebrating the opening of Homecare Everest in downtown Morden.

The people behind the new business also started Cleaning Service 7Days then also took on establishing Ichkan Doner Kabab in the Morden food hall as well as Bison Cleaning Supplies.

"All of them as you see are in the service business serving the community," said Amit Adya, who does sales and business development.

"We've been seeing that a lot of the community here is seniors," he said. "We were missing a very big piece of the community, which was the seniors, so this is primarily targeted at the senior community.

"We want to help them live their life with dignity and independence," said Adya, noting there are gaps sometimes where people can't access other care options.

"Coming out of the private sector, if you are not in the queue in the government side, we will be able to help you at a very reasonable price."

He said they will be available to do all manner of small and larger tasks whether that be taking someone to the clinic or doing household chores or even preparing a meal.

"We plan to evolve according to the need of the community," said Niby Moulick. "Whatever the community wants or desires from us ... we are going to try to deliver it as they want it or when they want it or how they want it."

"If people want something else, we'll be more than happy to customize," Adya reiterated.

They are now in the process of re-



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

A ribbon cutting ceremony Saturday celebrating the opening of Homecare Everest in downtown Morden.

cruiting staff and anticipate being able to start offering their services soon.

"Morden and Winkler is just the

start for us. We want to be present all across southern Manitoba," Adya added.

Potential measles exposure at BTHC

Voice staff

The province made a further tweak this past week to the criteria for measles vaccinations.

Manitoba Health, Seniors and Long Term Care expanded the measles vaccine outbreak eligibility to include children aged six months to under 12 months who have been evacuated from their home communities due to wildfires in Manitoba.

One dose of the MMR vaccine can be provided in addition to the routine schedule offered at 12 months of age and between four and six years old.

The complete eligibility criteria can be viewed online at www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/vaccineeligibility.html#MMR.

Meanwhile, the province last week also advised the public of another new measles exposure site in the region. Anyone who was at the Bound-

ary Trails Health Centre emergency department May 22 from 6 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. is asked to monitor symptoms until June 13.

Public health is asking individuals who think they may have been exposed to visit www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/diseases/measles-exposures.html, but those who have not been directly notified are asked to contact Health Links-Info Santé at 1-888-315-9257 toll-free in Manitoba.

Symptoms of measles generally appear seven to 21 days after exposure, and initial symptoms may include fever, runny nose, drowsiness, irritability and red eyes. Small white spots may also develop on the inside of the mouth or throat. Several days after the initial symptoms, a red blotchy rash appears on the face and progresses down the body.

Measles can lead to complications including ear infections, diarrhea, pneumonia (lung infection) and encephalitis (brain inflammation). If symptoms develop, individuals who may have been exposed are advised to isolate at home and contact their health-care provider and advise them of the potential exposure to measles. Anyone else in the household who is unimmunized should limit exposure to others until the symptomatic person has received advice from their health-care provider.

It is best to call ahead so health-care staff can take steps to reduce the exposure of other people to the virus.

Measles is a highly infectious communicable disease that is spread through droplets in the air formed when coughing or sneezing. An infected person can spread the virus from four days before the rash ap-

pears until four days after. The disease tends to be more severe in infants and young children and can be life-threatening.

Immunization is the only means of protecting people from contracting measles. In Manitoba, a two-dose measles vaccine program for measles, mumps, rubella and varicella (MMR or MMRV) is routinely provided for children who are at least one year of age and again when aged four to six. In the case of a measles exposure, a second dose may be given earlier than four to six years of age.

For general information on measles, including immunization, visit the measles web page at www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/diseases/measles.html or call Health Links-Info Santé in Winnipeg at 204-788-8200 or 1-888-315-9257 (toll-free in Manitoba).

> CANTELON, FROM PG. 6

bike shops with every bicycle sold may be useful as well.

You get the idea. Communication. Clear and regular.

Then we have the trickier issue of infrastructure. How do we know infrastructure is an issue?

Well, for one thing, there's only one reason a cyclist rides their bike on the sidewalk instead of the road: fear. Can you honestly say that Altona, Winkler, Morden, and other communities are structured in a way that makes cyclists, scooters, etc. feel safe?

Cyclists would rather risk running into a pedestrian than a Ford F-150. Sure, Morden has one bike route that runs several blocks along Wardrop but that is, as we say, only a start.

The creation of the active transportation path between Morden and Winkler will help those communities and highway cyclists, but the average kid heading back and forth to school doesn't really have a lot of options.

Growing a connected, safe, bike lane infrastructure will help. This requires planning and money.

A concerted and concerned community effort can reduce the risk that myself, my wife and peo-

ple like us, won't get run down again while out for a casual stroll in the evening.

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Time for a change for Prairie Barnwood

By Lorne Stelmach

A Morden manufacturer noted for its handcrafted furniture made from reclaimed and sustainably sourced wood is changing direction.

Prairie Barnwood recently announced the end of its custom furniture production after 18 years, but it is continuing on with a new chapter.

While the company is not yet announcing the full details of its new direction, it has confirmed a shift with a renewed focus on architectural elements for the home.

More information will be released August 1, but founder Blayne Wyton made the announcement in an open letter to the company’s customer base.

In it, Wyton reflected on the company’s origins beginning with a single table built in a modest workshop and the journey that followed.

Founded in 2009 by Wyton, Prairie Barnwood’s earliest roots were wound deeply around the furniture industry. In 2001, he started an antique refurbishing company which grew and evolved to eventually become Prairie Barnwood.

“This moment is bittersweet. But it’s also what’s guiding us forward,” said Wyton.

“While custom furniture has always been close to our hearts, the model we were using had become

unsustainable, especially as we navigated rising material costs, changing consumer expectations and the operational strain of one-off production,” he said. “We realized we had two choices: keep pushing a broken system or evolve into something more focused, streamlined and sustainable.

“We’re moving toward creating architectural elements that help turn houses into sanctuaries,” said Wyton. “We’ll be focusing on elements like beams, mantles, trim, doors and feature walls, still rooted in craftsmanship, reclaimed wood and timeless design.”

