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**Kicking off the  
summer in style**

Theodore Gilson was all smiles at Altona's Downtown Summer Kick-off, hosted by the Altona & District Chamber of Commerce July 5-6. For more photos, see Pg. 10.

PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

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



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# get informed

## Altona PD welcomes two new officers

By Lori Penner

The Altona Police Service recently welcomed two new members to its ranks.

Xerxes Tabunar, a resident of Altona since 2008, and Brent Krahn, born and raised in town, were officially sworn in during a ceremony last week.

Both officers expressed their enthusiasm for their new roles.

Tabunar says he's excited to be a part of the Altona Police Service.

"I like this town a lot and now I get the chance to serve the residents here."

He adds that he likes the variety of work involved in the police service.

"Every day will be a little different. My grandfather was a police officer in the Philippines, so I was inspired by that, too."

Krahn says, "I wanted to serve my community in the best way possible. I served in the fire department for a while in Altona. I wanted something a little high-paced with the Town of Altona, and that brought me here. This came up and I threw my hat in the ring, and I'm super happy to be here and start this career. Being on scene to help people is what I'm looking forward to."

The recruitment process involved interviews with four applicants vying for two available positions. Chief Dan



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

Altona Police Service new recruits Brent Krahn (left) and Xerxes Tabunar (centre) with Chief Dan Defer.

Defer said that all four candidates were qualified.

"All four candidates had ties to Altona, but what stood out [with those selected] were their community service involvement and educational backgrounds."

Defer emphasized the value of recruiting officers who come from the area.

"Applicants who come from our town tend to stay here," he said. "They don't seek employment elsewhere after training. Altona is their home, where they want to be, and where their roots lie. It was a tough choice among the four candidates, but ultimately, Xerxes and Brent were selected."

Sgt. Shawn Tarnick noted longevity was definitely a factor in the hiring process.

"Through my studies I've done a

bunch of work on it. We're finding you get about 14 years of service when you hire local, and about four years of service when you hire outside. That's huge. It's not just the cost of equipment, it's the training and the time we invest in them. As well, these guys show good quality character. They're young men, who could be here for a long-term career, which works well with our succession plan. They both shine in different areas. We're very fortunate, and I have a lot of positive stuff to say about them."

The new recruits will undergo initial training locally before heading to the University of Regina's Saskatchewan Police College. Their training begins on July 22, with graduation scheduled for Dec. 13.

Following completion of their field training, they will hit the road, ready to serve Altona and its residents.

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9:45 am	<b>Parade</b>
10:30 - noon	<b>Kiddie Carnival</b>
10:30 - 1:30 pm	<b>Inflatables/Train</b>
10:30 - 1:30 pm	<b>Dunk Tank</b>
1:30 - 4:30 pm	<b>Foam Party</b>
1:30 - 4:30 pm	<b>Mechanical Bull (Adults &amp; Kids!)</b>
1:30 - 4:30 pm	<b>Barnyard Inflatable</b>
3:30 - 4:45 pm	<b>Bingo (under the tent)</b>
5:00 - 6:45pm	<b>Supper by S-HOP</b>
(Pulled Pork Poutine, Coleslaw, Drink, Dessert - By Donation)	
6:45 pm	<b>Raffle Winners Announced</b>
7:00 pm	<b>Ed Wayne (Country)</b>
8:00 pm	<b>Matt Falk (Comedian)</b>
Sunset	<b>Fireworks</b>

The

# Voice

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# Berry picking season begins

By Lorne Stelmach

Berry season is underway, and there are many options across the region for people to satisfy their craving for all manner of berry varieties.

Differences in local weather and growing conditions means not all fruit is ready to pick at the same time. For example, some strawberry growers started picking earlier this month while others may not have been opening until this week.

On the Mini Acres farm run by Jake and Nettie Friesen south of Winkler, they are liking what they're seeing with their strawberry crop in what is their 11th year of selling strawberries.

"Big juicy berries ... it's looking like a very good crop so far," said Jake Friesen.

In their case, he doesn't see that the recent rainy weather has had too much of a harmful impact.

"Two of our patches are actually on a little bit of a ridge, so they've been getting plenty of rain but they're not getting swamped ... I think it's been just right," he said. "I can imagine though if you've got your patch on a bit of a lower location, that wouldn't be good.

Friesen said they generally have done quite well with their strawberry crop over the years.

"It's been busy, especially during July obviously over the last 11 years. It's been good," said Friesen.

"Over the years, we've had a little bit of challenges with drought and a little bit of hail here and there. We did get some hail this year as well, and we were expecting a little more damage than it had actually done to our crop.

They were just blossoming when we got hail a couple times there. I'm surprised at how well they held up. It didn't do too much damage."

They began picking this year near the end of June with a limited number of berries at that point, but it quickly picked up pace.

"It always starts off slow, and you've got to pick off the ones that are ripe," said Friesen, who sees the start of the season this year as being about average.

They offer both u-pick and pre-picked, and you can also find them at the local markets in Morden, Winkler, and Altona. You can also contact them by calling 204-331-4325 or e-mail to friesenminifarm@hotmail.com.

Maurice Gaultier, owner of NW27 Strawberry Farm and president of the PFGA, was also optimistic now with the weather having improved in recent weeks.

"Despite starting off dry, we've had more than adequate rainfall this spring and early summer," he said. "The cooler weather slowed flowering and fruit development so picking will start a little later than normal, but the crop looks to be above average. Some sunshine and +20 to 25C days is all the crop needed to get us to picking."

The following are estimated dates as to when fresh fruit will start to be ready for picking:

- Haskap: June 25 to July 2 and for three to four weeks.
- Strawberry: July 1 to 10 and for three to four weeks.
- Saskatoon : July 7 to 14 and for two to three weeks.
- Raspberries : July 10 to 18 and for



Jayleah Friesen, daughter to Jake and Nettie Friesen of Mini Acres farm south of Winkler, with some of this year's strawberry crop. SUPPLIED PHOTO

two to three weeks.

- Sour cherries : July 10 to 18 and for two to three weeks.

Customers can visit the Prairie Fruit Growers Association website at [www.pfga.com](http://www.pfga.com) to find a farm close to you or the berry of your preference.

It is always suggested people double check with the farm before heading out. Local weather events or large volumes of customers can sometimes result in the farm having to change its plans and close last minute.

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# Tractor Trek parade sets out from Winkler this Saturday

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Dozens of tractors will make their way from Winkler to Chortitz and back this weekend in support of mental health services.

Eden Foundation's 17th annual Tractor Trek takes over the Emmanuel Mennonite Church parking lot on 15th St. on Saturday.

The day will kick off with a community barbecue hosted by Gardenland Co-op and a Vintage Tractor Show & Shine from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"Typically we'll start the Tractor Trek early in the morning and have a breakfast for the community, but this year we wanted to try something new to see if we could garner interest from trekkers from further away and maybe give them more of a chance to drive out instead of waking up so early to be there," says Jayme Giesbrecht, the foundation's director of development.

The by-donation lunch is open to everyone and will include sausage burgers, chips, and a drink.

"We're hoping that a lot of people in the community will come out not only to support Eden Foundation through their donation, but also just to have a great chance to mingle with other tractor enthusiasts and to have a bit of a show and shine and check out these vintage tractors," Giesbrecht says. "We have a number of tractors registered that are from the 1940s, so it's kind of a look back at agricultural history."

At 1:30 p.m., the trekkers will set out



VOICE FILE PHOTO

The 17th annual Tractor Trek in support of Eden sets out from Winkler Saturday afternoon. The day kicks off with a community barbecue and tractor show.

on a route that will take them south down 15th St. and then 14th St. out of town to Chortitz and then down Road 9N and Road 25W to the Pembina Threshermen's Museum for a pie and coffee break before returning to Winkler for supper.

"Because we're starting later, it is a shorter route than we have ever had before," Giesbrecht says. "We'll end up back at the church for a banquet where we'll give out awards for the quietest tractor, the best unrestored or best restored tractor, and the judge's choice."

"It's exciting for the trekkers to be rewarded for these machines that they put a lot of love and care into, or have just discovered as hidden gems in Southern Manitoba."

The event had nearly 30 tractors registered at press time, but Giesbrecht notes they often get many last-minute participants. Some years the tractor count has reached as high as 50.

"So we are hoping we'll get a few more registrations and maybe some walk-ups as well," she says, noting registration is \$150. That covers the costs of supper and a thank-you gift bag, with the rest of the proceeds going to support Eden Health Care Services' mental health programming. "We keep a high registration fee, but it's all going towards a great day and a great cause, and it's always the hope that tractor trekkers will register early and then tap the shoulders of their friends and neighbours and businesses that they shop at and get some do-

nations to give to the cause.

