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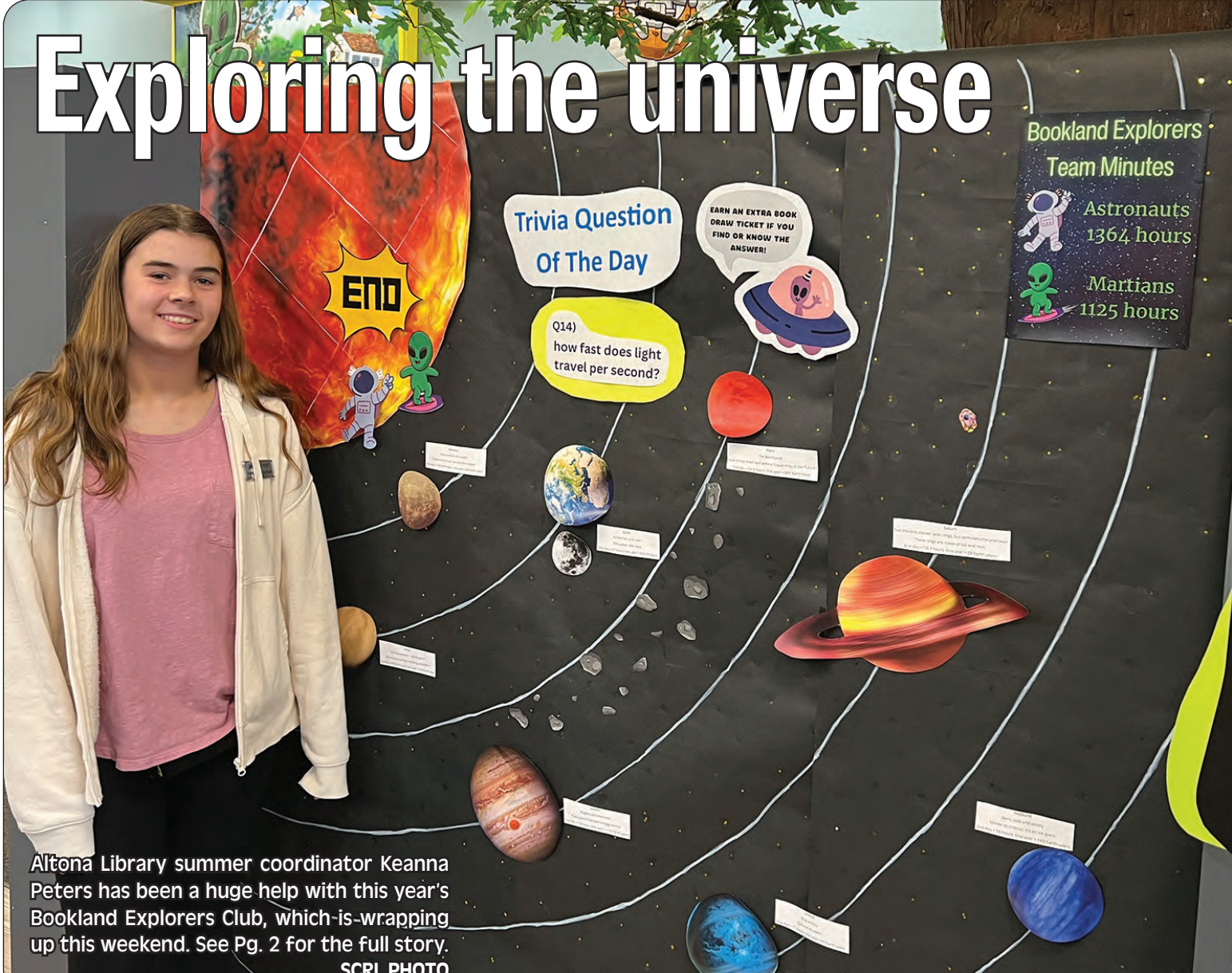

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# Exploring the universe



**Bookland Explorers Team Minutes**

Astronauts	1364 hours
Martians	1125 hours

**Trivia Question Of The Day**

Q14) how fast does light travel per second?

EARN AN EXTRA BOOK DRAW TICKET IF YOU FIND OR KNOW THE ANSWER!

Altona Library summer coordinator Keanna Peters has been a huge help with this year's Bookland Explorers Club, which is wrapping up this weekend. See Pg. 2 for the full story. SCRL PHOTO

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



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# SCRL Bookland Explorers Club wrapping up

By Lori Penner

Kids across the region have been exploring outer space this summer, and they didn't even need a rocket ship.

All five branches of the South-Central Regional Library (SCRL) once again participated in the Bookland Explorers Club, which encourages kids to keep reading over the summer months.

This year's theme was Space, which, according to Altona branch administrator Rachael Friesen, gave them a huge variety of ways to explore and learn.

"It was amazing, and we did all kinds of activities related to this

theme, like reading space related books, painting rocks, and building marshmallow constellations. We even had the Manitoba Underground Opera perform a children's opera for the kids right in front of the library at the end of July."

This is the first year that the Altona Library has hosted the club in their new location at the Altona Mall. Friesen says when you look at the registration numbers, the added accessibility clearly made a huge difference.

"I think the most we ever had registered at our old location was about 110 kids, and this year, at the Altona branch, we have 201. That's a huge

jump."

Overall, over 1,337 children registered across the region. Adding to Altona's numbers, Manitou had 73 participants, Miami 49, Morden 430, and Winkler 584. The circulation report for one week for all five branches showed that they circulated almost 6,200 books in just four days.

"But what goes out must come back in," says SCRL Director of Library Services Cathy Ching. "People think the program ends and we're done, but we have to hire extra staff the week after just to put all the books away. But it's been so great and so nice to be back to a fully in-person club."

Altona branch participants were divided into two teams: the Astronauts and the Martians. They logged the hours they read to earn space bucks, which could be used for prizes.

At press time, the Astronauts were in the lead with 1,364 hours logged and the Martians close behind with 1,125 hours.

"They can use their bucks to buy small items, or save them up for bigger items," Friesen explains of the incentives. "They can also use their space bucks to buy grand prize draw tickets or be part of the weekly book draw."

While the club provides hours of fun, Friesen says the main purpose is to keep kids reading.

"It's important for them to maintain their reading level. We don't want the summer slide happening with the kids. We want to make sure they're maintaining their literacy level and having a good time while they do it. That's a big push for us, so we do everything we can to encourage them."

Ching notes that the Space Bucks added another learning feature.

"We've noticed that the fun money we give them each year also teaches them how to budget, and you can see how some of them are making those connections. It's one of the hidden benefits of this program."

The last day to log in reading hours is Friday, Aug. 18 to qualify for the grand prize.

To celebrate another successful summer, program participants and their families are invited to a free day of swimming this Sunday at 10 a.m. at the Altona Aquatic Centre.

To participate, you need to come to the Altona Branch and pick up a ticket. There are 350 tickets for kids and their parents.

"Once they're gone, they're gone," Friesen says.



## Planning an Event?

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Email [janine@townofcarman.com](mailto:janine@townofcarman.com) with all your details for the Event.



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## RCMP investigating RM of Morris murder-suicide

By Voice staff

RCMP are investigating an apparent murder-suicide that took place in the RM of Morris over the weekend.

On Saturday, Aug. 12, at approximately 12:35 a.m., RCMP received a report that a 32-year-old male had shot a 65-year-old female and wounded a 59-year-old male. It was also reported that the 32-year-old had shot himself.

Officers from the Morris, Emerson, St-Pierre-Jolys detachments attended

the scene and found the 32-year-old and the 65-year-old dead in the residence.

The 59-year-old man was treated on scene for non-life-threatening injuries.

There is a familial connection between all three individuals involved, police say, adding that they are not searching for any other suspects.

Morris RCMP, along with Major Crime Services and RCMP Forensic Identification Services, continue to investigate.

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# Gospel Music Festival in Altona park this Sat.

By Lori Penner

The Altona Centennial Park will be the site of Altona's first annual Gospel Music Festival this Saturday.

Seven acts will be taking the Park Stage from 1-7 p.m., each bringing their own unique style and sound.

Organizer Ernie Buhler says he and fellow committee members Harv Hildebrand, Peter Letkeman, Allan Friesen, Larry Wiebe, and Dennis Reimer are thrilled to be bringing this event to the community.

"We've got a great day planned and I think people will be surprised at the level of talent you can find right here in our region."

Each one-hour show will feature some of the old-fashioned gospel tunes many of have grown up with, and while he's sure this will attract many older music lovers, Buhler hopes there will also be some good representation from the younger generation as well.