In the meantime, Prairie Barnwood is offering a final chance for customers to purchase from its remaining furniture collection of handcrafted tables, chairs, bar stools and in-stock furniture.

Visit their studio at 445 Jefferson St. in Morden or shop online at www.prairiebarnwood.com

Wyton concluded with thanks for the support they have continued to receive over the years.

“Prairie Barnwood extends heartfelt gratitude for the continued support of our valued clients, creative collaborators and the community that has championed our work from the start. From humble beginnings to homes filled with meaningful pieces, the company credits its community as the foundation of its success.”



PROVIDED PHOTO

The company has confirmed a shift with a renewed focus on architectural elements for the home.

Kidney walk raises funds



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

People braved the cool rainy weather Saturday to participate in the Pembina Valley Kidney Walk in Morden. The Kidney Foundation holds kidney walks across the country as a vital means of supporting their mission to ensure all Canadians with chronic kidney disease have access to high quality health care and essential support. Every dollar raised fuels programs and services for those affected by kidney disease, which is estimated to impact about 1 in 10 or four million people.



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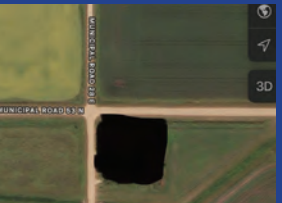
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Learning about the law

By Sean Conway

Morris students got a feel for the workings of the legal system recently as the Law 40 course at the Morris school hosted four mock trials.

The accused faced charges of uttering threats and theft, possession of drugs intending to traffic, double vehicle manslaughter and possession of a firearm.

The Law 40 is a course in the social studies curriculum, and the mock trial is a simulation of a trial in the youth justice system.

Students, staff and invited guests played the roles of lawyers, the accused, the complainant, witnesses and more. Each side worked together to prepare for their hearing, where they used a mix of law, facts and strategy to make their case. A jury of students listened to the evidence presented and delivered a verdict.

Studying law gives students the opportunity to gain knowledge and competencies that will help them throughout their lives as responsible citizens, suggested teacher Daniel Lehmann, who was the presiding judge for all four cases, which involved 16 students from grades 11 and 12.

"Student learn about the youth criminal justice system. How laws are made and different ways laws may affect them. The course gives students the ability to talk and engage and learn to debate," he said.

Judge Lehmann's robe belonged to George Schmidt, a lawyer in Morris who passed in 2007.

"George wore the rob when he appeared in court," said Claudia Schmidt, his widow. "Every year, the school contacts me to borrow the robe for the judge to wear in the mock trials."

Mock hearings are an engaging way to learn about law and the justice system. Students learn how to analyze facts, create legal arguments and conduct all parts of a trial.

"It was very interesting learning law," said crown attorney Liam Wilson. "I learned lots of stuff I didn't know. How to convey and argument and thinking on your feet."

The accused Jessie Wai, played by Pat Schmitke, owner of the Morris Bigway, was a youth offender charged with five offenses related to illegal drugs. His friend, a witness for the defence, Casey Librahim, was present at the scene where the alleged crime took place.

"I met with the defence team before the trial to go over questions and prepare. This is my first year of doing this. I was nervous thinking about the cross-examination. What questions the crown lawyers were going to ask," said the education assistant and lunch lady Melinda Bobrowski, playing Casey.

This was Schmitke's second year playing the part of an accused.

"I encourage the staff at my store to take part. It is important we get involved. The kids prepare you and you want them to win," said Shmitke.

Crystal Legary, a student services administration assistant, was a forensic scientist for one case and a police officer for another.

"We are given background to read. Student legal teams have to schedule meetings to prepare. I was a crown witness for both," she noted.

"This was my second year involved. I find it lots of fun and a great learning experience for the kids."

After both sides presented their case, Justice Lehmann charged the jury with understanding their obligation and what they must consider re-



PHOTO BY SEAN CONWAY/VOICE

Jared Wade-Kavanagh played the crown counsel, here questioning the accused in the mock trial.

turning a verdict. The student jurors exited for deliberation.

The crown and defence legal team stayed in the classroom, bantering on how they reacted during the trial and what they should have done differently. The jury returned to the classroom on the court clerk called the

room to order.

The jury foreperson was called to read the verdict, and the court acquitted the accused.

"I found the case difficult because I thought he was innocent, and it was my job to convict him," said counsel for the crown Wilson.



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Steps of love and remembrance

By Lori Penner

Altona residents came together June 4 for a heartfelt memory walk in support of the Alzheimer Society of Manitoba.

The event brought together seniors from the Gardens on Tenth, Grade 6 students from École West Park School, local leaders and supporters from across the community to walk a stretch of the 10th Avenue NE trail with each step taken in remembrance, hope and solidarity.

The morning began with a short but powerful program held at the Gardens on Tenth, where participants gathered to reflect on the journeys faced by individuals and families affected by Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia.

"I love how the walk opens the door for dialogue," said regional coordinator for the Alzheimer Society of Manitoba Rebecca Atkinson, who highlighted the importance of conversations that reduce stigma and encourage early support.

She also reminded participants of a local support group that meets monthly at the Gardens.

"If you're a care partner on the journey, please join us."

The presence of Alzheimer Society CEO Erin Crawford and donor relations officer Pauline Vaslavskiy emphasized the significance of local initiatives in the broader effort to support those living with dementia.

"This walk in Altona is really special," said Crawford. "You're supporting the Alzheimer Society, but more importantly, you're supporting the people who are living with dementia now ... you're helping ensure programs and support systems remain available."

Crawford shared encouraging news

as well with the federal government's recent commitment of \$5.1 million to the Alzheimer Society research program.

"Imagine a future where our kids never have to attend one of these walks because Alzheimer's is a disease from the past. That's what we're walking toward."

Gardens on Tenth board chair John Falk offered an emotional message, drawing attention to the deeply personal reasons behind each participant's presence.

"Whether you're walking in memory of a loved one, supporting a friend or simply standing with our community, your presence today is powerful," he said. "We walk for the grandparents who remember our faces but forget our names, for spouses navigating daily challenges with love and for families searching for answers and hope. Most importantly, we walk to show that even in the face of memory loss, what remains is our deep human connection."