"It's been really amazing, especially in recent years where we've seen this fundraiser bring in \$80,000. That's enormous for an event that involves up to 50 people, and it's really all because of the trekkers that we're able to raise that much money, so we're really appreciative of their fundraising efforts."

## ON THE MOVE

This will be Giesbrecht's final time heading up the Tractor Trek, as she leaves her position at the foundation to return to her radio roots with Golden West Broadcasting in the fall.

"Working for Eden Foundation has been an eye-opening experience," she says of her two years in the role, during which time she was able to launch several new fundraisers and grow the organization's donor base. "It's been great to be hands-on and focus in on one cause, the cause of mental health. I'm very happy to be exiting the foundation feeling like I was able to accomplish something and bring it further forward."

"We are deeply grateful for Jayme's dedication and hard work over these past two years," noted Barry Dyck, foundation board chair. "Her passion for the community and eagerness to further Eden's programs have been instrumental in propelling our organization forward."

The board has already begun the search for a new director of development. Giesbrecht officially leaves the position at the end of August.

# Increased daycare staff funding a good start, but more is needed

By Lorne Stelmach

Recent boosts to both staff pay and operational funding support for child care are welcome, but they are seen by some as not going far enough to address the crisis faced by the sector.

The Manitoba government has made amendments to the child care regulation to increase the operating grants for all licensed and provincially funded early learning and child-care facilities. It brought into force a 2.75 per cent increase to the wage grid supplement provided to facilities effective July 1 and a five per cent increase to the base operating grants, retroactively effective April 1.

Karen Vandijk, executive director of the Northland and Pine Ridge child

care centres in Winkler, said the greatest challenge facing licensed centres in recent years is hiring and retaining early childhood educator (ECE) and child care assistants (CCA) staff, so this is at least a partial step in the right direction.

"Without adequate staffing drawn in by competitive wages, we cannot meet the needs created by the additional spaces being opened or the long wait lists that each centre is maintaining," she said.

"The wage increase support is of course welcome, but does not provide enough revenue when we consider that centres provided increases to wages last year through the first stage of the wage grid. Many of us submitted a budget with a deficit and

required increased revenue to balance our budget," Vandijk said. "We are happy to use the 2.75 per cent increase in wage support to increase our staff wages, but this will not be enough to meet their cost of living increases and will not meet our increased operating costs."

"We are very thankful that the government is making an effort to support the field of child care," noted Winkler Day Care Centre director Ang Nickel. "Although the wage funding isn't what they promised it would be, in the beginning, they are making efforts to show that they value the work that we do. I am hoping that it will continue. I would love to pay our staff more."

"The operating grant increase is welcome. With the cost of everything

going up, it's sometimes very challenging, when the budget is basically the bare minimum; not extra money for things," Nickel noted. "We rely on grants that we can apply for through the community to add additional things to the day care. We are very grateful to the community for the support."

"Our government knows we need to increase wages to make a career in child care a valued, rewarding and well-paid profession, and we will continue to make strides toward realizing that," said Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning Minister Nello Altomare.

Continued on page 7



# Cyclists raise \$14K for local Habitat chapter

By Lorne Stelmach

Four avid local cyclists took on another challenge in support of an important cause.

The group of riders that includes Brent Gouthro, Yvonne Stoesz, Debra Fehr, and Nancy Bezan participated in the recent Spirit of Hope ride in support of Habitat for Humanity Manitoba.

Now in its fifth year, the Spirit of Hope this year ventured east through the picturesque landscape of Lake of the Woods, Ontario.

Forty cyclists together raised over \$120,000 for Habitat Manitoba, with the local group bringing in over \$14,500 that will support the Winkler/Morden chapter.

"It feels good ... maybe that is a decent down payment perhaps," Stoesz said of their contribution, which included over \$6,700 raised by herself. "We thank all of the people who supported us like Brent and the local medical staff ... people were super supportive. Locally, I've felt a lot of support, and that is really neat."

The Spirit of Hope ride was spread out over three days and included upwards of 275 km of hills, valleys, and gorgeous views.

The meticulously planned looped route took them from Kenora to Minnaki, Rushing River Provincial Park, and Reddit, Ontario and presented them with lots of difficult terrain, including lots of hills to climb.

"The more you train, the happier you will be," observed Stoesz. "The hills provide really provide a big challenge. I saw some people walking up the hills ... I was happy to have done some hill training."

"I set that goal, and Deb was saying too that if we're going to do the ride then we train and feel better about it ... it's good to have the goal," she said, recalling that the one mishap they encountered was when two of them got flat tires right near the end, literally just kilometres away from the finish.

The ride was nothing new to the foursome, who have all participated in varying numbers of the Habitat for Humanity rides, which also includes the longer Cycle of Hope.

They share the common passions for not only the physical challenge but especially for supporting Habitat for Humanity

"Over the years, we've asked that our funds be directed to Winkler and Morden, so that's been really good,"



SUPPLIED PHOTO

From left: Nancy Bezan, Brent Gouthro, Yvonne Stoesz, and Debra Fehr cycled 275 kilometres and raised over \$14,500 for the local Habitat for Humanity chapter in last week's Spirit of Hope ride.

said Stoesz, noting the ride is organized through the Winnipeg chapter.

"We realize there is a need for housing, and we like that they have this whole concept of people putting sweat equity into their homes."

It is heartening to hear the stories like that of one rider who was originally from El Salvador, she shared

"His family was given a house ... and it was such a game changer for his family, and now he's riding to give back," Stoesz said. "It just made all the difference for them, and you can find all those kinds of stories ... and people who benefit are going to give back to the next families."

"So it's a cause we believe in, and

there's always the challenge of it," she said, adding it was likely that all four would do it again down the road, but they also do have an idea for something new in the future.

"We're trying to convince them to have it in the Morden-Winkler area. It's a little flat, and we're trying to find a fun route ... there's some real keeners here who ride, so having that challenge and nice views ... the views here are amazing in places."

Anyone who is interested can still donate to support the cause and the individual riders online at [canadahelps.org/en/charities/habitat-for-humanity-winnipeg/p2p/SOH2024](http://canadahelps.org/en/charities/habitat-for-humanity-winnipeg/p2p/SOH2024).

# Capping off Food Truck Fiesta Friday with Suncatch Sounds



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The Suncatch plaza in downtown Morden came to life Friday with a couple of events. Two vendors were on hand through the day to serve up some food and refreshments for Food Truck Fiesta (if you missed it, the next ones are Aug. 2 and Aug. 16), and the Crocus Suncatch Sounds free concert in the evening featured Jayme Giesbrecht with Faces for Radio. The next concert features The Bare Yogis on July 26.



*The* **Voice**

# get heard

EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS



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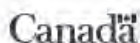


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Christy Brown

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## The poison of hate

Once upon a time, not so long ago, people could smoke wherever they wanted.

It's true—you could smoke on a plane, you could smoke on a train, you could smoke in a box, you could smoke with a fox (if such was your inclination).

There was even a time when an advertisement could say things like “more doctors smoke Camels than any other cigarette” suggesting that at least Camels couldn't be that bad if they were the chosen cigarette of health care professionals.

Parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents and family friends smoked with abandon around children. They smoked in cars, at birthday parties, after dinner, while watching T.V.—pretty much all the time from waking up until going to sleep.

Thankfully those days are mostly gone, and we have sound, irrefutable evidence that smoking can lead to cancer; it can kill both the smoker and those who are around them via secondhand smoke.

Now we have laws regulating where smoking can occur. Laws designed to restrict who is exposed to smoke and protect children and other non-smokers from the harmful effects of exposure.

Sometimes I wonder if we should treat hate speech like smoking. I

mean, we are clearly on the way in the sense that hate speech is illegal in Canada.

Wikipedia states of the Criminal Code that “there are three separate hatred-related offences: section 318 (advocating genocide), section 319(1) (publicly inciting hatred likely to lead to a breach of the peace), and section 319(2) (wilfully promoting hatred). In addition to the three offences, there are provisions which authorize the courts to order the seizure of hate propaganda, either in physical formats (section 320) or in electronic formats (section 320.1).”

But what is hate? The Criminal Code tells us who hate cannot be directed at “any section of the public distinguished by colour, race, religion, ethnic origin or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or mental or physical disability.”

According to former Chief Justice Brian Dickson, the meaning of “hated” as it relates to the Criminal Code is as follows:

“Hatred is predicated on destruction, and hatred against identifiable groups therefore thrives on insensitivity, bigotry and destruction of both the target group and of the values of

our society. Hatred in this sense is a most extreme emotion that belies reason; an emotion that, if exercised against members of an identifiable group, implies that those individuals are to be despised, scorned, denied respect and made subject to ill-treatment based on group affiliation.”

