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OCTOBER 2, 2026 | EMPIRE: VOL 122 NO 07 / ADVANCE: VOL 142 NO 09 | PUBLISHING FRIDAYS

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A powerful story takes the Virden stage, VTP presents Dear Evan Hansen



Full cast and crew of the musical Dear Evan Hansen.

PHOTO BY ROB LOVATT OF KEYWEST PHOTO

By Beth McConnell
EMPIRE ADVANCE

Virden Theatre Productions has opened its 2026–27 season with one of the most ambitious and emotionally resonant musicals of the modern era: Dear Evan Hansen. Presented over two weekends at the AUD Theatre, the production brings together a remarkable cast, a seasoned creative team, and a community deeply connected to the themes at the heart of the show.

A Dream Years in the Making

For Artistic Director Michelle Chyzk, staging Dear Evan Hansen has been a long held dream. In her message to audiences, she reflects on nearly four decades of making music in Virden, a journey shaped by “dreamers, workers, risk takers, cheerleaders, builders, teachers, and incredible talents of every kind.” After seeing the musical on Broadway in 2017, she knew she wanted to bring its message home.

“This masterpiece changed the landscape of musical theatre forever,” she writes. “Whether it’s the challenges of parenting, complicated human relationships, or the need each one of us feels to BELONG, to be LOVED, to be FOUND.”

Co director Dean Munchinsky echoes that sentiment, calling the show “a pleasure to bring,” and praising the cast’s courage and growth. With only eight performers, the production marks a departure from VTP’s usual large scale musicals, an intimate, character driven story that demands vulnerability and precision.

The Story That Captured the World

With a Tony Award winning book by Steven Levenson and a score by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul, Dear Evan Hansen follows 17 year old Evan, who has spent his life feeling invisible. When a tragedy shakes his community, Evan finds himself at the centre of a misunderstanding that spirals into a web of well intentioned lies. The musical explores belonging, grief, mental health, and the universal desire to be seen.

Songs like “Waving Through a Window,” “Requiem,” “You Will Be Found,” and “Words Fail” have become modern classics, resonating with audiences around the world, and now, with Virden.

A Cast of Exceptional Local Talent

VTP’s production features rotating casts for several roles, showcasing the depth of talent in the region.

Evan Hansen is portrayed by Aaron Cox and Dylan Southam across different performances. Cox, a vocal performance major, brings years of stage experience; Southam, a familiar face in Virden musicals, dedicates his performance to his late father, and Cox, usually seen in strong character roles, steps into Evan’s emotional landscape with sensitivity.

A Creative Team Rooted in Community

Chyzk and Munchinsky lead a seasoned creative team that includes choreographer Katey Rogowsky and producer JaysaLee Davies. The production is supported by an extensive crew, set builders, costumers, technicians, stage managers, and volunteers, whose work brings the show’s emotional world to life.

The orchestra, conducted by Wesley Lipischak, features local musicians on keyboard, guitar, percussion, and strings, adding depth and warmth to Pasek & Paul’s celebrated score.

A large screen cast social media shots, photos, and writing through-out the show that added so much to the performance. It was powerful and thought provoking.

Community, Connection, and the Power of Storytelling

The program’s recurring message, You Will Be Found, feels especially poignant in a community where theatre has long been a source of connection. Virden Theatre Productions continues to offer a space where performers grow, audiences gather, and stories spark conversation.

As Chyzk writes, “I cannot imagine a better place to create... to thrive.” With Dear Evan Hansen, VTP delivers not only a polished and heartfelt production, but also a reminder of the strength found in community, compassion, and shared experience.

On a personal note: As someone who deeply struggled with my mental health as a teenager, this musical was deeply moving and meaningful. The Virden Theater Production did an incredible job and I am deeply impressed and glad that stories like this are being told in our community.



HOME GAME
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2
VS. NEEPAWA
TITANS
PUCK DROPS AT 7:30PM

Inside...



MEET THE
2026/27 OIL
CAPS *P11-14*



WESTMAN
COMMUNITIES
UNITE TO ATTRACT
SKILLED WORKERS *P10*

Soup-er success, Prairie Gateway Tourism wrapped up its first soup week

By Beth McConnell
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Prairie Gateway Tourism celebrated the region's love of comfort food this fall with its inaugural Prairie Gateway Soup Week, held from September 21-27, 2026. Over seven days, four local cafés served four distinct soups, each crafted to bring warmth, creativity, and community spirit to the season.

À La Carte 447 offered a hearty Loaded Potato Soup, made with potatoes, bacon, sharp cheddar, and green onions. The classic flavours and creamy texture made it a favourite among those looking for a cozy, familiar bowl.

T's Dining & Lounge featured its Loaded Cheeseburger Soup, a rich and cheesy creation filled with bite sized hamburger pieces and topped with fresh tomatoes, crisp red onions, and tangy pickles. Served with garlic toast, it delivered a full comfort food experience.

MJ's Coffee Bar & Bistro served its Homemade Cabbage Roll Soup, a tomato beef broth loaded with seasoned ground beef, tender cabbage, carrots, and rice. Offered in both 12 ounce and 16 ounce portions and paired with a fresh mini bun, it provided a hearty, homemade taste that resonated with diners.

Brierwood Creek Café and Grill in Kenton rounded out the lineup with its Wicked Thai Style Chicken Soup, a bold and aromatic dish featuring tender chick-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A La Carte's loaded baked potato soup!

en, fresh vegetables, and a Thai inspired sauce balancing sweetness, savoury depth, and a gentle kick of heat. The soup quickly became a standout, earning praise from the Kenton community. "It was absolutely delicious," said Linda Drake of Kenton, noting its creamy base and fragrant herbs. For anyone eager to explore Eastern inspired flavours, it proved to be a highlight of the week.

Community engagement played a big role in the event. Diners who tried all four soups were entered to win a Prairie Gateway Prize Pack and gift cards from each participating restaurant by tagging Prairie Gateway Tourism and using #PGT-SoupWeek on social media.

The event was a success with over many bowls of soup sold. I hope they continue this event again next year.

It's Fall TIME

By Lauren Halowaty
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

September 22 marked the first day of autumn, bringing with it the familiar shift toward crisper air and vibrant seasonal changes. However, something else is changing across the province: Manitoba will no longer "fall back" by an hour each autumn. Moving forward, local time will remain steady year-round, meaning Manitobans will no longer gain that traditional extra hour of sleep in November. According to a news release issued by the province Thursday, September 17, Premier Wab Kinew announced that Manitoba will adopt permanent daylight time. Under this new policy, clocks will not revert to standard time on November 1 as they have in previous years. As with most major policy shifts, public reaction remains divided, with residents expressing a wide range of opinions on the change. Regardless of personal preferences though, time and the changing of the seasons remain beyond our control. Just as we adapt to cooler weather each fall, Manitobans will adjust to this new temporal landscape. In Virden, the very last Farmer's Market was on September 24, and the Seasonal business, Ice Cream Island had its final day of serving treats on Sunday, September 27. With these seasonal changes, it's a stark reminder that change is inevitable, and cooler weather is on the horizon. Yet with this seasonal change



PHOTO BY LAUREN HALOWATY

As the season turns, so do the leaves to beautiful red, orange and yellow.

comes some exciting events that we all know such as Thanksgiving and Halloween. Autumn remains a favourite season for many, especially myself. The changing leaf colours, the return of pumpkin spice, and the comfort of hearty home-cooked meals mark this transitional time.

Halloween decorations and fall displays have already begun appearing on store shelves and across neighbourhood yards as residents settle into the season. Which reminds me, if you decorate your home for Halloween, then we want to feature your decorated home on our 2026 Halloween map! See details on page 24.

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brandonadvancedhearing.ca

Stokes
Hearing & Audiology Services

B - 1314 Richmond Ave,
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100 Years of Winnie The Pooh

**TALES FROM
THE ARCHIVE**

**LAUREN
HALOWATY**



An Autumn Centenary

In Canada and Manitoba, October brings cooler evenings, vibrant autumn foliage, Thanksgiving celebrations, and the excitement of Halloween. Yet, exactly a century ago, in October 1926, the month marked a momentous event in world literature: the international publication of A.A. Milne's timeless classic, Winnie-the-Pooh. While the whimsical stories take place in England's fictional Hundred Acre Wood, the heart of the legendary bear belongs entirely to Canada.

Chronology of a Literary Legend
• August 1914: Lt. Harry Colebourn purchases an orphaned black bear cub for \$20 in White River,

Ontario, naming her 'Winnipeg' (Winnie) after his home base in Manitoba.

• 1914–1918: Winnie serves as the beloved mascot of the 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade before being safely stationed at the London Zoo during World War I.

• 1920s: Young Christopher Robin Milne falls in love with Winnie at the London Zoo, renaming his favourite stuffed bear after her.

• October 1926: A.A. Milne publishes 'Winnie-the-Pooh', transforming his son's imaginative play into a global treasure.

The Bear from White River, Ontario

In August 1914, Lieutenant Harry Colebourn, a young Canadian veterinary officer bound for Europe with the Fort Garry

Horse cavalry unit, purchased a small orphaned bear cub at a train stop in White River, Ontario. He paid \$20 to the trapper who had caught her, naming her Winnipeg, 'Winnie' for short, in honour of his hometown in Manitoba.

Winnie travelled with Colebourn across the Atlantic, quickly becoming the treasured mascot of the 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade in England. When Colebourn was deployed to the frontlines in France, he entrusted Winnie to the London Zoo for safe keeping. Her remarkably gentle nature made her an instant favourite among visitors, who were permitted to pet and feed her. Among her frequent visitors was young Christopher Robin Milne. The boy developed a deep fondness for the Canadian black bear, so much so that he renamed his own teddy bear, originally named Edward, after Winnie. Observing his son's imaginative play with his stuffed animal collection, author A.A. Milne was inspired

to weave the timeless tales that would capture hearts for generations.

Global Stardom and Disney Ties

Winnie-the-Pooh quickly became an international literary sensation, translated into dozens of languages. However, his rise into a global pop-culture titan surged in 1961 when Walt Disney acquired the rights to the stories. Inspired by his own daughters' love for Milne's books, Disney reimagined Pooh for screen and merchandise, introducing his iconic red shirt and bringing him to life in animated classics starting with 1966's 'Winnie the Pooh and the Honey Tree'. Today, Winnie-the-Pooh is a multi-billion-dollar franchise and one of Disney's top global brands, beloved across generations through animated films, books, and merchandise worldwide.

A Lasting Manitoban Legacy

Today, the historical tie between Winnipeg and the world's most



FILE PHOTO FROM MANITOBA HISTORICAL ARCHIVES

The image shows Lieutenant Harry Colebourn feeding his pet bear Winnie at a military camp in 1914.

famous bear remains a source of immense pride. Visitors to Winnipeg's Assiniboine Park Zoo can view a life-sized bronze statue depicting Lieutenant Harry Colebourn holding the paws

of young Winnie, a permanent testament to the Canadian soldier and the bear who inspired a literary immortal.

Goulter School partners with local businesses for "A Day to Shop" fundraiser

By Beth McConnell
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Goulter School is teaming up with two long standing Virden retailers, Virden Sport & Fashion and Virden Footwear, for a full day of community shopping in support of local students. "A Day to Shop" will take place Thursday, October 8, running from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and aims to raise funds for new sports equipment and playground upgrades at the school.

For one day only, shoppers will receive 25 percent off purchases at both Virden Sport & Fashion and Virden Footwear. The businesses are offering the discount as part of a collaborative effort to boost fundraising while encouraging residents to shop locally.

Tickets for the event are \$5 each, with 100 percent of ticket sales being donated directly to Goulter School. Tickets can be purchased ahead of time or on the day of the event at either participating store.

The fundraiser comes at a time when Goulter School is looking to refresh aging sports gear and make long needed improvements to its playground space. Organizers say the upgrades will benefit students across all grades, supporting both physical education programming and outdoor play.

The event also highlights the ongoing relationship between local schools and Virden's business community. By offering a significant discount and hosting the fundraiser in store, both retailers are



FILE PHOTO

25 percent off purchases at both Virden Sport & Fashion and Virden Footwear.

helping ensure families can contribute in a way that feels accessible and enjoyable.

Residents are encouraged to stop by, browse, and take advantage of the savings while supporting a cause that directly impacts local children. With extended hours and two locations participating, organizers hope the event will draw steady traffic throughout the day.

"A Day to Shop" blends community spirit with practical support, an opportunity for Virden shoppers to give back simply by doing what they already do: supporting local and shopping local.

For School Board Trustee,

**VOTE
CRAIG RUSSELL**

to represent you in **WARD ONE** (Town of Virden)



ON OCTOBER 28, RE-ELECT

RUSSELL, CRAIG. W.

X



**SHOP
LOCAL**



Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



Complaint complacency-same bad result

We are in the midst of municipal election season in Manitoba.

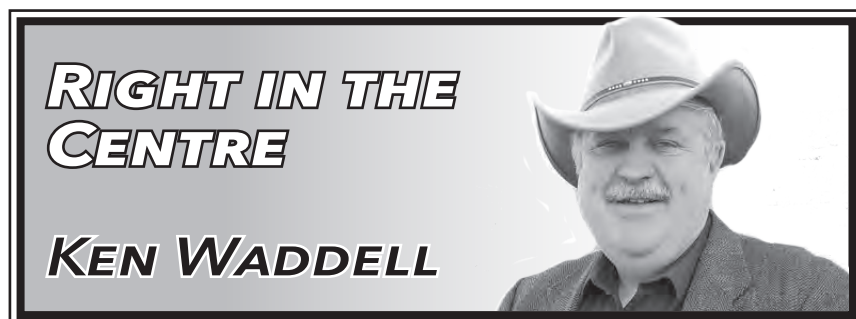
Quite frankly, it's time for all the crabby coffee-shop political critics to man up and vote. And just as frankly, if there isn't an election in your area due to an acclamation and if you aren't happy with the acclamation, you missed your chance to be a candidate or find one. And furthermore, if you don't vote, then I don't want to hear much complaining from you.

I was struck this past week by the similarity between the word complaint and complacency. Think about it, lack of results come from both words. It's action that's needed, not criticism of people but examining ideas. Many years ago, I was in a little country church near Rapid City and people were discussing ideas and praying for wisdom and guidance. Then a message came that I believe was from God. It doesn't seem to happen often, but a man down the pew from us stood up and made a short talk, just a few words. I would say it was a prophecy. He said, "I believe God is saying to us that we have all that we need in our midst to do what God has called us to do."

Over the decades in Manitoba, that assessment has rung true many times. Our ancestors built farms, schools, churches, halls, rinks and whole towns by gathering their God-given resources and turning them into the needs of our communities. It might be vision or money or skills, but the end result is almost always good.

That story of development has been repeated hundreds of times across Manitoba. God calls us to action, be it out of need or desperation to get stuff done.