Altona Mayor Harv Schroeder echoed that sentiment and expressed gratitude.

"To our local volunteers ... you are the driving force in the organization. Thank you for your dedication. And thank you for giving of yourself today."

Adding a joyful and uplifting element to the event were the musical performances by Grade 5 students from École West Park School. The 2024 Manitoba Sunflower Festival royalty - Queen Kinsey Friesen, First Princess Kate Fennell and Second Princess Mackenzie Friesen - also attended to show their support.

The heart of the day belonged to Altona resident Verna Heinrichs, who shared her story with quiet grace and deep emotion. She walked in memo-



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

"Whether you're walking in memory of a loved one, supporting a friend or simply standing with our community, your presence today is powerful," Gardens on Tenth board chair John Falk said at the memory walk in Altona.

ry of her husband Peter, who passed away from Alzheimer's May 19, 2024.

Peter's journey began with small signs, subtle changes that only became clear in hindsight.

"He was 85 when he passed, but his journey started years earlier," Heinrichs shared. "It was in the unfamiliar things he'd do or say. Ultimately, his driving became unsafe. He wasn't officially diagnosed until after he fell and broke his femur. He was gone just a few months later."

They were married for 58 years.

"That's a long life together," she said softly. "We shared so many memories. It was hard to carry on from there."

She acknowledged how difficult it was to seek help, but she said the Alzheimer's Society quickly became a vital support.

"At first, you don't want to admit that you need help. That was my biggest hurdle. But once I connected with the society, I never regretted it. My advice to others is: don't wait. Use the supports that are out there."

Heinrichs said one of the most important parts of her journey was learning how to adapt communication with Peter.

"I have a gazillion memories we shared - baseball games, laughter, little everyday things. Alzheimer's doesn't take those away."

Atkinson also spoke about ongoing education and outreach such as the recent 'I Love My Brain' exhibit in Carman which encouraged people to protect their cognitive health and value the life that continues even after diagnosis.

Communities across Manitoba are showing their support in similar ways. On May 28, Salem Home in Winkler hosted their own Memory Walk, where staff, students from Emerado Centennial School and volunteers helped residents circle the block in wheelchairs. Another walk is scheduled in Darlingford June 21.

As the Memory Walk in Altona wrapped up, it was clear that this was more than a fundraising event. It was a collective moment of compassion and purpose.

"We walk together," Falk said earlier. "And every step we take helps strengthen the lifeline of support that the Alzheimer Society provides. Today proves that no one walks alone."

Rumble in the Valley



PHOTOS BY SIOBHAN MAAS/VOICE

It was a fun and noisy weekend in Morris as it once again hosted the Rumble in the Valley Friday and Saturday evening. Rumble in the Valley began in 2017 and quickly grew to be perhaps Manitoba's largest and loudest truck and tractor pull. Visitors could check out the units and talk with the drivers during the open pits, and there were also food trucks, beer gardens, a car show, monster truck rides and more.

Montcalm hosts heritage festival



PHOTOS BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

The Montcalm Heritage Festival, a two-day event celebrating culture and tradition. Sophie and Milaine Fillion from St. Pierre stepped back in time in the Union Point schoolhouse at the St. Joseph Museum. Stationary engines were revved up for festival goers enjoyment, and the Joe Creek Dancers and Singers honoured Indigenous traditions.



Anja Sauso and her daughter Lea Sauso attended the Montcalm Heritage Festival for the first time and loved every minute of it



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Teddy Bear TLC



PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

There was a lot of family fun to be had Saturday as the Winkler Family Resource Centre hosted its annual teddy bear picnic. Sisters Demi and Georgia Martens had their dolls receive some special treatment, and Sierra Unruh and mom Vanessa learnt about dog safety while Aurelia Spencer loved getting a pink heart painted on to her cheek.

Mastering the art of the pitch

By Lorne Stelmach

Aqeelah Daibu sees herself as a future entrepreneur, so a recent one day workshop gave her some good ideas about what it might take to be successful.

The Morden Collegiate student participate in the Manitoba High School Pitch Workshop June 3 in Winnipeg.

It offered a fast-paced day of listening, learning and doing with the goal to encourage students to discover their entrepreneurial skills and to learn strategies on how to think creatively and channel the inner entrepreneur into real-life activities.

The day involved students working in groups and it ended with a pitch

competition to practice public speaking.

"I felt nervous at first," said Daibu, who has also been making a name for herself in serving as youth councillor for the City of Morden this year.

Daibu was part of the junior achievement program, and that is where she learned about the Manitoba High School Pitch Workshop, and she saw it a great opportunity to learn the art of pitching, how to grab attention, structure a winning pitch and use persuasive language like a pro.

It was also very helpful to practice in a fun and supportive space with feedback from peers and experts.

"We had a lecturer who spoke to us about the basics of a good business pitch, and then we got divided into teams with different people from different backgrounds," she explained.

"For me, the experience was amazing ... I pre-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Morden student Aqeelah Daibu took part in the Manitoba High School Pitch Workshop.

sented an idea I truly believe in ... my idea was pre-fab homes for first time buyers," she noted.

"It wasn't just about sharing a business concept. It was about addressing a root problem that affects young people, families and communities across Canada.

"The feedback I received after the event made me more confident in the potential of my pitch," she continued.

"The main things I learned from the event is even if you have a good idea,

if you don't have the right mindset and if you don't have the right resources ... also have the right people ... it doesn't matter if the idea is as good as any, often times it's something intangible.

"It's coming together as a team and sharing all your ideas and sharing information, sharing stories," said Daibu, who felt it is something that will help her in the future when she perhaps gets into business on her own.



sports&recreation

Top debut for young Winkler golfer

By Lorne Stelmach

A young golfer from Winkler made quite a first impression in a provincial tournament recently.

The Maple Leaf Junior Golf Tour made its 2025 mini tour season debut in Manitoba at Maplewood golf course in St. Pierre-Jolys June 1

The top finishers included Ashton Ginter in the boys 11-12 as he finished the par 66 course with an 85.

It was a memorable debut on the tour for the 12-year-old from Winkler who has been golfing for about six years.

