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AUGUST 14, 2026 | EMPIRE: VOL 121 NO 52 / ADVANCE: VOL 141 NO 2 | PUBLISHING FRIDAYS

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**WELCOME
RODEO FANS**

Museum Day at the Pioneer Home Museum celebrates community, history, and local support



PHOTO BY BETH MCCONNELL

WDFD Fire Fighters man the grill. From left to right: Joel Numier, Cory Nixon, Deanna Pizunski and John Stewart.

By Beth McConnell

EMPIRE ADVANCE

Museum Day at the Pioneer Home Museum once again proved why it remains one of Virden's most cherished summer traditions. With perfect weather, a full roster of volunteers, and strong support from local businesses, the event brought together families, neighbours, and visitors for a day filled with food, fun, and hometown pride.

The grounds were lively from the moment the gates opened. A bright orange sign welcomed guests with the promise of BBQ, \$2 tours, raffles, and 50/50 draws, setting the tone for a day built around community engagement and museum

fundraising.

A major highlight was the barbecue station, run by the Virden Fire Department, including the fire chief, Cory Nixon. Their team kept the grill going steadily, serving hot dogs, hamburgers, and cheeseburgers throughout the afternoon. The firefighters' presence added a familiar and friendly touch, and many visitors stopped by not just for lunch, but to chat and thank them for their service.

The ladies at the raffle and ticket tables were busy, selling the food, 50/50 entries, and managing a long lineup of raffle prizes.

read more about Museum Days on page 2...

Inside...



**SAIL FASHION
SHOW AND
TEA**

P8



**VIRDEN
MINIATURE
HORSE SHOW**

P9

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WE WILL BE CLOSED FROM
AUG 24 - AUG 28
FOR A SUMMER BREAK.
NO NEWSPAPERS ON
AUGUST 28

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Locally rooted, classically trained

By Lauren Halowaty
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Southwestern Manitoba's music scene is home to a versatile and active talent: Bennett, known by his artist name, "Bennet-trad." A recent graduate of Brandon University with a degree in Voice Performance, Bennett has quickly become a standout musician in the region.

What makes Bennett unique is his incredible range. He is classically trained in voice, but he seamlessly moves between musical theatre and contemporary music. Local fans in Brandon likely know him from his diverse performances, which include solo acoustic sets, gigs as a hospital guitarist, and energetic band appearances. This summer alone, he performed at events like Music in the Park and the Downtown Summer Market alongside the Winnipeg group AWIITIN.

Beyond his individual and band work, Bennett is deeply involved in the wider choral community. He is a member of the acclaimed Brandon choir, Konektis, and even represented Manitoba in the National Youth Choir of Canada this past spring.

He isn't slowing down as the seasons change, either. This September, he will be playing guitar in the pit band for Virden Theatre Productions' staging of Dear Evan Hansen.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Bennett seen performing at Arts Mosaic last week in the old Train Station

When he isn't on stage, Bennett is focused on creating his own music. He is an active songwriter and producer who recently released his second full-length album, *The Mountain*, which is available now under the name Bennet-trad. Whether he is singing classical pieces, playing guitar for musical theatre, or producing new original songs, Bennett has established himself as a multifaceted and essential part of the Manitoba music landscape.

Oak Lake Beach Farmers Market



PHOTO BY JESSICA COULTER

Farmers markets open every Saturday from 10am to noon.

By Jessica Coulter
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Farmers markets bring communities together by connecting local growers directly with shoppers to sell fresh food, crafts, and baked goods. Farmers markets provide one of the only low-barrier entry points for beginning farmers, allowing them to start small, test the market, and grow their businesses.

Every Saturday all summer long, the Oak Lake Beach Resort invites people to come to the park next to the pool and shop at their farmers' market. The organizer of the Oak Lake Beach Farmers Market, Roberta Jones stated that she has, on average, 24 vendors set up every Saturday morning before 10am. If you want to get your hands on the fresh baked goods, you have to get there fast as they usually sell out first. Fresh produce does not last long either and everyone loves the taste of fresh carrots, corn and potatoes. If you are getting ready for a birthday, anniversary or other holiday, you cannot go wrong with purchasing a handmade craft by one of the Artisans sharing their talents.