I truly believe that Canada took a huge step backward in community self-reliance when during the



“RM and town councils are the most important level of government. Their actions, or inactions, most closely affect our lives.”

1960s there was a huge move towards government grants. The Centennial grants in Canada and Manitoba (1967 and '70 respectively) did help some communities for sure but nowadays every time people get together to do something, the very early question in the discussion is "Where can we get a grant?"

If we had waited for grants in the first 60-70 years of Manitoba's history, we would have had a lot less growth.

Now there's grants for everything from community projects to public facilities to businesses. It should be no surprise that taxes are so high at all three levels of government as we have become very dependent on grants. It would be better if project funding could be guided by Community Foundations, I really like that model.

Anyway, back to municipal politics.

RM and town councils are the most important level of government. Their actions, or inactions, most closely affect our lives.

I think that municipal councils and Reeves and Mayor should be paid a lot more and then do a lot more. Perhaps property taxes should be higher. And perhaps provincial and federal governments should dribble more money down to the municipal level, not as grants but as per capita funding with conditions that it be spent on roads, water and sewage works.

Get your mind off Trump and world events and concentrate on the task in front of you, it will be a lot more rewarding and fruitful as God reveals to you what He is asking you to do.

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this column are the writer's personal views and are not to be taken as being the view of the Banner & Press staff.

Homebodies

RITA FRIESEN



I wish there was a witness...

When we moved into the big house on the acreage east of town, the kitchen was in the north east corner with a high cupboard. Two of the young women in my life thought it hilarious to place my meagre collection of cookbooks in the topmost corner—cause I never used them anyway! I do not have a vast collection: The Altona Women's Institute Cook Book (Mennonite, surprise!), A Guide to Good Cooking compiled by the makers of Five Roses Flour (published in 1938!) Slightly stained and mostly intact), and a collection of handwritten recipes—not on cards but on scraps of paper, old envelopes, and sometimes missing the title! A careful reading of the ingredients usually sets me straight and I aim for muffins or cookies.

When we were raising grandchildren one of them asked me if I knew how to bake any other cookies than chocolate chip, and date filled oatmeal cookies. Yeh, but why would I? They ate what was in front of them! I also made roll kuchen, buns, pies, and the occasional cake—chocolate. So why do I wish there was a witness? I have both cook books out and I am looking online for recipes! I think perhaps the fall feeling has me longing for comfort foods. Here's a sad truth; I didn't process the difference between shepherd's pie, and chicken pot pie. I have left over chicken, veggies, gravy and mashed potatoes and want something a bit more than a casserole. I have not decided which will be easier. Note that—easier, not tastier... I am not an imaginative cook, and never will be a chef!

I am cleaning up the garden and I have a wonderfully full celery plant out there. How does one make celery soup? The recipes I have found sound complicated; saute, garnish, white sauce... how about chop and blend?

This wandering through the cook books certainly reminds me how times have changed. I don't think I need to know that calf and lamb hearts are more tender than those of beef and mutton... and my regular food prep does not include the need to prepare liver, heart, sweetbreads, brains, tongue or tripe! I understand they are probably really healthy and if I was survival farming I would relish them. But no thanks. What I will prepare this week, that I have not for a very long time, is baked apples. That should deal with five or six of the dozens left... (I am discouraged with the overabundance of apples. I have diced and sliced, frozen, dehydrated, made pies and crisps, donated and discarded. And there are still beautiful apples on the tree.)

Time will tell. The leftovers were intentional and will not be wasted. I think the shepherd's pie sounds doable. A bit more research should also discover a tasty recipe for the celery soup. And I know how to bake an apple. The one recipe suggested I use maple syrup rather than sugar and I have a good supply of that, so we'll see. I would never have imagined me rabbit holing with recipes! Perhaps one can teach old dogs new tricks.

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Tundra Oil & Gas Place: 204-748-2736



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2026 Citizen of the Year Nominations now open!

Nominate a deserving citizen for Citizen of the Year.

Deadline to submit your nomination is November 13, 2026.

Visit viriden.ca/p/citizen-of-the-year or call the Town Office for more information.

IT'S MUNICIPAL ELECTION TIME!

The Town of Viriden is looking for Election Officials to work at the polling station on October 28, 2026.

Workers must be available from approximately 7:45 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on election day.

Previous election day experience is an asset but not required. Training will be provided.

Please contact Rhonda Stewart to apply,
Senior Election Official

Phone: 204-851-0769 or Email at rlstewart64@outlook.com

Thanksgiving Weekend Hours

Town Office and Tundra Oil and Gas Place Closed - Monday October 12

Viriden Landfill Closed - Saturday, October 10

Upcoming Council Meetings

October 6 & 20

Council Meetings start at 7:00 PM

Notice of Board of Revision

Pursuant to Section 41 of the Municipal Assessment Act, public notice is hereby given that the Assessment Rolls for the Town of Viriden for 2027 have been deposited in the Town Office, 236 Wellington Street West, and are open for public inspection during normal business hours.

The public is also advised that the Board of Revision will sit at the Town of Viriden Council Chambers at 232 Wellington Street West on Tuesday, November 5th, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. to hear applications for revision of assessments.

Application for Revision

A person in whose name property has been assessed, a mortgagee in possession of property under subsection 114(1) of The Real Property Act, an occupier of premises who is required under the terms of a lease to pay the taxes on the property, or the assessor may make application for the revision of an assessment roll with respect to:

1. Liability to taxation;
2. Amount of an assessed value;
3. Classification of property; or
4. A refusal by an assessor to amend the assessment roll under subsection 13(2) of the Act.

Application Requirements

An application for revision must:

5. Be made in writing;
6. Set out the roll number and legal description of the property for which a revision is sought;
7. State the grounds on which the application is based; and
8. Be filed with the Secretary of the Board of Revision, 236 Wellington Street West, P.O. Box 310, Viriden MB R0M 2C0 at least 15 days before the sitting of the Board (**by October 20, 2026**).

Dated this 21st day of September, 2026.

Neil Smith, RPP
Chief Administrative Officer
Town of Viriden

Request for Pricing

Fabrication, Supply and Delivery of Wayfinding Signage

The Town of Viriden will accept quotations for the fabrication, supply and delivery of eight (8) cantilevered wayfinding sign assemblies at various locations throughout the Town of Viriden, in accordance with the accompanying Drawings and Specifications prepared by HTFC Planning & Design (Project No. 26-024).

Full details of this opportunity are publicly available on MERX or on the Town Website.

Notice of Election

Notice is hereby given that a vote of the Town of Viriden will be taken to elect Mayor and Councillors from the following duly nominated candidates:

For the offices of Councillor:

HUNT, Alfred
HALOWATY, Gord
PENNER, Travis
SAVY, Marc
MAKARCHUK, Tom
MAXWELL, Tara
GRUMPELT, Lynette
GIRARDIN, Lomer

For the office of Mayor:

DUNNING, Bruce
WILLIAMS, Tina

(Note: listed in order as per random draw for order on ballots)

VOTING PLACES

Voting places will be open for voting on Wednesday the 28th day of October, 2026

between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

at

Sunrise Banquet Hall, Tundra Oil and Gas Place, 900 5th Avenue South, Viriden, Manitoba

Identification may be required before being allowed to vote.

A person may be required to produce one piece of government issued photo identification (for example - driver's license or passport) or at least two other documents that provide proof of identity.

ADVANCE VOTING

For the purpose of accommodating persons who are qualified to vote, but reside at a health care facility, a mobile voting station will be set up at the following health care facilities on election day:

1. Viriden Hospital/Westman Nursing Home 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
2. Sherwood PCH 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

APPLICATION TO VOTE BY SEALED ENVELOPE

A voter who is unable to go in person to the voting place or vote in advance, may apply in person, in writing, or by email to the senior election official at

Box 310, 236 Wellington Street West, Viriden, Manitoba, R0M2C0.

Email: rlstewart64@outlook.com

If applying in person*, a voter may apply between September 30, 2026 and October 25, 2026, during regular business hours.

* A voter applying in person may pick up a sealed envelope ballot package at the time of application.

If applying by mail or email**, a voter may apply between September 30, 2026 and October 25, 2026

** A voter applying by mail or email will receive a sealed envelope ballot package by regular post, or by making alternative arrangements with the senior election official.

Rhonda Stewart, Senior Election Official

Phone: 204-851-0769

Email: rlstewart@outlook.com

Town of Viriden

Miniota News

Submitted
BY LINDA CLARK

Congratulations to Stan and Bonnie Bryant on the arrival of a new great granddaughter, Remi Rae, born on Sept. 18 to Claudia and Lance. Remi is also welcomed by many family members, but especially by her siblings Scarlett, Ivy and Cohen. Congratulations

to all!

Joan Taylor, Calgary Alta, and Kathy Taylor, LaSalle Man. were home to visit with family and to attend the funeral service for their cousin, Dan Ramsey at Oak River.

This past Saturday, Sept. 26 saw around 40 golfers enjoy the men's windup at the Miniota Golf Course. Weather permitting the women

will hold their windup this Wednesday evening. The golfing season is coming to a close quickly, however the course remains in great shape, so maybe everyone can get in a few more games between the rain showers that are plaguing our farmers in their combining progress.

“I am beginning to learn that it is the sweet, simple things of life which are the real ones after all.”-Laura Ingalls Wilder

HELEN DRYSDALE

OUT OF HELEN'S KITCHEN

Thanksgiving is a day that reminds us of the many blessings in our lives. Counting our blessings helps us to see what we take for granted every day. As we sit down to a meal, surrounded by the love of family and friends, may we express our thanks and learn to develop the value of intentionally counting our blessings in life every day. Happy Thanksgiving!

Pumpkin Pie Dessert

Eat cake instead of pie! This dessert has all the flavors of pumpkin pie and is so easy to put together!

- 1 796 mL can of pumpkin (not pie filling)
1 cup brown sugar
2 Tbsp. molasses
4 tsp. pumpkin pie spice
1 354 mL can evaporated milk
4 eggs lightly beaten
1 box yellow cake mix
1 cup chopped pecans or walnuts
2/3 cup melted butter



Spray a 9" x 13" baking pan with cooking spray. Mix pumpkin, sugar, molasses and spice together in a large bowl. Add evaporated milk and beaten eggs and stir well. Pour pumpkin mixture into the prepared pan. Sprinkle the dry cake mix evenly over the pumpkin mixture. Sprinkle the nuts and then the butter over the cake mix. Bake in a preheated 350 F oven for 50 to 60 minutes or until knife inserted in center comes out clean. This is lovely served warm with a scoop of either vanilla ice-cream or dollop of whipped cream.

Turkey Rice Orange Salad

Cooks are always thankful when they have leftovers. This recipe will help to use up some of those turkey leftovers.

- 1 cup uncooked wild, brown or white rice - your choice
 1/4 cup diced onions 1/4 cup chopped parsley
 1/2 cup diced celery 1/2 cup diced red peppers
 1/2 cup dried cranberries 2 cups cooked, diced turkey
 1/3 - 1/2 cup Italian dressing 1/4 tsp. pepper
 1 can mandarin oranges, drained
 1/4 cup toasted pecans (optional)

Cook the rice according to directions. Cool. In a bowl combine the rice, onions, parsley, celery, peppers, cranberries and diced turkey. Add the dressing and pepper and stir in. Gently stir in the orange sections and, if desired, pecans. Refrigerate until ready to use.

Greg NESBITT
MLA for Riding Mountain



204.759.3313
 Toll Free 844.877.7767
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 #7 - 515 4th Avenue
 Burlington Place, Shoal Lake, MB

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HALL**



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Police Report

Westman RCMP Service Report for Sep 20 to 26

Submitted

BY WESTMAN RCMP

During this week, Westman RCMP received a total of 50 calls for service. Some of these calls for service include 21 traffic offences, 3 Assaults, 2 Break and Enters, 2 Mental Health Acts, 2 False Alarms, 8 Mischief, 2 Wellbeing Checks and 6 - 911 Acts.

On Sept. 23, during a routine patrol in RM of Pipestone, RCMP observed a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed the driving speed of 119km/hr in a 100km/hr zone. A traffic stop was conducted, and the driver was issued a Traffic Offence Notice for Speeding which carries a fine of \$299.

On Sept. 24, during a routine patrol in the Town of Virden, RCMP observed a vehicle with an unsecure load. Members conducted traffic stop and confirmed the vehicle to be unregistered and the driver was issued a Traffic Offence Notice for Drive an Unregistered Vehicle which carries a fine of \$298.

On Sept. 26, during a routine patrol in the Town of Virden, RCMP observed

a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed. Members attempted to conduct a traffic stop with the suspect vehicle who failed to stop and fled from the police. Members were able to successfully spike belt the suspect vehicle and arrest the driver. The driver was identified as a 21-year-old male who was arrested and charged for Flight from Peace Officer, Dangerous Operation of a Motor Vehicle and Unlawful transportation of liquor in Motor vehicle. The accused was released with conditions and is scheduled to appear in court later.

To report a complaint or non-emergency incident to RCMP please call 204-748-2135. For general inquiries or administrative requests including criminal record checks please call the administration line at 204-748-2046 Ext. 3, during regular office hours.

If you are reporting an emergency, please call 911. If you witness a crime and wish to remain anonymous, please contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477. Crime Stoppers is entirely confidential and completely anonymous. The tip line is not traceable, and they do not subscribe to caller ID or call display.



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Parenting through grief, the part no one prepares you for



Grief changes the way you move through the world, but no one warns you how sharply it changes the way you parent. It's one thing to carry your own sorrow; it's another to carry it while still packing lunches, signing permission slips, and remembering which day is library day. Grief doesn't pause for school drop-off. It doesn't wait until after bedtime. It threads itself through the ordinary moments, and you're left trying to parent with a heart that feels heavier than it used to.

There's a particular kind of guilt that comes with grieving as a parent. You're hurting, but you're still needed. You still have to show up. You still have to answer questions, soothe fears, and pretend you're fine enough that your kids don't feel the ground shifting under them. Some days you manage it. Other days you don't. And those days can feel like failure, even though they aren't.

The raw truth is that grief makes you slower. It makes you forget things. It makes you short-tempered or quiet or distracted. You look at your child's face and think, I hope they can't see how broken I feel. But kids are perceptive. They notice the cracks. They notice the pauses. They notice the way you stare a little too long at the sink or the window or the empty chair. And then you're faced with another impossible task: explaining a pain you barely understand yourself.

Parenting through grief means learning to tell the truth gently. It means saying, "I'm sad today," without making them responsible for fixing it. It means letting them see you cry sometimes, because hiding it teaches them that grief is some-

thing shameful. It means answering their questions honestly, even when the answers hurt. It means showing them that love doesn't disappear just because someone else did.

But it also means giving yourself permission to be human. To let the laundry pile up. To order takeout again. To say no to things you used to say yes to. To accept help even when it feels uncomfortable. Grief strips you down to the essentials, and sometimes the most essential thing is simply getting through the day.