"It feels really good because this was the first one I've ever played," said Ginter, who noted it was a case of hard work paying off as he practices almost every day. "I wasn't expecting a win cause this was my first ever MJT ... so the win felt so good."

What he thinks helped him do so well at the tournament was his consistency, as his drives on most holes were really good.

He also said living close to a golf course has helped him too.

"I can bike or scoot over any time I feel to practice or play a round," said Ginter, who also mentioned the staff at the Winkler golf course - Colton Harder and Caden Klassen - for having shown him so many great techniques

Already rescheduled from its original spring date

due to snow, the event played out under very different but still challenging conditions. Young athletes were put to the test with extreme heat and drifting wildfire smoke - conditions few could have anticipated.

The resilient field were competing in five age divisions for titles, prizes and the chance to qualify for the MJT mini tour national championship in British Columbia this August.

The next MJT mini tour event in the province is at Kildonan Park Golf Course in Winnipeg June 28. To register or for more information on the MJT and upcoming events, please visit www.maplejt.com.

The non-profit Maple Leaf Junior Golf Tour is billed as Canada's top junior golf tour as well as the only national junior tour run exclusively by PGA of Canada professionals and the 'Road to College Golf' in Canada.

The organization is supported by partners across various tiers, and the MJT hosts more than 100 events across Canada including free junior clinics as well as the MJT mini tour for 12U and multi-day events for competitive players aged 11-19 which also offer qualifiers for international tournaments.

The program has annual awards, scholarships and incentives to help reward performance and participation throughout each season.

MJT alumni include many professional tour play-



PROVIDED PHOTO

The top finishers included Ashton Ginter in the boys 11-12 as he finished the par 66 course with an 85.

ers and PGA of Canada professionals as well as Canadian amateur, national and provincial junior champions.

The MJT aims to develop champions in golf and in life, promoting the game from grassroots through to the provincial, national, university and professional levels.

Orioles romp to win over Bisons

By Lorne Stelmach

The two regional rivals in the MJBL took to Arctic Field in Winkler last Wednesday with the Pembina Valley Orioles doubling up the Altona Bisons 12-6.

The Orioles built leads of 2-0 in the second inning then 5-0 after three and 9-3 after four, and they were led at

the plate by Ethan Klassen, who went three for three including a double and two singles.

Chris Peters earned the win for Pembina Valley in allowing four hits and three runs over six innings of work, striking out eight and walking six while the Orioles connected for 11 hits.

The Orioles then made it two in a



PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Bisons' Hayden Klassen doesn't get the ball in time to stop Orioles' Karsten Peters from stealing third base. And Orioles starter Chris Peters pitched a solid six innings, keeping the Bison hitters off balance.

row last week with an 11-0 shutout of the Winnipeg South Wolves Friday.

Pembina Valley broke open what had been a 1-0 lead with five runs in the fourth, three more in the fifth and then two more in the sixth.

Sam Blatz allowed six hits but no runs over six innings while striking out seven. Ethan Klassen and JT Martine both had two hits, while Martine, Chris Peters and Owen Goertzen each drove in two runs.

With the victories, the Orioles climbed into fifth place with a 4 & 6 record, while the Bisons remain mired in the cellar in seventh place at 0 & 9.

This week, the Orioles were to visit Interlake Wednesday then host Winnipeg South Saturday and visit Altona Sunday. The Bisons were also visiting Winnipeg South Saturday and Elmwood in a later game Sunday.

Darby helps Team Manitoba strike gold at national Indigenous hockey championship

By Annaliese Meier

A young hockey player from the Pembina Valley region is returning home with a gold medal around her neck — and a lifetime of memories — after helping Team Manitoba claim top spot at the 2025 National Aboriginal Hockey Championships (NAHC) in Kamloops, B.C.

Delaney Darby, a member of the U18 AAA Pembina Valley Hawks, played a key role in Manitoba's historic sweep at the national tournament, where both the province's male and female U18 Indigenous teams captured gold. The annual event, held May 5–10 in partnership with Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc and the City of Kamloops, brought together the best First Nations, Métis and Inuit talent from across the country.

"It was a moment I'll never forget," Darby said. "As soon as that final buzzer rang, we were all screaming and celebrating. We threw our gloves in the air — it felt so surreal."

Team Manitoba capped an undefeated run in the playoffs with a 2–0 shutout over Team British Columbia in the championship game. Delaney credited the squad's chemistry and relentless effort as key factors in their success.

"We all put in 100 per cent every time we stepped on the ice," she said. "What really set us apart was our team connection. No one was ever left out — we played for each other and stuck together no matter what."

The journey began months earlier with a grueling tryout process that stretched from August to December 2024. "It was nerve-racking," she said. "You're competing against the top girls in Manitoba, and you have to find that next level."

Once the team was selected, they held three week-

ends of practice and exhibition play before flying out west. The preparation paid off. Over the course of the week, Team Manitoba battled through tough competition, including a hard-fought loss to Team Ontario, last year's champions. Despite injuries and physical play, Delaney said the group never backed down.

"We lost some key players, but we pushed through. We knew what we were capable of, and we kept fighting."

The NAHC is more than just a hockey tournament — it's a celebration of Indigenous excellence and culture. For Darby, the experience was as spiritually enriching as it was athletically rewarding.

"The opening ceremonies were beautiful. They really helped me connect with my culture and gave me a deeper understanding of what my ancestors went through. I felt so lucky to be part of this team."

She also credited her parents, especially her dad, for their constant support. "My dad breaks down my games with me and pushes me to be better. My parents have always shown up for me — getting me to the rink, encouraging me, helping me succeed. I couldn't have done this without them."

As she looks ahead to her regular season with the Pembina Valley Hawks, Darby hopes to bring that same championship mindset back to her club team.

"I want to help our team reach our potential, create a positive environment, and hopefully bring home the banner," she said.

Her advice to younger players? "Be yourself on the ice. Don't try to be someone else. Work hard and don't let anyone tell you what you can't do."