When you put these together, we learn that hate (according to the Criminal Code of Canada) is a destructive comment or act aimed at people and groups based on colour, race, religion, ethnic origin or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or mental or physical disability.

You may believe that hate is bigger than this and can be expressed against more than these groups, but this is how the Criminal Code and the court defines it.

Like cigarette smoke, hate is a carcinogen. Hate causes a kind of destructive and deadly cancer in people and society. It hurts those exposed to it over a period time, especially children. The poison of hate has killed far more people than cigarettes have.

As to freedom, know this: sometimes freedoms are rightly curtailed

Continued on page 7



**By Peter Cantelon**

### 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.

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

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# Central Manitoba Youth Choir celebrates 40th year with reunion workshop, concert

## CMYC alumni invited to attend Oct. 19 event

Submitted

Calling all CMYC alumni!  
 Central Manitoba Choral Association would like to announce a Reunion Workshop and Concert, October 19, 2024 in Winkler for all former singers, conductors, accompanists, tour managers, tour moms, and parents. #CMYC40 will host a day long workshop, where we will work with conductor, Kristel Peters (CMYC Conductor 2006, 2017) and accompanist, Leanne Regehr Lee, to prepare and then perform an evening concert. It's sure to be the choral event of the year in Central Manitoba, as we perform together with CMYC 2024.  
 Since 1985, CMYC has been the cornerstone event for Central Manitoba Choral Association. Each year, the auditioned regional CMYC experience has included two intensive rehearsal weekends and cul-

minates in a rigorous tour across Central Manitoba. CMYC has cultivated voices, encouraged youth, inspired confidence and grown life-long friendships for youth from every corner of Central Manitoba, through the love of choral music.  
 #CMYC40 will be a chance to rekindle old friendships and reignite a passion for choral music. Registration is now open at [www.cmyc40.ca](http://www.cmyc40.ca). You can also follow us on Instagram @cmyc40 and on Facebook (CMYC 40th Reunion).  
 For those unable to attend, CMCA has begun an endowment fund through the Pembina Manitou Area Foundation. Gifts can be given at [www.endowmb.org](http://www.endowmb.org) to 'PMAF Central MB Choral Association Fund' or cheques can be made out to PMAF and mailed to Pembina Manitou Area Foundation, Box 535, Manitou, MB, R0G 1G0. The gifts will produce a tax receipt. This will help keep CMYC thriving for another 40 years!  
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**CMYC 40**

REUNITE REHEARSE RELIVE

Calling all former CMYC singers, conductors, accompanists, board members, tour managers, tour moms, and parents!

**This is your invitation to join us on October 19, 2024 in Winkler!**

Reunite with old friends. Rehearse during the day at the workshop. Relive the magic of choral performance at the evening concert.

**REGISTER at [cmyc40.ca](http://cmyc40.ca)**  
 see our website and social media for more details!

@cmyc40 CMYC40 Presented by Central Manitoba Choral Association

## > DAY CARE FUNDING, FROM PG. 4

"We know there is more work to be done. Our government will continue to work to improve the system with a particular focus on increasing wages and attracting professionals to the field."  
 The governments of Canada and Manitoba will provide an additional \$10.9 million in 2024-25 to supplement early childhood educator wages.  
 The amendment supports increases to Manitoba's early learning and child care wage grid, which sets a recommended starting point and target wages for various positions within the early learning and child-care sector.  
 The amendments also reflect the increase to base operating grants for all licensed and provincially funded child-care facilities by \$8.97 million

retroactive to April 1. This base operating grant funding increase will further support wages and can also help facilities address other cost pressures they have been experiencing including rent, programming and food costs, noted Altomare.  
 The province, through funding provided via the Canada-Manitoba Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement, continues to offer the early childhood educator (ECE) tuition reimbursement of \$5,000 in tuition support per year for ECE programs at recognized post-secondary institutions in Manitoba.  
 Signed in August 2021, the five-year Canada-Manitoba Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement is directed at building a Canada-wide early learning and child-care system. Manitoba will receive approx-

imately \$1.2 billion in federal funding over five years to reduce the average out-of-pocket parent fees for licensed child care to \$10 a day and to expand access to more high-quality, inclusive child-care spaces for children under seven.  
 "We always welcome additional support and recognition of the value that we contribute to the community," said Vandijk, but she noted the increase in operating support is not keeping up.  
 "Our operating costs have increased at a higher rate than our operating grants, and while the wage increase support has allowed us to increase hourly wages, this does not take into account the movement of staff on the wage scale from year to year, which is another large component of our increasing budget.  
 "I would be concerned if our revenue from parent fees and government funding continues to be lower than our operating costs for the foreseeable future. This could become a child care

crisis greater than the wait lists and staffing shortage that we are seeing now," Vandijk continued. "We need the government to look at our revenue streams and to prioritize quality staffing in the immediate future."  
 "The ECE tuition reimbursement grant has been an exceptionally successful initiative, and moving us into the Ministry of Education and Early Childhood Learning has been a fantastic indication that we are being recognized as a significant educational profession," Vandijk said. "However, in order to fix this staffing crisis, we will need time for staff to become trained and experienced, so time is critical, and deficits are real. We hope that continued problem solving and cooperation will find a solution to this issue."  
 Not being able to address the long wait lists for child care of course remains a challenge.

Continued on page 19

# Letters

## FOLLOW THE RULES OF THE ROAD

I know I'm not the only one who finds these electric scooters annoying.  
 To the parents who allow their kids to ride them without helmets or two per scooter, I ask why? Everywhere I go some kid is going way too fast,

not obeying rules, and for what? Please do something about it before something tragic happens. I would rather see those parents step up before it's too late.

Scott Sitompul,  
 Morden

## > CANTELON, FROM PG. 6

when in the public interest. Just like you no longer have the freedom to smoke in a car with your children or inside of a restaurant or on a plane, you do not have the freedom to spew hate without consequences. This is a good thing.  
 Ideally, you need to stop hating entirely. But at the very least you need to keep your hate to yourself and not expose your family, friends, children

and the general public to it for their sake.  
 Hopefully we will get to a point someday where we respond to hate in the same way we respond to smoking in a public space where it is prohibited. We can confront the individual (or call those equipped to do so) and say, "This is not allowed here. Stop or face the consequences."



# “Underfoot” opens at Pembina Hills Gallery

By Lorne Stelmach

Anyone coming to see the summer exhibit at the Pembina Hills Gallery will find themselves looking down on the art.

That is in the literal sense, of course, as the “Underfoot” show features a variety of rug hooking and fibre work by a group of seven artists from across southern Manitoba.

It features pieces by Colleen Granger, Margie Hildebrand, Dallas Hulley, Sharon Loeppky, Marlene Perrin, Miranda Stobbe, and Naomi Stobbe. An opening reception this Friday starts with a demonstration at 6 p.m. followed by an artist talk.

The group came together through not only a shared artistic passion but also all with a connection to Loeppky.

“We all have connections to Sharon in a different way in some way,” noted Granger, who explained Loeppky

was encouraged to do a rug show at the gallery but didn’t want to do so by herself. “She gathered all of us together ... we were so new as a group, we weren’t sure where this was going to go, if it was going to be a one time thing or if it was going to move on from there.”

They had a few group meetings via Zoom, as they are spread out around the province.

“Then we came on Monday to install it, and we had all met online, but we had never met in person before,” Granger noted last week. “It was really interesting to see us all come together.”

“We were looking at each other’s rugs and going ‘Oh, how do you do that and what did you do here?’” she said. “We were just comparing how we all do things and different techniques.”

“I can see how it’s going to be a really neat group of people moving forward.”

The common thread is that they are all working with fibre in some way, and the theme and approach for the show was spearheaded by Loeppky.

“She was thinking I don’t want them on the wall. You can hang rug hook as art pieces on the wall, but she really wanted them on the floor just to kind of break with tradition in the gallery art space,”



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Underfoot features rug hooking and fibre pieces from seven Manitoba artists.



Granger said. “It is a space that’s not really thought about much, not unless you’re redoing the flooring in your house.”

“It’s a different way to interact,” she continued. “And I think it’s really special bringing handicraft like this into a gallery space because it seems to be a place where kind of everyday people may be scared to go into ... so I think, hopefully, this will attract a lot of people.”

“I enjoy working with fibre. I’m a trained painter ... but I got into it because I was researching female history on the farm ... and I thought wow, there’s such a deep history there, and that’s what really got me going with it,” Granger explained.

