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GOLDEN BEARS BUILD A TEAM





PHOTOS BY DALE DAVISON





Kenview farms celebrate 100 years of ownership



Mrs. Donna Hunter is a beautiful lady whose eyes just lit up while sharing memories of Kenview with her family on August 25.

By Gerry Nolan

EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Hunter family of Westman Manitoba celebrated on August 25, the unveiling of a new cairn. Gordon Hunter purchased the land in 1923. He married Grace Henderson and had five children, Emily, Claire, Ken, Kaye and Garth. Gordon

had grade 8 education but later completed University with a degree in agriculture.

The farm was named Kenview because there were

no trees surrounding the farm at the time the barns were built. They could look out and see Kenton, hence Kenview.

The farm featured dairy, cows, chickens, grain and horses.

Two barns were built before the current house was built. Current home was built in 1926 by Mr. Gray. The home had electricity and indoor plumbing installed in 1939 powered by battery. They also had a walk-in freezer.

Ken Hunter, son of Gordon and Grace, married Donna Stevens in 1953 and took over the farm. Mrs. Donna Hunter recalls that while living on the farm for 68 years, they were all good years, no hail, great soil, the land was fruitful. Donna was instrumental in forming the Welsh Pony Society, breeding and raising horses since the mid 60s. Donna said, "it was a great place to raise a family, Leith, Zane, Todd and Julie. Actually, the best place to raise a family!" Mrs. Hunter, who turned 92 in August, still owns the farm, which is currently farmed by Hunter Farms, Cam Hunter. Mrs. Hunter moved into the town of Kenton in 2021. Her Grand Daughter Emily lives on the farm with her fiancé Jeremy Gardner.

The family had a supper in the Kenton Memorial Hall to celebrate the occasion. A fantastic supper was served by Chloe Sheane and Thelma Quinn. After supper MC Zane Hunter shared some stories and invited others to do so as well. There were several speeches, as well as a video of Kenview Farms.

It was a grand evening of reminiscing, sharing and visiting as some family members travelled many miles to celebrate this huge milestone.

SOURIS RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

Job Opportunity - Financial Administrator (FULL-TIME)

The Souris River Watershed District is accepting applications from qualified individuals for a fulltime position of Financial Administrator

Job Objective:

The Financial Administrator is responsible for financial aspects of the watershed district including budgeting, project allocations, inventory, bank reconciliation, chart of accounts posting of transactions in SAGE accounting.

The Financial Administrator reports directly to the General Manager

The Financial Administrator is responsible for the coordination and overseeing the annual budget process in collaboration with staff , setting deadlines, and following up with all contributors such as GROW, Program Coordinators, Operational Administrator, and the

Job Location: This position may be located in either the Reston or Deloraine Office with some travel between the two offices on occasion Skills Required:

- · Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
- Experience with SAGE Accounting
- Experience and education that includes management of books, budgeting, invoicing, payables.
- Strong skills with the ability to manage multiple or competing priorities with tight deadlines.
- Excellent communication, interpersonal and computer skills
- Knowledge of government processes and procedures would be an asset

Qualifications:

- Graduate of a degree, diploma, or certificate program in Business Administration Accounting, or equivalent relevant experience (Accounting concentration preferred)
- Previous experience in an office setting
- Experience in management of employees would be an asset
- 35 hour work week
- Salary range \$52,000.00—\$67,000.00
- Employer paid Blue Cross Health Benefits Plan III
- Municipal Employee Benefits Pension

Interested applicants may submit a cover letter and resume including salary expectations and a list of 3 references by 4:30 p.m., Friday, October 11, 2024 to:

Email:dean@srwd.ca Attention: Dean Brooker General Manager

Souris River Watershed District Attention: Dean Brooker Box 339, 404 4th Street, Reston, MB ROM 1X09 Ph: (204) 877-3020 Fax: (204) 877-3090

Email: dean@srwd.ca For more information please call the General Manager at 204 851 7157

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few weeks ago, our 8-month-old hardly slept. We are talking every hour on the hour, screaming inconsolably. The combination of sleep deprivation and desperation had my husband and I snapping at each other. Tears rolling down my cheeks I said to him, 'I wish he would just grow out of this so we can sleep already!'

Well, low and behold, I very quickly ate my words because the very following week he began hitting milestone after milestone. Mastering new skills each day until my husband looked at me, wistfully watching him play. He said, 'Why does he look so big all of a sudden?'

My stomach sank as I thought back to the moments I wished away because exhaustion got the better of me.

way because exhaustion got the better of me.

I had wished him bigger, then I blinked, and it was so.

He was sleeping through the night, crawling on all fours instead of the sweet army crawl he had been sporting for months now. The odd babble that we had found so endearing was replaced by very specific sounds that mimicked his older brother's chatter. He was pulling himself up on furniture and slowly teetering forward into the stepping motion that, before I know it, will inevitably turn into walking to keep up with three older brothers.

I sat and watched him, and this poem whispered across my heart. "Cleaning and scrubbing can wait till tomorrow, for babies grow up, we've learned to our sorrow. So quiet down cobwebs, dust go to sleep, I'm rocking my baby and babies don't keep."

I looked around with tears filling my eyes, watching my four sons and realized once again just how true this was.

Knowing that I would forget again just how quickly time goes by, I willed myself to sit in this moment.

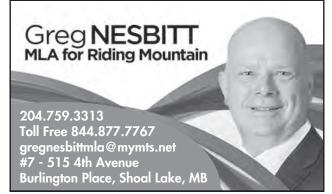
I held my 8-month-old and looked him in the eyes as he looked up at me with such pure love. I soaked in my 9-year-olds boyish features, his dimples that grew deeper every year that passed. My 7-year-olds sweet gap tooth grin and blue eyes that still filled with wonder when his dad played tricks on him. My 3-year-olds floppy sun-bleached hair, laughing in pure delight as his contagious toddler giggles filled our home and brought us all to our knees gasping for breath!

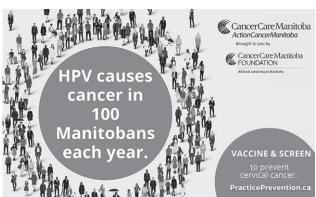
My husband and I made the decision that day, to remind each other OFTEN how quickly our household will go from boys to men, from mama to mom, from crawling into the safety of our bed to handling it on their own, from us being their favourite people in the world to their horizons expanding past our home and to soak in every second we can with them while they are little.

If you have little ones at home, or teenagers, or in-betweeners or toddlers that make you want to pull your hair out.

The dishes will wait, your children will never be this age on this day again, they will only grow older and bigger.

So, dishes be quiet, dust go to sleep. I am soaking in my babies, and babies don't keep!





Burnout Epidemic: The silent struggle in today's workforce

Your Listening Ear

DELSIE MARTIN

reetings everyone and I'm so happy to be back and writing again. The break that I took, although longer than expected, was necessary to prevent burnout, an important topic that doesn't get enough attention. Burnout is a state of complete mental, emotional and physical exhaustion that is caused when we take on too much. Burnout is characterized by many symptoms such as chronic exhaustion, a lack of interest or detachment from your personal or work life and a chronic feeling of overwhelm. According to the Center for Addictions and Mental Health (CAMH) stress and burnout are related but present very differently. Stress presents as someone being over-reactive and hyperactive whereas burnout presents as disengagement and a loss of motivation.

If you notice that you are experiencing symptoms of burnout, ask yourself the following questions:

- 1) Is there anything in my life that I can temporarily step away from?
 - 2) Is there anything I can give up entirely?
 - 3) Is there anything that I can do less than perfectly?
 - 4) Is there anything that I can delegate?

You will want to withdraw from the world, this is a normal feeling but is the last thing you should do. Reach out and seek connection. Make sure that you are socializing with your co-workers. It helps it feel less like you are isolated. Exercise is important to boost your mood. I'm not saying you must start a regular gym routine today but even a 15-minute walk on your break can make a huge difference. Make a list of what you like about your job. Review that list every morning before you go to work. Sometimes our brains only show us the negative things about our jobs, and we selectively forget what is good. Most importantly, seek out help from a qualified counsellor. They will help you to prioritize, minimize and put your mental health first.

We want to feel like superheroes and take on everything. We don't want to disappoint anyone. We want to live up to our fullest potential. These are things that maintain burnout. Society glorifies burnout. Imagine if you will someone coming home from work saying, "Man, I worked so hard today, I'm exhausted and I feel like I could drop", this would be applauded by others. We are increasingly connected to the world and because we have our emails on our phones and phones with us all the time, we don't even get a break after work hours. Overtime is becoming common place, rather than a rarity. There are lots of things that maintain burnout in our society.

What about switching the rhetoric and asking ourselves, "What did I do to take care of myself today?" or applauding someone saying, "I worked my day today and didn't work myself to the point of exhaustion." Let's protect one another from burnout. Check in on your friends, check in on your loved ones. By fostering a culture of balance, self-care and open dialogue we can create environments where people can thrive both professionally and personally.

HELEN DRYSDALE

OUT OF HELEN'S KITCHEN

Kid's Lunch Pails

When I was a parent of school age children one of my challenges was to come up with nutritious lunch and snack ideas that were also delicious. The key word here is delicious. School lunches should contain about one third of the day's nutrients and calories and be based on Canada's food guide. If the kids lunch is boring they will trade it, garbage it or return it in the lunch box. Try these easy recipes for your children's lunch boxes to make your student smile.

These raisin bars have a simple crumb crust and are filled with a delightful raisin mixture.

Raisin orange bars

Base:

1/2 cup brown sugar

1/2 cup butter

1/2 cup flour

3/4 cup quick tmeal

Topping:

2 eggs

1 cup raisins, chopped

3/4 cup flaked coconut

1/4 cup brown sugar

2 Tbsp. orange juice

1 Tbsp. flour

1/2 tsp. baking powder

2 tsp. finely grated orange zest

In a bowl combine the topping ingredients until crumbly. Press into a 9X9 inch very lightly greased pan. Bake in a preheated 350 F oven for 15 minutes. While the base is baking combine the topping layer. Beat the eggs until frothy. Add the remaining ingredients. Spread over the base and bake for 25 minutes or until the topping is firm. When completely cooled, cut into bars and enjoy.

A perfectly spiced cookie these applesauce cookies are great for a lunch box.