Manitoba's golden sweep at the NAHC is a proud moment for the province — and for the communi-

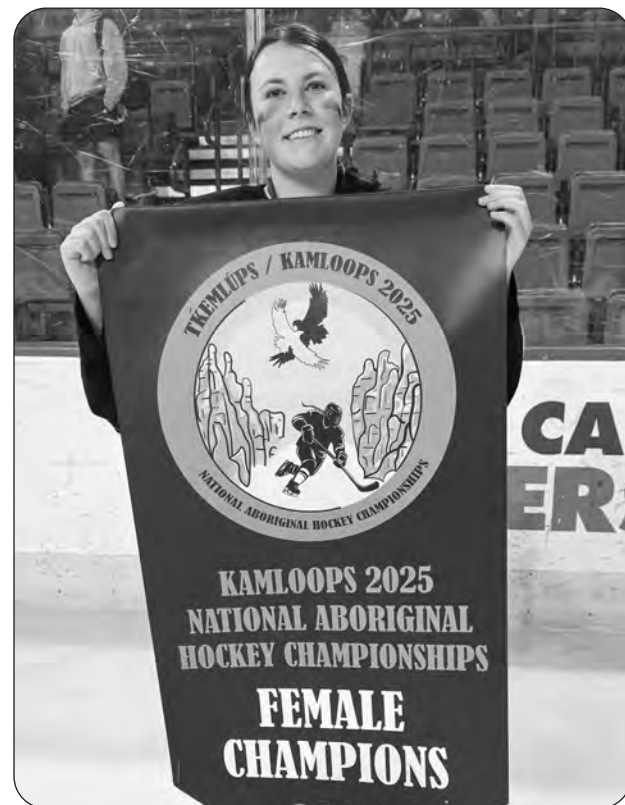


PHOTO SUBMITTED

Delaney Darby holds the championship banner after helping Team Manitoba win gold at the 2025 National Aboriginal Hockey Championships in Kamloops, B.C.

ties that continue to support and develop Indigenous hockey talent.

"It wasn't just a win for us," Darby said. "It was a win for everyone who supported us along the way."

A United celebration



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The United Church celebrated its 100th year this past weekend with a number of events. A number of things marked the anniversary with Zion Calvin in Darlingford aiming to ring its bell a hundred times, and a car rally toured significant locations in the region Saturday. Then Sunday featured special services in both churches, and there was a fundraising component in support of the Truth and Action Working Group.

Southern Health strikes



STANDARD PHOTO SUBMITTED

Southern Health region bowlers captured medals at the Manitoba 55+ Summer Games held June 3–5, 2025, in Steinbach. From left, "The Pretenders" — David Dyck, Laurie Wiebe, Bob Wilson, Jacquie Russell and Randy McFarlane — earned bronze in the 55+ team bowling event. Russell also won gold in the 65+ women's singles, while Dyck claimed silver in the 65+ men's singles.

Thrift Store hands out funds

By Lorne Stelmach

The Morden Community Thrift Store is helping out 20 community organizations with its spring grants.

The Thrift Store handed out \$142,800 in grants Monday morning to a wide variety of organizations and community sectors.

"That just shows the need for our community. It just shows how much we are needed in our community," said president Kent Noel.

"We try to give to everybody," he noted. "They might just not get what they're asking for because we have budget constraints as well, but we try to our best to give everybody what we can."

There was also more reason to celebrate as Noel announced the thrift store was finally ready to move ahead with plans for a second building.

Construction of the new building which will go up directly to the east of the existing building starts in July.

"It's been a long process. It's about three years in the works getting this going, and we finally finalized everything probably about six weeks ago," said Noel.

"The new building will be for furniture, sporting goods and electrical," he noted. "It'll be an 8,000 square foot floor space, where our current store is 5,000 sq. ft. With the new store, that opens up the old store with 2,000 more square feet of housewares and clothing ... right now, that's our number one sellers."

Some of the major grants handed out included Regional Connections receiving \$25,000 for their new building fund, while Western School Division got \$20,000 for the track and soccer field at Ecole Discovery Trails School. Menzies Medical Centre earned \$15,000 for doctor recruitment, and the Morden Curling Club got \$10,000 for structur-



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The Thrift Store handed out \$142,800 in grants Monday morning to a wide variety of organizations and community sectors.

al upgrade while Big Brothers Big Sisters received \$10,000 for mentorship funding assistance.

Katie Cares received \$6,000 for their common room expansion, and the Morden Activity Centre got \$5,500 for various workshops and a glass door refrigerator.

Grants of \$5,000 went to each of the following: Prairie Crossroads School for their music program, Manitou Ag Society for the community centre upgrade, Morden Adult Education Centre for upgrading technology and enhanced learning program, Morden Collegiate safe grad for financial support, Many Hands for food hampers and financial support and Child and Family Services of Manitoba to send kids to camp.

Morden Family Resource Centre received \$2,600 for rent, insurance and two programs. The following four each received \$2,500 - Morden and Area

Christmas Cheer for financial support, Youth for Christ for an industrial dishwasher, 500 Stephen for transportation vouchers and Rock Lake United Church Camp for kitchen upgrades.

The Central Youth Choir received \$2,000 for financial assistance, while Prairie Soundscape received \$1,700 for financial assistance.

At an earlier date, the thrift store gave the Morden Collegiate \$8,000 for scholarship for eight graduating students. Also \$500 was given to BTHC for flowers for their outdoor flower beds.

Noel expressed thanks all who donate items and shop at the thrift store as well as the volunteers who do a great job of sorting, cleaning, fixing, pricing and stocking the shelves.

"It's community support that made this happen," he stressed. "Without our donations, we're not here."

Province commits \$120M for Prairie Innovation Centre at Assiniboine College

By Annaliese Meier

The Manitoba government is investing \$120 million in a major post-secondary project aimed at boosting agriculture training and job creation in

the province's Westman region.

Premier Wab Kinew announced Thursday the province will provide \$60 million in capital funding and an additional \$60 million in bridge

financing to support construction of the Prairie Innovation Centre for Sustainable Agriculture at Assiniboine Community College's North Hill Campus in Brandon.

"Manitoba's agriculture sector is critical to our province's economy and to staying resilient against Trump's tariffs," said Kinew. "The Prairie Innovation Centre will house new and expanded training, so Manitobans can learn the skills they need to get good, in-demand ag jobs here in Westman and across the province."