Most of the acts are already well-known in the region, having performed at other local events and venues through the years.

First in line is Old Friends, featuring

James Friesen and Ed Wayne Penner.

"This will be their first performance together in a number of years," Buhler says, "But I'm sure they'll still please a crowd."

The Peters Family takes the stage next, followed by the Glorybound Quartet, the Martin Elias Family, the Glen Cross Quartet, and the Martin Elias Family.

The final act will present the gospel style of the Quonset Brothers. Earning fame with their song, "Mennonites put the Oba in Manitoba" the local band has captivated their audiences for the past decade.

Howard Braun will be emceeing the day.

"I think it will be a great show," says Buhler. "We've got Jesse Miller doing the sound. He used to travel with Tim and the Glory Boys, and other venues, and really knows what he's doing."

Admission to the festival is free, though there will be opportunities to make a donation to Altona Youth for Christ.

YFC will also have their food trailer on hand, selling burgers, hot dogs, and drinks. The Altona Aquatic Centre concession stand will also offer



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Altona Centennial Park hosts the first annual Gospel Music Festival, Saturday, featuring the Quonset Brothers (above), Glorybound Quartet (below), and more.

food from Ang's Pizza throughout the afternoon.

"We've been planning this since last fall," shares Buhler. "We've been looking for a way to bring the gospel message to the Altona community. We have a beautiful facility here that provides a great location, and the town provides it for free. We're getting great support from the town for this event. We also want to support a local Christian charity, which benefits the whole community.

"Gospel music is something that goes back generations. You learn to appreciate this kind of music a little more as you get older. I think this will attract music lovers of all ages. We're anticipating traditional music that many of us grew up with. We're hoping to

replicate one of those old radio gospel shows many of us remember."

While there will be several picnic shelters on hand, attendees are asked to bring lawn chairs or blankets.

"We're praying for good weather and that at least 500 people will show up for this event," says Buhler. "We want it to become the first of many."



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# Plum Coulee Plum Fest is on this weekend

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The community of Plum Coulee will be hopping this weekend with the 21st annual Plum Fest.

Festival director Erica Dyck says they have a busy three days of fun lined up for everyone.

"We've got some new stuff happening this year that we're really excited about," she says, noting that starts with extending the live music offerings by one day. "On Friday, we've got the Quonset Brothers on the main stage. We've never really had a stage show Friday night before."

The classic country cover band performs at 7 p.m. as part of an evening that also includes a community supper, a street dance, and line dancing.

Also new on the Plum Fest stage this year are a pair of comedians: "comedy dangerist" Herbert Henries performs Saturday at 11 a.m. followed by Rollin Penner at 1 p.m.

"They both are putting together a family-friendly show for us," Dyck says.

The comedy shows are part of a stage schedule that also includes performances from Shawn Enns, Matt Zimmerman, Lyle Baldwin, Sun Sets West, Vince Anderson, Grant Simpson, and The Cracked Egg Shell on Saturday, representing a variety of genres, and then Barbara Joy playing contemporary Christian music Sunday afternoon.

"They're all fairly local performers," Dyck says, noting they've tried to offer a little bit of something for every musical taste. "We live in an area where there used to be a larger demographic of one sort, but now with all the different cultures moving into the different communities we want to open it up as much as we can, try to bring in entertainment of all sorts."

There's no shortage of fun to be had off-stage as well.

Saturday kicks off with the famous waffle and crackles breakfast and festival parade followed by the street market all day long, the Duck Race at the beach, the Fireman's Rodeo at the fire hall, line dancing, a community supper, the Old Tyme Dance, and fireworks to cap things off at dusk.

On Sunday, the community church service begins at 10 a.m. followed by lunch.

Dyck notes they've beefed up their children's activities this year.

The petting zoo and inflatables are back, along with an obstacle course and meet and greets with A Country Princess.

But this year they've added laser tag and a surfing demo for the 13+ set.

"We received some grant money from the Youth in Philanthropy

**"WE'RE ALWAYS  
LOOKING FOR  
VOLUNTEERS, AND  
THEY DON'T HAVE  
TO BE LIMITED TO  
THE COMMUNITY."**



PLUMFEST.COM

program and one of their requests was to bring in some more activities that were more age appropriate to them," Dyck explains.

And, thanks to a partnership with Valley Fiber, the entire downtown festival area will have free Wi-Fi available.

"We all know that Plum Coulee has poor internet service and cell service, so the free Wi-Fi is going to be so beneficial for our vendors and food trucks and then for everyone coming to enjoy themselves," says Dyck.

If you've never checked out Plum Fest before, Dyck urges you to make this the year you fix that.

The fact that it's a small festival is one of the drawing cards for a lot of people, she observes.

"Everything is contained to just a couple of blocks, but we have a huge market, so many events, and I think the fireworks are one of the best around," Dyck says. "And then there's the stage shows, the food trucks, the fundraising meals ..."

It's all made possible thanks to dozens of dedicated volunteers. It's not too late to get involved as one of them.

"We're always looking for volunteers, and they don't have to be limited to the community," Dyck stresses. "Sometimes a smaller festival is easier to get your feet wet in than a bigger one."

You can get in touch with festival organizers to see how you can help this weekend and check out the full event schedule online at plumfest.com.

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# Local Miracle Treat Day raises nearly \$5K for Children's Hospital

By Lorne Stelmach

The Winkler and Morden Dairy Queen restaurants made their annual contributions to the Children's Miracle Network last week.

Miracle Treat Day was held across the country, with the proceeds here going to the Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba.

The net proceeds of every Blizzard sold last Thursday saw the Winkler location raise about \$2,500 while the Morden location contributed around \$2,200.

"Winkler has done a great job of supporting us, and Morden as well, over the years," said Andrew Ferris, program director for Children's Miracle Network. "We really see and feel

that small community spirit. Places like Winkler and Morden really seem to rally around things like Miracle Treat Day, and it translates into just more dollars being raised for kids."

In 2022, over 3.2 million visits to children's hospitals across Canada were supported by Miracle Treat Day. On average, that's over 8,000 visits per day.

Since the partnership began 39 years ago in 1984, DQ has become a top contributor to Children's Miracle Network, with over \$48 million raised.

"This is a community staple for us here in Manitoba and right across Canada, and every single year I know our community really looks forward to this day," said Ferris. "It's an opportunity to impact kids in such a



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Pacey Wall, who is the Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba's 2023 Champion Child spokesperson, paid a surprise visit to the Winkler Dairy Queen last Thursday for Miracle Treat Day. Here he is second from the left with Katja Gildenberg, Jason Rempel, and Kristina Dyck.

great way by just eating a Blizzard."

# 'A Day in the Trenches' offers a living history experience at WW1 Museum

By Lorne Stelmach

Visitors can once again get a feel this weekend for what it would have been like fighting in the First World War.

The Manitoba World War One Museum near La Riviere is hosting its annual heritage event A Day in the Trenches this Sunday afternoon.

The non-profit museum is dedicated to the memory of Manitobans who served in the Great War of 1914-1918. It features an extensive library and archives as well artifacts and memorabilia such as medals, uniforms, and equipment.

From noon to 4 p.m., costumed presenters will guide visitors through the Allied and enemy trenches built on-site, headquarters, battle stations, and other period displays. Special re-enactments take place at 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m.

The museum got its start in 2012 with retirement and a move to the Pembina Valley where Tascona and his wife operated the Silver Springs bed and breakfast.

Tascona had been involved in military museums in Winnipeg and had been a collector of military artifacts, so one thing led to another.

A Day in the Trenches, he noted, is bolstered by a group of dedicated volunteers eager to share their enthusiasm for and knowledge of wartime history.

"I've got a good group of people who want to keep doing it, and they keep pushing me along," said Tascona. "My focus is educating visitors, and there's these volunteers who fall in line with wanting to educate people on the Great War."

"It just seems to be taking on a life of its own among these people who like to present the living history."

You can find your way to the museum on Sunday by watching for the signs starting about three miles west of La Riviere on Highway 3.

The museum otherwise is open weekends from mid-May to mid-September from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. or by appointment.



VOICE FILE PHOTO

The trench system at the Manitoba World War One Museum offers a taste of what life would have been like for soldiers in the war. The museum hosts its A Day in the Trenches activities this weekend.