“There’s really so much wonderful talent and creativity that deserves to be in a gallery space.”

For her, the lure of it is the tactile na-

ture of the work.

“When you see a painting hung in a space, you don’t really want to touch it. With something that’s fibre, that draw to touch it is so strong, and it gives off that feeling of warmth,” she said. “In a gallery space, you’re not supposed to touch it, but we kind of want people to touch our work.”

She noted people coming to the gallery can perhaps watch videos about the work and maybe get inspired to learn how to rug hook themselves.

“It’s very accessible. It’s not very technical at all,” she noted. “When I started doing it and would meet people seeing my work, they were like oh my gosh, I remember my grandma doing that ... I hope that people have those sorts of connections too when get in there.”

“We hope to spread the word about it.”

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### CORRECTION:

Morden Collegiate: Due to a calculation error, a few of our recent graduates were missed in receiving their Honours awards at our graduation ceremony. Please help us to congratulate the following students for their honours achievement at graduation 2024!

Sandy Bilog  
Miel David  
Tamikka Wieler  
Bryson Yaschyshyn

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# “His sudden loss is both shocking and heartbreaking”

Community mourns the death of Christian music artist Tirrell Thomas

By Lori Penner

Loved ones and fans are grieving the sudden loss of a young performing artist whose career touched the lives of many.

Tirrell Thomas passed away at the Altona Hospital on July 2, just a few days before his 31st birthday.

Despite dealing with an underlying health issue for years, the rapper and motivational speaker had tirelessly continued to follow his mission to reach as many people as possible with his message of hope.

Close friend Darlene Enns-Dyck said it’s still hard to believe he is gone.

“Tirrell was cherished by many—his family, the music community, and friends. His sudden loss is both shocking and heartbreaking.”

She has launched a campaign to cov-

er funeral and travel expenses for his family.

Originally from Roseau River First Nation, Thomas had big dreams, but they had little to do with money or fame. His passion was helping others believe in the power of God’s love and the strength they have in themselves.

Under the mentorship of award-winning rapper Fresh IE, he became part of the Kingdom Music team and performed over 400 shows throughout Canada and the U.S.

His music resonated with listeners, and he was candid about his upbringing in a challenging environment and his own struggles with addiction.

After graduating from the Bruce Oake Recovery Centre in December 2022, the young performer felt recharged and ready to reach out.



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

Tirrell Thomas greets fans after a recent performance at École Parkside School in Altona. Thomas died last week, just a few days shy of his 31st birthday.

When he wasn’t touring, Thomas performed at schools and community centres, telling young people that no matter how dark life may seem, there’s always hope. In fact, the week before he died, he shared his music and his story with students at Altona’s Ecole West Park School.

At the time, Thomas said, “I tell them their journey isn’t over, and just take things moment by moment. I’ve learned that I’m not alone. Life is hard, no matter who you are. Everyone deals with stuff. Just keep going.”

Continued on page 10

# Entrepreneurs of tomorrow attend weeklong Biz Camp

By Siobhan Maas

Twelve youth are participating in the Community Futures Triple R Biz Camp this week.

The day camp sponsored by the Town of Morris and Access Credit Union focuses on business and entre-

preneurial skills for youth aged nine to 13.

“Youth learn about what entrepreneurs do and the basics of running a business,” explains Shelley Johnston, general manager at Community Futures Triple R.

Continued on page 10



PHOTO BY SIOBHAN MAAS/VOICE

From left: Milena Maas, Shelby Dyck, Clara Dröge, and Jillian Hamblin in discussion over their workbooks at the Community Futures Triple R Biz Camp taking place in Morris this week.



## Public Notice

### You’re Invited

to share your views about the rate application filed by Manitoba Public Insurance

The Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation (MPI) has filed the 2025 General Rate Application before the Public Utilities Board (Board) for approval of Basic Autopac vehicle insurance rates and premiums effective on April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026.

For further details, please contact MPI at [inquiries@mpi.mb.ca](mailto:inquiries@mpi.mb.ca) or visit the Board’s website at [www.pubmanitoba.ca](http://www.pubmanitoba.ca).

If you are interested in learning more about this rate application, you are encouraged to attend the hearing, observe the hearing via live streaming, or provide your perspectives through the Board’s online comment tool.

If you wish to speak at the hearing or make a written submission, please contact the Board Secretary, Dr. Darren Christle at 204-945-2638 or toll free 1-866-854-3698, no later than **October 8, 2024**.

For more information, visit [www.pubmanitoba.ca](http://www.pubmanitoba.ca).

**Manitoba Public Utilities Board**  
400-330 Portage Avenue,  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0C4  
Phone: 204-945-2638  
Email: [publicutilities@gov.mb.ca](mailto:publicutilities@gov.mb.ca)

A public hearing on the proposed rate application will be held beginning:

**Monday, October 21, 2024 at 9 a.m.**

Please view the hearing via the PUB website link.





## Fun on the midway

PHOTOS BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

Altona's Downtown Summer Kick-off brought the Wonder Shows midway to town last weekend. Clockwise from left: The Frog ride offered a few gut-wrenching jolts, which made some smile and others scream; the swings gave midway lovers a 360 degree view of Altona's business district; twists and turns on the Sizzler; the merry-go-round was a favourite for Sunnie Bergen.

### > BIZ CAMP, FROM PG. 9

"Everything from business idea to product sale is covered, along with 'how-tos' and 'dos and don'ts.'"

A welcome from the program coordinators Troy Geiler and Chloe Edel, encouraged youth to "believe in yourself and your abilities."

Although still in high school, Geiler hopes to one day study business and is 'excited [to teach the youth] about how to run a business.' Edel enjoys how the participants

are "open to learning about different business ideas."

Along with the week's curriculum centering around financials, marketing, and product development, youth have the opportunity to tour two local businesses, including Morris Home Hardware and Bloomin' Scents, swim at the pool, and participate in a town-wide scavenger hunt.

The aim of the camp is for the kids to think up and create a product, advertise, and sell it at a market on Friday, July 12.

"The camp gets the youth out into the community," said

Johnston. General consensus from the group is that "they are excited about making their products, having fun with friends for the week, and making money at the sale."

This Friday's market runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Bigway parking lot, with a free Bigway-sponsored hot dog lunch available for the community from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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### > THOMAS, FROM PG. 9

During a recent interview, Thomas reflected on his mission.

"I've had so much hardship in my own life, and it was helping others that helped me. We're all under construction, and God is still working on us."

Thomas was working on a book and a documentary based on his life and inspirational stories from his travels, as well as a new album with Fresh IE.

"I watched him build his own music and his own name, and it was amazing to watch," Fresh said.

"I always challenged him and other young men that I work with that we need to be better as men. It's been a journey walking in life with him and seeing him transition and go through hardships, struggles and victories. I've seen his intense passion. Most people who went through what he went through would have given up a long time ago. He had so much passion and determination to make it and to help his family and people in general. That's one thing I loved about Tirrell. Despite his own hardships, he always wanted to help people."

Fresh is currently completing the album that Thomas was working on before he died.

"I want to help his legacy to live on with his music."

He has also organized a live music event in Thomas' memory, set for July 16 at 7 p.m. at Park Theatre in Winnipeg. The event will feature Fresh, and a variety of other performers.

A funeral service for Thomas took place on July 9 at the Community Exchange in Altona.

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# Prairieview Elevator Museum expands

By Lori Penner

The Prairieview Elevator Museum in Plum Coulee recently opened for the 2024 season, and visitors are in for a treat.

Over the winter, a new exhibit area was created on the second floor, featuring a fashion and baby section. Everything from dresses, shoes and coats, and decor of the time, carefully arranged in era-accurate settings, with little extra artifacts to carry visitors back in time.

As well, the museum welcomes a special guest this season. Ceramic artist and educator Grace Nickel grew up in the Plum Coulee area and is delighted to feature several of her pieces in the main floor gallery.

The Plum Coulee elevator is listed as a Manitoba historic site. Built in 1975 by Manitoba Pool, the 108-foot-high elevator was the most modern of its time in Western Canada. As more modern features were added, the name eventually changed to Agricore.

It was gifted to the town in 2002. Seeing an opportunity for growth and visitor appeal, the contents of the museum on Main Ave. were moved to the elevator in 2020.

Doors were cut into several of its bins to make display rooms and the former elevator opened as a community museum in 2010. The displays depict a variety of themes, such as

kitchen, dining room, parlour, laundry room, town office, communication, business, toys, royalty, medical, fashion, sewing, one room school classroom, tools and more.