Museum Day at the Pioneer Home Museum



PHOTO BY BETH MCCONNELL

Leeanna Russell and Susan Ivey selling 50/50 tickets, Find the Joker, lettuce that is grown at the museum and history books.

Continued from page 1...

Their table was stocked with jars, tickets, and a wide assortment of donated items, everything from gift baskets to local goods. With plenty of prizes available, guests were eager to take part, knowing their contributions supported the museum.

Adding a playful spark to the day was Prairie Gateway, who set up their popular Plinko board. The booth drew a steady crowd of kids and adults, each hoping their chip would land in a winning slot. The sound of Plinko tokens bouncing down the board became part of the day's soundtrack, adding excitement to the museum lawn.

Around the grounds, tables were filled with books, pamphlets, museum merchandise, and community information. Volunteers staffed each station, answering questions and helping visitors explore the museum's history. The \$2 tours offered an affordable way for families to learn about the Pioneer Home's heritage, and many took advantage of the opportunity.

This year's Museum Day was made possible thanks to a strong lineup of local sponsors, proudly displayed on a large sign near the main entrance. Their contributions helped ensure the event remained accessible, well supplied, and welcoming for all.

From the grill to the raffle tables, from Plinko to museum tours, Museum Day was a celebration of what makes Virden special, community involvement, local pride, and a shared commitment to preserving history. Volunteers, businesses, and visitors came together to support the Pioneer Home Museum, making this year's event both successful and memorable.

Virden Ink, where big talent, local heart and zero judgement meet

By Lauren Halowaty
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

When the word “tattoo” comes to mind, what do you picture? It probably isn’t ancient mummies. Yet, according to the Smithsonian Institution, tattooing is a prehistoric practice dating back over 5,300 years. This is evidenced by the 61 tattoos discovered on the mummy known as Ötzi the Iceman. Predating other ancient examples like the Chinchorro mummies, these markings were applied using hand-poking techniques with tools made of bone or obsidian. While their exact cultural meaning remains unknown, many of these black lines and crosses align with joints and areas prone to pain, suggesting that the earliest tattoos served a therapeutic or medicinal purpose similar to acupuncture rather than pure decoration. Ultimately, these ancient findings prove that body art is nothing new; it was an

established part of human health and social ritual long before the modern era.

For my generation in Manitoba, turning 18 and getting a tattoo felt like a rite of passage, almost as routine as getting your ears pierced as a child. Today, nearly everyone I know, from teenagers to folks in their mid-60s across Generation X, Millennials, and Generation Z, are getting inked across diverse cultures and religions. Body art is no longer taboo and hasn’t been for decades, regardless of what past generations might have assumed. Still, speaking with older peers reveals a time not long ago when tattoos seemed to be associated only with sailors and criminals. It seems almost silly now, given that people from all walks of life wear permanent art on their skin. In fact, not having a tattoo feels like more of a rarity these days.

This cultural evolution has brought a surge of creative talent right to our doorsteps. Local ink shops

are popping up in small towns, with talented artists setting up shop to meet an ever-growing demand. Having custom artwork on your body has never been more accessible, or more embraced.

Enter Virden Ink, owned by Frank Devine and located in one of the historic buildings on 7th Avenue South right next to Shari Lyn Fashions. Head artist Fatty—yes, you read that right—brings over 35 years of experience as a tattoo artist. Fatty felt his specialized skills as a realist and portrait artist were something Virden could truly benefit from. As a lover of art in all its forms, I couldn’t agree more. Fatty is also joined by friends like Stewie from Last Studio on the Left, who lends his talent as a part-time artist to help serve the growing clientele.

If anything, stepping into a studio like this is the ultimate reminder never to judge a book by its cover. Behind the head-to-toe ink that might initially intimidate a first-time visitor,

Fatty is a father, cat dad, and humble human who brings remarkable warmth, strength, and heart to his craft. He is deeply professional, his studio is pristine, and his sense of humour is top-notch. Standing in his shop, I realized that writing a story about this local venture would feel far more authentic if I experienced it firsthand. As a reporter, taking the plunge and getting a tattoo on my lunch break was the right call: it was efficient, impeccably executed, thoroughly impressive, and reasonably priced!