Of the capital funding, \$40 million will go toward construction of the innovation centre and \$20 million will support the development of a new 216-seat child-care facility within the project.

The province has also approved bridge financing to allow work to begin immediately.

Assiniboine College president Mark

Frison said the commitment allows the project to move forward without delay.

"We are pleased the province is providing the financing for the Prairie Innovation Centre," said Frison. "It is an important project that will help to improve value-added processing and export development capacity in the agriculture sector."

Frison said the college will continue working with the province to secure federal support for the project.

The new centre is expected to add hundreds of training seats in agriculture and related industries, expanding the region's capacity to meet growing labour demands. It will also serve as a hub for research and collaboration with industry partners.

In addition to long-term workforce development, Kinew said the centre's construction is expected to create nearly 1,000 jobs.

Whips edge past Mudhens

By Lorne Stelmach

The two local Border Baseball League rivals faced each other for the first time this season last week.

It was a close game in Winkler Friday, but the Whips edged the Morden Mudhens 5-4.

Earlier last week, the Mudhens had picked up their first win of the season last week with a 9-4 victory over the Carman Cardinals last Tuesday.

The Mudhens sit at 1 & 3, while the Whips are at .500 with a 2 & 2 record.

The Pilot Mound Pilots have the best record so far at 5 & 1 after falling 2-1 to Cartwright last Tuesday but then trouncing Clearwater 18-8 last Friday. Clearwater however romped 21-4 over Holland last Tuesday.

Winkler was to face Clearwater Tuesday then Baldur Friday, while Morden had Pilot Mound Tuesday and Holland Sunday. Altona meanwhile was scheduled to take on Carman Tuesday and Clearwater Friday. Carman's lone game of the week is to be Baldur Friday.

Plugged into success

By Lori Penner

Wes Klippenstein could hardly believe it when his name was announced as the gold medal winner in electrical installations at the Skills Canada national competition in Regina.

"It felt surreal," said the Grade 12 student from the Altona area. "I just thought, wow, is this really happening?"

Competing against top students from across the country, Klippenstein represented Team Manitoba with precision, confidence and speed in a challenging two-day event that tested his technical knowledge, time management and attention to detail.

Held May 28 to 31 in Regina, the Skills Canada national competition brought together over 500 students and apprentices in 40 skilled trades and technology contests including robotics, culinary arts, welding and cabinet making.

Klippenstein earned his spot at nationals after winning gold at the Skills Manitoba level earlier this spring.

A student in the electrical technology program through Red River Valley

Technical Vocational Area (RRTVA), he completed his training at Northlands Parkway Collegiate with W.C. Miller Collegiate in Altona as his home school.

The electrical installations category required competitors to complete a complex, full-scale mock-up of a residential electrical system.

"I had to mount panels and boxes, install a baseboard heater with a thermostat, smoke detectors, kitchen plugs and even a doorbell," he explained. "They added drywall boxes into real drywall this time, which made it even more challenging."

Klippenstein prepared extensively with his instructor Trent Krahn, replicating likely project scenarios at school and practicing skills like pipe bending and box mounting at home.

Despite the intensity of the two day competition, he finished with two hours to spare on day two.

"I kept checking everything twice. I was nervous I'd missed something, but it all passed," he said.

Judges praised his work for being clean, accurate and code compliant.

With family roots in the trade, Klip-



PROVIDED PHOTO

Wes Klippenstein at his work station during the 2025 Skills Canada national competition in Regina.

penstein plans to continue working with his dad and eventually pursue real seal certification.

"I highly recommend the skills com-

petition," he said. "It pushes you out of your comfort zone. That's where you really grow."

Youth rep keen on council role

By Lorne Stelmach

A student who has been very involved at Morden Collegiate has now also experienced being involved in municipal government.

Aqeelah Daibu has been serving as youth council member for the City of Morden, and she said last week it has been a great experience.

"It was good to get an idea of the workings of the City of Morden ... how decisions are made ... how policies that are created and maintained ... I had no idea at all really," said Daibu.

"It has been quite a learning journey," she said, noting how much she has enjoyed attending council meetings and "being a part of the conversations and being part of those policy decisions ... I've been learning a lot, and it has been an amazing experience."

It's been another exciting step in the journey for Daibu, whose family just moved here from Nigeria about two years ago.

During her term as youth council member, she has not only been able to participate in each council meeting

but also had the opportunity to report anything from school and student activities to whatever priorities and ideas she has to offer to council.

She has welcomed having the chance to represent the ideas and the perspective of youth and also to bring the perspective of being a newcomer to the community to the council table.

"One of the things I hoped to contribute as the youth council member was to show how diverse the youth are in Morden," said Daibu, who noted there are so many youth here from so many different places around the world now. "I want to use the youth council member as an opportunity to show and represent that diversity."

"It is encouraging ... in the process of decision-making, we should have every stakeholder at the table," she said. "You need youth, you need women and men. You need practically everyone who is going to be affected by your decisions."

"Getting feedback from youth is just as important as getting feedback from anybody else," she added. "And this has also helped me to be able to contribute to my society and my commu-



VOICE FILE PHOTO

Aqeelah Daibu, seen here with Mayor Nancy Penner, has been serving as youth council member for the City of Morden, and she said last week it has been a great experience.

nity as well."

Daibu could see herself possibly running to serve on council or some similar role in the future, and she en-

courages all other youth as the citizens of tomorrow to "be the change that I want to see."

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FARM LAND FOR SALE BY TENDER

Sealed, written tenders for farm land in the RM of Stanley described below will be received by:
Franz Hoepfner Wiens Law Office
Box 99, 1 - 880 J 15th Street
Winkler, MB R6W 4A4

LAND:

North ½ of SE ¼ 36-3-5 WPM excepting public road plans 587 MLTO and 1580 MLTO (78.17 acres)
South ½ of NE ¼ 36-3-5 WPM excepting Plan 74564 MLTO and public road plans 587 MLTO and 1580 MLTO (73.15 acres)



(The above sketch is for illustrative purposes only)

CONDITIONS OF TENDER:

1. The parcels of land described will be sold "as is".
2. Tenders must be received on or before 5:00 PM on June 19, 2025. The successful bidder will be informed by 5:00 PM June 23, 2025.
3. Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.
4. Preference will be given to tenders submitted for both parcels. However, tenders for a single parcel may be considered.
5. Possession is November 1, 2025.
6. Tender must be accompanied by a refundable deposit of \$10,000.00 (cheque made payable to Franz Hoepfner Wiens Law Office).