There are moments, though quiet, unexpected ones, where grief softens. Your child laughs, and for a second the heaviness lifts. They slip their hand into yours, and you feel anchored again. You read a bedtime story, and the world feels almost normal. These moments don't erase the pain, but they remind you that grief and love can coexist. That you can hurt deeply and still parent well. That your children don't need perfection; they need you.

Navigating grief as a parent isn't about being strong all the time. It's about being real. It's about showing your children that sorrow is part of life, and that even in the darkest seasons, families find ways to hold each other up. It's messy, and it's exhausting, and it's profoundly human.

And if you're in that season right now, if you're grieving and parenting and trying to keep your footing, you're not doing it wrong. You're doing something incredibly hard, and you're doing it with more courage than you give yourself credit for, and you should be proud of yourself.

Rockin and Walkin in Elkhorn



PHOTOS BY ED JAMES

Groups gathered outside to enjoy some friendly games of bean bag toss.



This giant Ker-plunk game was a huge hit and a ton of fun for everyone.

By Ed James
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Elks Lodge # 381 of Elkhorn has been a long standing and active community group for many events in the village. On a September 25 and 26, Elks members from all over the south-west district and a few from Sask. were in town for the provincial fund raising Rockin and Walkin event. It was filled with fun, games and challenges for the whole family. This is the third time the Elkhorn Elks have held the double event over the year. The event not only included club members but many members of the community. It started Friday evening with the rocking chair event, with each team bringing its own rocking chair. Some of the rocking chair relay teams were various Elks club teams, the Elkhorn School Travel club, the Tutthill team, the Elkwood Manor team, the Elkhorn Early Learning Centre team, and the Elkhorn Leisure Centre team. Some of the teams came in colourful costumes.

Two Special Guests

Two special guests for the events were Kari Senko, the Grand Exalted Ruler and National President of the Elks Club of Canada and a couple from Holland who were visiting their son in Elkhorn. After the four-hour rocking chair event, a number of challenge games were played by the team members to add points to their team totals. The games were Crokinole, Cornhole, cup stacking, Connect Four and Ker-plunk. There was a great deal of crowd spirit, competition and strategy used by the gamers. All during the evening, light refreshments and snacks were available, a ticket draw prize event and "Walk for Kids" cash draw tickets, with big cash prizes. The revenue from many of the events going 50/50 to the community groups or charities of your choice and 50 per cent to the National Elks and Royal Purple Fund for Kids. The Friday evening events saw the burning of the midnight oil!

Full Day of Events

Saturday was another full day for the Elks and friends starting with a lunch at the Legion Hall catered by Kristine Catering of Elkhorn. Most of Saturday afternoon was spent, by teams walking around the village to various route points for more Cornhole challenges. On Saturday evening, a roast beef supper was held at the Elks Hall catered by Kliever Katering. Speeches and presentations followed Mrs. Senko made some special presentations to district Elk Club members who have been so active and supportive of the Elks Organizations, the help for children and community projects. She went on to thank the many volunteers who made the weekend such a success. A special AV presentation was shown about Charlie the Elk involved in the Elkhorn and area community. Prize draws and competition winners were announced and then the evening was turned over to the popular Brandon classic rock band, "Clubbing Fraggles", who are no strangers to many Elkhorn community events.

Tawna McLean, one of the main organizers of the weekend along with the help of Kevin Tutthill said this about the weekend, "We couldn't be happier with how the Rock-A-Thon and Walk for Kids weekend turned out. Both events were a tremendous success, but what really stood out was the incredible support from our community, volunteers, teams, sponsors and everyone who came out to take part. It was a weekend filled with fun, laughter and community spirit, all while supporting a cause that is very important to the Elks — helping kids. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who helped make the weekend such a success and to our community for once again showing up in a big way. We are currently working on the final fundraising totals and will share those on the Elkhorn Elks Facebook page as soon as they are available."

Transportation a dilemma for some Oak Lake parents

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Just one day before students were to board the bus to start their school year, families of young students from Oak Lake were phoned and told there was no room on the bus to transport them to Virden schools.

Five families (nine students) exercising Manitoba's 'school of choice' option to attend Virden rather than Oak Lake, had to quickly make other transportation arrangements.

Kindergarten through Grade 8, kids in Oak Lake catchment are designated to attend Oak Lake Community School.

The Schools of Choice initiative means a family can choose, within limits, the public school best suited to the student's learning requirements. A designated school is the closest school to the student's residence within their home school division.

Grades 9 through 12 students from Oak Lake are designated to attend Virden Collegiate Institute because there are no classes at Oak Lake for senior high students. Bus transportation is provided to VCI.

For school of choice, transportation is provided only when there's room on the bus.

Samantha Herringer moved to the Oak Lake area last year and all three of her children rode the bus to Virden schools. This year, her eldest, 17, drives himself and his 15-year-old brother to VCI.

And, now their 11-year-old brother will also ride to Virden with them as well as another Oak Lake child whose mother reimburses the Herringer family for taking her child.

And Samantha will have to drive to Virden to pick up the younger children after school because the older students do not come right home. They have after school sports and after school jobs.

Samantha was mystified why her youngest and the neighbour child cannot ride the bus, taking the two seats that the two older boys will not be using this year.

What changed?

In an interview, Craig Russell, chair of Board of Trustees for Fort La Bosse School Division responded explaining the division's perspective and duty to students/families has not changed.

"So, it's nothing new. What has changed is there's a high number of Oak Lake kids that are going to the high school that need room on that bus."

He said students exercising school of choice are transported by school bus "if there's room on the bus."

For school superintendent Barry Pitz it's a matter of logistics, transportation funding and policy.

This year, Oak Lake is sending a record number of high school students to VCI. It's a good problem that has had division staff scrambling to coordinate busing.

To try and accommodate all 62 Oak Lake students, FLB is using the largest bus available. But it's still 11 seats short based upon Manitoba school bus limits of two students per seat at Gr. 5 - Gr.12 level. So, 51 high school students can ride the 25 +1-seat bus to VCI. (The back seat is mandated as a single seat.)

A long-time board member, Russell said the first week of school is usually very hectic. However, having so many Oak Lake students to bus to Virden required some working out.

Pitz admitted it was a scramble to sort out the busing. "We had, up until even the first week of school, still parents notifying us that 'my kid will be getting on the bus', or 'my kid would not be getting on the bus', so it was quite unclear, which is very typical for your first week of school."

He said that families who are using 'school of choice' need to realize it is a privilege that does not include transportation and he said that is communicated when that choice is made.

Transportation funding is attached to the school within the student's catchment area.

"Make plans. Don't bank on the school division to give your kids a ride for non-catchment school," says Pitz.

He also said that the division has a duty to supply seating for the students designated to attend VCI. He said if circumstances change for a student who regularly uses their car or catches a ride, and they need to ride the bus on any given day, that seat has to be there for them.

Russell said "I totally understand the parents requesting school of choice because of family life and work circumstances. I totally get that, I respect that, but it does have a ripple effect." Nine kids out of the Oak Lake Community School represents nearly 10 per cent of their enrollment.

But for Herringer, this mum is concerned for her 11-year-old who has gone to Virden school all his life and has friends there. She feels it's not a good time to change that. She considers the cost and also thinks it's a lot of responsibility for her 17-year-old to be a school bus driver of sorts.

McLeod Bridge work approved amid Ward 1 road complaints

By Dale Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

At their Sept. 22 meeting RM of Wallace-Woodworth Council approved payment of \$25,263.98 to Samson Engineering as a construction deposit for the design-and-build culvert replacement for the McLeod bridge on Road 72 north, in the vicinity of Two Creeks.

Brodie Robins of Samson Engineering attended the meeting to provide a progress update on the project. The original tender for the work proposed using three 900-millimetre steel culverts, each 14 metres long. The supplier, Armtec did not have the 900-mm culverts in stock so Robins asked if Wallace-Woodworth would consider using the municipality's existing inventory of 1200-millimetre culverts to avoid the delay of ordering new pipe.

Two 1,200-mm culverts would provide about five per cent more flow capacity than three 900-mm culverts and the additional cost would be approximately \$8,000 to \$10,000.

Council agreed that since the 1200-mm culverts were in stock and given the approaching winter, the extra expense was justified.

Council approved the McLeod Bridge replacement

design as presented by Samson Engineering

Ward 1 road conditions

Coun. Val Caldwell said both she and Coun. Diana MacDonald had received numerous complaints about road conditions. She said, "My cell phone has been lighting up all week. We need to get a plan. We have an inconsistent grader driver in Ward 1 who is not always there, so we don't have consistent service."

She proposed hiring another operator or contractor for one or two weeks, allowing three graders to work in the Ward. She added that council would likely have to spend additional money to get the road network caught up.

Reeve Clayton Canart said, "It's going to be tough if it stays wet because...if you grade today and it rains tonight, tomorrow...it's going to be messy, but you've got to try to stay on top of it."

Council agreed that the municipality needs to continue working to catch up despite the unsettled weather.

CAO Iris Vercaigne said, "Yesterday we did go ahead with getting coverage for Ward 1 because one of our staff members was away. So, we continued on with that today just trying to get caught up with our grading operations."

Reimbursement request

Council received a request

for reimbursement where a ratepayer's vehicle was apparently damaged by road conditions.

Coun. Caldwell said, "This is no different than my friend's daughter who hit a pothole on the 259 highway and blew the oil pan out of the bottom of her car and wrecked the engine. And it's not like Manitoba Highways is paying for it."

Manitoba Infrastructure would not normally reimburse motorists for those incidents, and while council understood the frustration caused by road conditions, reimbursing one driver could create a difficult precedent.

Coun. MacDonald noted that the road in question is currently on the priority list for repairs.

Water utility

Council approved a resolution to authorize Nothart Engineered Sales to repair three water utility pumps for a total cost of \$10,452.47. It also calls for assessment of the existing 20-horsepower pump at Booster Station No. 2. CAO Vercaigne explained that the 20-horsepower unit will also need to be pulled and, depending on its condition, council will have the option to do repairs if the budget will allow.

Kenton LUD

Coun. MacDonald reported on the Kenton LUD

meeting.

Most of the road repairs planned in Kenton have been completed, although two locations were missed—near the post office and near the car dealership. Those repairs will likely have to wait until next year.

Pothole repairs in Harding were completed by the Green Team, and the truck previously used by the Green Team has been repaired and is now at the fire hall.

A tractor that had experienced mould problems has

been cleaned, although it still requires repairs.

Recent Woodworth Senior Services (WSS) activities included mini golf and lunch in Hamiota, Aqua Swim during July and August, a trip to Carberry's Sand Hills Casino and a concert in the park.

Elkhorn LUD

Coun. Denis Lachapelle reported that the old municipal shed has been removed.

Remaining storm cleanup was also discussed.

A letter has been forwarded to the RM regarding funding

for a project on Second Street next year. The work would involve paving the street, which has already been partly prepared for paving.

Council Orientation

Wallace-Woodworth has tentatively scheduled a councillor orientation session for Friday, Oct. 30 that is intended to provide new councillors with a general overview of municipal operations, help members get settled into their roles and establish the new council meeting schedule.

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CP underpass art project on hold

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Vandalism has dampened a fall project for a useful town structure that's also one of Virden's historic sites.

A CP Underpass Community Art Project, a joint art project involving Border Regional Library, Arts Mosaic and the Town of Virden, was to bring new life and creativity to the historic railway underpass on 6th Ave. S., near the CP Station.

Plans were underway for the project to move forward this fall. Volunteers had completed important preparatory work inside the tunnel. Home Hardware had generously donated paint which was used as part of the preparation work completed by volunteers.

The intention of the original project was to invite members of the public, along with volunteers, to paint inside the underpass to make it more welcoming and discourage further graffiti.

Unfortunately, some of this work was intentionally damaged by graffiti over top of the prepared surfaces and light fixtures within the walkway.

Information from the Town of Virden indicates that the recurring vandalism is a problem and now structural improvements will need to be considered, along with further preparation of the surfaces and remediation of graffiti.

Although the underpass is still in use, this vandalism means that a review will determine the viability of the beautification project in the light of the costs and the long-term use of the tunnel.

Council is considering this within the 2027 budget and based upon next steps, hopefully the art project will proceed in the springtime.



PHOTOGRAPH BY GORDON GOLDSBOROUGH (MANITOBA HISTORICAL SOCIETY)

This pedestrian subway, the CP underpass, dates back to 1917. It will soon be 110 years old.

The project lead says, "We are incredibly grateful for the enthusiasm, support and engagement this project has received from the community. We look forward to creating something special together and seeing the underpass transformed through community art."

Watch for more information in the spring regarding the restart of the project.

Historic Site

Virden's "Pedestrian Subway" is one of the Historic Sites of Manitoba. Gordon Goldsborough tells of the underpass's origin (mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/virdenrailwayunderpass): "After an incident in which a young girl was injured crossing between cars of a supposedly stationary train in Virden, the local Women's Institute lobbied for a pedestrian subway under the railway tracks. Constructed in 1917, at a cost of about \$10,500 shared equally between the Town of Virden and the Canadian Pacific Railway, the subway connects the railway station and business district south of the tracks with the residential area to the north. It was renovated in 1956 after a new elementary school was opened."

Manitoba Government on track to balance budget next year

2025-26 Audited public accounts show deficit cut in half since third quarter update, largest rainy day fund deposit in 20 years: Kinew

Submitted
BY MB GOVERNMENT

The Manitoba government has released its 2025-26 audited public accounts, which show the province is on track to balance the budget next year after cutting the deficit in half since the third quarter update, Premier Wab Kinew and Finance Minister Adrien Sala announced today.

"We are keeping our promise to balance the budget over our term in government," said Kinew. "We are honouring that commitment by cutting the deficit in half since our last update and showing a clear path to balance next year. With the largest investment in the rainy day fund in decades, we're creating the stability our province needs. We are proving that it is possible to make record investments in health care and education while being responsible with the books — and as a result Manitoba has the best fiscal story in the country."

This progress is in line with the Budget 2026 projection and has enabled the Manitoba government to make the largest deposit into the fiscal stabilization fund in more than 20 years, the premier noted.

The 2025-26 Public Accounts show a deficit of \$832 million, approximately half the \$1.666-billion deficit forecast in the third quarter update and in line with the \$794-million estimate in Budget 2026. Since the third quarter update, Manitoba's net-debt-to-gross domestic product ratio improved by 1.5 per cent

to 36.4 per cent.

"Our commitment to growing the economy while lowering costs for families has yielded strong results," said Sala. "Under the previous government, the rainy day fund fell below legislated targets and it was never replenished. The deposit we are making today shows our record of responsible fiscal management and our commitment to delivering on our promise to balance next year."

Despite significant external pressures, including tariffs, wildfires and drought, Manitoba reported the lowest deficit among Canadian provinces, supported by continued economic growth, strong job creation and wage growth that outpaced inflation.