Museum committee chair and curator Linda Dyck says her work at the museum satisfies her passion for decorating and her love of antiques.

"I love to organize and was excited at the prospect of creating all these exhibits at the museum. And there's never a shortage of artifacts. People just keep on giving. Everybody just chips in. And our visitor numbers go up, year after year. Many people realize they have a family connection here, and when they find an artifact, they want to share it with us."

Through the years, more and more of the bins have filled up. This year, they've begun to expand to the second floor, after the catwalk was built. The committee enlisted members of the Plum Coulee Fire Department to help them get the artifacts up the narrow stairs.

"Brand new stairs are on the agenda now," Dyck shares. "We're planning on wider, shallower stairs with railing on both sides. We are looking for grant money for that project. We are hoping to open even more bins up there."

Many of the items come from Dyck's own family collection.

The committee is excited to hear the



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

Prairieview Elevator Museum curator Linda Dyck in their new exhibit area on the second floor featuring a fashion and baby section.

feedback from this year's visitors.

"It's been a very busy year for us. I think the visitors will be very pleased with the result," Dyck says. "It's a work in progress. It's important work. I'm hoping the next generation

will take an interest and continue to expand on what we started."

The Prairieview Elevator Museum is open throughout July and August. Admission is by donation.



**Get in touch  
with us at  
204-325-6888**



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

On display at the Prairieview Elevator Museum this summer is an exhibition by homegrown artist Grace Nickel. These pieces above represent the artist's ongoing interest in archaeo-botany.



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# Summer reading brings pleasure and new treasure

By Siobhan Maas

Summer reading programs have returned to the Valley Regional Library.

Head librarian Diane Ali says the annual reading programs encourage local children to start turning pages, learn the value of the library within the community, and broaden their tastes from what they might find at home or on their school library shelves.

"Reading opens [young people] up to the world, to [different] ideas, experiences, to new galaxies," she says.

The bilingual TD Bank-sponsored Summer Reading Club regularly runs in over 2,000 libraries across Canada from early July to the end of August. The partnership with Library & Archives Canada has registered youth receive a package with a reading log, activity booklet and sheets, and stickers. The theme this year is Galaxies, Stars & the Universe.

"We encourage kids to read over the summer," explains Whaine Villaneuva, Summer Program coordinator. "Kids lose touch [with books] because they get too busy. We want to create good habits for them and reward them [with an incentive of] a prize from the treasure box."

The treasure box, filled with little trinkets that readers can choose from, is one of the main incentives for children to regularly return to the library over the summer. A donation by Dianne DeKezel, librarian at the Morris School, has added over a dozen books from First Choice Canada to the prize options this year.

A second, limited-run reading program on now is "Rodeo Reader." It runs through July 12, with youth tracking every two hours of reading to put toward an entry into two draws for a day pass to the Morris Stampede and Rodeo. The tickets are sponsored by the Valley Agricultural Society.

Joana Candido is excited about the added incentive

of the programs for her two children, James, 7, and Jessie, 4.

"My husband, Dario, and I valued reading at a young age and we have always taught our children that 'a book is your friend,'" she says.

Candido loves the physical aspect of holding a book and of flipping the pages, which brings her family to the library at least weekly over the summer, and more often in the winter.

"Each child gets 6-10 books and we choose one to read as a family," she says. "My favourite book that I recommend to all families is *Our Table*."

The children's book by Peter Reynolds shows a family disconnected by distractions and technology brought back together by the information held within books.

"It's the time we have right now with our children that is important," says Candido. "James has seen other worlds by learning to read: learning a word, then a sentence, and then understanding the story."

She is proud that, for school, James was asked to mark down 120 minutes of monthly reading.

"He read 1,000 minutes every month. He received an end-of-year award from the Rosenort School for 'Reads the Most.'"

James loves books because he can learn and say new words. His favourite: the Dogman series. Younger sister, Jessie, enjoys reading because it means snuggling on the couch with her parents.

"Berenstain Bears and princess books are her favourites," shares Candido.

Candido is quick to add that libraries are great because they don't just contain books.

"Some people need other incentives to get them [to the library]. There are options at the library now: DVDs, magazines, and puzzles."

She is surprised when she hears that people haven't been to their local library before.



SUPPLIED PHOTO BY JOANA CANDIDO

Jessie and James Candido reading their favourite books at the Valley Regional Library.

Access to the Libby app is also complementary through the library, allowing access to audio books, read-along books for children, and thousands of virtual books that might not be physically available at the local branch.

Youth can sign-up for the summer reading programs in-person at the Valley Regional Library from Tuesday to Thursday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. There is no cost to participate.

## Gretna Hot Spot Festival is on this weekend

By Lori Penner

The Gretna Hot Spot Festival is on this weekend, and organizers are excited about all the events they have planned.

Committee chair Delores Smith says the July 12-13 celebration is going to be a fun weekend for the whole family.

"We start off with the Amazing Race on Friday evening, which involves people following clues to destinations in Gretna. At each destination, you'll get another clue, with about six or eight stops around town. There will be prizes for the fastest group."

The evening also includes some line dancing under the big tent, led by instructor Peg Peters.

"We're having a western theme this

year, so all visitors are encouraged to wear their cowboy boots and hats. We'll be giving out prizes for the best costumes. Our committee already has our cowboy hats ready to go."

Saturday begins a free pancake breakfast, followed by a parade, which includes kids with decorated bikes, and participation prizes.

"We also expect some horses, floats and vintage cars."

The Kiddie Carnival runs until noon, which features a variety of games and activities for kids, as well as inflatables with a variety of bouncers. The choo-choo train is also back by popular demand.

You can test your throwing skills at the dunk tank until 1:30 p.m. The event raises funds for the Gretna Fire Department.

Festivalgoers will be thrilled that the Foam Party is back at 1:30 p.m.

"That's been a huge hit for the past two years. Along with that, for the first time we're also featuring mechanical bulls for adults and for kids, to go along with our western theme."

Saturday winds down with bingo under the tent.

"If it's anything like last year, there's hardly a seat to be had," Smith says. "It is a very popular event, for all ages."

Supper is served by donation at 5 p.m. featuring pulled pork, coleslaw, drinks and dessert. Proceeds from the meal go to S-HOP, an organization which helps boys and young men build their skills and their faith.

As always, the Hot Spot Festival will offer a giant raffle.

"Items from local businesses and crafters," notes Smith. "It's quite the variety of prizes."

Starting at 7 p.m. country music performer Ed Wayne and comedian Matt Falk will entertain, followed by fireworks at dusk.

"We're looking forward to ending the evening with a bang," Smith says, noting the most of the weekend is free to enjoy. "The only things you might want to bring money for are the canteen, raffle tickets, or the supper."

"Local businesses really stepped up again to support our event this year, which we're very grateful for," she adds. "On top of that, we have a great committee, and the volunteer base in Gretna is just great. It's going to be a really fun weekend, and we're hoping for sunshine and lots of smiles."

Check out the Voice online at [www.winklermordenvoice.ca](http://www.winklermordenvoice.ca) or [altonavoiced.ca](http://altonavoiced.ca)



# sports & recreation



## Off to the races



PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

The Dead Horse Creek Speedway hosted its second weekend of races with the GVE Deere Run, the Brad Wall Street Stock Memorial, and the McNaught Cadillac Cup. Winners from Friday night's competitions include Chris Unrau (Pure Stock), Glen Manning (Midwest Modified), Braden Brauer (Street Stock), Ward Imri (Modified), and Shane Edginton (Late Model). Sunday's winners included Kaden Labute (Pure Stock), Gerry Polrier (Super Truck), Curtis Stieh (Modified), Shane Edginton (Late Model), Glen Manning (Midwest Mod), and Trey Hess (Street Stock). The track will close out the season next month with the Proven Seed King of the Corn races Aug. 23-24. Above: Speedway organizer Chris Unrau wins the Pure Stock race. Right, top: Winkler's Malachi Klassen pilots his Midwest Mod car around the track.

## Winkler wins U15A provincial gold

By Voice staff

Local teams brought home the hardware from the various baseball and softball provincials held last weekend.

The Winkler Wolves won gold in the U15A female fastpitch championship in Steinbach, defeating KPIC 6-2 in the final. The team were undefeated with earlier wins against Hamiota (9-2), Wawanesa (5-0) and Varsity View (10-3).

At the Baseball Manitoba U11 Tier 1 championship, the Winkler Mariners clinched silver after losing to the hosting Mitchell team 6-5 in the final.