## Golf with Us!

The Carman Golf and Curling Club (CGCC) is located in Carman, Manitoba. The club was originally established on May 12, 1924 as a five hole club. In the spring of 1930 land was purchased and nine holes were opened on the "old side". On August 28, 1953 the first tournament was held. The course began production on the "new 11 holes" in 1982 and opened the 18 Hole Golf Course in the spring of 1984. On August 17, 1990 the new clubhouse officially opened and is enjoyed today! Carman Golf and Curling Club is known as a select destination for golf in the summer and curling in the winter months. Formerly two clubs, the CGCC amalgamated its executive and combined all operations to be a year round facility managed by a general manager and offering something for everyone. CGCC features a beautiful restaurant with an attached patio, a 200 capacity banquet facility, a five sheet curling arena, and an 18 hole golf course. Both the golf course and curling club have been recognized as top-notch clubs hosting many prestigious provincial and local events.



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# Winkler officer wins silver in jiu-jitsu

By Lorne Stelmach

A Winkler police officer came home with silver from the recent World Police and Fire Games in Winnipeg.

Megan Goertzen earned the medal in jiu-jitsu at the Games that took place from July 28 to August 6 in Winnipeg, and it was a nice reward after what had been about a year and a half of training.

"I honestly had no idea how well I would do. Jiu-jitsu is a sport where there's definitely way less women participating than men ... most of my training is with men," Goertzen said last week. "I really didn't know where I would fall in with a bunch of women with a similar skill set. It was pretty cool to be able to compete and to feel comfortable with where I was.

"You want to do well there, and you want to represent your service well," she continued. "Definitely my nerves played a huge part on Friday, trying to figure out how to best manage it. Saturday, I felt a lot better, and that definitely helped my performance."

Goertzen did as much training as possible outside of her work and other commitments.

"We try to put in a bit of time every day, but with shift work that can be hard to do," she said.

Goertzen was drawn to jiu-jitsu not only for the physicality of it but also how it could benefit her in her line of work.

"It's good skills to have, especially in the law enforcement world. It's never a bad thing to have a few extra ground fighting skills ... and it's an addicting sport," she said.

"It was a pretty cool experience. It was a worldwide event, which we don't often get the opportunity to compete in," said Goertzen of the Games. "It was cool to see athletes from all over the world there and compete against them, which was awesome. It was nice that it was right here in Winnipeg. That made it a lot easier to convince myself to compete this year."

A number of other competitors from local police and fire services also took part in the Games.

Francis Campbell, Jaydnn Wolfe,



**SUPPLIED PHOTO**

Cst. Megan Goertzen (far left) of the Winkler Police Service brought home a silver medal in jiu-jitsu from the World Police and Fire Games last week.

and Andrew Braun of Morden Fire and Rescue competed in the half marathon event and earned bronze medals for their combined team time.

Mark Legal and Dustin Giesbrecht of the Altona Police participated in the individual angling and team angling events and placed in a 20-way tie for 13th place with no catches. As a team dubbed The Bait Masters, they finished ninth.

Altona firefighter Adam Skelton was involved in the mountain bike

race and two firefighting skills competitions.

Winkler firefighter Rick Schroeder competed in golf, while Winkler police officer Phil Letkeman hit the ice in hockey.

Morden Police sent a curling team that included special constables Pam Goertzen and Morgan Reimer as well as Sgt. Scott Edwards. Darlingford firefighter Clint Seward also curled, while Jon Goertzen competed in jiu-jitsu.

# Letters

## THANK YOU

I am writing to express my sincere thanks to all those who provided such excellent care during my recent weekend stay at BTHC.

From the paramedics who treated me with the utmost kindness when I was at my lowest point, to the doctor, nurses and CT scan tech in the ER and finally to the wonderful, caring and kind nurses, doctors

and health care aides on the surgical ward, I cannot thank you enough.

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**Marlene Britton,  
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# Decor Charity Classic tops \$100,000 raised

By Lorne Stelmach

The tournament had rain for the first time since its inception in 2004, but it had little impact on the success of the Decor Charity Classic last Thursday.

The initiative still topped the \$100,000 mark overall, including the 50 per cent matching amount from Decor Cabinets.

“I think only a couple people left because of the rain,” said Schellenberg, noting a light sprinkle started during the second nine holes. “I was actually surprised how many people stuck around even right through to the full banquet, so we were happy that people stuck it out and had fun ... this actually was the first year that we’ve had rain.

“We’re always happy with it being over a \$100,000,” he added, noting that amount will put them over \$1.55 million since the tournament’s inception.

Schellenberg noted people came from all over Canada as well as North Carolina, Wisconsin, and even one person who happened to be here from Germany.

They are grateful for all of that com-



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

A bit of rain didn't deter most golfers at the Decor Charity Classic last week. The event brought in over \$100,000 for four charities.

munity support and especially the sponsors, including some who have been on board since the beginning.

Every year, the tournament proceeds

go to three local charities—Youth for Christ, Pembina Counselling Centre and Pembina Valley Pregnancy Care Centre —along with a fourth charity that changes annually.

That fourth charity this year was

Opportunity International, which provides access to savings, small business loans, insurance, and training to people working their way out of poverty in the developing world.



## STAY SAFE THIS HARVEST SEASON

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PHOTOS BY RICK HIBERT AND ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

# A rocking weekend



The Winkler Harvest Festival brought thousands to the Parkland fairgrounds last weekend to enjoy a varied schedule of activities and performances. Clockwise from above: Crash Test Dummies rocked the main stage Friday night; fun on the midway's giant slide; fishing for prizes; Sunday afternoon's car show offered a glimpse at dozens of vintage wheels; while parade candy is always a hit with the kids, it's goodies like free potatoes that get the adults excited; a group of gal pals strike a pose on one of the midway rides; a youth makes a throw as part of the Fit Kids/Healthy Kids Outdoor Games in the Kid's Zone on Saturday.







Clockwise from top left: The Sunday morning community worship service filled the Parkland hill; the climbing tower provided a unique physical challenge for kids; the midway was packed for much of the weekend; Dark By Three perform at the beer gardens, which was a new thing for the festival this year; smiles on The Sizzler; feeding farm animals at the petting zoo; a vendor prepares cotton candy for Fawn & Cub market customers.





Fred Enns visiting with Brock Tyler and his son Ezra during his Saturday stop in Winkler. The 80-year-old is biking all over Manitoba this summer to raise money for newcomers from Ukraine.

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

# Octogenarian cycling 3,000 km to support Ukrainian newcomers

By Lorne Stelmach

Long cycling journeys are nothing new to Fred Enns, but his latest adventure is for a special cause.

The 80-year-old recently embarked on a 3,000 km bicycle trip in Manitoba, and his goal is to do in 30 days as a way to raise money for newcomers from Ukraine, where his own parents were born and raised in an area currently impacted by the war with Russia.

A seasoned cyclist, Enns has seen many parts of the world by bike and sees this current trip as a special opportunity to support people who are in need during this tragic time in their lives.

"Serving humanity is not so much an option as it is an obligation ... and if we saw more of it, we would be a lot happier people," Enns said after arriving in Winkler Saturday—a day ahead of schedule.

"I've found that touring is a very therapeutic thing. After a while, you're able to go instinctively ... and when you're doing it for a purpose like this, that makes all the difference. It's allowed me to focus on the goal."

Enns was well on the way to reach his goal, as he had already covered over 2,000 kilometres by his arrival in Winkler after having left from Manitou. His plan is to complete the journey by arriving at Winnipeg's Ukrainian pavilion at Folklorama.

His trip will include stops at 120 communities across Manitoba.

Funds raised during the self supported trip will go entirely to the Ukrainian Canadian Congress Manitoba (UCCM).

One of nine children born to immigrant parents who farmed in southern Manitoba, Enns attended small rural schools before finishing high school in Winnipeg, where he chose a career in teaching and taught every grade level during 35 years in the public school system.

His passion became bicycle touring, which has taken him across thousands of miles in Canada, the U.S. and around the world.

For this journey, his goal was a minimum of 100 km a day. Depending on the availability of services, he might perhaps stop for an overnight stay after 80 km, but there are also days then when he has managed 120 to 140 km.

"I consider myself very fortunate because, except for the last few days, I haven't had rain," Enns said. "I haven't had a single flat. The bike has functioned beautifully, and that's one big headache that can stop you ... if you have a few flats in your day, there's maybe at least a half hour or 45 minutes gone."

"I've met incredibly kind people who are interested in what I'm doing ... when you're going through small towns, particularly if it's a weekend, there's no one there to leave any information with," he added, noting he always likes to get word out about his project.

Enns recalled heading north from Lac du Bonnet to camp and spend the night. On the weekend morning though, everything was closed aside from one place on a reserve. In the end, he realized it was cash only, and he didn't have enough, but he found out the bill was paid by someone.