Applesauce cookies

1/2 cup butter, room temperature

3/4 cup brown sugar

1 egg

1 cup thick applesauce

1 cup white flour

3/4 cup whole wheat flour

2 Tbsp. ground flax seed

1 tsp. baking soda

1/2 tsp. baking powder

1/2 tsp. salt

1 tsp. cinnamon

1/2 tsp nutmeg

1/2 tsp. cloves

1 cup raisins

1/2 cup chopped nuts or chocolate chips if desired

Add the butter and sugar together. Stir in the egg. Mix in the applesauce. In another bowl combine flours, baking soda, baking powder, salt, cinnamon, nutmeg, and cloves; stir into applesauce mixture. Fold in the raisins and desired addition. Drop batter by spoonfuls (about the size of a golf ball) on lightly greased cookie sheets. Bake at 350 F for approximately 10-12 minutes until lightly golden and set in the middle. Cool on a wire rack.





Just waiting for them to die!

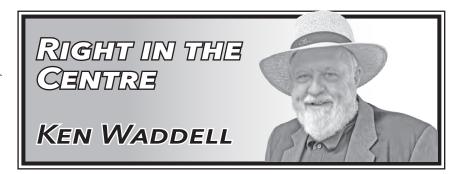
t's not uncommon to have to wait many months or even a year for a CT Scan or an MRI. Even an Ultrasound can take a long time.

In spite of all the valiant efforts of health care workers, doctors, nurses and specialists to provide timely diagnostics and treatment, the system is faltering and even failing.

The ultimate fall back position in health care in Manitoba seems to be "Just wait until they die." And it's happening. People are dying while waiting for timely diagnostics and treatment.

There's lots of blame to spread around but it is mostly due to a hidebound system in Manitoba that clings to the idea that the government has to pay for, ration out and control all things health care. It isn't that way in all provinces. In Manitoba you can't "buy" a CT scan for example. That's because the bureaucracy has the politicians convinced that privately paid for health care is in contravention of the Canada Health Act. That's obviously bull—t but it seems no party or politician has the courage to step out and state the obvious. If you can buy privately provided diagnosis in Alberta (and dare I say Quebec), why can't we do it in Manitoba?

So what does it cost to get a CT Scanner like the one many are asking be put in Neepawa's new Regional Hospital? Here's what the Province of Manitoba said in a news release about the recently installed CT unit at Swan River. "The province provided more than \$2 million in capital funding for the purchase and installation of the new CT scanner, as well as renovations of a space at the healthcare facility. This was matched by a contribution of more than \$1 million from the Town of Swan River



and surrounding communities. The province will also provide funding for the operating costs of the CT scanner, approximately \$400,000 per year." So \$3 million for the unit?? It's interesting to note that an internet search says you can but a CT unit for \$300,000. That makes sense, everything the government buys is at double or triple what it should cost.

Here's another telling bit of information. Over 6,000 Canadian trained doctors work in the United States while only 800 US trained doctors work in Canada. That means Canada has paid for a share of the training of over 6000 doctors but they all left and only 800 came in. That's a bad deal that even a bureaucrat should be able to figure out.

The relatively newly elected NDP government says they are running short of money and that likely is true. They have cancelled some projects and certainly show no progress on diagnostics and treatment.

The answer is obvious and that is to open the big grey doors on those buildings that house the bureaucracy and let private investment build diagnostic and treatment capacity. Manitobans are driving to Grafton and Grand Forks North Dakota and reportedly getting tests done in a week or less. have nothing to lose but a few bureau-Why can't we do that in Manitoba?

Because it's easier to "Just wait for

them to die" than to break out of stupidly reasoned traditions. Manitoba is so hide-bound in mediocrity and tradition that it's not only killing innovation, it's killing people.

Let private investment for an MRI, CT Scan or any other equipment that will improve the health of our people.

Not only will people die with the "Just wait for them to die" method, the province and its healthcare system will die as well.

People have money, let them invest it. Many years ago, a man I knew was desperate to get his wife the back surgery she badly needed. They were told by their Manitoba specialist that she would be wheel-chair bound before she would get surgery in Manitoba. The man put a mattress in their mini-van, drove her to the Mayo Clinic and she had her surgery within three days. She recovered and went back to work in the family farming business. One neighbour noted that farmer usually bought a new combine every few years, but wouldn't be able to do that now. The farmer's answer was direct. He said, "I don't care if I never have another new combine, I have my wife back."

Let's turn to private investment, even if it's just in diagnostics. We crats who will be proven wrong very



After apple picking...

This line is from a poem by that title written by Robert Frost, one of my all time favourite poets. I had not thought of his words, images and phrases for too long. As I processed countless apples from the tree in my back yard-processed with gratitude may I add-bits of this writing came to mind. Those thoughts niggled around until I went and found my copy of some of his works and sank deep into the cadence and meaning of 'After Apple Picking'.

'And there's a barrel that I didn't fill, beside it there may be two or three apples that I didn't pick upon some bough'. The images of apple picking are paralleled to aging and death. Looking back I also see barrels unfilled and apples missed. I am thankful for all that I have and all that I am; there have been missed opportunities.

'My instep arch not only keeps the ache, it keeps the pressure of the ladder-round'. I feel life. I carry the feel long after the event has passed, the pressure of life and living has formed aspects of my nature and personality. I feel the genes that formed me; industry, integrity, a thirst for knowledge, an awareness of the Creator and all creation and responsibility. Those are just some of the formative forces.

'For I have had too much of apple-picking: I am overtired of the great harvest I myself desired. There were ten thousand thousand fruits to touch, cherish in hand, lift down and not let fall. For all that struck the earth, no matter if not bruised or spiked with stubble, went surely to the cider-apple heap as of no worth.' Amen. As careful as we are, as careful as I am, in living, there are slips and regrets; I wish no apple on the apple-cider heap.

These are the thoughts of the poet as he prepares for a night's rest; recapping the day, reflecting and anticipating rest. 'One can see what will trouble this sleep of mine, whatever sleep it is. Were he not gone, the woodchuck could say whether it's like his long sleep, as I describe it's coming on, or just some human sleep.

It's the end of September, and if all goes as it should, October will follow. One year ago I bid farewell to a good man who loved me well, as I loved him, for six years. Ten years ago in October I bid farewell to a good man who loved me well, as I loved him, for forty years. I see the beauty of the autumn season. I see the changing of the landscapes, losing it's lushness and preparing for a prolonged rest. I see and feel the impending winter even while adoring each day. I refer to September and October as my season of solemnity, not overly sad, more introspective and reflective. And thankful: so thankful for the abundant harvest of 'apples', experiences and happenings of ordinary living. Aware, always, of the bruised apples destined for apple cider. Ready for the long sleep but neither longing for, nor looking for it- the tree has more treasures.



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Prairie View Municipality

Regular Meeting - Birtle Chambers

Submitted
By RM of Prairie View

On Sept. 4, 9am Members Present: Wilson, Clark, Fulcher, Butler, Oliver, Peel, Cole;

StaffPresent: CAO Bonchuk, Admin Assistant Gardham
The agenda was adopted and minutes from the Aug. 13 meeting were adopted.

Delegations: Eddie Jessop: Picking at landfill

Reports: Staffing, committee and CAO's brought reports.

New business: The Council hereby appoint the following signing officers to the corporations: Michael Fulcher; Roger Wilson AND THAT the signing authority designations will be reviewed after filling the vacancy of Ward 2 Councillor position. Carried

Council voted to approve the request from Gary Leschyshyn and Tammy Brown to relocate a Single-Family dwelling to the land legally described as NE-25-17-25-W, Roll No. 154700, located East of Solsgirth within Prairie View Municipality. AND THAT all requirements and inspections through Mid-West Planning District are to be completed. Carried

Council of Prairie to approve new O/H Line inside of ROW RD 149W South of PTH 42 at SW 29-16-25 W as presented. Carried

Payroll totalling \$169,686.89 issued in August, be approved. Carried

By-Laws/Policies:

Council hereby approves Policy HR-013 Cellular Phones: a policy to establish criteria guidelines for issuing cell phones for employees of Prairie View and to provide guidance to employees that use municipal and personal cell phones during the course of a work day as amended. Carried

Council hereby approves Policy GG-009 Expressions of Sympathy or Congratulations to establish guidelines which will be used for an expression of sympathy or congratulations from the Council or Staff of Prairie View as amended. Carried

Council approves Policy GG-018 Council Recognition of Years of Service to establish an award system for recognizing the contributions made by councillors as amended. Carried

Councillor reports: Coun. Clark - CDC (community development), EMO (emergency measures organization); Coun. Butler-EMO, Park West Fibre Coop; Coun. Oliver-AWWD (watershed district), Coun. Fulcher - CDC, Fibre

In Camera: Council convenes in camera at 11:31am, as a Committee of the Whole, to discuss personnel; all matters shall remain confidential until a report is made public. Council came out of camera and moved to adjourn the regular council meeting.



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News from Miniota

Submitted
By Linda Clark

Our community was saddened to learn of the death of long-time resident Bob McKenzie who died on Sept. 10 at the Virden District Hospital. Bob was a golfer,

curler and strong supporter of all local hockey through the years, working the gate at many a game, greeting folks with his smile and wit. Our thoughts are with Sharon, Jason and Clayton and their families.

Sympathy is also extended to Ted and Anna Oliver, Amanda and Chris Lonson and Tanya and Brad Barnes and their families, as well as their mother Noreen Oliver and her dad Don Robertson on the death of Jan Robertson on Sept. 15 at the Virden District Hospital. Jan and Don have been long time golfers here at Miniota as well as seasonal campers. Our thoughts are with you all.

Linda Clark along with her brother Harold Reid of Brandon enjoyed a trip west making stops in Saskatoon, Sask., Edmonton and Calgary, Alta., Victoria and Courtney, B.C. to make connections with cousins and friends.

The Miniota Golf Course has been busy as of late. The Senior Day saw 68 out enjoying the beautiful course, and on Sept. 14, a Jack and Jill event was held with 84 golfers. Getting in those last games before the weather changes.

Congratulations to Delbert and Pat Cole on becoming first time great-grand-parents on Sept.10 in Brandon to little Kaia Lynne, first born to Jake and Kasie Cullen. Congrats also to the grandparents Cathie and Kelvin Hollier.

It is so good to hear the children's voices at recess from across town once again. "School is a building which has four walls with tomorrow inside." -Lon Watters

Isabella News

Word has been received of the death of Jean Johnston at the Wawanesa Personal Care Home. Jean, the wife of the late Lyle Johnston, taught school at Isabella many years ago. Both Lyle and Jean liked to stay in touch with the Isabella folk.

As well, we extend our sympathy to the family of Jean McMillan of Hamiota who died recently. Jean was raised at Isabella, the daughter of Lawrence and Mary Stevenson, who farmed in the area. Jean was predeceased by her siblings Sarah, Margaret, Tom and Frank.