Continued on page 15



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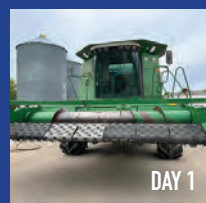
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DAY 1



DAY 1



DAY 1



DAY 1



DAY 1



DAY 1



DAY 2



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# Gymnasts hit the mat

By Lorne Stelmach

A new summer camp for kids interested in gymnastics got a favourable response last week.

The aim was to simply provide a fun and enriching experience for local youth whether they are already involved in gymnastics or entirely new to it.

"There's actually quite a few new kids who have come, which is awesome, and hopefully they will join us throughout the year as well," said Aliyah Giesbrecht, one of the lead coaches for the Morden Magics summer gymnastics program.

The camp featured morning and afternoon sessions at the Access Event Centre, with each having two dozen kids ranging in age from five to 10.

The camp had the usual gymnastics apparatus set up, but there was also some crafts and other games for the



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The Morden Magics hosted a summer gymnastics camp at the Access Event Centre last week to give experienced and new gymnasts a chance to hone their skills in the off-season.

kids to enjoy.

"Some of them have been with us before in gymnastics throughout the year, and some of them are new ... anyone could join," said Giesbrecht. "It's just something for the kids to do during the summer, especially since they're off from gymnastics through-

out the whole summer if they are in gymnastics.

"It's also just for them to have fun and be active in the summer," she added, reinforcing the idea that it could not only perhaps fill a void but get more kids involved in gymnastics.

"We're just kind of testing the wa-

ters with it ... but I think it's gone over pretty well so far," said Giesbrecht. "It's really nice to be here over the summer since we don't get to do gymnastics over the summer, so it's fun for us to be back."

# U17 Central Energy has strong tournament in Sioux Falls

By Ty Dilello

This past weekend, the U17 Central Energy squad was in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, competing in the 2024 Ringneck International Tournament. Central Energy lost in the quarterfinals after going undefeated in the round robin and winning their first playoff game.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Lindsay French eyes a pitch in Sioux Falls for the Central Energy U13 team.

In the first game of the round-robin, Maddy Friesen drove in four runs on two hits to lead U17 Central Energy past the Missouri-based Trojanettes team 12-6. Friesen hit a home run to left field in the second inning, scoring three runs, and doubled in the third inning, scoring one.

In the next game, Brooklyn Friesen collected three hits in three at-bats as U17 Central Energy defeated Nebraska Quakes Schmidt 9-1. Friesen hit a solo home run to right field in the fourth inning, singled in the first inning, and singled in the third inning.

Nelia Fehr struck out ten batters on the day. The starting pitcher also allowed one hit and one run over four innings while walking one.

In the final round robin game, Central Energy held on late in the game to win 5-3 over the host team from Sioux Falls in Dakota Energy.

Molly Cowan stepped in the circle first for U17 Central Energy. They allowed five hits and three runs over three and two-thirds innings, striking out four and walking four.

With a perfect 3-0 round-robin record, the U17 Central Energy team was seeded high in the single elimination playoff round.

In the round-of-16 matchup, Nelia Fehr struck out 15 batters as she led U17 Central Energy past St. Peter

Hyland (Minnesota) to a 6-0 win. Fehr gave up one hit and zero runs over six innings while walking one.

The run ended in the quarterfinals for U17 Central Energy as they lost a 2-1 heartbreaker to the South Dakota Impact.

Both teams were strong in the pitching circle as Molly Cowan started the game for U17 Central Energy and recorded 18 outs. She surrendered five hits and three runs over six innings, striking out six and walking four.

South Dakota got on the board in the top of the third inning, scoring twice to take a 2-0 lead. Central Energy then replied by scoring one run in the bottom of the sixth courtesy of a solo home run to center field by Molly Conrad after a six-pitch at-bat.

However, that was as close as Central Energy would come. They fell 2-1, which eliminated them from the tournament.

"It was another pitching battle, and we just found ourselves on the other side of things," said U17 Central Energy coach Cam Zacharias. "Our defence was incredible all weekend, and we just couldn't get the hits in the last game."

U17 Central Energy's team has been praised for its great sportsmanship on and off the ball diamond.

"Parents and coaches of other teams,

and umpires all repetitively told us that our girls are very impressive young women," said U17 Central Energy manager Bobbi-Jo Guffei. "On and off the field, win or lose, that our girls showed admirable levels of sportsmanship. They all smiled and supported each other, so parents and coaches should continue to be super proud of these girls."

Next up for U17 Central Energy will be the Provincials later this month, where they hope to qualify for the Nationals with a top-two finish.

## U15 CENTRAL ENERGY

The U15 Central Energy team was victorious in both games of its doubleheader on Sunday afternoon. Their offence exploded against the Winnipeg Lightning, winning 10-2 and 14-1. "The bats were just on fire today right from the beginning of each game," said U15 Central Energy coach Kevin Perrin. "We had six runs in the first inning of the first game and nine runs in the first inning of game two. So it was a great day for our team."

U15 Central Energy had the weekend off and will return in MPSL action with a doubleheader on July 12 against the Interlake Phillies at the Winkler Parkland Diamond. The

Continued on page 15





# Mud Hens down Bisons, fall to Twins, Pilots

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Morden Mud Hens are looking to get back in the win column after a rocky weekend.

Following up on a 10-7 victory against the Altona Bisons July 2, the Mud Hens fell to the Twins in Cart-

wright Friday night 8-4 and then lost to the visiting Pilot Mound Pilots 3-2 Sunday.

Elsewhere in the Border Baseball League, the Altona Bisons lost to the Carman Cardinals 9-3 Friday night.

The Winkler Whips were also slated



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The Morden Mud Hens sent the visiting Altona Bisons packing last Tuesday night. Morden won it 10-7.

to play the Cartwright Twins Monday night, though results were not available as of press time.

At press time, Altona had a firm hold of first place in the East Division standings with a 12-4 record. Morden was in the number two spot (8-4) followed by Winkler (3-7) and Carman (1-8).

This week the Whips host Carman Tuesday and Altona Friday night. Morden is in Carman Thursday and Cartwright Friday. And on Saturday the league's all-star games pits the best players from East and West against each other at Access Field in Altona at 2 p.m.

# Orioles, Bisons enter final week of regular season

By Lorne Stelmach

The Pembina Valley Orioles had a strong week in winning three of their four games, while the Altona Bisons were not as fortunate with only one victory.

Pembina Valley began with a 4-3 win over the Winnipeg South last Wednesday. It was a close game that saw the Orioles even the game at three runs each in the bottom of the sixth and then score the winning run

on an error.

Sam Blatz earned the win on the mound in giving up just three hits and no runs through two and two-thirds innings.

It was followed then by a 5-3 win over St. James last Friday. The Orioles were led by Owen Goertzen and Darius Peters, who both went three for four at the plate, while Thomas Titchkosky allowed only two hits and two runs over four and one third innings while striking out six.

Pembina Valley then split their Sunday doubleheader with the Carillon Sultans. They were edged 2-1 in game one but rebounded to take game two 5-4.

The pitchers were both strong in the opener with the game remaining scoreless until the sixth inning. Johnny Martens allowed just two runs on five hits through six innings of work.

In game two, the Orioles connected in the bottom of the seventh to first tie it up and then drive home the winning run, while Chris Peters gave up six hits and four runs while striking out four over six innings.

Meanwhile, Altona began a busy week by being edged 9-8 by Elmwood last Wednesday.

The Bisons held leads of 5-0 and 7-4 early on but could not maintain the lead and eventually surrendered four more runs to the Giants in the top

of the sixth inning. Riley Borody led the way in going three for four, while Carson Dubois was two for three with three RBIs, and Ethan Giesbrecht gave up five hits and five runs over four innings.

Continued on page 16



PHOTOS BY HALEY CVAR/VOICE

The Jays' Hayden Faragher narrowly misses the tag on second against the Altona Bisons on Sunday. The Jays split the doubleheader 3-1 and 8-3.



Altona's Nolan Marriott delivers a pitch against the Interlake Blue Jays last Sunday.



# Former Flyers at NHL Development Camps



Reid Dyck



Dalton Andrew

By Keiran Reimer

Two former members of the Winkler Flyers skated in NHL Development Camps last week.

Forward Dalton Andrew was at the Pittsburgh Penguins camp, while goaltender Reid Dyck was at camp with the Winnipeg Jets.

Andrew is the most recent Flyer of the two. He spent the past three seasons with the Flyers, helping them to the 2024 Turnbull Cup as Manitoba Junior Hockey League champions.

Andrew's performance in the 2023-24 season was exceptional, scoring 43 goals and 82 points to earn the MJHL scoring title. His success continued as he won the Top Forward at the 2024 Centennial Cup in Oakville, ON, a testament to his skill and dedication.