TERMS OF SALE:

1. The successful bidder(s) will be required to enter a formal agreement covering terms and conditions of sale.
2. Possession is not authorized until acceptable arrangements for full payment are made following acceptance of tender.
3. If the balance of the accepted tender is not paid on the due date, the deposit paid may be forfeited as liquidated damages.
4. Successful bidder will be responsible for real property taxes commencing January 1, 2026.
5. The purchaser is responsible for GST or shall self-assess for GST.

For further information contact Franz Hoepfner Wiens Law Office at 204-325-4615 - fhwlaw.ca/tenders.

PUBLIC NOTICE



The public is invited to attend

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday, June 23, 2025

7:00 pm

In the Multi-Purpose Rooms
At the Boundary
Trails Health Centre

Financial Year-End Statements
will be available at the
meeting or upon request.

For more information, please call or email
204-331-8808 ext. 2 or
info@bthcfoundation.com
Refreshments to follow

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We thank all applicants for their interest,
however only those being considered for an
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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
IN THE MATTER of the Estate
of **Kenneth James Heppner**, late
of the Town of Altona, Manitoba,
Deceased.

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

GBH LAW OFFICE
Solicitor for the Estate

PUBLIC NOTICE



Annual General Meeting

June 24, 2025

7:00 p.m.

Gateway Resources Dining Hall
1582 Pembina Avenue West

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Sudoku Answer

Crossword Answer

CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

1. Racquet sports association

4. Places to sleep

8. Native American tribe

10. Small platforms

11. Egg shape

12. Running out

13. French painter

15. Some are "of the Caribbean"

16. Painful intestinal problem

17. More irritated

18. Prove yourself

21. Catch

22. Supplement with difficulty

23. American automotive giant

24. Form of "to be"

25. Boxing's GOAT

26. Peyton's little brother

27. Eli's big brother

34. Capable of producing

35. Reproductive structures in fungi

36. Allowed to go forward

37. Smiles

38. Arteries

39. VVV

40. Win a series without losing a game

41. This (Spanish)

42. Opposites of beginnings

43. Germanic mythological god

CLUES DOWN

1. Consisting of uncombined

atoms

2. Island country

3. Heavenly body

4. Caribbean island

6. Copyread

6. A place to eat

7. Drops down

9. Native group of Alaska

10. Engage in

12. "Desperate Housewives" lane

14. Thyroid-stimulating hormone

15. Foot (Latin)

17. A place to bathe

19. Animosities

20. Partner to cheese

23. Venus __, plant

24. A donation

25. Pokes holes in the ground

26. Midway between northeast and east

27. Looked into

28. Not young

29. Annoy constantly

30. Something one can strike

31. Most glacial

32. Ten less than one hundred

33. Idle talker

34. Has moved through the air

36. Container for shipping

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OBITUARY



Robert Wayne Loewen

The family of Robert Wayne Loewen of Fort Kent, Alberta, sadly announces his unexpected passing near Glendon, Alberta on May 30, 2025. He was 66. Robert was a devoted father to his children, Josh (Carolyn), Chris (Jamie), and Serena, and a proud grandfather to Tyler, Meleena, Celia, Kaliyana, Briella, Hendrix, and Jaxon. He is also lovingly remembered by his brother Garry, sisters Sharon Loewen, Cindy Jachim, Aileen Stoesz, and Tracie Gunning and their families, as well as his stepmother Ann (Loewen) Braun, along with many cherished friends and colleagues.

Robert was predeceased by his parents, John and Trudy (Fehr) Loewen.

Born in Altona, Manitoba, Robert lived in Altona, Winnipeg, and Alberta throughout his life.

Known for his generous spirit, he was the brother who always spoiled his siblings and the father who showered his children with love and care. His dedication to family was unwavering, and he worked tirelessly to provide for them.

For over 40 years, Robert was a passionate and skilled long-haul trucker. He was the proud owner of Loewen Trucking and was pleased when his son partnered with him to expand the business. He drove more than 5 million miles—enough to circle the Earth over 200 times! His journeys took him across every Canadian province and nearly all the contiguous United States, making him a true road warrior.

Robert was deeply loved by all who knew him. His kindness, gentle nature, and refusal to ever speak a critical word about anyone left a lasting impression on family, friends, and colleagues alike. He will be profoundly missed but fondly remembered by all whose lives he touched.

He was one of the good ones...

OBITUARY



Walter Donald McTavish March 13, 1941 to May 20, 2025

It is with heavy hearts we announce the sudden and unexpected passing of Walter McTavish, aged 84 on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 surrounded by his loving family, at the Health Sciences Centre.

Left to treasure his memory are his loving wife Beverley, daughter Rhonda (Rick) and son Barry (Marlys), his cherished grandchildren Max (Hannah), Ashley (Austin), Rachel, and Samuel and step grandchildren Travis (Mikayla), Justin (Sam), and Taylor (Morgan) and families; and Bev's sons Wayne (Janet), Ken (Melissa) and families; sister Helen, brother Edwin and several nieces and nephews.

Walter was predeceased by his first wife Dean of 46 years (2013), parents Jack and Jean, brother Brian.

Walter was born in Carman, MB on March 13, 1941. He grew up on the family farm and started farming unofficially at age six. Walter graduated from Miami Collegiate and was able to continue his farming career.

Walter was married to Dean in 1967 where they settled on a farm two miles south of his parents near Rosebank where they raised their two children Rhonda and Barry. Walter farmed with his father and brother Brian. Walter also was a school bus driver in the Miami area for 30 years. He was very community minded and was involved in many activities in Miami and Rosebank.

As his children grew up and started their own families, Walter enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren.