The \$600-million contribution to the fiscal stabilization fund, commonly known as the rainy day fund, is the first deposit in five years and the largest in more than 20 years. The contribution more than doubles the balance of the fund and reestablishes compliance with legislated reserve targets.

The 2025-26 Public Accounts received a clean audit opinion from the auditor general reaffirming the integrity of the Manitoba government's financial reporting and reflecting its commitment to transparency, accountability and responsible fiscal management.

The Annual Report and Public Accounts for the year ended March 31, 2026, is available at www.gov.mb.ca/government/finances/annual-reports-publicaccounts.html.

Manitoba Government commits to expanding presumptive coverage for all firefighters

Measures will recognize risks to firefighters, expand scope of occupational hazards and make access to benefits easier: Kinew

Submitted
BY MB GOVERNMENT

The Manitoba government will make legislative changes to expand presumptive workers compensation coverage for firefighters, recognizing the occupational health risks they face while protecting Manitoba communities, Premier Wab Kinew announced today.

"Firefighters put themselves in harm's way every day to keep Manitobans safe," said Kinew. "When firefighters develop serious illnesses linked to hazards they encounter at work, they shouldn't have to fight for support. These changes recognize their service and help ensure

they can access the benefits they deserve."

Firefighters are routinely exposed to smoke, hazardous chemicals, carcinogens, extreme temperatures and physically demanding conditions that can have long-term health effects.

"Manitoba firefighters are courageous and work tirelessly every day to make our province safer," said Labour and Immigration Minister Malaya Marcelino. "Anyone in Manitoba who puts their life on the line to protect others deserves the same protection from their government. These changes are another way we are supporting workers' safety across the province."

The changes will make it easier for firefighters and wildfire fighters diagnosed with occupational illnesses to access Workers Compensation Board benefits by presuming the illness is work-related unless evidence demonstrates otherwise, the premier noted. Under Manitoba's existing legislation, firefighter presumptions are rebuttable, meaning the presumption can be challenged by evidence to the contrary. The changes will also expand the scope of occupational illness, recognize the risks firefighters face on the job and make it easier for those diagnosed with occupational illnesses

to receive the compensation and support they deserve, the premier added.

"Our firefighters answer the call whenever Manitobans need them, often under extraordinarily difficult and dangerous circumstances," said David Pankratz, special envoy for military affairs. "This expansion will acknowledge those risks and provide greater peace of mind for firefighters and their families."

The changes will build on the Manitoba government's commitment to support first responders and ensure workers who suffer job-related illnesses can access timely compensation and support.

Westman communities unite to attract skilled workers

Virden, Boissevain join Brandon and Neepawa in immigration initiative

By Eoin Devereux
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

An immigration initiative already established in Brandon and Neepawa is extending its reach within Westman. Representatives with the Southwestern Manitoba Immigration Initiative (SWMII) announced on Tuesday, Sept. 22, its regional expansion into the communities of Boissevain and Virden.

The initiative was created and is administered by Economic Development Brandon. It was soft launched in Neepawa back in February, with the intention of connecting local employers with skilled workers and business investors from outside Canada. At its core, it's designed to find skilled applicants for hard-to-fill positions that cannot be filled through the local employee options.

The SWMII operates under the Provincial Nominee Program's Skilled Workers Overseas program. Eligible applicants can receive a community endorsement through the initiative, after which the province assesses candidates for nomination.

For communities such as Brandon and Neepawa, the program has already proven to be a valuable tool in addressing workforce needs, while encouraging newcomers to make the community their long-term home.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Economic Development Brandon Immigration and Workforce Development Specialist Samuel Solomon and Neepawa's Economic Development Officer Marilyn Crewe.

Boissevain and Virden are hoping to see those same positives as participating communities.

Economic Development Brandon Immigration and Workforce Development Specialist Samuel Solomon said the regional approach is important because communities, no matter their size, are all facing the same fundamental challenge.

"So the reason we are partnering is that we are able to work together instead of working against it," Solomon said. "We are at a time where labour force is scarce. We don't want to have a situation where one community is taking labour from a neighbouring community where we both or all of

us can share, so that's where the core value comes in."

Solomon added that this type of cooperation is going to allow the participating communities to share information, while showcasing a larger regional opportunity to prospective newcomers. He added that it also ensure communities are not competing for the same workers.

"One of the benefit of the initiative is that communities are able to pick jobs that fit the community," Solomon said. "So it's not like Brandon is making a decision for Neepawa or Brandon is making a decision for Boissevain. Every community works with us to make those decisions."

New technology to streamline Wallace-Woodworth services

By Dale Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Every organization is facing change in their operations as information technology (IT) becomes more important and pervasive. The RM of Wallace-Woodworth is no exception and last week councillors got a look at some of those changes.

IT support provider

Municipalities are heavy users of digital technology, and these powerful but complex systems sometimes need a little help and support. Council discussed the requests for proposals (RFP) to provide IT support services. ACAO Braden Pilling noted that the RM had received 11 proposals with prices between \$31,000 and \$165,000. Staff evaluated them using criteria for technical capability, cost effectiveness, security and support. Four proposals were identified that had scored highest in the initial assessment and each had a first-year cost of less than \$60,000.

The municipality already uses essential management software.

Catalis is a sophisticated program that keeps track of taxes, billing, payments, property assessment, land records and public works.

The municipality uses GIS (Geographic Information System) applications to map and track public works and infrastructure projects. These tools are also used with the Mid-West Planning District to locate properties and help manage development permit applications, but the RM's existing server is getting full and will not handle the load efficiently.

KSP Technology is a Saskatchewan IT support company that operates their own large data centre. The KSP data centre could host these municipal systems remotely and eliminate the need for the server replacement the municipality had previously anticipated.

The KSP quoted price includes Microsoft licensing, while some of the other proposals required licensing and software costs to be added separately.

Pilling said, "At the end of the day, this one penciled out the best in terms of the features versus the cost, the service, the references and the ability to expand and not have to do a server replacement."

Despite the favourable scoring, councillors were reluctant to proceed without further checks. Reeve Canart said, "I am personally hesitant to jump into something...without having reference checks and doing an interview." Canart also wanted assurances about KSP's ability to provide on-site assistance when needed, given the company's distance from the municipality.

Council agreed that administration could proceed with KSP provided staff completed the interviews and due diligence. A resolution was then passed accepting KSP's proposal for municipal IT support services, subject to that follow-up work.

Digital service request system

Wallace-Woodworth Council got a first look at a new computer program that will streamline requests for service from ratepayers and allow staff to locate the problem and prioritize the response. ACAO Pilling used a video presentation he created to explain the functions of the program.

The software from the Ontario IT company iMatr will be accessible on the RM website and will provide a simple form where a service request can be entered. A ratepayer, for example, can use a map on the form to locate the problem, describe the issues at the site and upload photos.

Once the ratepayer has submitted the request it shows up on a dashboard where municipal staff can view it and respond. The dashboard includes a calendar showing upcoming tasks and project deadlines. The newest tickets appear at the top and requests can also be prioritized according to severity. Administrators can quickly identify requests that are new or have not yet been assigned.

The program is integrated with a municipal staff database to allow administrators to assign tasks to available employees and avoid overlapping or missed assignments. It includes a mobile app where operators can review any tasks they have been assigned.

At the same time, the ratepayer receives email notifications that confirm that the request was received, assigned to an operator, started and eventually completed.

Other modules include work orders and inventory. The platform is also intended to accommodate timesheets, a staff calendar and reporting functions. The reporting section is expected to include staff reports, task-time tracking and service-level reporting.

The proposed agreement was for one year at a subscription cost of \$3,000. There would also be a one-time installation and training fee of \$2,500. Administration was authorized to finalize the agreement.

Royal Purple Press Release

This year, the Canadian Royal Purple and its partners are celebrating 5 years of Purple on Thursday across Canada, bringing recognition to the intersection of intimate partner violence and the resulting brain injuries. 2026 marks the fifth year of the CRPS Purple Thursday Care Bag campaign when over 5000 Purple Care Bags will be delivered to Canadian shelters. The bags contain the essentials for the women, children and men who have, often, left home with nothing. The total number of "family beds" serving women and children escaping domestic violence has steadily increased since 2020. Nearly 20,000 people spend their nights in shelters. "Our efforts haven't changed the statistics: one in three women are still experiencing intimate partner violence. Of those, one in eight will have suffered a brain injury from physical force or strangulation," says Loughheed. "What has changed is that more of these women and children are seeking assistance filling Canada's shelters. We are pleased to see the effects of awareness empowering women to break the cycle of violence and seek a new life. It's why we emphasize awareness and prevention, which is Canadian Royal Purple's national cause. Stopping the violence is the only way to reduce the abuse and the brain injuries. We hope, by drawing attention to the statistics, and the many women, children and men represented, we can come together to reduce the violence and support the survivors." This week involves many partnerships - the Canadian Centre for IPV-BI, Canadian researchers, the Canadian Brain Injury Association, Shelter Canada, Canada's shelters and many grassroots people in Canadian communities," concludes Loughheed. "Locally, people can get involved by wearing purple, donating to the Care Bags, putting out the new lawn signs, putting up posters and banners."

Contact: Sandi Loughheed, Beechy SK, blackstrap99@yahoo.com, 306-859-7563, Chair of the Canadian Royal Purples Charitable Initiatives Committee. Angie Smith, Dauphin, Manitoba, dauphinroyalpurple@gmail.com, 431-738-8948, Co-Chair and National President.

From the Office of the Mayor/ Reeve: Proclamation of Purple Thursday, Oct 15, 2026

Whereas the Canadian Royal Purple recognizes the intersection of Acquired Brain Injury and the incidence of Interpersonal Violence which effects as high as one in three women in Canada.

Whereas the third Thursday of October each year will be declared as a special day of connection between the Canadian Royal Purple, our communities and Women's shelters across Canada to stop the violence.

Whereas the Canadian Royal Purple has adopted brain injury awareness and prevention as their official cause.

Whereas VIRDEN Royal Purple Lodge is a valuable asset to our community,

We hereby recognize Purple Thursday as a special day of recognition within our community,

Therefore, be it resolved that as the Mayor/ Reeve of VIRDEN

I do proclaim our City/ Town of VIRDEN will recognize October 15th, the third Thursday of 2026, as Canadian Royal Purple's National Purple Thursday.

Signature of Mayor/ Reeve T Williams



OIL CAPITALS

MYTOPHER'S MANY ROLES MAKE HIM INVALUABLE TO OIL CAPITALS

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

While he calls himself the team's "laundry boy," Brian Mytopher is an all-star in many roles behind the scenes for the Virden Oil Capitals.

Mytopher is in his ninth season as the Manitoba Junior Hockey League franchise's equipment manager. He makes an impact in many ways.

"Brian is an invaluable part of our organization," Virden head coach and general manager Tyson Ramsey said. "He does so many things for us and most of it goes unseen by the general public. Everything from laundry to equipment to being an ear for the players, he is so important in so many ways. Having played the game himself for a lot of years, he understands what the players go through. We could not offer the experience for players that we do without Toph and what he does. I am extremely grateful to have him here with us and to call him a friend."

When the Winnipeg Saints franchise moved to Virden in 2012 to become the Oil Capitals, Dale Lewis asked him to take on the role. Still working at the time and having other commitments, Mytopher declined. A few years later, Jamie Hodson asked and, now retired, Mytopher decided to give it a try.

"I enjoy it. I don't know why, but it's kind of my happy place," he said of being at the rink.

On practice days, Mytopher gets to the Tundra Oil & Gas Arena usually around noon and heads home around 5 p.m. On game days, he is at the rink by about 8:30 a.m. for a 10 a.m. skate. That is followed by laundry and setting up the dressing room. He heads home in the afternoon for a few hours and is back by about 5:30 p.m. After the game, there is more work to do and he gets home around midnight. Mytopher said he enjoys the routine the job offers.

While Mytopher likes the work, the people are a crucial part of the job for him. He praised the entire

staff. Mytopher works closely with and appreciates the relationships he has with Ramsey and certified athletic therapist Dana Warrener. He also works with dressing room attendant Garry Remple on game days and dressing room attendant Cade Scharff at practice.

In social media posts this past summer, organization members were asked which staff member was most likely to make everyone laugh. "Toph" was named by many. Office and game day manager Teresa Heritage said, "There is never a dull moment when he's around."

Mytopher believes a positive attitude and a sense of humour are important when working with the players. Mytopher described the Oil Caps as "all good kids" and said, "I think they respect me and I respect them." Some are away from home for the first time and a hockey season can have its ups and downs. Mytopher encourages them to "control what you can control."

"Toph makes it easy to come to the rink every day," Oil Capitals captain Nate Schaefer said. "Whether he's sharpening our skates, doing laundry, or just making the boys laugh, Toph means a lot to our group and we're very lucky to have him."

His playing career, which included suiting up for the senior Virden Oil Kings, gives him a unique perspective on the job. Mytopher also coached that team and coached all three of his daughters—Signe, Valerie and Kimberly—in minor ball. He coached Virden Collegiate Institute softball teams with the late Ray Cochrane to provincial championship success, as well as helping coach the Brandon Magic for a couple of years when Kimberly played.

Whether it is chats or taking care of equipment needs, Mytopher wants to help the players. When he joined the Oil Capitals, the last time he had sharpened skates was in the mid-1970s. Hailee Dayman, the team's athletic therapist at the time, sharpened skates and offered some pointers. Mytopher sought out advice from Randy Kalynuk as well as others and practised.



PHOTO BY VIRDEN OIL CAPS

Brian Mytopher said he enjoys the routine the job offers.

Although he has now done it for a number of years, Mytopher said he wants players to tell him how they like their skates sharpened.

While Mytopher is at the rink a lot, the long days are not the hardest part of the job. He said the Jan. 10 trade deadline is difficult as he is saying goodbye to players. The same goes for the end of the season, which brings the junior careers of the 20-year-olds to an end.

Away from the rink, Mytopher keeps busy with snow blowing and cutting grass. He and his wife, Judy, whom he praised for her support, have three grandchildren. Now approaching a decade as the Oil Capitals' equipment manager, Mytopher still enjoys taking care of equipment, firing out one-liners and, yes, even doing the laundry to help the team and its players.

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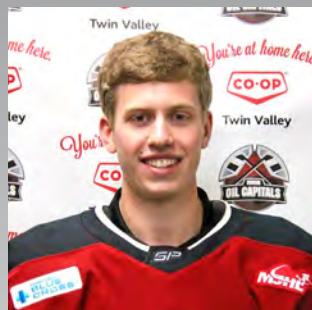
#7 CHRISTIAN PITZ

D | VIRDEN, MB
2009-09-20



#8 PEYTON GETZLAFF

F | BOTTINEAU, ND
2008-09-20



#13 TYSON ULMER

F | GRAND FORKS, ND
2007-03-13



#14 CARSON WRIGHT

F | CALGARY, AB
2006-01-29



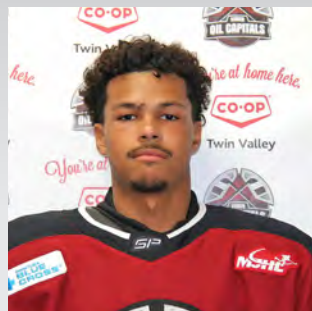
#15 BRYAN LAING

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OIL CAPITALS



ULMER ENTERS SECOND SEASON WITH ADDED CONFIDENCE

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

After navigating the adjustments that came with his first season of junior hockey, Tyson Ulmer is ready for a larger role with the Virden Oil Capitals.