Penguins Development Camp began Saturday at UPMC Lemieux Sports Complex in Cranberry, PA, with 48 prospects in attendance for a week of

on and off-ice training.

Andrew and the rest of the Penguins prospects will finish camp on Wednesday with an intrasquad tournament.

He will play his freshman season with the NCAA's University of North Dakota Fighting Hawks in 2024-25.

Dyck, who suited up for the Flyers during the 2020-21 shortened MJHL season, wrapped up his camp with the Jets at Hockey For All Centre on Sunday.

During his time as a Flyer, Dyck posted a 2.78 goals against average and a .920 save percentage to go along with a 3-2 record.

Since his time with the Flyers, Dyck has gained valuable experience, spending three seasons with the Western Hockey League's Swift Current Broncos and representing Canada at the 2022 U18 World Championships.

He is expected to return to the Broncos for the 2024-25 season.

## Draws for MMSL Storm teams

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Storm 2 team battled FCNW NexGen to a scoreless draw in MMSL Division 2 action last Thursday night.

The team was slated to square off against first-place IPAC-Ukraine team Monday night. Results were not available at press time.

Prior to Monday's game, the Storm 2 were in sixth place in the eight-team division with a record of 1-5-2.

This weekend sees them take the field at home against the Richmond Kings Sunday at 5 p.m.

Meanwhile, Winkler Storm 1, which plays in the league's top division, are in fourth place with a record of 5-1-1 and a couple games in hand over the top three teams: Winnipeg FC (6-0-2), Galacticos FC (6-2-1), and Grant Park SC (5-2-2).

Storm 1 battled the Galacticos to a 1-1 tie Sunday afternoon in front of a hometown crowd. Santi Bergen scored for Winkler.

This weekend the team hosts Winnipeg FC Sunday at 7 p.m.

### > PROVINCIALS, FROM PG. 13

At the U11 Tier 3 tournament in Bossevain, Winkler brought home silver after defeating McCreary 8-2 in the third/fourth-place game. The championship went to Mitchell,

who defeated Brandon 13-4.

This weekend, teams gather in Morden for the 13U Tier 1 provincials, in Wawanessa for the 13U Tier 2, Carberry for Tier 3, Altona for the

15U Tier 1, Stonewall/Warren for Tier 2, Minnedosa for Tier 3, and in Portage for the 18U Tier 1.

### > CENTRAL ENERGY, FROM PG. 14

game times are 6:30 and 8:30 p.m.

The U13 Central Energy team was also in action last weekend at the tournament in Sioux Falls, but didn't fare quite as well as they had

a 0-3 record in the round robin. They did win one game in the consolation playoffs before being knocked out in the consolation quarterfinals to the Twin Ports Rampage (Wisconsin) by

a 5-1 scoreline.

With their MPSSL season now complete, U13 Central Energy will prepare for Provincials, where they also hope to qualify for Nationals.

### > MJBL, FROM PG. 15

Altona then lost 10-4 Thursday to Carillon, with five runs in the top of the seventh inning sealing the deal for the Sultans, who were opportunistic despite being out-hit 7-6 by Altona.

Borody went three for four at the plate for the Bisons, while Dillan Thiessen took the loss in giving up seven runs on three hits while striking out five in six innings of work on the mound.

The Bisons then had forfeit a Friday game, so St. Boniface is credited for a 7-0 victory.

A Sunday doubleheader with Interlake saw the Bisons get back in the win column with a 3-1 victory in game one, but they then fell 8-3 in game two.

Altona got a strong performance in game one from Maddux Mateychuk, who struck out 11 while surrendering just three hits and one run over the seven innings.

In game two, Nolan Marriott gave up nine hits and eight runs while striking out six over six innings.

The Orioles have boosted their record to 10-10 and continue to hold

down fifth place, while the Bisons remain eighth and last place at 3-18.

This week, both the Orioles and the Bisons had Monday night games to make up for those previously rained-out. Pembina Valley played a double-header against Elmwood while Altona played the St. James As. Results were not available at press time.

Both teams round out the regular season Wednesday night. The Bisons host the A's while the Orioles play the Sultans in Carillon.

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**467-5836**

**FARMLAND TENDER**

**FARMLAND FOR SALE BY TENDER MUNICIPALITY of RHINELAND**

Title #	Legal Description	Total Acres
3254064/4	The W 1/2 of the E 1/2 of SW 1/4 9-1-2 WPM Excepting - All Mines and Minerals as Reserved in Transfer 80985 MLTO	40
3254063/4	Parcel One: The W 1/2 of Legal Subdivisions 1 and 8 of Section 11-1-2 WPM Parcel Two: All that Portion of the Ely 1650 Feet Perp of the SE 1/4 of Section 11-1-2 WPM Lying to the West of the Western Limit of Legal Subdivisions 1 and 8 of said Section	60
3254069/4	The NW 1/4 of Section 1-1-2 WPM Exc The Nly 1320 Feet Perp	80
3254071/4	The E 1/2 of the E 1/2 of the SW 1/4 of Section 1-1-2 WPM	40
2880231/4	The S 1/2 of SE 1/4 21-1-2 WPM	80

When submitting an offer, please note:

- The highest, or any, offer will not necessarily be accepted.
- Offers may be for any or all parcels, however, additional consideration will be given to offers which include all parcels.
- The date of closing and date of adjustments will be January 1, 2025.
- The successful bidder may have possession of the property for the purpose of completing fall work once the 2024 crop has been removed.
- You must provide a certified check or bank draft in the amount of \$10,000.00 payable to Cole & Mace Law Office. The cheques accompanying unsuccessful tenders will be returned.
- You must rely on your own research of the property.
- Tenders are binding upon acceptance and not subject to any conditions precedent.
- Tenders may only be submitted in the form provided by Cole & Mace Law Office; a form of tender may be requested from Cole & Mace Law Office in person at the address below, or by emailing: adam@colemacelaw.com.
- The Vendor will be responsible for the taxes on the property up to the date of adjustments.
- The Purchaser will be required to pay GST unless the Purchaser is registered for GST and agrees to self-assess.
- Title to the land will be transferred free and clear of all encumbrances and liens, excepting as to Title No. 2880231/4: Easement No. 76124/4, Caveat No. 115141/4, Caveat No. 1214639/4, Easement No. 1231380/4, Partial Discharge No. 1289186/4.
- The Vendor will also give consideration to tenders which include an offer to lease any or all of the following properties:
  - SE 1/4 16-1-2 WPM (153.42 acres)
  - NE 1/4 5-1-2 WPM (160 acres)
  - part SW 1/4 16-1-2 WPM (99.04 acres)
  - part SW 1/4 16-1-2 WPM (50.92 acres)

Signed and sealed Tenders will be received up to 4:00 p.m. on July 30, 2024 at:

**Cole & Mace Law Office**  
26 Centre Ave. East,  
Box 2039, Altona, Manitoba, R0G 0B0  
Attn: Adam Mace

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PLANNING ACT**

On the date and at the time and location shown below, a PUBLIC HEARING will be held to receive representations from any person(s) who wish to make them in respect to the following matter:

**General Intent:** To amend the following sections of City of Winkler Zoning By-law 2271-21 as amended: 2.7, 2.8, 3.2, 4.8, 4.11, 5.5, 5.11, 6.2, 6.3, 9.1, 9.3 and 9.5  
**Area:** By-law 2318-24 will apply to the entire limits of the City of Winkler.  
**Contact:** Planning & Engineering Department  
City of Winkler  
**Phone:** (204) 325-9524-2  
**Email:** permits@cityofwinkler.ca  
**Date of Hearing:** August 13, 2024  
**Time of Hearing:** 6:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Winkler Council Chambers,  
185 Main Street, Winkler, Manitoba

A copy of the above proposal and supporting material may be inspected at the location noted above during normal office hours, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Thursday and 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 pm Friday. Copies may be made, and extracts taken therefrom upon request.

**CAREERS**



**Water Treatment Plant Operator**

Pembina Valley Water Cooperative is hiring a Water Treatment Plant Operator to join their team at the Morris Facility. Experienced operators or someone wanting to start a new career in water are both encouraged to apply.

**Position Description:**

Perform day-to-day activities consisting of the control of the water treatment process, which impacts the volume and quality of the potable water. This may include performance of day-to-day maintenance, process checks, troubleshooting, laboratory, administration, special study work or duties with respect to reservoirs and pumping stations.

- Excellent benefits package offered by the municipal government program
- Competitive Industry Wage
- Company matched retirement savings program (starts at 8% match)
- Strong support for internal training to obtain CEU's for progression
- Strong safety focus
- Participate in a rotating schedule. Consisting of some weekends, once certified.