Sympathy goes out to Jim and Karen Lawn, Ron and Glenda Lawn, Murray Sutherland and Doreen Clark and their families on the death of their aunt Betty Murray, formerly of Hamiota who was a resident of the transitional unit at Shoal Lake. Betty was raised at Isabella with her siblings George Lawn and Helen Sutherland. Our thoughts are also with Betty's daughters, Heather Sheane and Sharon & Allan Preston and their families.



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RCMP remind drone pilots of dangers interfering with first responders

Submitted

By RCMP D Division

This past week RCMP officers were at the scene of a serious traffic colli-

sion, when a drone was observed flying over the scene. The drone in the air led to STARS air ambulance being delayed as it could not land. Fortunately in this case, the delay did not have serious consequences to operations at the scene.

Officers have yet to identify the operator, but would like to take this opportunity to remind the public, that operating a drone in an area where police and first responders are attending could interfere with life-saving measures, and can result in a fine of up to \$1000.

The use of remotely piloted aircraft systems or "drones," is regulated by Transport Canada under the Canadian Aviation Regulations. These regulations include that the drone must be operated:

- · below 90 m above the ground
- at least 30 m away from vehicles, vessels, and the public (if your drone weighs more than 250 g up to 1 kg) at least 75 m away from vehicles, vessels, and the public (if your drone weighs more than 1 kg up to 35 kg) at least 5.5 km away from aerodromes (any airport, seaplane base, or areas where aircraft take-off and land)
- at least 1.8 km away from heliports or aerodromes used by helicopters only
- · outside of controlled or restricted airspace
- · at least 9 km away from a natural hazard or disaster
- · away from areas where operation could interfere with fire fighters, police or first responders
- · during the day and not in clouds or smoke
- · within your sight at all times



- · within 500 m of yourself or closer
- \cdot must be clearly marked with your name, address and phone number

A complete set of rules, regulations and requirements can be found at tc.canada.ca/en/aviation/drone-safety

"In an emergency, it is imperative that all necessary

resources are able to respond," said Corporal Ryan Cadotte of the Manitoba RCMP Remotely Piloted Aircraft System unit. "I urge all drone pilots to be responsible and ensure they know and follow all regulations under the Canadian Aviation Regulations. These regulations are in place for everyone's safety."

Routine patrol results in trafficking charges

Westman RCMP service report, Sept. 8 –14

Submitted

By Westman RCMP

During this week Westman RCMP received a total of 61 calls for service. Of the 61, 13 were traffic related including 6 moving traffic – speeding violations. Also included in the calls for service were 3 theft of vehicle files, 3 thefts under equal to \$5000 from a motor vehicle, 3 suspicious person/vehicle/property files, 2 coroner's act – sudden death/other activities, 6 mischief files, 2 assault files, 3 failure to comply with order files and 1 possession for the purpose of trafficking – schedule i: cocaine file.

On Sept. 8 RCMP received a call from First Nations Safety Officers in regards to an assault in the settlement of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation. It was reported a male was swinging a hatchet and was acting erratically. He was detained by the Safety Officers until RCMP arrived on scene. One male was arrested and charged with assault with weapon, possession of weapon for dangerous purpose, possession of methamphetamine (crystal meth), and three counts of failure to comply with a release order condition. He was remanded into custody and will appear before the court in September.

On Sept. 9 RCMP received a report that a vehicle was stolen from a residence in Virden. The vehicle has since been recovered and the incident is under investigation.

On Sep. 13, at approximately 9:50 p.m., Virden RCMP officers conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle located on Nelson Street in Virden.

An officer approached the vehicle, with a single occupant,

and spoke with the driver, identified as a 43-year-old male from the RM of Wallace-Woodworth.

During the conversation with the driver, the officer observed illicit tobacco on the front passenger seat. The driver was immediately placed under arrest and secured in the police vehicle.

Asearch of the driver and vehicle led to the seizure of eight grams of crystal methamphetamine, 202 grams of cocaine, over \$1000 in cash and other drug-related paraphernalia.

RCMP have charged 43-year-old Thomas Olson with possession for the purpose of trafficking, possession of property obtained by crime and for possession of unmarked tobacco contrary to the Tax Administration and Miscellaneous Taxes Act. He was remanded into custody.

Virden RCMP continue to investigate.

On Sep. 14, during a routine traffic patrol in the RM of Sifton, RCMP observed a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed a speed of 131 km/hrin a 110 km/hr zone. A traffic stop was conducted, and the driver was issued a ticket for Speeding, which carries a fine of \$325.

To report a complaint or non-emergent 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. 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. The tip line is not traceable, and they do dot subscribe to caller ID or call display.

Virden RCMP respond to Fatal vehicletractor collision

Submitted

By RCMP D Division

On Sept. 16, at approximately 9:05 a.m., Virden RCMP received a report of a collision between an SUV and a farm tractor on Highway 21, located just south of Provincial Road 543, in the RM of Sifton.

The investigation has found that an SUV, determined to have been stolen from Winnipeg, was travelling southbound on Highway 21 when it veered over the center line and collided head-on with a northbound farm tractor.

The 31-year-old male driver of the southbound SUV was from Stonewall. He was pronounced deceased on scene.

The 21-year-old male driver of the farm tractor was not physically injured.

Virden RCMP, along with a Forensic Collision Reconstructionist, continue to investigate.



Grant Jackson MLA For Spruce Woods

PO Box 765 86 1st Street South, Souris MB, R0K 2C0 Office@grantjackson.ca (204) 590-9571

Letter to the Editor

September 12th, 2024 — As property crime surges alarmingly in rural Westman, the NDP provincial government is neglecting its responsibilities and failing to support the RCMP in addressing the issue.

Wab Kinew's team has given no additional financial resources to the RCMP's Blue Hills detachment to better respond to the rising crime this summer. This follows a sudden decision by Manitoba Justice Minister Matt Wiebe earlier this year to disband the municipal police service in Rivers and to add the Riverdale municipality to the Mounties' Blue Hills jurisdiction.

The Blue Hills detachment does excellent work in the communities it serves, but now its officers must receive stronger support from

the provincial government to adequately police this significantly enlarged population and geographic area. Property crimes and domestic calls for service are on the rise in this region, and by adding another municipality to the detachment's responsibility without adding resources to help them, the NDP government is forcing Blue Hills officers into a very difficult situation. It is time for the minister to act and give the detachment an immediate increase in financial support to bring in more police personnel and equipment.

Within my constituency of Spruce Woods, which is now almost entirely policed by Blue Hills RCMP, two municipal councils have contacted the provincial government to request additional

police officer positions in the region. As crime concerns grow in more Westman communities, I am sure more such municipal requests will

As the MLA representing much of the Blue Hills policing area, I am adding my voice to these requests and have written to the minister to urge swift action on this issue. The NDP government must increase the number of officer positions in the Blue Hills RCMP to ensure this region has the police presence and coverage that its residents expect and deserve.

Grant Jackson MLA for Spruce Woods Contact (204) 590-9571

Reston & Area Veteran Banner Community Celebration

Submitted By Kim MacKenzie

On Saturday, October 19th plan to spend some time walking around Reston and Pipestone Memorial Parks to view the Veteran Banners that afternoon. There are 98 veteran banners that have been sponsored over the past two years. Then join the committee for a pulled pork on a bun supper and visiting at the RES Center in Reston from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. There will be military displays from the Reston Museum. The 2023-2024 Reston and Area Veteran Banner Booklet that contains the biographies of these veterans will also be available to purchase for \$20. If you are interested in sponsoring a veteran for the 2025 campaign sponsor forms will be available and if you do not have a veteran in your family



SUBMITTED PHOTO

but wish to be a part of this program committee members will be more than willing to match you up with a veteran to honor. Please spread the

word and we hope to see you there. Any inquires please visit our webpage https://sites.google.com/ view/restonveteranban-



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

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 10th day of October, 2024, at the hour of 1:00 PM, at Oak Lake Community Hall, 474 North Railway Street, Oak Lake, Manitoba, proceed to sell by

Roll Number	Description	Assessed Value	Amount of Arrears & Costs for Which Property May be Offered for Sale
51900	LOTS 1 TO 12 BLOCK 2 PLAN 218 BLTO EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS RESERVED IN THE GRANT FROM THE CROWN IN NE 1/4 30-7-25 WPM 1/12 2 218, BELLEVIEW	L -\$2,800	\$1,738.55
52600	LOTS 17, 18, 22 AND 23 BLOCK 2 PLAN 218 BLTO EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS RESERVED IN THE GRANT FROM THE CROWN IN NE 1/4 30-7-25 WPM., LOTS 19, 20 AND 21 BLOCK 2 PLAN 218 BLTO EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS RESERVED IN THE GRANT FROM THE CROWN IN NE 1/4 30-7-25 WPM - 17/23 2 218	L -\$2,300	\$1,720.82
123300	PARCEL ONE: LOT 1 BLOCK 4 PLAN 41 BLTO EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS IN NE 1/4 25-9-23 WPM PARCEL TWO: LOT 2 BLOCK 4 PLAN 41 BLTO EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS VESTED IN THE CROWN (MANITOBA) BY THE REAL PROPERTY ACT IN NE 1/4 25-9-23 WPM - 1/2 4 41, GRISWOLD	L -\$700	\$3,060.82
215000	LOT 19 AND 20 BLOCK 16 SS PLAN 1969 BLTO IN N 1/2 23-9- 24 WPM - 114 CAMERON ST E, OAK LAKE	L -\$11,400 B -\$21,200	\$5,271.64

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

 The purchaser of the property will be responsible for any unpaid municipal utilities and any property taxes not yet due.

 •The Municipality may exercise its right to set a reserve bid in the amount of the arrears and costs.

 •If the purchaser intends to bid by proxy, a letter of authorization form must be presented prior to the start of the auction.

 - The Municipality makes no representations or warranties whatsoever concerning the properties being sold •The successful purchaser must, at the time of the sale, make payment in cash, certified cheque or bank draft to the Rural Munici
 - - i) The full purchase price if it is \$10.000 or less: OR
 - iii) A fee in the amount \$500.85 (\$477 + GST) for preparation of the transfer of title documents. The purchase will
 - be responsible for registering the transfer of title documents in the land titles office, including the registration costs. The risk for the property lies with the purchaser immediately following the auction. The purchaser is responsible for obtaining vacant possession.
 - If the property is non-residential property, the purchaser must pay GST to the Municipality or, if a GST registrant, provide a GST

Dated this 5th day of September, 2024.