Virden Ink is open almost daily, with only the occasional day off. Fatty will be open throughout Rodeo Weekend, including Thursday during Downtown Daze, Friday, and Saturday. Walk-ins are always welcome, and the shop is eager to collaborate on whatever creative ideas you bring through the door. They are equally happy to help cover up an old regret from your twenties or erase an ex’s name,



PHOTO BY LAUREN HALOWATY

One of the artsy walls in the studio

completely judgment-free. Perhaps that is the truest beauty of it all: despite what you’ve heard or how you were raised, appearances are never a reason to judge, and everyone deserves a chance.

You can visit the shop

at 423 7th Ave. S, check out Fatty’s portfolio on Instagram @inkedbyfatty, or give him a call the old-school way at 204-596-3174. Whether you’re a seasoned collector, a total newcomer, or just curious to inquire, stop by or give them a ring.

À La Carte 447, a long held dream finds its home inside Garb & Guise



PHOTO BY LAUREN HALOWATY

The interior of Garb & Guise and À La Carte 447.

By Beth McConnell
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

A new chapter has opened inside Garb & Guise with the arrival of À La Carte 447—an intimate café built from decades of memories, experiences, and determination. Though new to Virden, the dream behind it began in the owner’s childhood kitchens, where family gathered around comforting food, Coke floats lined the

counter, and the sweet smell of sucre à la crème filled their grandparents’ farmhouses. Those early moments of joy and togetherness planted the idea of creating a place where people could gather over beautiful food and drinks.

Their love of serving others grew through years spent working alongside talented cooks, bakers, chefs, and servers. Travel also shaped their vision, especially a first trip to Mexico,

where fresh coastal dishes and pastries from tiny morning bakeries sparked the belief that someday they would open a café of their own.

That dream wasn’t easy to reach. Over the years, they pursued restaurant opportunities, renovated properties, and rebuilt after a devastating fire destroyed an early attempt to combine a boutique and café. Even as plans shifted, the vision

stayed alive. About a year and a half ago, they chose to stop waiting for the “perfect” moment and instead carved out a smaller, more personal café space within Garb & Guise. À La Carte 447 is the result.

The menu reflects the influences that shaped them: the richness of their French family’s baking, the freshness of coastal and Mediterranean flavours, and a love of experimenting until a dish feels just right. The café’s atmosphere is equally intentional and designed to feel like stepping into a small café in Guise, France, honouring their French-Belgian heritage and the original inspiration behind the name GARB & GUISE.

À La Carte 447 is opening in phases. The first offers coffee, tea, espresso, matcha, dirty sodas, non alcoholic sparkling spritzers, Italian sodas, and iced or steamed espresso and matcha drinks. Next comes pastries, desserts, Belgian waffles, and crêpes. Phase three will introduce lunch, brunch, and tapas, soups, salads, quiche, frittata, sandwiches, and rotating small plates, once the café is fully licensed. The beverage menu will be avail-

able at www.alacarte447.com by Thursday, with new items added as they’re introduced.

After more than 20 years of dreaming, rebuilding, and adapting, À La Carte 447 is finally here a warm, beautiful

place where people can gather, enjoy good food and drinks, and feel looked after. At its heart, it’s a continuation of the joy that began in a family kitchen many years ago.