**Qualifications:**

- Water Treatment Certification an asset
- Ability to work at heights, in confined spaces and in inclement weather conditions
- Valid driver's licence
- Good communication skills
- A good team player and positive attitude
- Good mechanical aptitude
- Experience in a computerized environment
- Post secondary education or experience in mechanical or electrical field an asset.

Training will be provided to obtain water plant operator certification. Interested applicants should forward their resume to water@pvwc.ca by July 26, 2024, or call 204-324-1931 for more information. Pembina Valley Water Coop is Manitoba's 3rd largest water utility producing potable water for 14 municipalities in south central Manitoba. Three water plants feed a network of over 9,000 square kilometers.

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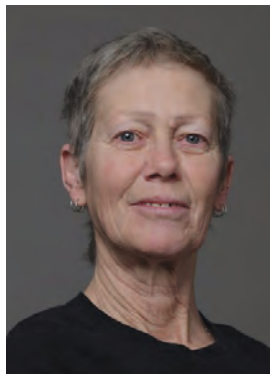


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## OBITUARY



### Brenda Karcha (1964 - 2024)

Brenda Ann Karcha (née Schotts) passed away on June 28, 2024 at Boundary Trails Health Centre after a long fight with lung cancer. She was born in Melfort, SK on January 16, 1964 to parents Evelyn and Vern Schotts. Young Brenda was a tomboy who enjoyed riding bikes with her brother Wayne. She married Leroy Karcha on December 3, 1983 and they had three children together.

Brenda was gregarious in life, with a sharp wit and dry sense of humour, and she loved to play practical jokes on friends and loved ones. Brenda spent much of her working life taking care of her children, and working as a waitress, hostess, and manager. Brenda had a fierce sense of right and wrong, and always wanted to protect others. Right up to the end she was a fighter.

Brenda is survived by her children Foster (Vickie), Nathan, Shondell (Taryn); grandchildren Loic and Nora; brothers Lyle (Evette) and Lawrence; ex-husband Leroy; her father Vern; a sister Verna, and the many friends too numerous to name.

She was predeceased by her mother Evelyn and brother Wayne.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to CancerCare Manitoba Foundation or the Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation.

Wiebe Funeral Home  
in care of arrangements

## OBITUARY



**Thomas William Dorst**  
Our son, Thomas William Dorst, passed away on Friday, June 21st, 2024 at 10:45 a.m. at Boundary Trails Hospital in Winkler. He was 40 years old and died of colon/liver cancer complications. He fought a very heroic and long fight for over five years. He was in palliative care in Winkler for the last six weeks, and

stayed at home in LaSalle, Manitoba for six months palliative care.

He worked at Bison Transport for several years and enjoyed his job as a logistics co-ordinator. Thomas was quick with some funny remarks and the people he worked with found him very engaging. Some of the guys from work came out to Winkler for moral support, chats and prayers.

Thomas is survived by his mother, Eleanor Dorst, nee Tomkiw (LaSalle), his father Jean-Paul Dorst (Juergie) Winkler, MB. and buddies from Bison who worked with him.

Although he had a short life, his kindness, friendliness and personality made him a great guy to know and his mother and father will miss him terribly.

"There is no greater nightmare than the loss of a child"

## CAREERS



### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

#### Water Treatment Plant Operator

Pembina Valley Water Cooperative is hiring a Water Treatment Plant Operator to join their team at the Letellier plant. Experienced operators or someone wanting to start a new career in water are both encouraged to apply.

#### Position Description:

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- Excellent benefits package offered by the municipal government program
- Competitive Industry Wage
- Company matched retirement savings program (starts at 8% match)
- Strong support for internal training to obtain CEU's for progression
- Strong safety focus
- Participate in a rotating schedule. Consisting of some weekends, once certified.

#### Qualifications:

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- Ability to work at heights, in confined spaces and in inclement weather conditions
- Valid driver's licence
- Good communication skills
- A good team player and positive attitude
- Good mechanical aptitude
- Experience in a computerized environment
- Post secondary education or experience in mechanical or electrical field an asset.

Training will be provided to obtain water plant operator certification.

Interested applicants should forward their resume to water@pvwc.ca by July 12, 2024, or call 204-324-1931 for more information.

Pembina Valley Water Coop is Manitoba's 3rd largest water utility producing potable water for 14 municipalities in south central Manitoba. Three water plants feed a network of over 9,000 square kilometers.

## CAREERS



### MAINTENANCE MECHANIC/MILLWRIGHT

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

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

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

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

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# “The Way We See It” on now at Winkler Arts and Culture

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler Arts and Culture’s July exhibition features the work of 11 local artists, all sharing “The Way We See It.”

The show, which opened last week and runs until July 31, features 26 paintings and photographs around the theme.

“We submitted the word ‘perspective’ to our community of artists to see how it would inspire them,” explains WAC executive director Jered Hildebrand. “For some, they interpreted it as an interesting angle that a subject might be viewed from. For others, it was more about how they perceived the subject.”

The exhibition features an eclectic mix of pieces from Angela Elias, Shannon Mann, Scott Bell, Grace Bell, Naomi Heide, Terrance Klassen, Mary Klassen, Marge Fehr, Cherlyn Peters, Kevin Driedger, and Susan Crawford-Young.

Both Driedger and Crawford-Young have several photographs on display, showcasing their perspective of the world as seen from behind a camera lens.

“Using the camera has caused me to see things differently than before I really took on photography,” Driedger observes. He has eight photos in the show, a mix of colour and black and white shots. “At times, the camera shows me things that I didn’t even notice with just my eyes.”

Playing around with composition and focal distance can create a different look to everyday scenes.

“One of the pictures is really just some dirty melting snow,” Driedger

says. It’s something we might see in any given winter day, without really looking at it. “It’s a very close-up picture, so if you look at it, on first glance, you’re not really sure what you’re looking at. But there’s something about the pattern of the glistening ice and then the dark, the dirty snow when it starts to melt.

“Just the fact that I would notice that and think to take a picture of it ... it’s about spending time with the camera and having inclinations that that might work as a picture,” he says. “That’s something that I really try and do with my photography is see things in in sort of unexpected ways, different perspectives, and sometimes even just a bit out of context.”

Crawford-Young takes a similar tact with her photographs of farm machinery.

“Usually people are driving down the road and they see a combine working or the seeder seeding, that sort of thing. When I’m around the equipment, it’s in the yard or else I’ve actually used the equipment, I’ve actually built some of it,” she shares.

“So I take up-close photos of the equipment ... because it was a unique perspective and because I know how much work it takes to make it. I feel like it was somebody’s life work really to design this, to make it, and then to repair it. There’s a lot of work that goes into that; it’s kind of amazing.”

Some of the photos take a more abstract approach to capturing the beauty behind these functional machines. Even still, Crawford-Young says experienced farmers are often able to peg the exact piece of equipment depicted.



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

An eclectic mix of pieces from local artists are on display this month at Winkler Arts and Culture for its “The Way We See It” show. Clockwise from above: The exhibition includes pieces from Kevin Driedger, Angela Elias, and Naomi Heide, among others.



“If you’ve worked on that equipment, some people can actually tell me the make and model ... they don’t even need the whole picture, just a tiny piece.”



A reception for The Way We See It is planned for Thursday, July 18 at 7 p.m. It will feature a Terra Sinfonica performance from George Harold Epp.

## > DAY CARE FUNDING, FROM PG. 7

“I feel frustrated for parents who want to work but can’t because there are no extra day care spaces available,” said Nickel.

She added another challenge for them is they are in a very old building that will be marking its 50th year in 2025.

“And it was used for something else before it became a day care,” she noted. “We may have different

struggles than day cares that are just newly built. Some of our things are old and definitely need replacing. That’s not something that the operating grant would cover.”

Nickel applauded some other measures that have been taken such as adding a professional development day last year.

“We could close the centre to children and give our staff the day to

learn. We took advantage of that day. We are constantly encouraging staff to learn and grow in the area of child care,” she said. “It used to be that we needed to do it on our own time. Now we’ve been given the go ahead to have not just one but two PD days per year. That’s huge. We look for different ideas to help and encourage and support the staff in our centre to become better.”

Under the Canada-Manitoba Canada-wide Early Learning and Child

Care Agreement, the province is also conducting a comprehensive review of the wage and benefits framework for the early learning and child-care workforce. This review aims to develop an approach that enhances recruitment and retention efforts now and into the future.

Consultations with the sector are underway and the review is expected to be completed in 2025, noted Altomare.



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