Managed by:



Lisa Greig Chief Administrative Officer Rural Municipality of Sifton Phone: (204) 855-2423 Fax: (204) 855-2836

Study tips for a strong start in school

Submitted

By Metro Creative

Studying is vital to academic performance. At the dawn of a new school year, students get a fresh start to improve upon or continue strong their study habits. Teachers will be rolling out their curricula, and that may feel overwhelming. However, optimizing study skills can boost confidence in school and in areas outside of the classroom. These study tips can put students on a path for success.

Find your optimal study space. The ideal study spot varies from student to student. Some need a quiet nook in the library, while others may prefer the sounds of nature while seated on a park bench. There's no one-size-fits-all study location, so students may need to experiment with what works best for them. Also, The Princeton Review says that a student doesn't need just one study space. He or she may find a change of scenery can prompt the brain to retain information better.

Devise a study plan. Setting goals and a plan of attack allows students to space out their studying over several days. This can reduce stress and make the task seem less cumbersome.

Avoid cram sessions. Devising a study plan is of North Carolina at Chapel Hill says shorter,

better than cramming the night before a test. The American Psychological Association says students may perform well on a test for which they've crammed, but that doesn't mean they've truly learned the material. Studying with a goal of retaining the material long-term is important.

Learn how to actively study. Some students think that studying requires reading over the material

or highlighting text. Active studying involves engaging with the material and constructing meaning from the text. One way to engage with the material is to try acting as the teacher and explaining concepts to another person. Creating a study guide or even concept maps also helps one actively study.

Balance intensity with laid-back study approaches. Students may procrastinate with their studying because they don't want to devote a lot of time to the task. Instead, they can do shorter sessions mixed with longer sessions of studying. In fact, The Learning Center at the University



PHOTO BY METRO CREATIVE

intensive study time can be more effective than drawn-out studying.

Ask for help. Asking a teacher or another student for help is not a sign of weakness. It's a good strategy to develop early on. The longer one waits, the more difficult it may be to catch up on material. Asking for help goes hand-in-hand with setting up a buddy system for studying. Study groups enable students to go over material together, which can provide different perspectives and help the material resonate more effectively.

Students will spend a lot of time studying while in school. Learning how to do it effectively is vital to fulfilling one's academic potential.

Academic performance can be affected by eyesight



PHOTO BY METRO CREATIVE

up, particularly when a student is unaware that it is eyesight and not another factor affecting their ability to learn. Furthermore, poor grades may cause parents to mistakenly conclude a child has

a learning disability or is slacking off.

and kids' commitment to studying and doing homework. One component of academic performance can be easily overlooked: eyesight.

The M.M. Joshi Eye Institute in India says vision problems in children can affect studies and restrict students' academic development. Academic performance is directly linked to the ability to see clearly, as vision affects reading, writing, comprehension, and classroom participation. Clarendon Vision Development Center of Illinois advises that a substantial part of a child's education is acquired through visual processing. When that vision is impaired, it can hinder the ability to learn and absorb information effectively.

Impaired eyesight may cause students to struggle and fall behind. This ultimately can lead to a lack of engagement in classwork and ultimately make them consider giving

The relationship between eyesight and education underscores the significance of routine eye exams. Intervention can help prevent poor academic performance. Infants often get their first comprehensive eye exams around zero to six months of age. By age three, children should have a second eye exam, says Medical Optometry America. Around age five or six, children should receive a third comprehensive eye exam, just before entering school. Eye exams should then be scheduled at least every two years. These guidelines can be adjusted if any vision problems are detected and more frequent exams are needed. Eyesight plays a key role in a child's ability to

learn and excel in school.

Lunch is on us! **Melita Health Auxiliary** is celebrating **70 years** of continuous support to our local health systems Thursday, September 26 11:00am - 2:00pm **Melita Legion Memorial Hall Basement** 95 Main Street, Melita **Door Prizes ~** Free Draws

Submitted

By Metro Creative

Many variables affect students' academic performance. These include a willingness to learn, students' attentiveness, having a great teacher,



Principal Schiltroth is serving her hometown

By Anne Davison EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Reston School Principal Amy Schiltroth has settled into her position. She's worked in the K-12 environment for a number of years and feels right at home leading Reston School.

Schiltroth started her career with Fort La Bosse School Division as a Gr. 2 teacher at Virden's Goulter School. She became principal in that K-Gr.4 school and served in that role for five years before moving back to her hometown of Reston in 2020 to take on the job of resource teacher within the school.

Itwas January of 2024 when Amy Schiltroth became Reston School principal.

Born and raised in Reston, she'd attended Reston School from K - Gr 12.

"It's home for me," she said, adding that it means a lot to her to be working in the school where she did so much growing up.

"I think there's a sense of pride and honour that comes with that. I have fond memories of attending school, so it's quite something to be back in the same building and work along side even staff that taught [me]."

And Schiltroth's own daughter is a student in the school.

With every grade taught among the 213 students enrolled this term, it's an active environment.

There's a range of classes including woodworking technology, drama, and global studies. New this year

is a course covering current topics in First Nations, Metis and Inuit studies. Along with the three Rs the students receive classes in art, and there's a K-6 music program. Later in the year, grades 5 and 6 learn to use recorders and ukuleles.

Reston has a strong athletics program. Just recently the Varsity girls' volleyball team brought home a second from the tournament at Gilbert Plains.

Golf is a high school sport and Reston's Maya Kraning will soon be off to a Gr. 12 girls' golf provincial tournament in Morden.

An apprenticeship program is a standard part of the Manitoba curriculum. Schiltroth says a number of grades 11 and 12 students are taking advantage of this opportunity to get into the workplace and possibly find their direction for the future.

"We're lucky we have local businesses who welcome kids to participate in that. It's a program for kids interested in the trades."

Their hours count toward future work apprenticeships if students decide to continue in the trade they apprentice in during high school.

Reston School has a few new staff members this year: Jasmine Hamel is teaching Gr. 1; Carly Hayward is teaching Gr. 4; Gracie Gervin is teaching Gr. 7 and Colleen Halls is the school's new librarian.

On Sept. 12 an open house welcomed parents to meet the teachers and see where their children spend their days.

Coming right up on Sept. 26 the students and staff will participate in a Terry Fox 'walk' and lunch.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Ms. Amy Schiltroth is Reston School principal.



Miniota school defies trend

By Anne Davison **EMPIRE-ADVANCE**

reflection of the town itself, Miniota School has been steadily growing

over the year. Principal Trevor Lewis says, "We've seen a nice increase in enrollment."

That's a bit of an understatement if you consider that when he came to lead Miniota School a couple of decades ago, there were about 40 students and this year's enrollment is 76 kids.

Miniotais defying a trend. A number of years ago, Miniota was one of the schools under review for possible closure, in keeping with a move throughout the province. But that didn't happen.

Years later, in March of 2022 the school began using a new 'pod' to increase classroom space. This separate building to the south of the school is a classroom and serves other purposes. "We use it for a variety of grades and for library times."

Lewis explains, "Young families are starting in our community and we're reaping the benefit."

He says, "A fuller building is always nice." But Miniota school continues to be a small, close-knit institution where interactions are personable and like the rest of the town, there's a strong sense of community.

This fall season is a busy time for the school as sports of all kinds are ramping up. Terry Fox run takes place right away, on Sept. 20. And this last week the school just held their Open House for parents to come and see what their children's classrooms are like and meet teachers.

Staff continues the same as last year with the exception of Shelly Gardham's retirement as a long-standing educational assistant. Another Miniota resident, Katrina Sicinski, has been hired for that role.

Teachers have the challenge of double graded classrooms for the majority of the day. For example, along with his administrative duties, Mr. Lewis teaches Grade 7/8 Math, Science & Phys. Ed.

The school's kindergarten of about a dozen kids has their own teacher. They attend half-time until February. From then through to the end of June, the K class is full-time, giving them a three-quarter time first year experience at school.

Miniota's day care is also within the school, using two rooms.

Meet the teachers



ELKHORN SCHOOL

Lance Barrate - School Administrator; Stephanie Malcolm - Admin. Assistant; Lance Barrate - Guidance; Kristy Rasmuson - Teacher; Angie Stonehouse -Teacher; Sue Canart - Teacher; Courtney Howard - Teacher; Julie Sabourin -Teacher; Jaret Heaman – Teacher; Katrinka Johnson – Teacher; Shawnda Mitchell - Teacher; Brock Speight - Teacher; Kaylin Hall - Teacher; Robert Maningas - Band Teacher; Tyler Wood - Teacher; Cynthia Kalyniak - EA; Jan Martens - EA; Leanne Rookes – EA; Coralie Rozak – EA; Cheryl Volk – EA; Tawnis McLeod – Library; Kelly Moar - Head Custodian; Jean McCloughry - Cleaner;

OAK LAKE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Brenda Masson - School Administrator; Sheri Rampton - Admin. Assistant/EA; Devon Caldwell - Teacher; Penny Wallace - Teacher; Laura Hey - Teacher; Beth Norrie – Teacher; Jason Maksuta – Teacher; Andrew Korol – Teacher; Brenda Masson - Resource/Guidance; Cheryl Klassen - Music/Resource; Kim Williment - CSC Gr. 8; Gwen Bochek - EA; Sherry Enns - EA; Shelley Wenstob - Library; Christine King -Head Custodian; Sherry Swayze – Cleaner;



RESTON SCHOOL

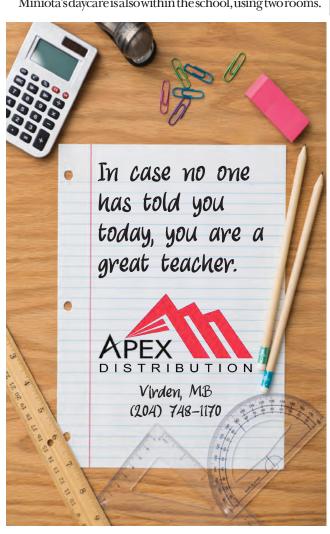
Amy Schiltroth - School Administrator; Shawna Millard - Admin. Assistant; Michelle Hamel - Teacher; Jasmine Hamel - Teacher; Lisa Puhach - Teacher; John Patmore – Teacher; Carly Hayward - Teacher; Jenna Henuset – Teacher; Gracie Gervin – Teacher; Sadie Braybrook – Teacher; Allison Greig – Teacher; Jordan Greig - Teacher; Kim Masson - Resource; Rochelle Stephenson -Teacher; Tracy Thompson – Teacher; Elana Wray – Teacher; Randy Kalynuk - Teacher; Corinna Berg - EA; April Jesso - EA; Sherry Kendrick - EA; Heather Robinson - EA; Colleen Halls - Library; Nicole Richardson - Head Custodian; Misty Kohinski - Cleaner;