A similar experience happened in Manitou, where he chose to stay in a motel because of poor weather. He en-

Continued on page 24



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ACCESS CREDIT UNION MAIN STAGE

BK and the Bad Habits **Featuring: econoline crush**



**SLOAN**



**SATURDAY AUGUST 26**  
7:00pm - 11:00pm

# Friday night on the main stage



## THE M'LADIES 7-7:50 P.M.

A combination of 3 local bands during the pandemic led to the formation of the M'Ladies. They play an eclectic mix of rock, country, and pop spanning 60 years.



## KENDRA KAY, 8:10-9 P.M.

Raised in a rodeo family on the Canadian prairies, few artists capture the spirit of country music like award-winning singer/songwriter Kendra Kay. Putting grit, determination, and "powerhouse vocals" (Top Country News) into her music, she has amassed a million+ global streams, spent 17 weeks in the Top 100 Canada Country Airplay Chart, and secured synchronization in the USA with her latest single 'Steady.'



## EPIC EAGLES, 9:30-10:45 P.M.

Epic Eagles provide a masterful presentation of the Eagles' music. Perfecting the music while sharing incredible lead vocal similarity, audiences are treated to a high energy show with the legacy sound of the Eagles and Don Henley. Get ready to jam to Hotel California, One of These Nights, Life in the Fast Lane, Desperado, Take It Easy, and all of your Eagles favourites!

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# Saturday night on the main stage



## BK & THE BAD HABITS, 7-7:50 P.M.

Forged on the frozen prairies of southern Manitoba, BK and the Bad Habits are a hard rocking, hard partying band of musical misfits channeling a '90s alternative sound. Playing both original songs and legendary rock hits, one can expect a fun, high-energy, and passionate performance at every show.



## ECONOLINE CRUSH, 8:10-9 P.M.

Econoline Crush formed in 1992 and released their breakthrough (and ultimately platinum-selling) album *The Devil You Know* in 1997. The band has toured with Alice Cooper and opened for KISS at Madison Square Garden. *When The Devil Drives* is the group's new album, which releases later this year.

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## SLOAN, 9:30-10:45 P.M.

Sloan is a Canadian rock band that has been entertaining audiences for over two decades with hits such as *Money City Maniacs*, *Underwhelmed*, and *The Good in Everyone*. The Juno Award-winning group has an outstanding collection of over 250 songs and more than 30 singles with airplay on Canadian rock radio.

# Sunday programming

The festival's Sunday Programming Committee presents a lineup of spiritual fare that actually begins Saturday at the Access Event Centre with music from The Fehr Family at 7 p.m. and The Browns at 8 p.m.

The Fehr Family is band whose style blends family harmonies and acoustic instruments with a range of genres—from good old-fashioned hymns to bluegrass to southern gospel. The Browns are an award-winning family quartet who deliver the powerful message of the gospel through word and song.

On Sunday, the action moves to the main stage downtown with a 10:30 a.m.

worship service led by Richard and Kristjana Hale from Bethel Community Church and featuring guest speaker Bruce Martin, former pastor of Calvary Temple Winnipeg.

The kids church service, meanwhile, will run at the Kenmor Theatre from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Finally, The Fehr Family, The Browns, and the Glencross Quartet will perform live on the main stage from 1-5 p.m. to close out festival weekend.



THE FEHR FAMILY



THE BROWNS



RICHARD AND KRISTJANA HALE



BRUCE MARTIN



## Corn & Apple 2023

### PRAISE & WORSHIP EVENTS

## SATURDAY



**Special Music**  
The Fehr Family

August 26th  
Access Event Centre  
7:00pm



**Special Music**  
The Browns

August 26th  
Access Event Centre  
8:00pm

## SUNDAY



**Worship Leaders**  
Richard and Kristjana Hale  
Bethel Community Church, Winnipeg

August 27th  
Main Stage  
10:30am



**Guest Speaker**  
Bruce Martin  
Calvary Temple, Winnipeg

August 27th  
Main Stage  
10:30am

**Kids Church 10:30 - 12 Kenmor Theatre**

**SUNDAY MAIN STAGE 1-5pm**  
The Brown Family      Fehr Family  
Glencross Quartet

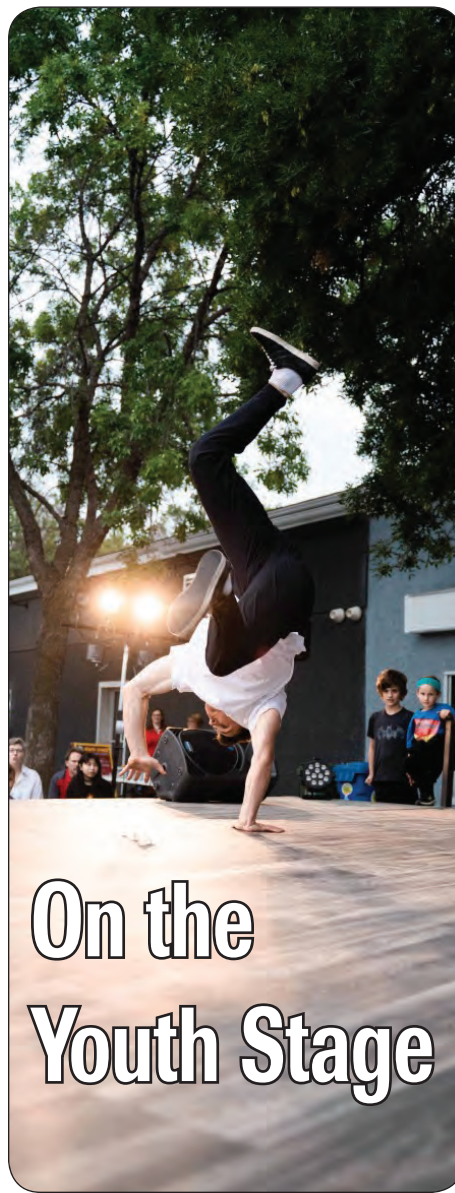


For More Details Visit:  
**ChristianPrograms.ca**



## Live at the Cottonwood Dance Stage

The Cottonwood Dance Stage offers festival-goers a great lineup of old time/country music and a dance floor on which to kick up their heels while they enjoy the tunes. Friday's schedule runs from 12:30 to 11 p.m. and includes performances from Young and Haggard, Northern Reflections, and Vince Anderson & The Ace Band. Saturday sees Dale Maksymic & The 78 RPMs kick things off at noon followed by music again from Northern Reflections and Vince Anderson & The Ace Band until 11 p.m. On Sunday, Ukie Fusion performs from 1-5 p.m.



## On the Youth Stage



The Youth Stage at the Kenmor Theatre this year features an All-Styles Dance Battle organized by DanceWorks Friday at 5:30 p.m. Guest dance troupe Dynamix and solo dance artists will also be demonstrating their skills. That's followed by "The Very Late Show" at 8:30 p.m. featuring comedian Matt Falk, band The Raspberry Jam, improv artists Kenton and Jeremy, and a few other local guests, and the Corn and Apple Film Fest of short films at 10 p.m. Saturday the youth stage hosts the Triple Threat Camp's production of Jurassic Corn at 1 p.m. and "Saturday Night Live" featuring performances from Rachel Hesom, 3 Out of 4 Strings, Avenue, EzRa, Superheater, The Silas Presley Band, and Ditch starting at 5:30 p.m. On Sunday, Lulu & The TomCat perform at 1 p.m. followed by a "Sunday Mix" of local bands at 2 p.m.



Shane - 27 years

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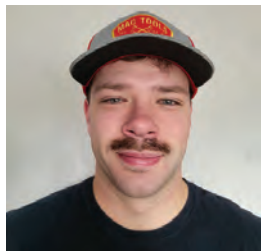
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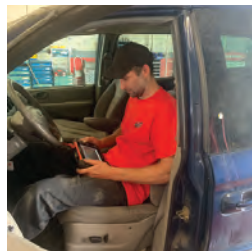
James - 2 1/2 years



Dominik - 8 years



Joel - 1 year



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# Creative expression



There's free hands-on art and crafts for the kids at the tent in Confederation Park all weekend from 1-5 p.m. Looking for other creative outlets? Local artists Willi Richardson, Susan Pharoah, and Margie Hildebrand are offering art demonstrations Friday and Saturday afternoons at the Pembina Hills Arts Centre.

## Street performers



The sweet sounds of buskers can be heard downtown all three days of the festival from noon to 4 p.m.