The 2007-born forward lit the lamp on Sept. 19 to help the Oil Capitals to their first victory of the season. He was selected as the Gardewine Hardest Working Player that evening. Ulmer is one of several players returning from last season's team that reached the Manitoba Junior Hockey League final. They will be counted on to make important contributions this year.

"I definitely feel more comfortable on the ice this year compared to last year," the 5-foot-11, 171-pound forward said. "Last year was my first year playing junior hockey, and it took me a bit to adjust to the speed, physicality, and pace of the MJ. This year I feel like I'm more confident and that I know what to expect on a daily basis."

Last season, Ulmer, who battled through an injury, posted nine goals, 15 assists and 24 points in 47 games. Through four games this season, he has collected a goal and an assist.

"Tyson is good at all parts of his game," Virden head coach Tyson Ramsey said. "He is responsible in all zones, can play up and down our lineup and in all situations. He has improved his skating and physical strength over the off-season. He is a very important part of our team every night and we know we will always get his best."

Ulmer spent the summer back home in Grand Forks, N.D., working out and skating to improve his game. He also worked at a baseball complex. When Ulmer had time, he made trips to different lakes to paddleboard, tube, water ski and knee surf.

"I really enjoy my time at the lake, and I think that taking the occasional weekend away from home is a great way to balance out all the work put into each week," Ulmer said. "While the water sports don't necessarily help

out a specific hockey skill, I do feel that they contribute to my general athleticism and therefore make me a more well-rounded athlete."

Before heading to Virden for the season, Ulmer took part in the Regina Pats' fall camp. He said his time with the Western Hockey League squad has helped him.

"That camp was an awesome experience, playing alongside some really good hockey players that are so skilled and even a few years younger than I am," Ulmer said. "It was a neat experience and helped me prepare for the season in Virden too."

As a rookie, he dove into being a part of the Virden-area community. Partway through the season, Ulmer was named to the 2025-26 RBC-MJHL Community Ambassador Team.

At the end of the year, he received the Oil Capitals' Sunrise Credit Unions Most Community Minded Award.

"I've enjoyed being back in Virden for the past month or so," said Ulmer, who billets with Matt and Genn Hipwell. "It was nice to go home for the summer, but it was also really exciting to head back to Virden for another year of hockey. I enjoyed working at our Caps Camp ... and I'm looking forward to other community events coming up."



PHOTO BY VIRDEN OIL CAPS

Virden Oil Capitals #13 Tyson Ulmer.

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SPORTS

OLYMPIAN KEEGAN MESSING BRINGS SKATING PASSION TO VIRDEN



Canadian Olympian Keegan Messing poses with skaters at a seminar hosted by Skate Virden.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Two-time Canadian Olympian Keegan Messing shared his love of figure skating with enthusiastic skaters in Virden in September.

Skate Virden hosted a "Seminar with Keegan Messing" at Tundra Oil & Gas Place on Sept. 19-20. The event, open to skaters in levels Star 5+, drew 23 participants from Virden, Elkhorn, Moosomin, Waskada, Melita and Tisdale, Sask.

"I had a blast when I went out to Virden. ... The kids were great," Messing said. "It is really rewarding as a coach or someone coming in, when you give a piece of advice to see the kids wholeheartedly attempt to make that correction."

At two-time national men's singles champion, Messing

helped Canada earn bronze in the team event at the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing. Known for his energetic performances and distinctive style, Messing captivated the Virden seminar skaters with a backflip.

The 34-year-old father of two said his love of figure skating has changed over his 31 years on the ice. He said when he was younger, it was a love of performing and a desire to "push myself further every single day and see how far I could get." Now, he is focused on show skating, teaching others and "trying to pass my love for the sport onto the next generation."

One of the next generation attending the seminar, Skate Virden's Nate Greenbank, said, "I learnt a lot of exercises for my jumps and I got help with my jumps. It was a great opportunity

for me to get to learn from Keegan Messing."

Samantha Greenbank, a volunteer with Skate Virden, explained, "The seminar provided a lot of technical information for our athletes to prepare for the upcoming competitive season."

Messing acknowledged it is hard to fit everything in over a couple of days, but said he always tries "to leave something that the skaters can think about and apply to their skating."

"My favourite thing to teach is edge quality or the edge depth, because that's stuff that every person can always improve upon in their own skating," said Messing, later noting it is questions such as, "How do you step on an edge? How do you take an edge? What's the philosophy behind increasing your power on the ice or your edge depth throughout

every part of your skating?"

Skate Virden's Patty Hole coached two talented small-town skaters, Paige Lawrence and Rudi Swiegers, both originally from Saskatchewan, to the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi. Messing saw some similarities between their story and his. He grew up in Girdwood, Alaska, which has a population of about 1,900. His mother was born in Edmonton and Messing is a dual citizen. Now living in Anchorage, Alaska, Messing appreciated visiting a smaller community like Virden and said, "It was really fun to be a part of that again."

Skate Virden coach Katy Soroka praised Messing's seminar for touching on various areas.

"Keegan was an excellent facilitator and shared great insight into both technical elements and artistry," she

said. "He was also very honest about the mental toughness required for this sport and shared his personal experiences with the group. We are fortunate to have a club that continues to support the development, experiences and education of our skaters. Any opportunity these skaters have to share the ice and learn from these positive role models is an important experience."

Previously, Skate Virden has brought in guests such as Olympians Kurt Browning, Elvis Stojko and Kaetlyn Osmond.

Regarding Messing's visit, Samantha Greenbank said, "This seminar was different from others we hosted as it was held in conjunction with Future Stars. They provided guidelines on who the seminar was focused towards. A lot of the athletes that attended are preparing for

the competitive season."

In addition to Future Stars and Skate Virden, the seminar was made possible with the help of Pirouette Dancewear, Iron Prairie Strength Lab, Jays Inn & Suites and, of course, Messing, who emphasized he enjoyed the experience.

"The kids were great. They gave me great hospitality when I came in," he said. "The coaching staff was fantastic. Really great community to come into. It was really rewarding for me to come into such a great place and hopefully leave some knowledge with them."

The seminar is one of a number of skating events that will take place in Virden this season. The Manitoba Junior/Senior Sectionals & Fall Open will be held Oct. 24-25 and draw "some of the top skaters from Manitoba and Saskatchewan," Soroka said.

On Nov. 12, a seminar for skaters at Star 1-4 will be held to "expand their knowledge and improve their skills," Soroka said. The facilitating coach will be Roxanne Daignault, who has more than 40 years of coaching experience and served as the team manager for Jeffrey Buttle. The annual Virden Funskate takes place Jan. 8-10.

OIL CAPITALS STRIKE FOR 10 GOALS IN WEEKEND SWEEP

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Offensive outbursts propelled the Virden Oil Capitals to a pair of victories last weekend.

On Sept. 25, the host Oil Capitals scored three goals in the second period against the Niverville Nighthawks on their way to a 3-2 win. Carson Wright and Oak Lake Beach's Tyson Draper factored into all three of Virden's markers. Liam Goertzen lit the lamp four times as the Oil Caps beat the Steinbach Pistons 7-5 on the road on Sept. 26.

The wins improved Virden's record to 3-1-0-0 on the young Manitoba Junior Hockey League

season. On Oct. 2, the Oil Caps host the Neepawa Titans (1-2-1-0, as of Sept. 27). The two teams meet the next night in Neepawa.

"I feel really good about this upcoming weekend," Virden captain Nate Schaefer said. "We're coming off two big wins against Steinbach and Niverville. Looking forward to having the chance to carry out this momentum and keep the ball rolling."

Through four games, Draper has paced the Oil Capitals with four assists and seven points. Goertzen tops the team with four goals. Home-town defenceman Christian Pitz leads Virden blueliners with four

points.

Oil Caps 3, Nighthawks 2

In a rematch of last season's MJHL final, the defending champions from Niverville took a 1-0 first-period lead on a power-play marker. In the second session, with 708 fans cheering them on at Tundra Oil & Gas Place, the Oil Capitals outscored the Nighthawks 3-1. Draper got things started with a power-play goal, while Pitz and Wright also scored.

"I found we were making very quick transitions in the neutral zone and taking advantage of Niverville's aggressive forecheck," Wright said. "We executed the little

plays, and, most importantly, we were attacking the net and capitalizing on our opportunities."

Draper and Wright each had three points and were named the First and Second Stars of the night, respectively. Pitz was the Third Star. Oil Capitals goalie Micky Gross made 14 saves to backstop his team to the win.

Niverville netminder Ben Chornomydz turned away 42 shots. Ryker Rougeau and Aiden McDonald scored for the Nighthawks.

Oil Caps 7, Pistons 5

After scoring four goals in a road win, Goertzen was quick to credit his teammates.

"I think it was a really

strong effort by our whole team," he said. "Our team was making some good plays. I was able to get some shots off at the net and was fortunate enough to finish on my chances."

Goertzen outscored the Pistons 2-1 in the first period. His first goal came shorthanded and the second, after a Steinbach marker, was on the power play. In the second period, the contest was tied twice, but a goal each by Lucas Laramée and Pitz gave Virden a 4-3 lead.

After the Pistons tied things at 4-4 about eight minutes into the third period, Goertzen scored two straight goals. Draper then put the puck into an

empty net to increase the Oil Capitals' lead to 7-4. Steinbach scored in the final 30 seconds of the contest.

Goertzen was the First Star, while Draper, with three points, was the Third Star. Rookie goaltender Adam Courchesne made 29 saves to earn his first MJHL win. Defenceman Lincoln Black-Greaves had two assists.

Nick Wytrychowski (two), Gavin Haslam, Logan Mehl and Griffin Krone had the Pistons' goals. Lincoln Molind made 32 saves for Steinbach. The reported attendance at the Southeast Event Centre was 1,839.

SPORTS

HUNTER TURNS 60 INTO A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY



Brenda Hunter, right, poses with her gold medals from the Commonwealth Powerlifting Championships.

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Brenda Hunter has discovered that turning 60 can be something to look forward to.

The Virden-area powerlifter won't actually reach that milestone until late October, but she has already succeeded in the Masters 3 division in international competition. At the Commonwealth Powerlifting Championships in Winnipeg Sept. 17-27, Hunter earned four gold medals while setting a Canadian total record in her age group and weight class in the process.

"I was pleased that I handled the pressure of an international meet and stepped up to meet the challenge," Hunter said. "Adrenaline is definitely my friend."

It was one of her first times competing without her coach, Joey Simms, as she was required to have a Team Canada coach. However, she said, "But they had a great coaching staff—all of them athletes who were competing themselves—who capably stepped up and took care of our needs."

In the Masters 3 84-kg class, Hunter topped the field with a 130-kg (286 lbs) squat, a 65-kg (143 lbs) bench and a 150-kg (330 lbs) deadlift for a 345-kg total. Her 345-kg total broke the Canadian record she had set at nationals in March.

With the IPF 2026

World Classic and Equipped Masters Powerlifting Championships taking place in Reno, Nev., Oct. 15-24, Hunter did not want to peak too soon.

"But I knew it was enough to win the gold. That was my goal going in, and if I could set a record while I was at it, that would be a bonus."

She had her eyes on the Commonwealth squat record, which would have regained the Canadian record she had set in March. It was broken in the summer. However, she missed her opening squat due to a ruling on depth and was forced to regroup.

"I did end up breaking the Canadian totals record (345 kg) in my age/weight class, which I had set in March at Nationals with a 341-kg total, so that ended up being my bonus," Hunter said.

Her success and perseverance demonstrate that there is a crucial mental side to powerlifting. Asked what the record meant to her, Hunter said:

"It means a lot to me to know I have what it takes to be the best in my age and weight class in Canada and now, in the Commonwealth. I was ranked No. 1 going into this meet so it was mine to lose. But that amount of pressure can cause things to go sideways pretty fast once you factor in technicalities and the mind games that can happen in a meet setting. You never know for

sure what is actually going to happen."

Hunter has embraced turning another year older and the opportunities it presents.

"I was very much looking forward to this age up," she said. "We felt I could be competitive. When my coach and I first started looking at the possibility of going to Worlds a year and a half ago, after 2025 Nationals, it made me excited to turn 60. I don't think very many people can say that as they age."

Hunter will be one of eight women in her division at Worlds and she hopes to place on the podium. Her success has been impressive, especially when you consider that she only started powerlifting in 2023.

"What I love about the sport is that anyone can do it—age 16 right up to age 79. The woman that inspired me to get into powerlifting, Susan Haywood, is looking to move that needle again and create a new division with Masters 5 when she turns 80. All shapes and sizes. Men and women."

"I also love the camaraderie of the sport. Everyone is cheering everyone else on. Celebrating a big pull. Congratulating their records and achievements. Sympathizing with their missed attempts. Encouraging them to try again next time. Making new friends from different parts of the country and

even other countries. Saying goodbye at the end of a meet and making plans for the next one you'll see them at."

During weigh-in at nationals this year, Hunter overheard the upcoming session, which she was in.

"They were discussing their prep leading up to competition, and what

the one woman said to the other stopped me in my tracks," Hunter said. "It was something along the lines of, 'I'm not where I want to be with my strength for this meet, but with taking chemo, it has really affected my ability to train.'"

"I came away with a different perspective. Here I

was, chasing a gold medal, while some people were fighting for their lives. Some people were looking for records and some were there simply because they could be and they refused to give up. Makes what we sometimes hold as a priority, pretty trivial in the grand scheme of things."



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Get your team together and try something new.

Call Mark Robertson at 204-851-5851 \$120/individual

Men's League - Wednesdays & Thursdays • 7:00 pm

Enjoy a guys night out on the ice for all skill levels. The lounge is open for a welcoming post game atmosphere * May require occasional 9 pm draws * Final scheduling dependant on entries

Call Jay Kinnaird at 204-851-1267 \$1000/team

Fridays • 10:00 am • Senior Mixed League

Enter as teams or individuals in this always entertaining league for everyone who enjoys a day at the rink. Sign up for the whole season or just half.

Call Greg Tough at 204-748-3136 \$250/individual

Friday Afternoon • Mixed Stick Curling

Come out and take part in this fun Curling League in its sixth season! Enter as a 2 person team or as an individual. Throwing sticks are available for use on each sheet. No sweeping between the hog lines. Games take about 1 hour to play. Instruction provided for new and novice stick users. Draws start on Fridays at 1:00. Number of draws depends on number of teams. Sign-up for whole season or until Xmas. Drop in fees are available.