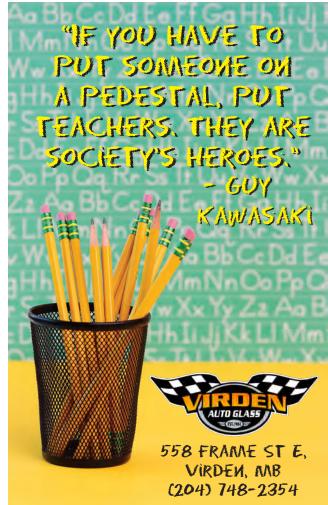
PLAINVIEW COLONY SCHOOL

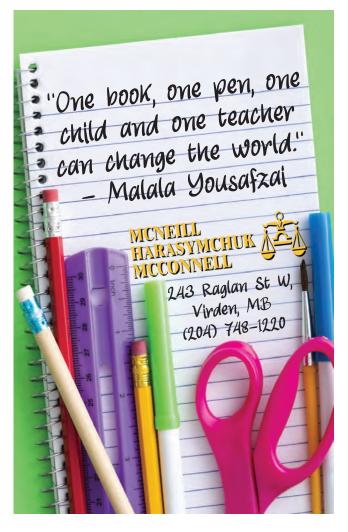
Pam Jamieson - School Administrator/Co - Teacher/Resource; Jamie Martin - Admin. Assistant/Library; Crystal Chisholm - Teacher; Shae-Lynn Forster - Teacher; Riley Cross - Co-Teacher; Shelley Warnica -Teacher; Dana Poole - Teacher; Shawna Wegener - EA;

BOUNDARY LANE COLONY SCHOOL

Pam Jamieson - School Administrator/Co - Teacher; Jamie Martin - Admin. Assistant; Erin Soder -Teacher; Dana Poole – Teacher; Shelley Warnica – Teacher;







Meet the teachers



VIRDEN COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

Mark Keown - School Administrator; Hugh Henderson - Vice Principal/Power Mech.; Michelle Sawyer - Admin. Assistant; Sherri Strain - Admin. Assistant; Kim Barkley – Teacher; Michele Cabernel – Teacher; John Chandler – Teacher; Megan Cloet – Teacher; Luke Munchinsky – Teacher; Darren Denty – Teacher; Rita Eslinger – Teacher; Casey Stafford – Teacher; Darlene Friesen – Teacher; Aevry Hayward – Teacher; Mac Dryden – Teacher; Nathan Holovach – Teacher; Stacey James – Teacher; Fiona Kliever – Teacher; Dan Kristoff – Teacher; Julie Mathieson – Teacher; Cody McPhee – Teacher; Gregory O'Gilvie – Teacher; Debra Peters - Guidance/Career Development; Curtis Plett – Teacher; Doug

Roach – Teacher; Mark Robertson – Teacher; Carrie Tapp – Teacher; Dorthe Tripp – Teacher; Mark Wakely – Teacher; Tyra Zander – Teacher; Janelle Grieve – Teacher; Tricia Hayward - High School Apprenticeship; Nicky Roach – EA; Betty Sidoryk – EA; Janice Heritage – EA; Deanna Haines-Hawtin – EA; Wendy Lindsay – EA; Gwen More – Library; Gina Reiner – Library; Iris Gomf - Head Custodian; Tamara Parker – Cleaner; Lily Dovodivich – Cleaner; Christine Judd – Cleaner; Melanie Sinclair – Cleaner;



VIRDEN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Tracy Ramsey - School Administrator; Vicki Dryden - Admin. Assistant; Regan Brereton-Waller – Teacher; Donna Cross – Teacher; Jordan Huberdeau – Teacher; Jane Chandler – Teacher; Ashley Harrison – Teacher; Tara Pitz – Teacher; Brock Davies – Teacher; Richard West – Teacher; Troy Leslie – Teacher; Darrell Corbel – Teacher; Jason Routledge – Teacher; Hanna Cantello – Teacher; Kaitlyn Burgess – Teacher; Taylor Braybrook – Teacher; Samantha Simms – Teacher; Dustin Asham – Teacher; Jeff Peel – Teacher;

Tyra Zander – Teacher; Erin Hagan – Resource; Linda Eastman – Teacher; Kerri Fries – EA; Angie Weins – EA; Susan Linski – EA; Maureen Senff – EA; Monique Waller – EA; Sheila Bell - Teacher; Tanya Smart – Library; Tarsem Singh - Head Custodian; Yevhen Kozar - Cleaner; Samantha Genaille - Cleaner;



GOULTER SCHOOL

Will Noseworthy - School Administrator; Janet White - Admin. Assistant; Karla Davidson – Teacher; Trudy Clarke – Teacher; Karla Robertson – Teacher; Chelsey Kinnaird – Teacher; Lisa Hodgins – Teacher; Josee Maguet – Teacher; Sasha Simpson – Teacher; Erin Draper – Teacher; Taylor Nahachewsky – Teacher;

Kimorie Lees – Teacher; Jennifer Anderson – Resource; Donnelda Wheelans - Literacy Support; Jill Radwanski – Music; Linda Eastman – Dakota; Allison Price – EA; Rachelle Gray – EA; Randi Foulliard – EA; Faye HiEagle – EA; Carla Gabrielle – EA; Tonja Bokkel – EA; Candace Gerrand – EA; Jolei Cuny – CDN; Cindy Mahoney – Library; Marc Talbot - Head Custodian; Diane DeMare – Cleaner;



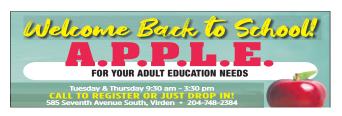
MARY MONTGOMERY SCHOOL

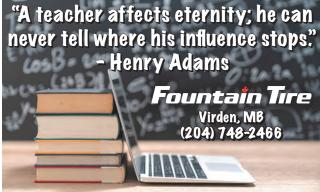
Brad Hayward - School Administrator; Amanda Andries - Admin. Assistant; Juliana Hole – Teacher; Natasha Peper - Literacy Support; Tammy Pidborchynski – Teacher; Janelle Wood – Teacher; Kelsey McLeod – Teacher; Racquel Halland – Teacher; Lisa Pearn – Teacher; Colleen Lewis – Teacher; Jill Warkentin – Teacher; Lorie Garcia – Teacher; Ceri Johnson – Teacher; Alana George Whittle – Resource; Brad Hayward – Teacher; Lydia Anderson – EA; Lisa Cranston – EA; Jackie Champagne – EA; Elodie Schnell – EA;

Laura Chapman – Library; Barb Perrin - Head Custodian; Marissa Samson – Cleaner;

A.P.P.L.E. LITERACY CENTRE

Beatrice Norton - Teacher Sherron Rhodes - Teacher





OLCS gets started with open house

Submitted

By Mrs. Brenda Masson, Principal

Each year brings positive change at Oak

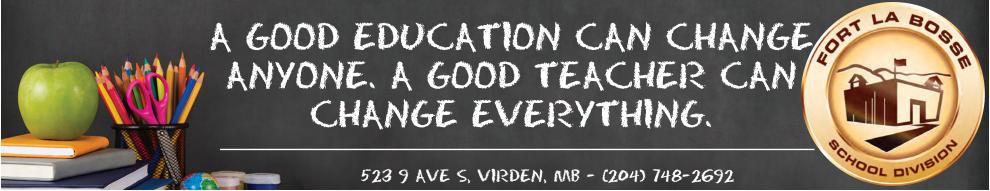
Lake Community School, and we eagerly welcomed new and returning students and their families with an open house on the afternoon of Sept. 4. Children and their families dropped by the school to meet their classroom teachers and put school supplies away. This made for a calm and smooth start to the year as any first-day nerves were soothed and supplies were organized.

A brand-new school year means a shiny and clean school. Indoors we are pleased to report that our gymnasium is sporting a high-tech projector. This addition has been co-sponsored by our Parent Advisory Council and school budgets and we look forward to a safer, more dependable source of connectivity for assemblies and programs!

Our main hallway has been the site of a major redo of ceiling tiles and the installation of LED lighting. All physical spaces in OLCS have been deep cleaned, furnished, and are awaiting the arrival of students.

We truly appreciate the ongoing support and help of OLCS families in preparing for the new school year. Our community's commitment to ensuring that OLCS remains a celebrated and successful school is so inspirational. It continues to be an honor and privilege to serve as principal of Oak Lake Community School and I welcome and value our community's positive energy and dedication to excellence in education. Together we will make this school year one of growth and achievement for all students as we learn, make friends, and have lots of fun in 2024-25.





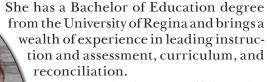
PWSD has new Assistant Superintendent

Submitted

PARK WEST SCHOOL DIVISION

At the end of the 2023-24 school year, Park West Board of Trustees announced Louise Langevin as the new Assistant Superintendent, effective Aug. 4, 2024.

Langevin has twenty-four years of experience in Park West, including six years in school leadership and four years in curriculum support. She has held a variety of roles including classroom teacher, guidance teacher, literacy and numeracy coach, and principal in two schools within the division.

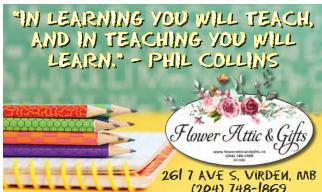


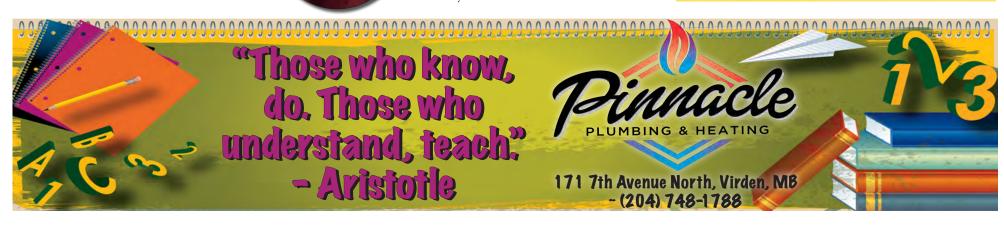
She is said to bring a collaborative and inclusive leadership style, and a commitment to supporting the students and educators of Park West School Division.

Louise is married to Ryan Murray and is the proud mother of Emily and Aiden. She lives with her family on a farm near Decker.

Stephen David continues as Superintendent/CEO and Rick Hrycrak is secretary-treasurer.









EVERYONE HOME SAFE EVERY DAY.