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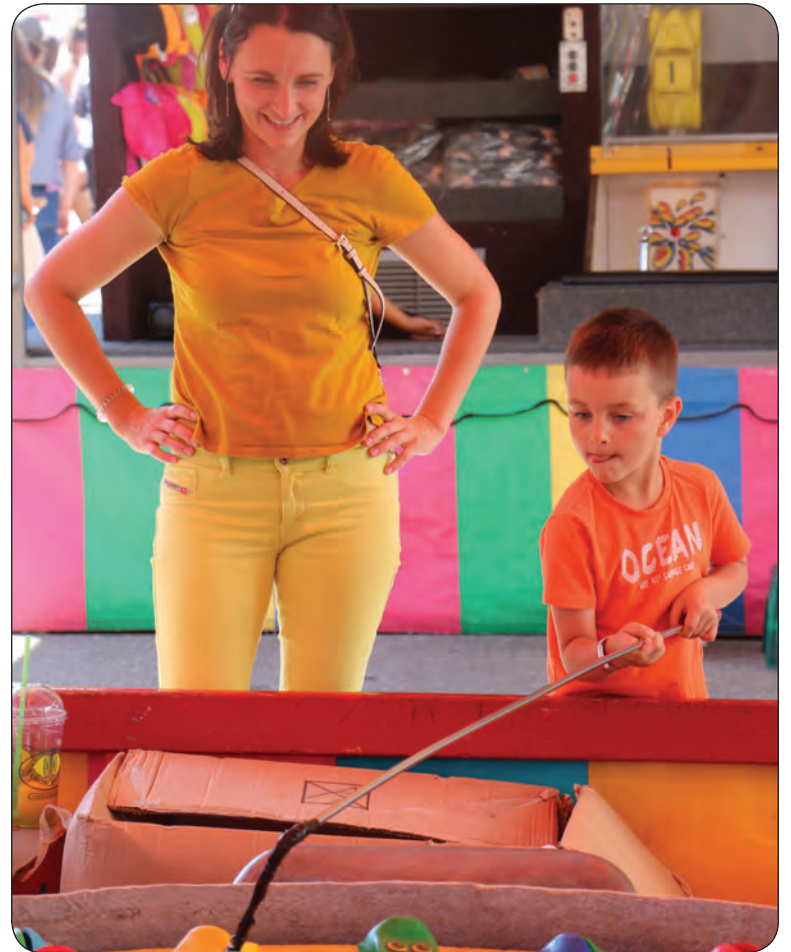
RSVP by Thursday Aug 24<sup>th</sup> to [karen@sunseekers.ca](mailto:karen@sunseekers.ca) or call 204-750-3190 for more information on this tour

Ireland Tour April 24, 2024. ONLY four seats available. Call 1-800-442-0611 or 204-750-3190



## Show & Shine

The annual Show & Shine is back in Morden Park Sunday afternoon from noon to 4 p.m. That 80s Band will be providing live music and there will also be a food truck to enjoy alongside all the vintage vehicles on display.



## Fun and games on the midway

Wonder Shows Midway returns with all your favourite rides and games. The midway is open Friday and Saturday from noon to 11 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m. Ride All Day wristbands, ticket packages, and single ride tickets are available from the Wonder Shows kiosks.

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# Festival parade returns

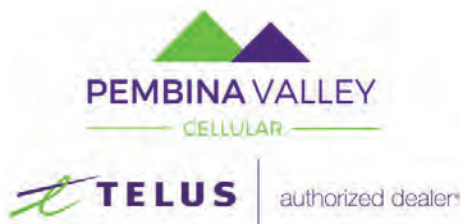
After a year's break, the popular Saturday morning parade is back! Manitoba's longest parade gets underway at 10 a.m. Enjoy the parade along Stephen St between 1st St. and 4th St., along 4th St. between Stephen St. and North Railway St., or anywhere on North Railway between 4th and Stephen.



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# Your FARM



## Hog industry remains an economic powerhouse in MB

By Lorne Stelmach

A new study shows the contributions of Manitoba's hog farming and pork processing sector to the provincial economy are substantial.

The results of a recent economic analysis back up the belief that the sector is an economic powerhouse, officials with Manitoba Pork suggested last week.

"There are reasons to be optimistic about the future of the industry in Manitoba," said general manager Cam Dahl. "We're going through a bit of a tough spell right now in the hog industry ... but I really do think the long run outlook for production in Manitoba is very positive. We produce a high quality product that's demanded throughout the world."

The independent economic analysis

found 55 per cent of all agriculture and food processing jobs in Manitoba are tied to the hog sector.

Numbers compiled by Serecon also show the provincial hog sector contributes 22,000 jobs across Manitoba in both urban and rural communities as well as over \$2.3 billion to the provincial GDP annually.

Manitoba's hog sector also directly contributes \$139 million annually to the provincial government in tax revenue and another \$87 million in municipal tax revenue, the analysis reports.

"Our direct and indirect financial support allows both the provincial and municipal governments to fund key priorities like health care, education and infrastructure," said Rick

Continued on page 24



A recent economic analysis showed 55 per cent of all agriculture and food processing jobs in Manitoba are tied to the hog sector.

MANITOBA PORK PHOTO

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# Your FARM



## > HOG INDUSTRY, FROM PG. 23

Prejet, chair of Manitoba Pork. "The growth and success of urban and rural communities can be directly tied to hog farming and value-added processing."

Manitoba's hog sector has seen over 40 new barn sites or expansions approved across the province since 2017, and it is adding over \$200 million in new private investment in primary agricultural production.

The industry is also attracting new value-added investment such as the recent \$182 million expansion of the Maple Leaf Foods bacon facility in Winnipeg. There was also the recent announcement of a \$52.8 million expansion at

Winkler Meats and \$35 million invested by the genetics company Topigs Norsvin on a new facility just outside of Plumas.

"It just shows that creation of a critical mass of hog farmers in Manitoba has attracted our value-added processors like HyLife and Maple Leaf and of course Winkler Meats, which is growing," said Dahl. "That's actually a really good example of how we have that critical mass of production here that is attracting significant investment."

"It's a testament to the importance of the hog industry in Manitoba," added Dahl, who noted the sector has come a long way since the freeze on development in the industry a few years ago.

"It's not that long ago ... since about 2016 we saw growth again in new barns or refurbishment of old barns, and we've had about 40 since that time ... so we're seeing some of that investment in the primary production infrastructure as well."

Dahl believes there are a few key factors that

are helping drive that continued growth.

"Manitoba has a number of competitive advantages to feeding livestock like hogs," he said. "One is our location in the middle of North America that allows us to access the U.S. market. Another is access to reliable supply of feed grains ... and a third I would cite as being really important is an abundance of land, of grain land, that can make use of the nutrition that comes out of hog barns."

Prejet sounded an equally optimistic tone about the future..

"Manitoba's hog sector looks forward to continuing our legacy of growth and sustainability in the coming years, with the right conditions in which to expand local economies, build new barns, and continue to employ over 22,000 Manitobans," he said. "We will continue to work with our partners across the province, including both the provincial and municipal governments on ensuring our sector supports our communities for decades to come."

## > CYCLIST, FROM PG. 10

joyed a meal for free again as someone had taken care of his tab.

"It doesn't seem like much, but those are motivating and encouraging things that make a difference," said Enns.

"If you're grinding it out typically for seven or eight hours a day, anything that lifts your spirits helps ... it's that fire in your furnace that's going to get you there."

He also noted a couple areas where he was uncertain what to expect about the terrain.

"Manitoba doesn't have hills. It has deep valleys ...

and coming into the Manitou stretch from Highway 2, I was surprised how much climbing was going on," he said. "I haven't had much wind. A severe head wind can put you back hours in a day."

He was also a bit leery of his route from Dauphin to Swan River.

"It was new to me, and I was expecting quite a bit of climbing. I thought would be struggling to find a camping spot or motel or services ... then my son-in-law showed up and said anything you need ... his car was like a goodie store."

If you want to support Enns, you can do it through an e-transfer to fundraising@uccmanitoba.ca or by cheque made out to UCC-MPC, Box 3567, Redwood postal outlet, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R2W 3R4.

For more information, you can also go to the UCCM Facebook page at facebook.com/uccmb.

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# “It’s a labour of love”

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Anyone who’s driven south on Hwy. 32 near Hochfeld in recent weeks has been treated to a unique sight: a row of meticulously restored John Deere tractors stretching back nearly a century in age.

They’re the handiwork of Willie Rempel, who pulls out his collection of 20 or so vintage tractors most long weekends through the summer.

“I’ve been collecting these for a few years, and if they just sit in the shed then no one ever sees them,” says Rempel. “So I take them for a little ride here every year.”