Call Greg Tough at 204-748-3136 \$120 Full Season • \$60 ½ Season

CURLING FEES	
First League	\$250
Second League	\$125
Third League	\$60
Junior in Regular Curling	\$80
Student Fee	\$80

Entry deadline is Wednesday, October 14th

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 19 • 7:00 PM @ THE VCC LOUNGE
IMPORTANT AGENDA ITEM: ICE PLANT UPDATE & DISCUSSION FUTURE ALLOCATION OF "PHASE 2" FUNDS.

SPORTS

TORONTO BLUE JAYS

**REF TO
WRITER
GERRY
NOLAN**



The Toronto Blue Jays have been eliminated from postseason play for the 2026 season. After such an exciting time for Canadians last year, going to game 7 of the world series, it has been quite a drop for the Jays. They failed to play solid baseball and finished with a losing record. There are countless reasons they finished last in their division and missed the playoffs. Injuries no doubt played a huge part in their fall this season. They also were one of the worst teams in offence and swinging at pitches out of the strike zone. Their slugging percentage was also among the worst teams in the American league.

The one player whom took the most heat for their demise was Vladimir Guerrero Jr. It has been the worst season he had offensively in his major league career. He was so outstanding in last year's playoffs, I think we all felt he would just pick up from there and keep hitting home runs and driving in runs as well.

One thing I could not get over was in a 6-month period the Jays could not figure out

why was his drop in power so huge? Isn't that what coaches are for?

Last week, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. said that he should not be expected to hit 40 home runs a season and that he signed his 14 year 500-million-dollar contract for what he had done in the past. The Toronto media went nuts about that remark, even to the point he had to issue an apology to teammates and the Toronto Blue Jay faithful as well as the media. The media are cruel to their sports heroes in Toronto!

Do you think a player should be paid for what he has done in the past? What about going forward for the player? Players today get paid unbelievable amounts of dollars and have not accomplished anything really. Look at Leo Carlson of the Anaheim Ducks who will be getting 18 million a season, he has only been in the league 3 years. Did he get his team to a Stanley Cup final, nope!

My team, the Chicago Black Hawks, took a different route to pay their superstars. After the Black Hawks won the Stan-

ley Cup in 2010 and then again in 2013, they gave Jonathan Toews and Patrick Kane 8.5 Million dollars a season for 8 years. They had earned that! They backed it up with another cup victory in 2015.

Back to the Blue Jays. They lost Bo Bichette via free agency and Addison Barger to injury. Without the protection around Guerrero from a slugging point of view, I imagine Vladdy was probably gripping the bat much too hard.

While professional athletes are getting paid such a high salary in my thinking, I believe the Toronto Media need not be so concerned. It was the media that thought his comments were a slap in the face and then reported that his father had called him and that Vladdy should apologize. Talk about the lack of freedom of speech. I support Guerrero in this way. No need to apologize. It was the Toronto Blue Jays that offered him the 14 year 500-million-dollar contract. What was he supposed to do, refuse it? I don't think so.

Vladimir Guerrero is not a home run hitter. He is a line drive hitter that hits the ball hard. Hit 20 home runs and drive in 100 runs would be outstanding for him.

It should be a very interesting off-season to say the least. There is also talk about a work stoppage for 2027 season and I assume it will be all about money!

OPENING NIGHT IN THE NHL

**REF TO
WRITER
GERRY
NOLAN**



By the time you read this the new National Hockey Season will have begun. Who are you picking at this time to win the coveted Stanley Cup? Just a quick note the National Hockey League just announced that the salary cap will jump substantially next year. Get ready to pay more for your television package. I always figured that the owners had a lot more money and that they were not on the up and up with the players. I think a player should get every darn penny they can get from the owners, just ask some of the older players.

For what it is worth here are my picks for standings and the eventual cup winners.

There are 8 teams in each division, so this is how I see them finish in order.

Central Division-Colorado, Dallas, Utah, Minnesota, Winnipeg, St. Louis, Chicago, Nashville. Winner of the Central division playoff is Colorado.

Pacific Division-Edmonton, Vegas, San Jose, Los Angeles, Anaheim, Seattle, Calgary, Vancouver. Winner of the Pacific division playoff is Edmonton.

Metro Division-Carolina, Washington, New Jersey, Philadelphia, New York Islander, Columbus, Pittsburgh, New York Rangers. Division playoff winner, Washington.

Atlantic Division-Florida, Montreal, Tampa Bay, Buffalo, Ottawa, Toronto, Boston, Detroit. Division playoff winner-Florida

Stanley Cup Champion will be the Colorado Avalanche.

So these are my picks for what they are worth. We shall see by June 2027 if I was close at all.

Just a side note. With the salary cap going up next year, what does Connor McDavid get paid? He could be the new 25-to-30-million-dollar player. But who will be paying him that? This is a long way from when the Winnipeg Jets of the World Hockey Association signed Bobby Hull to a 1-million-dollar contract at Portage and Main in the early 1970's. When Hull held out on the Chicago Black Hawks for then a 1-million-dollar contract which they would not pay, and the Jets stepped up to pay him that amount of money changed the landscape for higher salaries. I say good for the players, it is just too bad some of the pioneer players who had to work in the off season just to make ends meet and yet developed the National Hockey League into what it is today could not get some royalties out of this. They played for peanuts really, but they played with heart, something we do not always see in today's game!

MJHL REPORT

Submitted
BY DEREK HOLTOM

I'm happy to report solid crowds up and down the MJHL on opening weekend, as they attempt to continue to build off the momentum from last season.

The defending league and Centennial Cup champion Niverville Nighthawks attracted a solid crowd of 729 to see their banner rising.

I was also heartened to see a solid crowd in Swan River watch the Stampedes on their opening night. A total of 450 fans turned out, bringing some normalcy for three hours to a community still cleaning up from the two floods this summer.

Dauphin was also hit with flooding this year, with waves lapping up to the steps of Credit Union Place. They drew a solid crowd of 974 fans.

Other impressive crowds include Winkler attracting 974, Portage bringing in 723, Neepawa getting 659, and Waywayseecappo getting 416 fans.

The second-most fans on opening night was in Virden as they attracted a great crowd of 1,037. Amazingly that number still pales in comparison to the top crowd from the weekend - 2,053 fans attended to watch the Steinbach Pistons beat the Winkler Flyers.

That's a staggering amount of fans to watch a MJHL game. For comparison, when I used to cover the WHL's Prince Albert

Raiders in the late 1990s, they would average 1,800 to 2,150 fans a game.

It's a great success for the Pistons for sure, but one has to wonder are they becoming too successful for the MJHL? We've seen all sorts of movement in junior hockey leagues, especially since the NCAA started to except players from the WHL. One wonders what the future holds for the Pistons, and what that might mean for the rest of the MJHL?

That's all speculation for now - today the MJHL has to love seeing full rinks.

The opening weekend MJHL Stars of the Week saw all three winners score four goals to help their teams.

Swan Valley's Dylan Ruff had a hat trick opening night and one more the next night, as well as two assists, to earn his honour.

Noah Paulsen from the Selkirk Steelers also scored four goals - one shorthanded - as well as an assist in two games to earn his award.

The final winner is Neepawa's Addison McIntosh. He scored all four of his goals in the second game to help the Titans to a big win over the rival Portage Terriers.

On the trade, front, the Waywayseecappo Wolverines shipped forward Rhett Perrin and a player development fee (PDF) to the Portage Terriers for forward Jonah Lemoine. Perrin rejoins the Terriers after being dealt to the Wolverines back in the 2024-25 season. Perrin had eight goals and 13 assists in 34 games last year. Lemoine had nine goals and 17 assists last season with the Terriers.

The Winkler Flyers shipped defenseman Parker Henderson to Fort Frances of the SIJHL for a PDF.

And the Neepawa Titans sent forward Tyler Wamboldt to the Portage Terriers for a PDF. Wamboldt had seven goals and 10 assists last season with the Titans.

The Titans also acquired forward Eric Marks from Battlefords of the SJHL for a PDF. He had two goals in 20 games last season.

The Dauphin Kings shipped defenseman Brody Wyinck to the Northern Manitoba Blizzard for a PDF. The 18-year-old had three goals and six assists in 31 games last season.

And the Steinbach Pistons sent forward Brody Green to the Dauphin Kings for forward Wyatt Dyck and a PDF. Green had 30 points in 30 games last season before bolting to the BCHL where he only had two assists in 20 games for the Sherwood Park Crusaders. He scored in his first game with the Kings. Dyck is currently playing with the Janesville Jets of the NAHL and may or may not be available to the Pistons this year.

Opening weekend saw a pair of suspensions as well.

Teagan Wrolstad from the Selkirk Steelers was handed a one-game suspension after being handed a boarding major.

Also, Karson Connelly was handed one-game suspension after being assessed a cross-checking major.

There was also a pair of one-game suspensions, handed out on different nights, to players for taking part in one-man fights. Sitting for one game as a result is Justin Belanger from the Winkler Flyers and Ryder Heaphy from the Neepawa Titans.

Made-in-FLBSD health and sex ed curriculum continues

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

A new health curriculum pilot program makes in-person phys-ed classes mandatory for all students in kindergarten to Grade 12 and a new sex ed program is included in that pilot although sex education was not mentioned.

With the late rollout of the new sex ed curriculum, something parents knew nothing about, concerns were raised. Parents pressed for a pause to the program and to have the opt-out procedure clearly defined.

Kaitlyn White, program coordinator with the Sexuality

Education Resource Centre's (SERC) office in Brandon told CBC that SERC hopes to see clearer and more inclusive discussions around sexual orientation, gender identity and diverse relationship dynamics, as opposed to "vague" health class discussions about respecting diversity.

The headline of an Aug. 31, 2026 CBC story by Lauren Scott read: "Little info available about changes to Manitoba's sex-ed curriculum included in health and phys-ed revamp"

White told CBC that the province's current sex-ed programming leaves students without relevant education because it demonstrates a

bias toward the identities of heterosexual and cisgender people.

WebMD explains: "A Cisgender woman is a person whose gender identity aligns with the sex assigned to her at birth. In practice, this means she was born with female anatomy and identifies herself as a girl or woman."

In Fort La Bosse School Division, Superintendent Barry Pitz confirmed that the pilot was released on Aug. 27th. "It's a two-year pilot, and our division is not going to participate in the pilot." He added, "I like not to be the one that trials the pilot of new curriculum, because I like the kinks to be worked out first."

With Education Minister Tracy Schmidt's announcement of the program on the doorstep of school startup, Pitz said, "I don't know much about the curriculum because we've been worried about starting our school year up and I haven't looked at it, and nor has it been discussed with the school board."

Just a couple of years ago displays and books were brought into Virden Collegiate Institute from SERC. Sexually explicit material (books displaying various sex acts) and items left for the students caused concern among parents. It was not alright with many parents and they said so.

At that time, principal Mark Keown and superintendent Barry Pitz said they were surprised by the actual material. Long story short, the division said they would no longer use SERC as a resource for FLBSD health

curriculum.

Regarding SERC's involvement, Pitz stated, "We don't have them as a presenter. In our division, we have our own made-in-Fort La Bosse health education instructor."

The FLB decision which involved the parent council resulted in the hire of Jordan Greig in 2024. It's a program Pitz called "very good."

An outline of FLBSD Healthy Lifestyles Framework is found through a front-page link on flbsd.mb.ca called Student Services Information for Parents/Guardians and the link is Healthy Lifestyles Education Framework

In brief, the framework is from Manitoba education information: Resource for Kindergarten to Grade 8 Physical Education/Health Education that has been in place for years. It lists essential elements for school-based programming such as build-

ing on an abstinence base, promotes parents as sex educators, stipulates using trained educators in the classroom and provides linkage to health and community services.

More recently, Premier Wab Kinew spoke at Kelvin High School in Winnipeg where he announced dollars for a new gym and running track, and monies around the province to support active lifestyle infrastructure. He issued a challenge to students to become more active.

At that announcement, Kinew was asked about the opt-out ability for the sex education portion of the pilot, which is now apparently a reality. He stated the curriculum was in answer to society's direction and that parents remain the first and foremost educators of their children.

Notice

NOTICE OF ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that, following the close of the withdrawal period and in accordance with section 48 of *The Municipal Councils and School Boards Elections Act*, the following candidates have been duly nominated for the Rural Municipality of Pipestone. Where only one candidate has been nominated for an office, that candidate has been declared elected by acclamation. Where more than one candidate has been nominated for an office, a vote of the electors will be held.

Reeve: Ross Tycoles - *Acclaimed*

Councillor Ward 1	Councillor Ward 2	Councillor Ward 3	Councillor Ward 4
Wyatt Ramsey	Garnet Williamson	Sean Kirkpatrick	Amanda Gray
Amanda Isaac	Kristen Bodin	Dan Ducharme	Lane Wanless
Aaron Smith			

Councillor Ward 4
Wiley Gilliard - *Acclaimed*

Councillor Ward 5
Trent Forsyth - *Acclaimed*

Reston LUD
2 Seats Vacant

Voting Places

The voting places will be open for voting on Wednesday, October 28, 2026, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Ward 1 and 2 - Al Res Tone Drop In Centre - 309 Second Avenue, Reston
Ward 3 - Sinclair Community Hall - 29 Arthur Avenue, Sinclair
Ward 6 - Cromer Hall - 49118 PR256, Cromer

IDENTIFICATION MAY BE REQUIRED BEFORE BEING ALLOWED TO VOTE. A person may be required to produce one piece of government issued photo identification (for example - driver's license or passport) or at least two other documents that provide

Advanced Voting

An advance voting opportunity will be held at the R.M. of Pipestone Municipal Office, 401 - 3rd Avenue, Reston, Manitoba, on Wednesday, October 21, 2026, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

In-Person Applications: A voter may apply in person between September 30 and October 25, 2026. The sealed envelope ballot package may be provided at the time of application.

Mail or Email Applications: A voter may apply by mail or email between July 30 and October 25, 2026. Ballot packages will be sent by mail, or alternate arrangements may be made with the Senior Election Official where necessary.

All completed sealed envelope ballots must be received by the Senior Election Official no later than 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 28, 2026.