Back to school can mean the return of lice

Submitted

By Metro Creative

The start of a new school year often means shopping for supplies, making new friends and getting acclimated to the teaching styles of new teachers. Unfortunately, a new school year also can mean head lice.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says there is no precise data regarding how many people get head lice each year. However, an estimated six to 12 million infestations occur each year in the United States among children between the ages of three and 11.

What is head lice?

The Minnesota Department of Health says a head louse is an insect that can infest people. Lice make their homes in human hair and feed on blood. Head lice multiply rapidly by laying small, gray-colored,

oval-shaped eggs known as nits. The nits are sticky and attach to the base of the hair close to the scalp. Unlike other blood-sucking insects, such as mosquitoes or ticks, head lice are not known to spread disease.

Who gets head lice?

Head lice do not discriminate when they choose a person. They are equal opportunity feeders and will hop on just about any scalp for a meal. Head lice are not indicative of a lack of hygiene.

The CDC says infestation with head lice is most common among preschool-and elementary school-aged children and members of their household, including caretakers.

What are the signs of head lice?

Itching is the most common symptom of head lice, says the Mayo Clinic. A louse bite causes an allergic reaction. Itchiness may

occur on the scalp, neck and ears. During visual inspections of the hair and scalp, one may be able to see lice and nits. However, both the eggs and the lice themselves are very small, so it can be challenging to spot them.

Parents and caregivers who suspect a child has lice should consult with a school nurse or a pediatrician. Studies show that many children are treated for head lice with home remedies or nonprescription medications when they didn't even have lice. Dandruff, residue from hair products, scabs, or even dirt can be mistaken for lice.

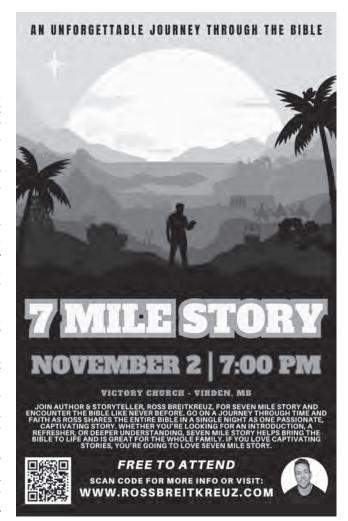
How can head lice be prevented?

The most common way to contract head lice is through head-to-head contact. Children should avoid head contact during play and other activities at school and home. Although transmission through shared brushes, combs, towels, hats, and clothing is less common, it is still possible, so sharing of these items should be discouraged.

The CDC says using a hot water cycle in the laundry and the high heat drying cycle can kill head lice on clothing and other items. Seal items that cannot be washed in a plastic bag and store them for two weeks.

Vacuum the floor and furniture to remove any nits or lice that have fallen off the head. Fumigant sprays or fogs, which can be toxic if inhaled, are not necessary to control head lice, indicates the CDC.

A new school year may compel families to think about lice. Although lice is a nuisance, infestations can be treated.



Craig Russell continues as chairperson

Brief from Inaugural and Regular meetings of FLBSD Board of Trustees, Monday, Sept. 9

By Empire-Advance Staff

EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Fort La Bosse School Division Board of Trustees held two meetings Monday, Sept. 9

Present at both meetings: Board members Craig Russell (chairperson), Becky Flannery, Nicole Chaske, Teresa Vandenberghe, Kayla Moore, Bonnie James; Staff: B. Pitz, Superintendent of Schools; K. Reid, Secretary-Treasurer; M. Johnston, Supervisor of Operations

At the Inaugural meeting 7:30 officers were chosen for the 2024-25 school year.

In the election of chair of the board, Nicole Chaske nominated Craig Russell. Kayla Moore nominated Becky Flannery who did not accept the nomination and Craig Russell was elected board chairperson by acclamation.

Kayla Moore nominated Becky Flannery as vicechairperson and by acclamation she was elected vicechairperson.

Meyers Norris Penny LLP was, by a motion, appointed as auditor for the division for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025 with remuneration as agreed upon between the auditor and the division.

Mr. Glen Harasymchuk was appointed as solicitor for the division for the school year with remuneration on a fee for service basis.

The Inaugural meeting adjourned and the Regular Board of Trustees meeting followed at 8pm.

Board approves fall season activities

At the Regular meeting, no business arose from the previous minutes.

Delegations and visitation

A delegation was present to appeal a school of choice denial for their child. The Board discussed at length and a written decision will be sent to the delegation.

Administrative reports

Superintendent Barry Pitz provided an updated schedule of open houses being held in schools around the Division.

Resolutions were presented for the approval of off-school-site activities for the VCI Varsity Girls Volleyball team, the Oak Lake Community School swim program and for the Reston School Varsity Girls Volleyball team.

Fees

The Secretary-Treasurer presented a resolution to approve the 2024-2025 property and liability loss of our Manitoba Schools Insurance program. Insurance coverage was reviewed, as compared to both the budget and last year's costs. Information was provided on updates to the CPI and unemployment figures for the month of July, as well as on a recent settlement between a Seine River School Division and their unionized bus drivers.

A motion was presented for approval to pay the 2024-2025 Manitoba School Boards Association membership fee.

Buildings and buses

A resolution was approved authorizing the borrowing of \$59,800 by way of promissory note held by the Province of Manitoba for the finalization of the Virden Junior High roof top unit replacement project and the Elkhorn School science lab project that was cancelled prior to tender.

In the transportation department, the Supervisor of Operations reported that the fuel tender has been sent out for FLBSD bus/vehicle fleet.

There is a new digital transportation request form accessible on the Division website for parents

that will make the application for transportation easier and more efficient.

In maintenance, the division is awaiting final approval to go to tender for the boiler replacement project at Mary Montgomery School. Motions were presented to pay invoices for the arch restoration at Mary Montgomery School as well as roof repairs required at Reston School.

Special Committee reports

The Board of Trustees received a report from the Negotiations Committee meeting held Sept. 9, 2024. A motion was presented to approve an employment contract

amendment as recommended by the Committee.

New and unfinished business

Trustee Nicole Chaske, who also serves as the Region 1 Director for the Manitoba School Boards

Association, provided an update on the business of the Association on behalf of school boards.

In-camera session

Aconfidential communication was discussed in-camera by the Board of Trustees.

Informational correspondence

-Elkhorn Grad recipients' appreciation letters

Resolutions

The Board unanimously approved:

-0.15 FTE term increase for Deb Peters commencing Sept. 4, and concluding Oct. 28,2024 or the day before the day the teacher she is replacing is able to return to work.

- the overnight and out of province trip for 10 VCI Gr. 11 & 12 students to a volleyball tournament in Regina on Sept. 6 and 7; swimming for 35 Gr. 3-8 Oak Lake Community School students at Brandon Sportsplex - 10 sessions (September, October, and November); 10 Grade 10-12 Reston School students' overnight trip to a volleyball tournament in Gilbert Plains, on Sept. 13 - 14.

-payment to Manitoba School Boards Association (MSBA) of \$14,114 for liability loss pool contribution

-payment to MSBA of \$69,290.40 for property loss pool contribution and our MSDS contribution fee

-payment to MSBA of \$30,842.87 plus applicable taxes for our 2024-2025 membership fee.

-Promissory Note for borrowing of \$59,800 for the payment of costs of various projects as listed on Schedule B. -payment to Get Brick'd of \$5,244.75, taxes included,

for brick and stucco repair at Mary Montgomery School. -the payment to Flynn Canada LTD. of \$5,088.30, taxes

included, for roof repairs at Reston School.

-the employment contract amendments as recommended by the Negotiations Committee and detailed in the minutes of the meeting dated Sept. 9, 2024.

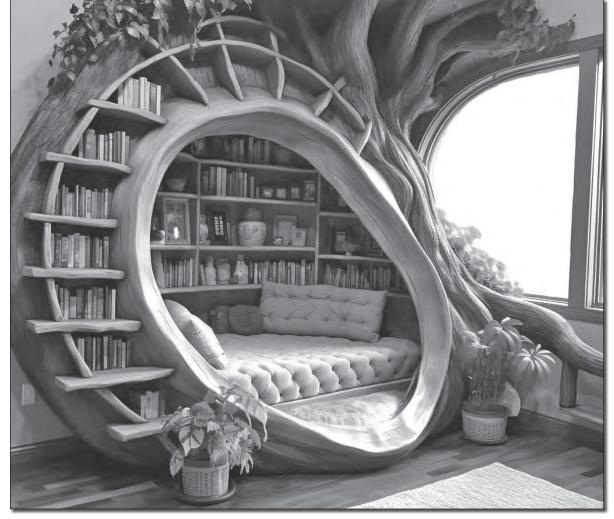
The meeting adjourned at 9:45pm.

Winter is the time for comfort and a good book

By Jessica Coulter **EMPIRE-ADVANCE**

s harvest season continues and the chill hits the air, we are reminded that colder times are ahead of us. A chance to stay inside and cozy up with a good book is right around the corner. Do you have a favourite place to read your books? Do you have a favourite genre, fiction, non-fiction, history, science, thriller, fantasy, mystery, romance, western, and the list goes on?

Our local libraries have a little bit of everything, and if they don't have the book, you are looking for, it might be possible for them to get the book for you. Our libraires share books between them and can easily transfer a book from library to library using a local trade system they have set up with the post office. If you don't already have one, it might be time to head on down to



the library and get yourself a membership card.

Once you have the right book for you, it is time to find the right place to read it. Some place quiet and comfortable. You are going to want to avoid distractions. A place where you can put your feet up, with extra pillows and a blanket if you need. And don't forget the snacks. A cup of coffee, tea, or hot chocolate will help keep you warm on a cold day while diving in the pages of another world. Reading takes you to a different place, and time. You get to experience the views of a different person.

So, make sure to make this a family night when everyone grabs their favourite book and sits together to read. Or find that quiet place for yourself. Or join a book club and make your love of books a group thing. However you prefer to read, always make sure you make time for it.

Council sets conditions for conservation group

RM of Wallace-Woodworth Sept, 17 council meeting brief for Sept. 17

By Dale Davison EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Development Officer Cory Nixon attended the meeting to present an application from landowner Hilda Booth to subdivide the property located at NW-3-10-27 W.

Nixon confirmed that there is an approach to the residual lands, so there would be access to both parcels, and recommended that this application be approved as it was proposed. Council approved the application.

Ducks Unlimited Canada (DU) is in the process of acquiring this property through its Revolving Land Purchase program. Through this program, DU purchases land, restores its wetlands and grasslands and then makes it available to buyers on the real estate market with a conservation easement on the title.