“Here” is a grassy field on the Rempel yard just off the highway. The family has farmed in the area for generations. Rempel himself has handed off farming duties to his grandson in recent years.

The tractor collection started, he explains, as a way to keep himself busy once the harvest was in.

“You need a bit of a pastime in the winter, so we started doing this. It was affordable, and it takes a lot of work. But we had the shop, so we got started.”

He and a neighbour, Steve Klassen, together restored their first tractor back in the early ‘90s.

In the decades since, other friends and family have lent a hand as well, sanding down rusted bodies, tinkering with touchy motors, and loading up paint brushes with buckets and buckets of that distinctive John Deere green.

“We had many winters of good entertainment with this,” Rempel says, noting it’s been very much a labour of love.

Finding old tractors hasn’t ever been too much of a problem, though Rempel has certainly travelled far and wide to pick up certain models for his collection.

“When lots of people know that you have a few then they’re calling you going, ‘I saw one out there in the bush. Would you be interested? It looked green.’ So you investigate and it’s, oh, that looks pretty rough. But, you know, it’s a challenge to see what

you can do with them.”

John Deere is the only tractor Rempel has much interest in working on; his brand loyalty runs deep.

“The ‘putt-putt’ was what we always grew up with,” he says, John Deere cap firmly on his head. “John Deere makes a high quality machine.”

Rempel’s oldest tractor is a 1938 model whose wheels look like they’d be right at home on a horse-drawn wagon. His “newest” is from the mid-70s.

The ones in his collection today are just a sliver of the total tractors he’s had a hand in restoring—he figures he’s worked on upwards of 85 or so vehicles, many of which are now proudly on display at farms all over.

“We did some custom work for people, and then we didn’t have to spend so much money on our own tractors,” Rempel says.

If you missed the display for August long weekend, Rempel is planning to have them out again for the Labour Day weekend as well.



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Willie Rempel with just a few of the 85 or so vintage John Deere tractors he’s restored over the years. Rempel puts part of his collection on display on his yard south of Winkler for the summer long weekends.





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# sports & recreation

## Whips up 2-1 in Border league championship series

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Whips were one win away from the Border Baseball League title at the start of the week.

The Cartwright Twins needed a home win to extend the best-of-five series after dropping games two and three against the East Division champs. Results were not available at press time.

Cartwright took game one Aug. 10 by a wide margin, 17-5, but then stumbled over the weekend as the Whips returned the favour with decisive victories of 16-6 and 8-1 Friday and Sunday nights.

If the Twins managed a win Tuesday, game five will be in Winkler Wednesday evening.

The road to the championship round saw Winkler knock out the Altona Bisons and the Morden Mud Hens to win the division title.

In the West Division, Cartwright defeated the Baldur Regals and the Pilot Mound Pilots to advance.

The Whips faced the Twins just once

Cartwright's Ty Enns is an easy out by Winkler's Pete Fehr while trying to steal third base in game one of the best-of-five championship series last week, which the Twins took 17-5. Winkler bounced back with wins in games two and three.

PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/  
VOICE



in the regular season and emerged victorious 9-4.

### SENIOR A PROVINCIALS

The community of Clearwater hosted the 2023 Senior A Provincials last weekend.

In addition to the host team, the Car-

man Cardinals also took the field to represent the Border Baseball League at the event, squaring off against the Austin A's (Santa Clara), North Winnipeg, Wawanese Brewers (Southwest), and the Brandon Cubs.

In the playoffs, Clearwater (who had beaten both Austin and North Winni-

peg in the round robin) got knocked out by Wawanese, who went on to defeat the Cardinals 4-2 in the championship final.

Carman had downed Austin 15-5 in the semi-finals to advance after previously defeating the Brewers 10-0 and Brandon 4-3 in the round robin.

## Storm 1 fall to Lions, Storm 2 play at home this weekend

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler Storm 1 dropped an 8-0 decision to FC Winnipeg Lions in Manitoba Major Soccer League action last week.

The Premier Division team is struggling with the loss of several key players who have recently moved away, noted coach Chad Bergen, with a few more still slated to leave the area to pursue post-secondary studies in the weeks ahead.

The loss brings the team's record to 3-10 for the summer so far, which has them in eighth place in the standings, ahead of Lions FC by four points and World Soccer Academy by six. The

bottom two teams in the division at season's end will drop down to First Division next summer.

The Storm wrap up August with an away game against Lucania FC Thursday, Aug. 24 and a home game against World Soccer Academy Sunday, Aug. 27.

Meanwhile, the Storm 2 team, playing in the league's 3rd Division, are having a better go of things this summer. They're currently in third place with 22 points, trailing Scorpions FC and the Richmond Kings.

Storm 2 have a home game scheduled for this Sunday at 4 p.m. at the 15th St. pitch in Winkler.

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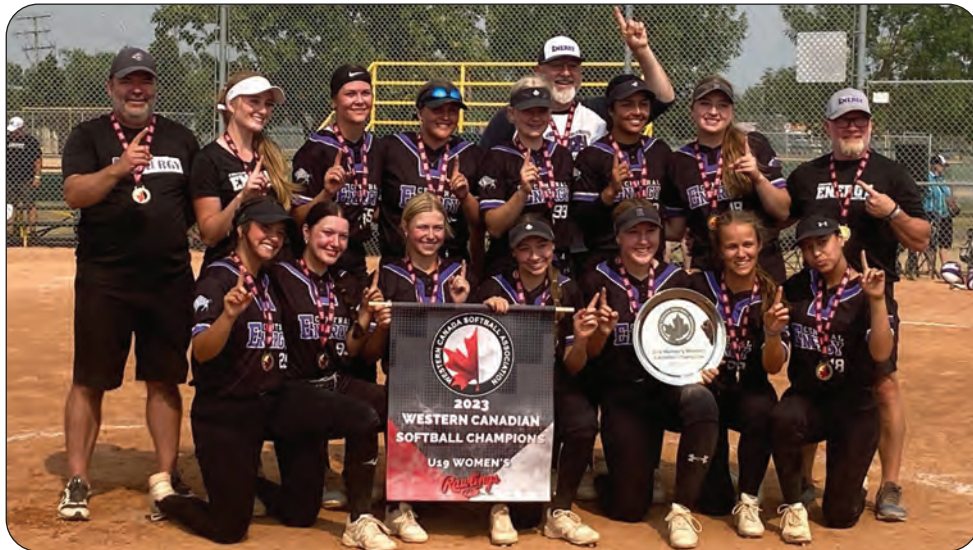
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# U19 Central Energy win gold at Westerns

By Voice staff

The U19 Central Energy team re-

turned from the Women's Western Canadian championships last week



with gold medals in tow.

The team were undefeated Aug. 4-7 in Regina, Saskatchewan. They were there representing Manitoba alongside the Eastman Phillies.

Central Energy kicked things off with round robin wins of 1-0 over the Southeast SuperNovas (Saskatchewan), 14-1 against the Calgary SBR Surge, 5-4 versus the Vancouver Wildcats, 4-2 against Cloverdale Fury (B.C.), 10-2 versus the Regina Riot, and 18-11 against the Enora Eagles (Alberta) to earn a place in the playoffs, where they crushed Cloverdale 12-2 to advance and then beat the Fury again, this time 7-0, in the final to win the championship.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

# Winkler hosts U17 Westerns this week

Teams from across the Prairies square off at the Parkland ball diamonds Aug. 17-20

By Lorne Stelmach

Fans can expect to see some high level ball being played in Winkler this week as it hosts the U17 girls Western Canadian Softball Championship.

Three Manitoba teams are competing in the tournament that runs from Thursday to Sunday.

One of the organizers with the central softball program said the selection of Winkler to host the tournament is a testament not only to the growth of softball in the region but also the quality of the facilities here.

"I think Winkler was an obvious choice for us because of how fantastic those diamonds are," said Graham Shindle. "Even little things that you don't think about like the concession stand and its location in respect to the diamonds.

"With the addition of that fieldhouse [at the Meridian Exhibition Centre], Winkler has become more and more a key location for regional softball programming," he added. "We run our elite AAA and AA programs throughout the winter, so that fieldhouse has played a large role in our teams having the ability to win all these medals.

"We are sometimes months ahead of our opponents because they don't have access to those kinds of spaces," he said. "It allows us to hit the ball harder, throw the ball further ... it has been an absolute blessing for our program.

"There's also a good volunteer base in the Winkler and Morden communities," Shindle added. "So we're excited about it. It's a good opportunity for us to showcase one of our commu-

nities and our facilities and the level of ball that is being played here."