Following the passing of his wife Dean, Walter later married Beverley. This meant the addition of more grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Family brought the most joy to Walter. He was an easy-going Grandpa with a great sense of humour and the kids loved him. He spent countless hours attending sporting events or keeping the kids busy with activities on the farm.

Walter and Bev enjoyed travelling throughout Canada from the east to west coasts, including a St. Lawrence River cruise. They also ventured to Alaska, the Panama Canal, and Hawaii. However, his favourite trip with Bev was their tour through England and Scotland.

Hours were spent at the lake where Walter found a way to relax with family while making many cabin improvements.

He gradually retired from farming but remained on the farm and still did some haying and always kept an eye out for a tractor he may need.

He remained busy as a counsellor for the R.M. of Thompson for 31 years, many of them as deputy reeve. He had a passion for environmental conservation. There was not a water drain for miles that he did not know. Walter served on multiple boards and committees including the Pembina Valley Conservation Board, Manitoba Association of Watersheds Board, MSTW and the Morden Veterinary Board.

Walter had a full and active life until his passing. He had a passion for farming, community, and most importantly family and friends. His life was a life well lived. He will be greatly missed.

The family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the caring health care professionals from Miami Fire & Rescue, Southern Health Ambulance, Boundary Trails Emergency Department, and HSC SICU.

A memorial service took place on June 7, 2025 at the Miami Event Center at 2 p.m.

In remembrance of Walter's life, the family suggests that any charitable donations may be made to the Miami Area Foundation, Box 334, Miami, MB, R0G-1H0.

Doyle's Funeral Home
in care of arrangements
www.doylesfuneralhome.ca

OBITUARY



Marina Ruth Friesen

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of our sister, aunt, and friend Marina Friesen, at the age of 60 years, following the gradual decline and a brief hospitalization.

Born on November 22, 1964 in Winkler, Manitoba, Marina was a wonderful sister to Tamara, Madeline and Lloyd. She was a loving aunt to Paige and Aidan and befriended many.

She lived a full life of adventure, creativity and a passion for Special Olympics. Rina was an avid fan of the Winkler Flyers and loved wrestling. She loved music and spending time with friends and family. Memorable trips to yearly camps and an epic trip to Alberta were among many pleasures. She was a fun-loving, humorous, caring and sometimes stubborn gal.

Marina's vibrant spirit and infectious joy will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved her, forever cherished for the warmth

and laughter she brought to every moment.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations in memory of Marina Friesen be made to one of the following organizations: Special Olympics Manitoba, 304-145 Pacific Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3B 2Z6, or Manitoba Down Syndrome Society, 204-825 Sherbrook Street, Winnipeg, MB R3A 1M5.

A funeral service was held on Thursday, June 5, 2025 at Wiebe Funeral Chapel in Morden, followed by interment at Lakeside Cemetery in Morden.

Wiebe Funeral Chapel, Morden
in care of arrangements
wiebefuneralhomes.com



OBITUARY



Martin Klassen 1960 - 2025

On Monday, May 26, 2025, south of Winkler, MB, Martin Klassen, aged 64 years, passed away suddenly in an accident.

He leaves to mourn his passing three sons, Mark and Sara, Jerod, Sheldon; three grandchildren, Taylor, Levi, and Ariel; five brothers, eight sisters, and their families.

He was predeceased by his parents, Martin and Katharina Klassen; two brothers-in-law, Ken Hiebert and Jake Hildebrand; and one nephew-in-law, Don Driedger.

A memorial service was held on June 7, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. at EMMC in Winkler, MB, preceded by a private burial at the Chortitz Old Colony Cemetery.

Wiebe Funeral Home, Winkler
in care of arrangements
wiebefuneralhomes.com



OBITUARY



Edward (Ed) Carl Youdan

July 3, 1946 – February 24, 2025

Edward (Ed) Carl Youdan was born on July 3, 1946 in Rotherham, South Yorkshire, England, to William Edward and Patricia Youdan (née Duffy).

Ed grew up in England with his parents and two brothers, David (Christine) and Martin (Lynn). In 1977, he moved to Canada with Mary and their two children, Gareth and Amanda.

After the divorce, Ed met Ginger (Hilda) at Sahara Nights in Regina. They married on November 13, 1992 and together they raised foster children, Ryan, Davis, and Jessica (Robert). They cherished their time traveling in their trailer and creating lasting memories.

After retiring from Inco, Ed and Ginger settled in Morden, where they enjoyed welcoming friends and family to their home, often gathering on their big deck. In the late summer of 2024, they moved to Homestead, where they embraced the community and participated in many social activities. Sadly, Ginger passed away in September 2024.

Ed will be deeply missed by his stepchildren Audrey (Ken), Robert, Sharon, Stacy (Ed), and daughter-in-law Erin (Gareth).

He was a loving grandfather to Nikita (Vitaliy), Aslan, Mathieu (Alicia), Jacob, Darcy, Eric (Ben), Alanna, Casey (Hmoon), Max, Joshua, Jordan, and Jade (Zack), and a proud great-grandfather to Veeka, Nikola, Ataliyah, and Ariyah.

Ed was predeceased by his parents, Ginger, and grandson Joey.

His loved ones and extended family will forever cherish his memory.

Service will be held on June 16th at St. John the Evangelist, 2 Academy Dr. Morden, Manitoba, at 10:30 a.m.

In remembrance donations can be made to Canadian Cancer Society, Lung Association, or to a charity of your choice.

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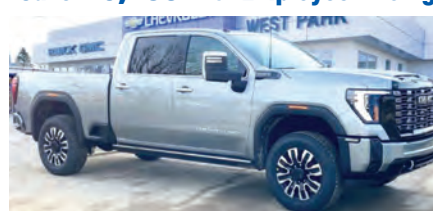
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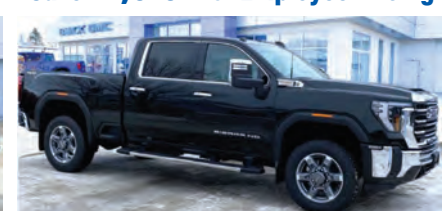
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