DU has previously been in contact with Wallace-Woodworth asking for assurance that the RM has no objection to the plan and council has requested clarification of any drainage plans that might affect municipal infrastructure. Reeve Clayton Canartsaid, "If the wetlands grow and cause repair or maintenance cost to our infrastructure, we need the ability to have them either reduce the wetland or help with the drainage, whateverittakes."

Council will send a letter of no objection with these conditions included.

The property owners at 106 Foxford Avenue in Elkhorn have requested approval for their plans to move a small building onto their lot where it adjoins a municipal roadway. The owners have used and maintained that portion of the property for many years. Since there is no bylawregulating this situation council agreed to consult neighbouring residents and enact an easement agreement to allow this use.

Coun. Val Caldwell made

a resolution to nominate Reeve Clayton Cannart for the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) Vice President position.

OTHER BUSINESS

Amber Feldman, the new municipal executive assistant, attended the meeting to be introduced and familiarize herself with the way council meetings are conducted.

Council approved the installation of two "watch for children" signs on Road 54 West, near SE 5-10-28.

ACAO Iris Vercaigne presented the results of the requests for proposals to supply and deliver fuel for municipal equipment. Approval of the proposal was tabled to allow administration to clarify some of the details regarding the pricing of the fuel.

Payment to Southern Water Systems in the amount of \$12,420.30 for the purchase and installation of the new membrane treatment unit booster



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The RM office of Wallace-Woodworth.

pump at the Ward 2 public water system was approved.

The rebate from the Canada Community Building Fundfive-yearmunicipalallocation, formerly known as the gas tax rebate, has been determined. Manitoba's payment has been reduced because population growth has slowed relative to other provinces.

Council appointed the firm of Census Chartered Accountants to conduct the audit for the municipality.

Reeve Canart reported

that the new Elkhorn RTM daycare is nearing completion, and the daycare program group is projected to take charge of the facility in October. The operator will then have to go through the licensing process with the government and use of the facility is projected to begin sometime in November.

The RM has been invited to attend the dedication of the new mural on the Royal Bank building. The ceremony will take place on Monday, Sept. 30, Truth and Reconciliation Day.

Coun. Caldwell attended a presentation at Brandon University by Dr. Brian Goldman of the CBC program "White Coat, Black Art". He said there are 215 doctors for every 100,000 people. The average across Canada is 247 doctors for every 100,000 people. He expressed approval of the new satellite medical campus being created at BU and noted that if you want people to work here, you need to find the ones who come from here.

SPORTS

JOSEPH ENJOYING TIME IN MINOT

By Robin Wark

EMPIRE-ADVANCE

or Elkhorn's Colby Joseph, Minot has certainly been the Magic City.

Last winter the son of Dawn and Gord Joseph had a successful first season for a strong Minot State University men's hockey team. That came after he spent two campaigns with the North American Hockey League's Minot Minotauros.

"It was amazing playing in Minot again and being close to home," Jospeh said. "I'm so lucky to be able to stay in Minot for another four years after two years of junior. It's amazing being able to have family and friends be able to drive down and catch a game but also so nice being able to go home when I need and have that support system."

He has appreciated all of the support his family has provided over the years.

"My family has been nothing but awesome to me in my hockey career," Joseph said. "No matter what, they are there for me and are always my biggest fans and I'll never be able to thank them enough."

After Joseph's strong rookie season at the American Collegiate Hockey Association Division I level, the Beavers are looking for even more from him in his second campaign.

"He's got a year in the league and it's under his belt and I know he's comfortable.," MSU head coach Wyatt Waselenchuk said. "I know he loves it here at Minot and I'm going to expect big things out of him this year, for sure."

In 2023-2024, Joseph scored 14 goals in 37 games. The 6-foot-1, 185-pound forward also had eight assists.

"He's tough and I think that he plays his best hockey when he's hitting and when he's engaged and he's physical," Waselenchuk said. "He's got great speed, and he shoots the puck really, really well and, in the same breath, he did a real good job in the D-zone and was pretty responsible with it."

Joseph said he enjoyed various aspects of his first



PHOTO BY SEAN ARBAUT

season at MSU.

"The group of guys and coaching staff we have is phenomenal and it's so great to be in an environment where you get to push each other on the ice and in the classroom but also have so much fun doing it," he said.

Joseph had a strong start to his first university season as he lit the lamp in his debut. However, he said there were some adjustments that had to be made going from the junior hockey level to ACHA Division I play.

"It was a bigger jump than I thought," said Joseph, who played for the British Columbia Hockey League's Victoria Grizzlies in 2020-2021. "There were many

similarities to junior, but it's definitely different playing against older guys that are men and the quality of hockey and players I'm on the ice with makes you push yourself and become a better player."

Off the ice, his academic success earned him President's List recognition. Joseph is majoring in marketing currently with the hopes of attaining a double major in that field and business management.

"I find it interesting as I will have plenty of opportunities in different fields and am hoping to do something in ag business," he said.

OIL CAPS OPEN MJHL SEASON ON FRIDAY

By Robin Wark

EMPIRE-ADVANCE

the new look Virden Oil Capitals are ready for the season.

The Oil Capitals open the 2024-2025 Manie.

The Oil Capitals open the 2024-2025 Manitoba Junior Hockey League campaign at home on Sept. 20 against the Dauphin Kings. The two teams tangled in Dauphin the next night. On Sept. 24, the Oil Capitals visit Waywayseecappo. This season's edition of the Oil Capitals features many new faces. Only seven regulars are back from the 2023-2024 campaign.

"Ilike the work ethic of our group," head coach Tyson Ramsey said. "The young guys have been great; the returning players have been setting a high standard and I am excited to see the energy this group plays with. They will be fun to watch."

Last season the Oil Capitals topped the MJHL MGEU West Division with a 40-12-3-3 record. They fell in the semifinals in the playoffs. Up front Brett Sabel,

Moosomin's Marshall Light (five goals in 16 games), Luke Robson (17 points in 38 games), and Noel Englot (12 goals and 26 points as a rookie) return from that squad. Captain Ethan Guthrie leads a backend that will see Tyler Dodgson and Virden's own Ty Plaisier also back in the lineup. A couple of other familiar faces are also back. Forward Rhett Platt saw action in five games with the Oil Caps last season, while defenseman Rhylan Baxter played eight games for Virden before competing in 27 for the Winnipeg Blues.

"Our defence corps should be strong," Ramsey said. "We have two older goaltenders who can both win us games and our forward group will be hard to play against."

Twenty-year-old goalie Nik Trakakis had 1.74 goals against average with the Smith Falls Bears in Ontario last season. Gavin Renwick, a 19-year-old, joins the team after playing for the Neepawa Titans and Portage Terriers.

In addition to Light and Plaisier, the Oil Capitals' local contingent this season includes Virden's Hudson

Davidson, a defenceman, and Oak Lake Beach's Tyson Draper, a forward. Both players were autoprotected by the team in 2023 and competed in a handful of games as affiliated players' last season.

Preseason

The Oil Capitals wrapped up their preseason schedule last week. The team beat the Portage Terriers, 8-4, on the road on Sept. 10. Light and Campbell Epp each scored twice. Epp, Sabel, and Carter Polanski all had three points.

On Sept. 14 in Dauphin, the Oil Capitals fell 1-0 in a shootout. Renwick stopped all 32 shots he faced in regulation and overtime. Two of Dauphin's four shooters were able to score in the shootout. Light was Virden's lone shootout scorer.

Guthrie was the lone scorer in an epic 13 round shootout on Sept. 15 in Virden. He lifted the Oil Capitals to a 4-3 wn over Portage. Maxx Hamelin, Draper, and Englot had Virden's regulation goals. Two of Virden's goals came on the powerplay. Trakakis had 33 saves.

SPORTS

EX-OIL CAPS HELP MSU BEAVERS



Logan Rands.

By Robin Wark EMPIRE-ADVANCE

wo former Virden Oil Capitals defenseman will play big roles this coming winter for the Minot State University men's hockey team.

Brayden Pawluk will be playing his fifth season

with the North Dakota school team. Rands heads into his third campaign. They were both contributors on MSU's 2023 American Collegiate Hockey Association Division I championship team. As well, they were teammates on the Manitoba Junior Hockey League's Oil Capitals for part of the 2018-2019 season.

Pawluk, who is from Teulon, played in Virden in the 2017-2018 season. He started the next campaign with the club before being swapped to the Dauphin Kings. Pawluk also played for the Kings in 2019-2020 before heading to Minot State. Last season In Minot, he scored six goals and had career highs of 17 assists and 23 points in 35 games.

"He's just a great influence back there on the back end," MSU head coach Wyatt Waselenchuk said. "He shoots the puck a ton. We run our powerplay around him shooting the puck. We're excited to have him back. We are a pretty young team, so we'll count on him in a big way this year."

Rands played for the Oil Capitals in 2018-2023. In the 2020-2021 season that was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, he also suited up for the Cowichan Valley Capitals of the British Columbia Hockey League.

Rands started the 2022-2023 hockey season playing at the senior level for the Virden Oil Kings of the Tiger Hills Hockey League. He enrolled at Minot State following the Christmas break. He helped solidify the Beavers' defense for what turned out to be a championship team. This past season, Rands scored six goals and posted 15 points. The Portage product



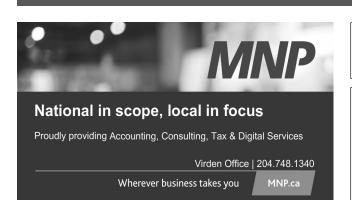
Brayden Pawluk.

has been regularly named to the President's List since heading to MSU.

"He's fantastic in the classroom. He's a meat and potatoes D-man. He never gets beat one-on-one. Always doing a good job of getting pucks out. ... He's just fantastic," Waselenchuk said. "We love having him here."

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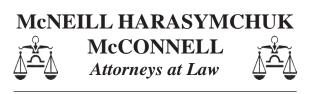
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Thank-you

Card of Thanks

A sincere thank you to relatives and dear friends for the meals, baking, flowers, garden vegetables, cards, kind inquires, prayers and driving us to appointments that I received after having surgery, cancer treatments, and numerous tests. Thank-you to my extraordinary husband for all of his love and care, hours of driving, waiting for me and being there for me every step of the way.

Thank you to the doctors and staff who took care of me.

All of you helped to encourage me. From the bottom of my heart, I sincerely thank all of you for your thoughtfulness and kindness. It was greatly appreciated.

- Lorraine Scott

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Notice

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: LOUIS ALBERT JOSEPH BOURGEOIS, also known as LOUIS BOURGEOIS, late of the Town of Virden, in the Province of Manitoba, deceased;

ALL claims against the above estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be filed with the undersigned at their office, 243 Raglan Street W., Box 520, Virden, MB, R0M 2C0, on or before the 5th day of November, 2024.