In addition to the Manitoban teams (host Westman Magic, the Smitty's, and the MB Angels), there are two teams each coming from British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan.

The Central Energy team will not be competing, but that is because they recently earned silver at the provincial championship and so advanced to the national championship this past weekend in Saskatoon.

It all adds to what has been another banner year for the central softball program, which ranges from U11 AA up to U19 AAA levels. The A level is overseen at the local levels, while the regional program oversees levels including the AA Central Charge and the AAA Central Energy.

"Winkler has, in the last several years for sure, absolutely started to dominate the A level softball across Manitoba," said Shindle. "What that means is, in conjunction with all of our communities, it also means that we pump out a really strong AA and AAA programs.

"We do have a real softball hot bed of a region. We are very competitive at every level," he continued. "For the second year in a row, we are the only region that has won a medal in every provincial ... and I know we have won several A level championships as well, and our AA programs have also medaled in every provincial that they've had so far."

He noted that of the 23 players on the roster over the last two years at the U19 AAA level, 20 have advanced to college softball. The U19 team that recently won the Western Canadian Championships in Regina has 10 of the 11 girls going to college to play softball.

"So rural Manitoba as a whole is producing a ton of great softball players."

A schedule for this week's games is available at [softball.mb.ca](http://softball.mb.ca).

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### CAREERS



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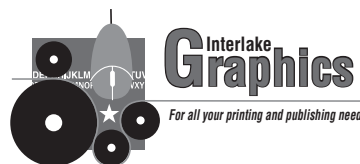
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**CAREERS**



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6. Each tender must be accompanied by a **\$10,000.00 deposit certified cheque or bank draft** payable to GILMOUR BRAUL HIEBERT LAW OFFICE. Deposit cheques accompanying unsuccessful bids will be returned following completion of a binding offer to purchase with the successful bidder.
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## OBITUARY

### Lydia Klassen



Lydia Klassen (nee Funk), age 91 years of Altona, MB passed away on Saturday, July 29, 2023 at the Altona Memorial Health Centre.

She is survived by her husband Abe Klassen; their children Brenda (Harold) Derksen, Debbie (Mark) Heinrichs, Delores (Bruce) Smith, and Terri (Rob) Bergman; as well 11 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

A private funeral service was held on Wednesday, August 2, 2023. Interment followed at the Altona Cemetery.

Donations in memory of Lydia may be made to MCC.

Wiebe Funeral Home Altona  
in care of arrangements  
[www.wiebefhaltona.com](http://www.wiebefhaltona.com)

## OBITUARY

### Jacob Wall 1976 - 2023



Jacob Wall passed away suddenly on Wednesday, August 2, 2023 at the age of 46 years.

Jake was born to Jacob and Margaretha Wall of Mexico on August 16, 1976. He was the sixth of seven children.

He was predeceased by one brother in infancy and two nephews.

He is survived by his wife Nettie, four children, Tina (married to Zachary Dyck), Jacobo, Jeremy and Justin, his parents, four brothers, one sister and their families.

He was baptized May 27th, 1996 and was married later that year to Aganetha Loewen. During the first years of their marriage, they made multiple moves between the U.S. and Mexico. In 2003, they moved to Canada where they made their home and raised their children. Jake worked as a truck driver most of his life. He enjoyed spending time preparing homemade food alongside Nettie to take along on trips; he was not a fan of fast food. Jake also enjoyed gardening and was known to plant way too much which he loved sharing with others. Anyone that knew Jake knew he had a great sense of humor and was great at making conversation with people of any age. Jake loved his family deeply. He had pictures of his family taped inside his semi where he could see them at all times. Later in life, Jake came to understand the Gospel clearly and began growing in his faith which was evident to his family and the people around him. Jake called Nettie often when on the road, just to chat. He loved and appreciated her and was not shy about telling everyone that her cooking was the best! Jake often told Tina she was his favourite daughter. When she would come home for a weekend, her dad was the first one to come give her a hug. Jake was very proud to have Zach as a son-in-law. Jake was also a gifted mechanic, and passed that talent on to his son, Jacobo with whom he spent many hours working together in the shop. He preferred working alongside Jacobo to working by himself. Jake didn't get upset when the kids made mistakes where vehicles got scratched or things got wrecked. He said that's how they learn. Jake and Jeremy enjoyed spending time together, teaching each other things they'd learned. For example, Jeremy would share something he may have learned in school and Jake shared life lessons with Jeremy. Justin enjoys sports, and this past summer, Jake and Justin spent many hours together playing catch in the yard, playing basketball, and going to Justin's baseball games. Jake and Nettie were able to make many good memories these past few years. Just a few weeks ago they enjoyed a great family weekend at a cabin. Jake made a fish fry for the family with the fish they had caught. On July 31st Jake left to deliver his last load to Heyburn, Idaho with his son, Jeremy. On August 1st, the two of them had supper together before heading to bed in the semi. Jake woke up at night having a hard time breathing. The hospital did everything they could, but the Lord took him home before surgery was able to happen. He was able to speak a few words to Nettie on the phone before he passed. The last words he was able to speak were "Oh Lord, I'm coming home". What a comfort and blessing. The following verses were marked in Jake's Bible: "How lovely is your tabernacle, O Lord of hosts. My soul longs, yes, even faints for the courts of the Lord; My heart and flesh cry out for the living God. Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young-even your altars, O Lord of hosts, My King and my God. Blessed are those who dwell in Your house; They will still be praising you." Psalm 84:1-4

The family would like to thank the medical staff at Minidoka Memorial Hospital for their care of Jake and Jeremy, the funeral directors in Idaho and here at Wiebe Funeral Home in Winkler, Pastor Art Wiebe, the Sommerfeld serving group and all those who have prayed and supported Nettie and the family in any way.

Funeral service was held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 12, 2023 at the Winkler Sommerfeld Mennonite Church with interment at the Reinfeld Cemetery.

Wiebe Funeral Home, Winkler  
In care of arrangements  
[wiebefuneralhomes.com](http://wiebefuneralhomes.com)



## OBITUARY

### Ron Hildebrand 1959-2023



Four months ago, on April 17, Ron Hildebrand ascended to his heavenly home.

Left to continue Ron's legacy are his wife Lydia, 4 children and spouses, and 17 grandchildren. Rachael and Marvin Giesbrecht, Caleb, Natalie, Katie, Chantel; Jeremy and Jasmine Hildebrand, Josiah, Alayah, Azariah, Neveah; Amanda and Chris Dymond, Noah, Ryder, Jett, Maddux, Willow; Zachary and Ivory Hildebrand, Meka, Kiya, Alexa, Maxwell. Ron is also survived by one brother, two sisters, parents-in-law, two sisters-in-law, and their families.

Ron was predeceased by his parents, Peter and Marie Hildebrand, and three grandchildren who went to meet Jesus before they were born. What a reunion that must have been when Grandpa arrived.

Looking ahead to a future without Ron is hard for us right now as we grieve his loss and all that encompasses. He is so missed. The words of this song hold true. 'Life goes on, but not the same. There's an aching at the mention of your name.'

However we do not grieve as those who have no hope. 'Cancer doesn't get the final word. Satan doesn't get the final word either. Even grief doesn't get the final word. The Cross of Christ gets the final word.' Jesus is still on the throne.

Ron fought the good fight, finished the course, kept the faith.  
Missing you always and forever. We'll never not remember you.  
Till we meet again.

*Your memory will live forever Engraved within our hearts*

## CAREERS

### French Immersion Teachers Needed for Sept. 2023



École Morden Middle school, located in the thriving city of Morden has several openings for **French Immersion teaching staff for next school year.**

Western School Division has recently announced that **Discovery Trails School** (currently under construction) will be home to Western School Division's early and middle years French Immersion Program. For additional information please check out the school and divisional web pages at [www.westernsd.mb.ca](http://www.westernsd.mb.ca)

**Remember Your Loved Ones with an Announcement in the**  
The *Winkler Morden* Voice  
Call 204-467-5836 or [ads@winklermordenvoice.ca](mailto:ads@winklermordenvoice.ca)

# A whirlwind summer for Rosemary Siemens

By Lorne Stelmach

It's been a whirlwind summer of performing for Rosemary Siemens.

The pride of Plum Coulee went from playing at a few of the world's most famous sites in Italy to then taking the stage at the Manitoba Threshermen's Reunion & Stampede.

It was all equally memorable for Siemens, who had her musician husband Eli Bennet and children and parents accompany her on her brief Italian tour before coming home to perform in Austin.