Allison Volk - Senior Election Official
Box 99
Reston, Manitoba
R0M 1X0
acao@rmofpipestone.com

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Notice

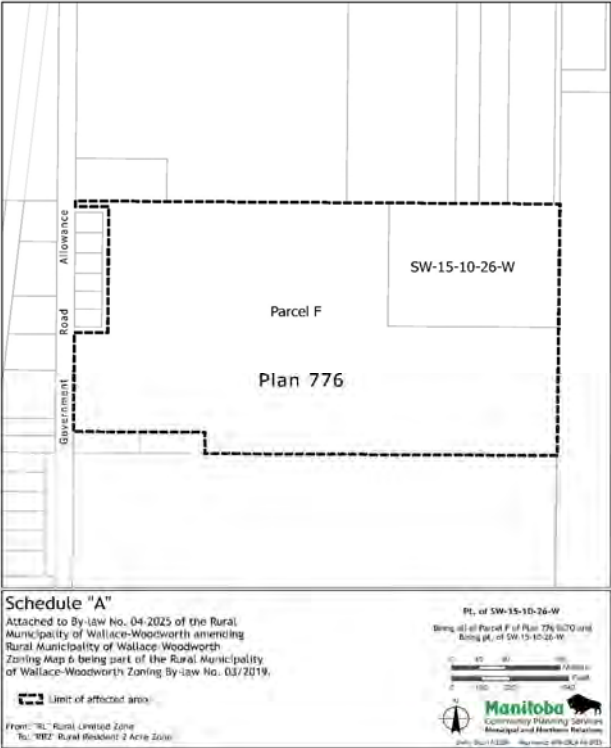


UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PLANNING ACT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF WALLACE-WOODWORTH BY-LAW NO. 04-2025 being an AMENDMENT to the RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF WALLACE-WOODWORTH BY-LAW NO. 03/2019, as amended.

HEARING LOCATION:	Wallace-Woodworth Municipal Council Chambers 154023 PR 257, Box 2200 Virden, MB R0M 2C0
DATE & TIME:	October 15th, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.
GENERAL INTENT OF BY-LAW NO. 04-2025:	To rezone lands within the R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth from "RL" Rural Limited Zone to "RR2" Rural Residential 2 Acre Zone.
AREA AFFECTED:	Part of the Southwest Quarter of Section Fifteen (15), in Township Ten (10) and Range Twenty-Six (26), West of the Principal Meridian, precisely Roll No 9050 and 9550 as shown in Schedule A.
FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:	Iris Vercaigne, CAO, Municipality of Wallace-Woodworth, Ph: 204-748-1239



A copy of the above proposal and supporting material may be inspected at the location noted above during normal office hours, Monday to Friday. Copies may be made, and extracts taken therefrom, upon request.

CLASSIFIEDS

Announcement

Notice



NOTICE OF ELECTION

RM OF SIFTON

ACCLAIMED CANDIDATES

Ward 1: Dennis Griffith
Melanie Schmidt
Rick Kenderdine

Ward 2: Tim Croker
Scott Phillips
Daryll Logeot

PROCEEDING TO ELECTION

Reeve: Dennis Black
Russell Thiessen

Ward 3: Mark Houston
Dave Roulette
Milt Fedak

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Notice

PRAIRIE VIEW MUNICIPALITY
UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PLANNING ACT
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
FOR ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT

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

PRAIRIE VIEW MUNICIPALITY BY-LAW NO. 2026-08 being an AMENDMENT to the
PRAIRIE VIEW MUNICIPALITY ZONING BY-LAW NO. 2018-15, as amended.

HEARING LOCATION: Prairie View Municipality Council Chambers located at 678 Main Street, Birtle, MB
DATE & TIME: October 13, 2026, 09:05 am (0905h)

GENERAL INTENT OF BY-LAW 2026-08: To amend parts, sections, subsections, and bulk standard tables of the existing Zoning By-law 2018-15.

AREA AFFECTED: Part 2, 3, 5, 6

Table 3.2 - Use & Site Requirements: "AG" Agricultural General Zone
Table 3.3 - Use & Site Requirements: "GD" General Development Zone
Table 3.4 - Use & Site Requirements: "RR" Rural Residential Zone
Table 3.5 - Use & Site Requirements: "RR5" Rural Estate Residential Zone
Table 3.6 - Use & Site Requirements: "RS" Residential Serviced Zone
Table 3.7 - Use & Site Requirements: "RU" Residential Un-Serviced Zone
Table 3.8 - Use & Site Requirements: "CC" Commercial Central Zone
Table 3.9 - Use & Site Requirements: "CH" Commercial Highway Zone
Table 3.10 - Use & Site Requirements: "MG" Industrial General Zone
Table 3.11 - Use & Site Requirements: "I" Institutional Zone
Table 3.12 - Use & Site Requirements: "OR" Open Space / Recreation Zone

A copy of the above proposal and supporting material may be inspected at the Mid-West Planning District or Prairie View Municipality offices during normal business hours. Copies may be made, and extracts taken there from, upon request.

Representations may be made verbally or in writing at the public hearing.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Lisa Hamilton, DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, MID-WEST PLANNING DISTRICT
1-888-919-1740
devofficer@midwestplanning.ca

or

Charlene Bonchuk, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, PRAIRIE VIEW MUNICIPALITY
204-842-3403
cao@myprairieview.ca

Notice

NOTICE OF ELECTION

Rural Municipality of Ellice-Archie

Notice is hereby given that a vote of Rural Municipality of Ellice-Archie will be taken to elect Councillors from the following duly nominated candidates:

REEVE	WARD 1	WARD 2	WARD 3
Barry Lowes (elected by acclamation)	Serge Chartier (elected by acclamation)	Devon Gurniak Gabriel Huberdeau Nathaniel Huberdeau James Laferriere	Ginger Carefoot Marla Dyke Dawna Jamieson Christopher Judd Monica Pethick

VOTING PLACES

Voting place will be open for voting on:
Wednesday the 28th day of October 2026 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Ward 2: Club Fort Ellice Leisure Centre, 319 Main St., St. Lazare, MB
Ward 3: RM of Ellice-Archie Office Chambers, 318 Railway Ave., McAuley, MB.

IDENTIFICATION MAY BE REQUIRED BEFORE BEING ALLOWED TO VOTE: A person may be required to produce one piece of government issued photo identification (for example – driver's license or passport) or at least two other documents that provide proof of identity.

ADVANCE VOTING

For the purpose of accommodating persons who are qualified to vote, but who have reason to believe that they will be absent or otherwise unable to attend their proper voting place on Election Day, an advance voting opportunity will be open for voting on:
Wednesday the 21st day of October 2026 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Ward 2: Club Fort Ellice Leisure Centre, 319 Main St., St. Lazare, MB
Ward 3: RM of Ellice-Archie Office Chambers, 318 Railway Ave., McAuley, MB.

APPLICATION TO VOTE BY SEALED ENVELOPE

A voter who is unable to go in person to the voting place or vote in advance, may apply in person, in writing or by email to the senior election official at RM of Ellice-Archie, 318 Railway Ave., McAuley, MB. Email: mcauley@rmofellicearchie.ca

If applying in person, a voter may apply between September 30, 2026 and October 27, 2026.

*A voter applying in person may pick up a sealed envelope ballot package at the time of application.

If applying by mail or email, a voter may apply now and before October 21, 2026.

*A voter applying by mail or email will receive a sealed envelope ballot package by regular post, or by making alternative arrangement with Senior Election Official.

Constance Tanguay, SEO
Senior Election Official
Box 100
St. Lazare, MB R0M 1Y0
204-683-2241
Rural Municipality of Ellice – Archie

Hanah Judd
Assistant Senior Election Official
Box 67
McAuley, MB R0M 1H0
204-722-2053
Rural Municipality of Ellice – Archie

CLASSIFIEDS

Help Wanted

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Call or text Jason @ 204.851.3965 for further information.

Coming Events

Do you have an interest in the Education of Adults in Virden and surrounding area?

V.A.L.C. is looking for new Board members! Meetings are once a month during the school year, for about an hour at a time. Consider this your invitation to attend our AGM to see what it's all about.

Thursday, October 15th, 2026
5:30 pm at the V.A.L.C.
#2 - 585 7th Ave South,
Virden
204-748-2384
valc@wcgwave.ca



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Thank-you

Thank-you

On Friday August 7th, We held our annual Museum Day BBQ Fundraiser. Having the town sponsor, volunteer, visit, and enjoying our Annual Museum BBQ Day was truly amazing. Our history and house are so important to preserve for future generations to enjoy. A huge thank you to the volunteers, Wallace District Fire Department, Royal Purple Ladies, VPHM Board Members and Staff, Laura and Julia Smith, Frank DePaepe, Jared, London, and Paige Jaffray, Sadie Isaac, and Leanna Russell. Thank you for your support.

Obituary



June Blair
At the age of 88, June Blair passed away quietly with her family by her side at the Dauphin Personal Care Home.

June was the 5th daughter born to Jim & Myrtle Millar at Portage la Prairie in 1938. An only brother was born 1 ½ years later. June grew up on the farm just north of Portage and attended the one-room country school of East Prospect for 10 years, then she took her grade 10 by correspondence. She completed the last two years of her education in Portage and then took one year at Provincial Normal School to become a teacher. June felt she had a happy, carefree childhood. For the eight years following June's teacher's training, she taught at five different schools near Glenboro, Grandview, Renwer, Swan River and Virden. In 1961 she met John Blair, who worked for the local weekly newspaper and they married in 1965. June spent the next 14 years raising her children, Ken, Beverley, and Doug. When the children were older, June took a remedial teaching position at the Virden Junior High School for 4 years. The following three years, June worked as a clerk at MacLeod's Hardware Store and at Super Thrifty Drugstore for 6 years after that. For the following 15 ½ years, June guarded for the RCMP at the Virden Detachment. During this time, June worked alongside John with their picture framing business, as well as volunteering at the Costume Closet for three years. June enjoyed many activities with her husband John, such as camping and travelling (as far as the Yukon & Alaska and the Martines), golfing, dancing, cross-country skiing and playing Euchre. June, along with John joined a band called "Ed & Friends" and they played at seniors' homes and the couple often attended music jams throughout Western Manitoba. June mostly played the keyboard, but learned the basics on the slide guitar as well. When June wasn't busy enjoying life with John, she could be found knitting for many craft sales, reading or playing Scrabble. She enjoyed her many friends, both longtime and recent. In June 2025, June moved to an assisted living complex in Dauphin until her needs required her to move into the Dauphin Personal Care Home in October 2025, where she resided until her death.

June is predeceased by her parents, Jim & Myrtle Millar, Sister Shirley Tyler, Brother Ernie Millar, Brothers-in-law Adrian Langhorne, Larry Peterson & Basil Green. June is survived by her children Ken (Janice) Blair, Beverley (Larry) Garton, grandchildren Christopher, Shelby & Jennifer Watts, Madison, Landyn & Kenzey Garton, Doug (Mavis) Blair, grandson Jared Raab, Sisters Dorothy Langhorne, Lois Peterson & Lucille Green.

A Graveside Service will be held for June on Saturday, October 17, 2026 at 1:00 pm from the Virden Cemetery Columbarium.

Everyone is welcome to a come and go tea in the United Church Basement following the service. In lieu of flowers for those who desire, memorial donations may be made to the ALS Society of Manitoba, the Heart and Stroke Foundation, or a Charity of your choice in memory of June.

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Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION SALE OF LANDS FOR ARREARS OF TAXES RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF PIPESTONE



Pursuant to subsection 367(7) of The Municipal Act, notice is hereby given that unless the tax arrears for the designated year and costs in respect of the hereinafter described properties are paid in full to the Municipality prior to the commencement of the auction, the Municipality will on the 20th day of October, 2026, at the hour of 10:00 AM, at the Rural Municipality of Pipestone, 401 - 3rd Avenue, Reston, Manitoba, proceed to sell by public auction the following described properties:

Roll Number	Description	Assessed Value	Amount of Arrears & Costs for Which Property May be Offered for Sale (the "Arrears")
33400	LOT 15 BLOCK 3 PLAN 68 BLTO IN NW 1/4 9-7-27 WPM - 135 THIRD STREET, RESTON	L -\$5,400 B -\$27,300	\$3,389.81
261400	LOTS 8 AND 9 BLOCK 3 PLAN 272 BLTO EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS SET FORTH IN TRANSFERS R40100 AND 1400983 IN SW 1/4 9-9-28 WPM - 160 MAIN STREET, CROMER	L -\$900 B -\$20,200	\$4,511.33
262500	LOTS 27, 28 AND 29 BLOCK 3 PLAN 272 BLTO EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS SET FORTH IN TRANSFER 1422581 IN SW 1/4 9-9-28 WPM - 103 FIRST ST E, CROMER	L -\$2,000	\$3,082.34

The tax sale is subject to the following terms and conditions with respect to each property:

- The Municipality **may** exercise its right to set a reserve bid in the amount of the arrears and costs for any property.
- The Municipality makes no representations or warranties whatsoever concerning the properties being sold.
- If the purchaser intends to bid by proxy, a letter of authorization must be provided prior to the start of the auction.
- The successful purchaser must bring to the auction and pay to the RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF PIPESTONE a non-refundable deposit (the "Deposit") in **cash, certified cheque or bank draft** in the amount of:
 - i) The Arrears for the property PLUS
 - ii) If the property is non-residential property, GST (5% of the Arrears) or, if the purchaser is a GST registrant, provide a GST Declaration PLUS
 - iii) A fee of \$504.00 for preparation of the transfer of title documents.
- The successful bid + GST + \$504 is the "Purchase Price".
- If the Purchase Price is greater than the Deposit, the balance must be paid within 20 days of the sale.
- If the Purchase Price is less than the Deposit, the excess will be refunded to the purchaser within 5 days of the sale.
- In addition to the Purchase Price, any property taxes issued, but not yet due, and any unpaid municipal utilities must be paid by the purchaser within 20 days of the sale.
- The purchaser will be responsible for registering the transfer of title documents in the land titles office, including the registration costs and land transfer tax, if any.
- The risk for the property lies with the purchaser immediately following the auction.
- The purchaser is responsible for obtaining vacant possession.

Dated this 8th day of September, 2026.

Managed by: Ally Volk
Assistant Chief Administrative Officer
RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF PIPESTONE
Phone: (204) 877-3327
Fax: (204) 877-3999



Notice

NOTICE OF ELECTION FORT LA BOSSE SCHOOL DIVISION

Notice is hereby given that a vote of the Fort La Bosse School Division will be taken to elect School Trustees from the following duly nominated candidates:

WARD 1

Craig Russell
Bonnie James
Michael Theriault

VOTING PLACES

Voting places will be open for voting on Wednesday the 28th day of October 2026 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. at:

Fort La Bosse School Division Administration Office, 523 9th Ave. S., Virden - Eligible voters residing in WARD 1 (Town of Virden)

IDENTIFICATION MAY BE REQUIRED BEFORE BEING ALLOWED TO VOTE. A person may be required to produce one piece of government issued photo identification (for example – driver's license or passport) or at least two other documents that provide proof of identity.

ADVANCE VOTING

For the purpose of accommodating persons who are qualified to vote, but who have reason to believe that they will be absent or otherwise unable to attend their proper voting place on election day, an advance voting opportunity will be located at the Fort La Bosse School Division Office, 523 9th Ave S and will be open for voting Wednesday the 21st day of October 2026 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

APPLICATION TO VOTE BY SEALED ENVELOPE

A voter who is unable to go in person to the voting place or vote in advance, may apply in person, in writing, or by email to the senior election official at Fort La Bosse School Division, Box 1420, Virden MB, R0M 2C0, email kreid@flbsd.mb.ca

If applying in person, a voter may apply between the 30th day of September 2026 and the 25th day of October 2026. A voter applying in person may pick up a sealed envelope ballot package at the time of application.