DATED at Virden, Manitoba, this 16th day of September, 2024.

> LARISSA SOSNOWSKI -MCNEILL HARASYMCHUK MCCONNELL SOLICITOR FOR THE EXECUTOR

Manitoba Community Newspaper **Association Province Wide** Classifieds

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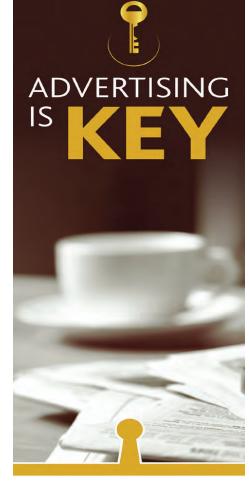
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Now at the Train Station Hand knit slippers, dishcloths + towels Coming soon mitts.

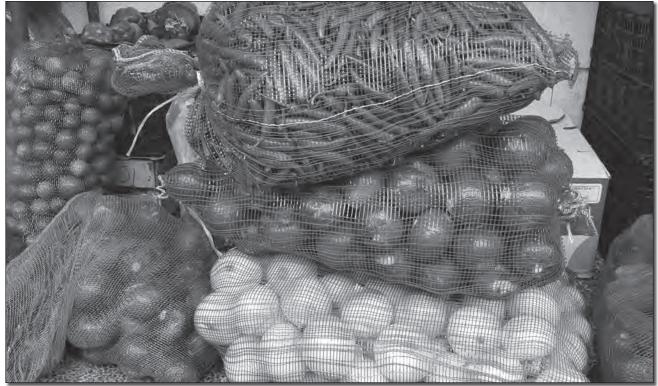
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Harvesting and Storage



Submitted By Patricia Hanbidge

As September continues, gardeners are still eating and pro-

cessing the harvest from their gardens. It is extremely important when harvesting fruits and vegetables from the garden to ensure that the field heat is removed from the harvested produce as soon as possible. If it suits your timetable, pick prior to the heat of the day so that the produce is as cool as possible.

Hopefully, you have been processing and picking the excess throughout the summer as it is important to put food away while it is at the peak of quality. Carefully pick to ensure that the harvest is free of nicks, bruises and other damage, so that you are putting away the best quality of food. If there is damage to the fruit and vegetables you are picking, then those should be consumed at the dinner table as soon as possible rather than stored for winter.

Much of what we harvest, we do not have to process so it is important to understand the proper storage conditions for what you are harvesting. The temperature and the relative humidity (RH) are the main considerations when considering storage of non-processed fruit and vegetables. There are three basic types of storage: cold and dry (0 to 5C and 65% RH), cool and moist (0 to 10C with 95% RH), and warm and dry (10C and 60% RH).

Please note that these are optimal conditions for storage and any temperatures or humidity that are different than these optimal conditions will shorten your shelf life. Our basements are generally cool and dry during

our colder months and our home refrigerators can be considered cold and dry. Putting vegetables in perforated plastic bags will give a good short-term storage option for those that require cold and moist conditions. If you are lucky enough to have a root cellar, then you can likely easily store potatoes for the entire winter and beyond. Do note that any type of storage does need to provide ventilation as the vegetables are still respiring and thus are producing moisture. Ensure you clean the storage facility prior to storing any products and ensure that there are no potential rodent infestations.

On the prairies, we can produce as good an apple as the Okanagan or the Annapolis Valley. If you have space, then ensure you always have apple trees in your garden. There are many dwarf cultivars that can be grown if space is limited. Ensure that you choose cultivars in regard to the purpose of your processing or storage. Early apples generally need some type of processing, while later season apples will have a better storability without processing. To store your apples, keep them in store best in the dark at a temperature just above freezing. A covering of perforated poly will help to prevent shrivelling. As apples exude ethylene gas ensure you do not store them with leafy green or cole crops as those crops are damaged by exposure to ethylene.

Carrots, cabbage, beets, parsnips, new potatoes, peppers, cantaloupe, watermelon, beans and rutabagas like cool/cold, moist conditions with good ventilation. Ensure that these crops go into storage when they have dried thoroughly. Beets, parsnips, carrots, cabbage, beans, peppers and rutabagas will lose moisture readily so cover them with perforated poly. They do well at the bottom end of the range at 0 to 5C. Potatoes will keep the best quality if they are stored at about 4 C when mature. Tomatoes like to be stored a bit warmer at about 10 to 15C. All of these vegetables should be stored in the dark.

Peppers, pumpkins, squash and sweet potatoes should be stored in warm, dry conditions.

Garlic and onions prefer cold and dry storage conditions. If you happen to be harvesting seed for next year, most seed will store best if it has matured appropriately, cleaned and then stored in cold, dry conditions.

Hope you have a great harvest!

Tundra Oil & Gas Place: 204-748-2736

Facility Bookings: 204-748-2440

Emergency After Hours: 204-851-5540



Town Office: 204-748-2440

Waste Disposal Grounds: 204-748-6033

Animal Control: 204-851-1810

Tundra Oil and Gas Place

Public skating, and sticks & pucks have resumed for the Fall/Winter season.

Check our facilities calendar for up to date schedules.

Upcoming Council Meeting: September 17 & October 1

Town of Virden Council meetings begin at 7:00 PM



Dog and Cat Licenses

Available for purchase at the Town Office.

Winter Ice **Available for Booking**

2024/2025 Winter Season Ice is available to book at Tundra Oil and Gas Place.

Time slots will be available on a first-come, firstserved basis.

For available times, check the Facility Calendar at https://app.univerusrec.com/virdenpub/calendars/ facilities/index.asp, or email bookings@virden.ca.

Virden Spray Park

Open daily 10:00 AM-8:00 PM



School Zone Reminder



Reduced speed limits in school zones are in effect as of September 1.

Please remember to travel safely in and around school zones.

Check your mailbox!

2024 Property Tax Notices have been sent out.

If you haven't received yours, please contact the Town Office at 204-748-2440.

2024 Property Taxes are due by October 31, 2024.

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Dear friends, family and supporters

Submitted

By Samantha Koroscil

Xavier, a brave little fighter, prepares for his fourth open-heart surgery, a procedure known as the Fontan. For over two years, Xavier has been waiting for this life-changing surgery, and after enduring years of medical treatments, it's finally time.

Xavier's journey has been nothing short of courageous. Over the years, he has undergone numerous procedures, including 8 cardiac catheterizations and 3 open heart surgeries in Edmonton, along with hundreds of tests and scans to manage his complex heart condition. Now, with this upcoming surgery this September, we hope it will give him the chance for a brighter, healthier future.

His parents, Bree and Brad, have been by his side

matters most: Xavier's health and recovery.

If you wish to contribute, donations can be made to the Xavier Kyle Trust Fund at the Credit Union in Virden, Manitoba. Or via e-transfer to xaviersheartjourney@outlook.com

Thankyou so much for your support, and kindness. Please share Xavier's story and keep him in your thoughts and prayers. Together, we can help Xavier and his family through this difficult journey."



Bree and Brad with their brave son Xavier who is about to have his fourth open heart surgery.

through every hospital stay and procedure. As you can imagine, the costs of medications, travel, and time away from work have placed a financial burden on their family. We are raising funds to support them during this critical time so they can focus on what

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Junior high and senior high school students compete at Oak Lake

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

anitoba High School Rodeo Association held a two-day event, Sept. 14, and 15, at Oak Lake Agricultural grounds where families, including many grandparents, gathered to cheer on both junior high and high school competitors, some coming from as far away as North Dakota and points in western Saskatchewan.

Many students were local: Virden's Emily and Maddie Warkentin, Jemma and Leigh Day, Keightley Stewart, Slone, Kesler, Carter, Dawson and Sadie Brown, Harley and Slade Hagan, Amelia Crawford, and Luke Plett; from Lenore, Jo-Hanna Logan; Elkhorn's Hayden and Kirby Gray, and Ottlie McCallum; Garrettand Spencer Gompf of Oak Lake; Lane Nykoliation and Alexandria Boryskavich of Hamiota; Luna Stone of Miniota, and Gracie Johnston of Griswold.

Both the juniors and high school students competed in bull riding, team roping pole bending, break away roping, goat tying, ribbon roping, tie down roping, team roping, barrel racing and pole bending. There's also chute dogging for the juniors. Related to steer wrestling, the cowboy starts the event in a roping chute with the steer as opposed to grabbing onto the steer from horseback. These animals can weigh as much as 500 pounds and must be flipped onto their side by the dogger.

This full run of classes also included a reining cow horse eventwhere horse and rider must sorted out a single animal and kept it from getting back with the others for a certain period of time. A very practical skill for ranch work and one where a good stock horse, with its eye on the cow, can make sudden darts and be difficult to stay on.

Virden's Slade Hagan topped the Saturday reining cow horse competition with a score of 140.5 while Kelsey McGee od Deloraine won Sunday and was second on Saturday with 140 points both days. Harley Hagan's best score was 137.5, Ottlie McCallum had 136.5 score Sunday, and Alex Boryskavich's best was 134.

The bull riding events had few competitors. Among the junior high, Hayden Gray had two successful rides scoring 58 and 62; Lennon Ameel from Oxbow, Sask. scored 57. In the high school event over the two days Jett Lockie of Waskada scored 76, Zavery Hollingshead and Joel Fisk of Moosomin scored 66 and 40 respectively.

All the scores are available at rodeoprogram.com/

Kids are learning more than how to throw a rope, dismount at a run, ride a bucking bull or navigate poles when they compete in Manitoba High School Rodeo. These well-trained horses and ponies require ongoing conditioning and care. And just like any school sport, honest sportsmanship and drug/alcohol free conduct is a must as well as good citizenship.





It's a beautiful day for outdoor rodeoing at Oak Lake on Sept. 14. These high school rodeo cowgirls (I-r) Ottlie McCallum of Elkhorn, Alexandria Boryskavich of Hamiota and Amelia Crawford of Virden are visiting before their next event.



Kesler Brown of Virden is intent on a catch while his JH ribbon roping partner Mardi Cowan of Gainsborough is waiting (not pictured) to race to the calf and grab the ribbon.

Throughout the day a canteen operated by volunteers, including some rodeo competitors, served up grill food and an array of tasty deserts. Late day Saturday there was



PHOTOS BY ANNE DAVISOI

Another aspect of MHSRA is good food and fundraising with delicious donated desserts. Here Stetson Cutler (left) and Kaleb Kelly lend a hand at the food booth.

a treasure hunt throughout the town of Oak Lake. This family event was designed to foster camaraderie among the MHSRA members.

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