"It was so different, but it was so awesome because I always love to play for my Manitoba audience," she said in chatting with the *Voice* earlier this month. "There's not a lot of things I haven't done, but I can say I had never played for a rodeo. That was so cool to have a first like that. And the band just loved it."

The tour to Italy came about through Candace Wicke, who is a good friend from New Jersey that Siemens met while in Miami getting her master's degree.

Wicke started the Continuo Arts Foundation and wanted Siemens to be part of their Italy plans.

"She's brought me many times to the Vatican before and she brought me to Carnegie Hall ... this was a trip she was planning with a 90-voice choir," said Siemens.

In addition to the choir made up of youth and adults from across the United States, there was also a cellist, a harpist, and an organist.

The first show was at the Duomo in Milan, which is the fifth largest

church in the world. The tour then went to Florence to the Basilica of the Holy Trinity, which was built in 1065.

"Incredible acoustics. That was the church with the best acoustics. It was unbelievable," shared Siemens. "The acoustics in all of these places are just spectacular, and that's one of the most special things."

The next stop was at a world-famous palace in Rome.

"It's a thousand-room palace. It's one of the largest palaces in Europe," said Siemens, who then finished with a performance in the Vatican at St. Peter's.

"I did some practicing for the choir stuff, but the main thing was to put together the hymn arrangement, and I made a score for it for the trio," she noted. "We didn't have a lot of time to prepare ... we had one rehearsal with everyone."

"It was just heavenly ... it was a very special opportunity," Siemens said. "It was amazing, and it was very cool because [Wicke] knows about my hymn channel and my mission to bring back the hymns, so she let me put things together ... some of the pieces I was accompanying the choir and then I had two main features."

"It was very special to be doing hymns in all these venues and sharing my love for hymns in these venues across Italy. It was amazing."

Following the performances, Siemens stopped in Switzerland to have work done on her violin.

"My violin is from 1714 ... so I don't just bring it to anyone, so whenever I'm in Europe, I bring it back to the place where it was purchased," she



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Plum Coulee native Rosemary Siemens got the chance to perform in some truly spectacular venues in Italy this summer, including in the Milan Cathedral (above), the Basilica of the Holy Trinity in Florence (below, left), and St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City (below).

explained.

Siemens is now looking forward to a number of upcoming Manitoba shows including Sept. 15 in Winkler, Sept. 16 in Steinbach, and Sept. 17 in Winnipeg. She then performs at the Grand Ole Opry in March.

In the meantime, Siemens continues to enjoy doing her regular Sunday hymn channel on YouTube, which has

garnered over 100 million views

"It's touching lives. We get these very, very touching messages," she said, adding that she finds it interesting that it is believed half of her audience is people under the age of 45. "We're just very thankful that God has placed this ministry in our life and for how it's touching and changing lives."



# get inspired

> MEAL IDEAS



## Warm-Spiced Chickpeas and Couscous with Grapes and Arugula

Prep time: 10 minutes  
Cook time: 20 minutes  
Servings: 4  
2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil  
1 small onion, chopped  
1 1/2 teaspoons ground cumin  
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt, plus additional, to taste, divided  
1/8 teaspoon ground allspice  
1 cup Israeli pearl couscous  
3/4 teaspoon ground turmeric  
1 1/2 cups water  
1 can (15 ounces) no-salt-added chickpeas (garbanzo beans), drained  
1 cup red Grapes from California, halved  
2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro or

parsley  
freshly ground black pepper, to taste  
4 cups lightly packed baby arugula  
lemon wedges  
In large saucepan over medium heat, heat oil. Add onion, cumin, 1/2 teaspoon salt and allspice; cook, stirring, until onion is softened, about 3 minutes. Add couscous and stir 1 minute to toast lightly. Add turmeric and water; bring to boil. Reduce heat, cover and simmer until couscous is tender, about 15 minutes. Stir chickpeas, grapes and cilantro into couscous then season with salt and pepper, to taste. Transfer couscous-grape mixture to large bowl, add arugula and toss well. Serve warm or at room temperature with lemon wedges.



## Mac and Cheese with Pecan Breadcrumbs

Cook time: 50 minutes  
Servings: 6  
8 ounces cavatappi pasta  
1 teaspoon salt, plus additional for salting pasta water, to taste  
1 tablespoon butter  
1 block (8 ounces) cheddar cheese  
1/2 cup raw pecan pieces  
15 ounces part-skim ricotta cheese  
4 tablespoons sour cream  
1/4 teaspoon ground pepper  
1 large egg, lightly beaten  
Preheat oven to 375 F.  
Cook cavatappi in salted boiling water. Drain, reserving 1/2 cup pasta cooking

water. Return pasta to pot and stir in butter.  
Using box grater, shred cheddar cheese.  
Using food processor, combine 1/4 cup shredded cheddar cheese with pecans. Process to coarse breadcrumb consistency.  
Add remaining cheddar cheese, ricotta, sour cream, 1 teaspoon salt and pepper to warm pasta. Stir until thoroughly combined. Add egg; stir. Add 2-4 tablespoons reserved pasta water to loosen mixture; stir until smooth.  
Pour into buttered 9-inch square or round casserole dish and top evenly with pecan topping.  
Bake 30 minutes.  
Substitutions: Use pre-shredded cheese in place of cheddar cheese block. Use pasta of choice in place of cavatappi.



Cook time: 40 minutes  
Servings: 14  
15 Medjool dates (9 ounces)  
1 cup pecan pieces  
1/2 cup gluten-free oats  
1 tablespoon chia seeds  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon  
1/4 teaspoon kosher salt

Preheat oven to 200 F.  
In food processor, process or pulse dates until chopped and rough texture forms. Add pecan pieces, oats, chia seeds, vanilla extract, cinnamon and kosher salt; process about 1 minute until crumbly dough forms.  
Line baking sheet or jelly roll pan with parchment paper. Dump dough into center of parchment paper and use rolling pin to roll into 6-by-

10 1/2-inch rectangle. Cut dough into 14 bars about 1 1/2-by-3 inches or into desired shapes.  
Bake bars 30 minutes. Cool bars to room temperature then refrigerate in sealed container between sheets of wax paper.  
To package for on-the-go snacking, cut 4-by-6-inch rectangles of wax paper, wrap around bars and secure with tape.

## Expert patient here to help!



Susie Schwartz

### By Susie Schwartz

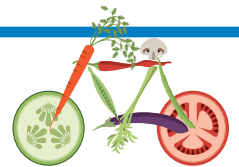
Sitting here eating my lunch at Keele University School of Medicine, my face is about to fall off from smiling so big. It's like my wedding day all over again. And I'm almost as happy today as then. No, I'm not becoming a doctor. I mean, seriously? I had a massage the other day and said, out loud to myself, "Wipe your face when you get to the car." Did I remember after 15 short steps? Nope. Then I met a new neighbour and talked to her for 15 minutes before heading into the house. As I caught a glimpse in the mirror, I almost fainted from the reflection. Think raccoon that's just stumbled home from a rave. Not exactly doctor material.  
No, I am smiling because I have the honour of helping medical students learn, and I get to give my two cents about the patient experience as someone with a chronic illness.  
Not only did they practice manoeuvring my limbs, poke me with toothpicks, and hammer my knees and elbows for a neurological exam, but the professor let them ask me questions.  
"How does diabetes affect your

daily life?"  
"Does the neuropathy in your feet hurt all the time?"  
"What's the one thing you want us to know to make us better doctors?"  
I sat taller on the exam table with each question until I almost jumped up and started dancing at the last one!  
I tell you all this because when students learn to be doctors, they care. And sometimes, I think after years of practicing medicine, some get jaded or worn out from being on that side of the desk. A bit of their humanness disappears.  
But I think (usually) they still have it – the desire to care well for people. And when we as patients build strong relationships by being prepared, being on time, being patient, and giving them our respect, even if we disagree with the treatment plan, we witness their compassion – their buried humanness.

And guess what my answer was to that last question posed?  
"See your patients as people and not as a number. We have fears and frustrations, and our health, as scary as that is, isn't even our only problem. Please treat us with compassion and respect."  
Hmm...  
It seems to go both ways – this humanizing each other at the doctor's office.  
Less health stress, yes?  
A published author and musician, Susie currently lives in the UK. Find her on Instagram @medicalm-iss\_stress and at [www.lesshealthstress.com](http://www.lesshealthstress.com), where you can sign up for 'Convos with Carlos.' Her book, 'Help the Doctor Help You – 32 Secrets and Tips for Self-Advocacy to Get the Best from Your Appointments' is now available on Amazon!

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## Superfood Pecan Energy Bars