A voter applying by mail or email will receive a sealed envelope ballot package by regular post, or by making alternative arrangements with the senior election official.

Kent Reid
Senior Election Official
Fort La Bosse School Division
204-748-2692

CLASSIFIEDS

Notice



UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PLANNING ACT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF WALLACE-WOODWORTH BY-LAW NO. 06-2026 being an AMENDMENT to the RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF WALLACE-WOODWORTH BY-LAW NO. 03/2019, as amended.

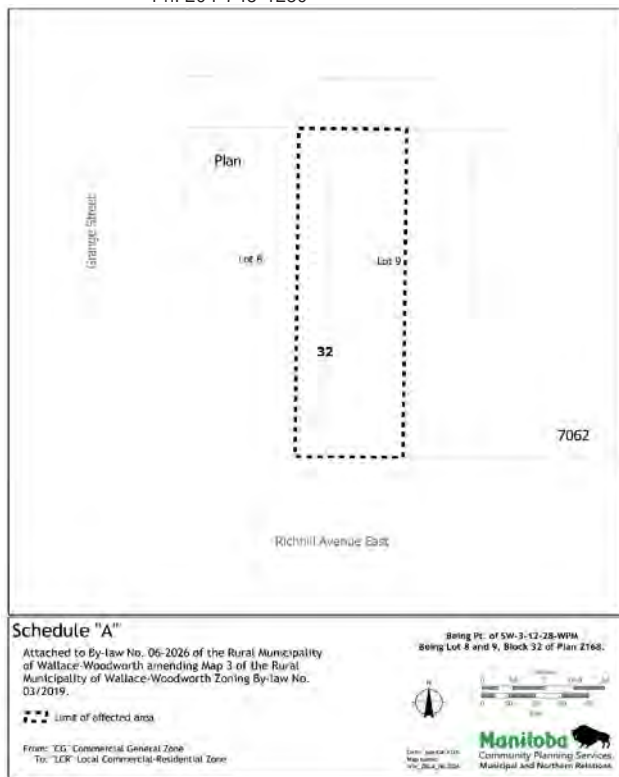
HEARING LOCATION: Wallace-Woodworth Municipal Council Chambers
154023 PR 257, Box 2200 Virden, MB R0M 2C0

DATE & TIME: **October 27, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.**

GENERAL INTENT OF BY-LAW NO. 06-2026: To rezone a property within the R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth from "CG" Commercial General Zone to "LCR" Local Commercial - Residential Zone.

AREA AFFECTED: Part of the Southwest Quarter of Section Three (3), in Township Twelve (12) and Range Twenty-Eight (28), West of the Principal Meridian, precisely Roll No 521300 as shown in Schedule A.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Iris Vercaigne, CAO, Municipality of Wallace-Woodworth,
Ph: 204-748-1239



A copy of the above proposal and supporting material may be inspected at the location noted above during normal office hours, Monday to Friday. Copies may be made, and extracts taken therefrom, upon request.

www.wallace-woodworth.com | 204-748-1239 | info@wallace-woodworth.com

Notice



NOTICE OF ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that a vote of R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth will be taken to elect Reeve, Councillors and LUD Committee Members from the following duly nominated candidates:

For the office of Reeve:
Reeve (1 Reeve to be elected at large)
1. BAJUS, Adam
2. CANART, Clayton

For the offices of Councillor:
Ward 1 (2 Councillors to be elected)
1. GOOD, Darren
2. JOHNAS, Tayona
3. MACDONALD, Diana

For the offices of Councillor:
Ward 2 (3 Councillors to be elected)
1. HEMMAN, Sandy
2. KINNARD, Lyle
3. STAMBUSKI, Barb

For the office of Councillor:
Ward 3 (1 Councillor to be elected)
1. HUMPHRIES, Jill
2. LACHAPPELLE, Denis
3. MITCHELL, Garth

For the office of LUD Committee Member: Elkhorn
(2 Committee Members to be elected)
1. BRENNAND, Riley
2. FORSYTH, Holly

For the office of LUD Committee Member: Kenton
(2 Committee Members to be elected)
1. HEMRICA, Dennis
2. NOLAN, Gerry

(*Note: Order on ballots will be done by Random Draw)

VOTING PLACES

Voting places will be open for voting on Wednesday the 28th day of October 2026 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. at:

KENTON (Ward 1) – Kenton Community Hall – 219 Cornwall Street
VIRDEN (Ward 2) – Sacred Heart Church - 481 Queen Street W.
ELKHORN (WARD 3) - Elkhorn Royal Canadian Legion – 4 Richhill Avenue West

IDENTIFICATION MAY BE REQUIRED BEFORE BEING ALLOWED TO VOTE. A person may be required to produce one piece of government issued photo identification (for example - driver's license or passport) or at least two other documents that provide proof of identity.

ADVANCE VOTING – between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

For the purpose of accommodating persons who are qualified to vote, but who have reason to believe that they will be absent or otherwise unable to attend their proper voting place on election day, an advance voting opportunity will be located at:

October 16, 2026 - KENTON – Kenton Municipal Office – 220 Cornwall Street
October 19, 2026 - ELKHORN - Elkhorn Royal Canadian Legion – 4 Richhill Avenue West
October 21, 2026 - VIRDEN – Virden Municipal Office – 154023 PR 257 (& Hwy 83)

MOBILE VOTING

For the purpose of accommodating persons who are qualified to vote, but reside at a health care facility, a mobile voting station will be set up at the following health care facilities on election day:

Elkwood Manor – 12 Antrim Street, Elkhorn – October 28, 2026, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

APPLICATION TO VOTE BY SEALED ENVELOPE – between September 28, 2026 & October 23, 2026

A voter who is unable to go in person to the voting place or vote in advance, may apply in person, in writing, or by email to the senior election official at:

R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth
154023 PR 257 (Corner of PR257 & 83Hwy)
P.O. Box 2200
Virden Manitoba R0M 2C0
Phone: (204) 748-1239
Email: info@wallace-woodworth.com

If applying in person*, a voter may pick up a sealed envelope ballot package at the time of application.

If applying by mail or email, a voter will receive a sealed envelope ballot package by regular post, or by making alternative arrangements with the senior election official.

Braden Pilling
Senior Election Official
R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth
Phone: (204) 748-1239 Email: info@wallace-woodworth.com

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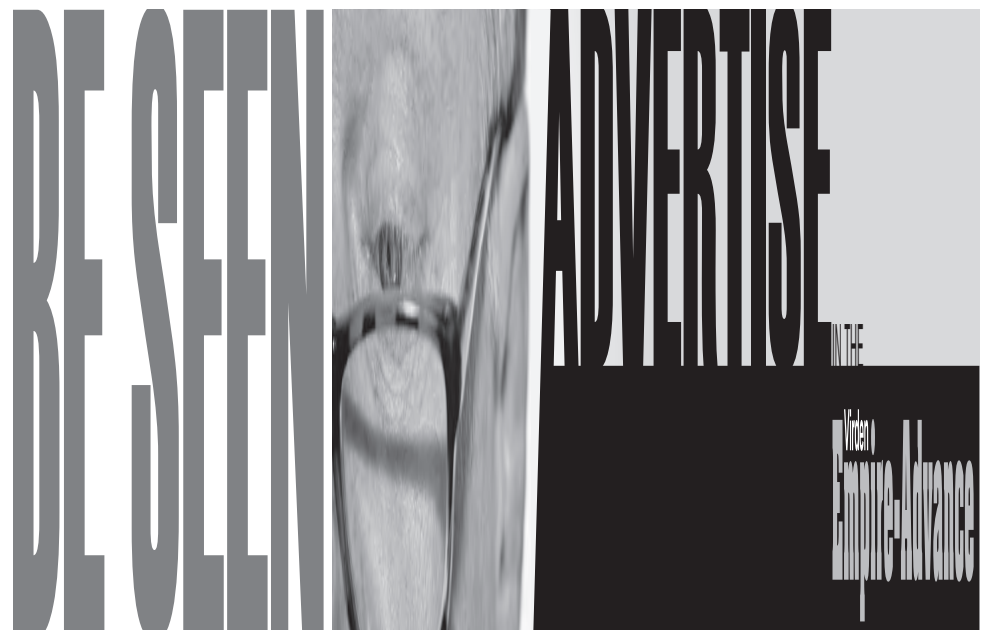
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Council hears of new Staff Sgt. plans

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

With Mayor Tina Williams unable to attend, Deputy Mayor Mark Savy chaired the Town Council meeting of Sept. 22, which began with RCMP Staff Sgt. Scott McAuley's report.

Summer was busy for police and rodeo was a busy weekend in Virden. RCMP employed additional resources and McAuley reported it went well.

"You get your little bit of flare-ups in the summer, but there's nothing in the stats that I'm even remotely concerned about."

McAuley spoke of a person with an outstanding warrant who fled police in Virden but was caught later outside of town.

With two officers due to transfer out and another joining the Virden detachment, there will be a full slate of officers, however some are recovering from injuries.

"We've got a couple on light duties because the reality of where you work... you have bumps and bruises. Two

of them are scheduled to come back here in the next little bit. The third one, we're still waiting to hear back." McAuley added, "From a resourcing standpoint, we're sitting pretty good."

Looking forward to winter, the detachment has acquired snowmobiles to help out and the Staff Sgt. has "put in a business case to try to get a UTV for accessibility to some summer calls."

Renovations

Virden detachment has a new roof and some further paving. "We're going to get a little bit more parking space."

Remodeling throughout the RCMP building includes new flooring, new windows and a bathroom reno. Additionally, the cells are being renovated. "We will be up and functional here within the next month," said McAuley, anticipating that all four cells will be brought up to standards and "not held together with duct tape and love."

McAuley has only been in the Virden office for about six weeks, but he's bringing in a program he used in

another detachment. "Just a better tracking matrix basically for out and about - where we're at, what we're doing when we're there."

A councillor asked, "With the new system that you're bringing in, will you be able to track response times?" McAuley defended the detachment's response times saying that short staffing in the past plays into response time.

They are waiting for head office security check on an office staff hire.

Coun. Savy asked, about community work. "Have they done any school visits? Have they done any daycare visits?"

McAuley explained, "We are doing the safe plans, and I'm going to be honest with you, most of the schools... like to get a little bit settled in before we start poking our nose in." He explained that plan gives the RCMP knowledge of the student numbers, the layout of the school and who the teachers are.

The information is on their computer to assist if there is an incident. It's updated every year, early in the school year.



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Attorneys at Law

Glen Harasymchuk, B. Sc., LL. B. • Anique Timmerman, JD
• Jessica Humphries, JD

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Phone: 204-748-1220 • Fax: 204-748-3007

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Ready, Set, Hunt event at Wolverine Supplies



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Hunters came all around the area to site in their rifles at Wolverine Supplies range.

By Jessica Coulter
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Hunting season is upon us. Although rifle hunting has not begun just yet in this area, it's coming soon. Wolverine Supplies decided to hold an event at their range on September 26, to help all hunters get ready for the season. It was an all-day event from 9am to 4pm.

Everyone was welcome to come on down to the range, bring their rifle and ammo and sight in

their rifle. They had experts at the top of the range to teach if needed. They were also there to replace the targets down range when the targets become too riddled with bullet holes.

The event was consistently busy throughout the day. Some eager hunters showed up before the doors were open.

Hunters also had an opportunity to visit the store for specials on ammunition, optics, accessories and new rifles if

they were in need.

Genn Hipwell, CEO/CFO of Wolverine Supplies, says she was very happy with the turn out and hopes to have more events like these in the future.

Wallace District Fire Department



PHOTO FROM FACEBOOK

On September 24, 2026, at 6:52 a.m., Station 1 Virden was dispatched to a two-vehicle motor vehicle collision. Upon arrival, crews temporarily closed a section of the highway. Scene assessment confirmed that all occupants had self-extricated and there were no active fires. While EMS attended to the occupants, fire crews disconnected the vehicle batteries to eliminate the risk of electrical fires or accidental vehicle movement. The RCMP investigated the scene. Afterward, Virden Towing removed both vehicles and all highway lanes reopened. Wallace District Fire Department thanks all responding agencies for their assistance, and to the public for their patience during the lane closures, detours, and speed reductions.



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Halloween and superstitions



Here are a few more superstitions coming your way. Did you know that 80 percent of high rise buildings all over the world lack a thirteenth floor? Here is a lucky or unlucky playlist for you. See how many you remember. The top 10 songs are: (1) Superstition by Stevie Wonder. (2) Black Cat by Janet Jackson. (3) Broken Mirror by Travis. (4) Number 13 baby by the Pixies. (5) I Should Be So Lucky by Kylie Minogue. (6) Black Magic Woman by Fleetwood Mac. (7) Knock on Wood by Eddie Floyd. (8) Spit Three Times by Neneh Cherry. (9) Born Under a Bad Sign by Cream and finally, number (10),

Ain't No Sunshine by Bill Withers. So there you have it, the top 10! A four-leaf clover is considered to be a lucky find and you have a 10,000 to 1 chance of finding one, not very good odds to say the least. The superstition is traced back to Adam and Eve with Eve allegedly taking a four leaf clover as a souvenir from the garden of Eden. I am not sure I believe that, but others claim it is so. Celtic tradition suggests holding one protects you from evil spirits and bad luck, finding one holds a much bigger problem. At one time seeing a Rabbit's foot dangling on a bunch of keys or

hanging from your rear view mirror in your vehicle was commonplace and people would also carry them for luck without much thought for this good luck charm. It was not very lucky for the rabbit from which it was taken! A North American tradition born out of good luck symbols used by Native Americans, the dream catcher, is said to bring protection and peace of mind. They are constructed of string, thread, feathers and beads. The dream-catcher's sole purpose is to prevent nightmares and allow for sweet, positive dreams to be experienced by those sleeping with one close by. I leave you with this, 13 percent of American folk carry a lucky charm at least sometimes, while 7 percent carry one with them every day. I will be back next week with another edition of Halloween and superstitions! Until then, jolly good luck to everyone!

Halloween Maps

Does your home dress up for Halloween?

Virden transforms into a whimsical and enchanting town every October, and we want to feature your home on our 2026 Halloween map!

The map will be featured in Virden Empire-Advance's October 23 and 30 issues. Let's help local families and discover Virden's most spooktacular decorated homes.



Email: 1office@empireadvance.ca

Deadline: Submit by mid-October to be included in the printed map!

DEBATE 2026

RM OF WALLACE-WOODWORTH ELECTION DEBATE

HOSTED BY: Empire-Advance

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OCTOBER 15, 2026

Moderator: TBD

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TOWN OF VIRDEN MAYORAL AND COUNCILLOR DEBATE

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Moderator: Jeff McConnell

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