**SIP,
SAVOR,
SHOP,
ENJOY!**

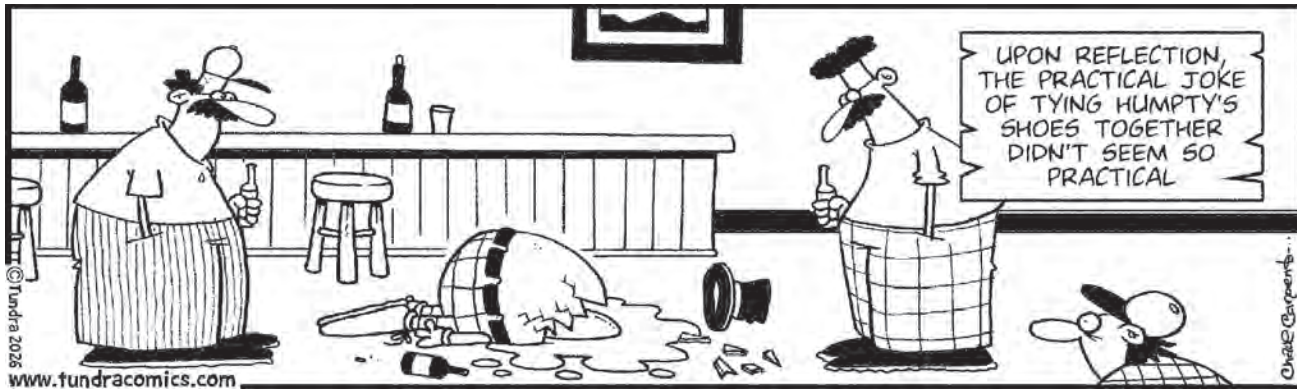
COFFEE, TEA, ESPRESSO, MATCHA, SODAS



**Located in GARB & GUISE
AT 447 7TH AVE S, Virden, MB
WWW.ALACARTE447.COM**

Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



Getting our priorities aligned

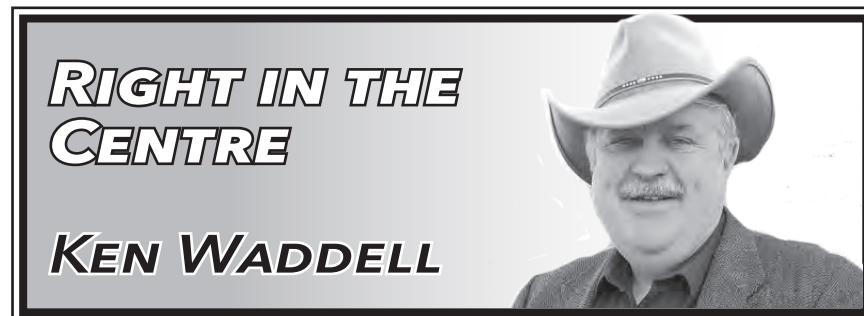
It has often occurred to me that it's strange that various countries want to put a man on the moon again. It seems as if it is a strange set of priorities. While I have followed the moon race for 50 years, I have never really seen the point. In today's world it seems even more strange to want to spend billions of dollars to put a man on the moon when there's so many other things that are obviously to me more important. Let's delay putting men on the moon until we solve a few other issues. Would it not seem appropriate to solve homelessness first? It might be nice to cure cancer first. How about having roads fixed?

How about getting clean water in every community across Canada. Our federal government has been promising clean water for all communities, and especially for First Nations communities for decades but it still hasn't been completed.

Again, I see no point at all in putting a man on the moon. Like, what are you gonna do when you get there? Everything has to be hauled there from earth. There is no food. There is no land to develop without an international space station style of accommodation. There may be some minerals but the last time I checked, we have lots of minerals. There's no way you can live on the moon and the question remains why would you want to?

An internet check tells us "the Apollo 11 Moon landing in July 1969 was a huge feat of human endeavour, engineering and science. It was a moment that the world had been waiting for."

Apollo 11 was followed by six further trips to the Moon, five of which landed successfully. Twelve men walked on the lunar surface in total. But in 1970, future Apollo missions were cancelled. Apollo 17



“Would it not seem appropriate to solve homelessness first?”

became the last crewed mission to the Moon for an indefinite amount of time.

The main reason for this was money. The cost of getting to the Moon was, ironically, astronomical. “

Yes, the cost is astronomical and how about the people who are very worried about the climate and global warming and using fossil fuels that theoretically heat up the atmosphere. I'd be interested to know just how many tons of fuel it takes to get a rocket to the moon and back again. I guess I'm just a stupid farm boy but I see no point in investing all this time and money and moon travel or moon living when we have bigger problems to solve than travelling to the moon.

I checked on the Internet as to what the cost would be to send a mission to the moon here's what I found out:

Most of all, there was development work, with each mission after the first costing only about \$5-10 billion each. Right now, the major cost of sending humans to the Moon would also be development work. A human-rated lunar lander would take NASA about \$10 billion to develop.

Quite frankly I don't care how cheap it becomes to send people to the moon. I don't think it's worth it at

any price regardless of how low that price might become. Not when we have so many problems in every town every city across North America and around the world. I see no net return that is significant with moon travel. I think the moon is best serving us as in storybook purposes. The moon is lovely to look upon. Apparently, the moon controls the tides. It's been said that the moon is a wonderful thing for young lovers to sit under as they dream about their wonderful future. The problem for young lovers today is that the future isn't as bright as it was even 25 or 30 years today. Young people are faced with huge health care problems with drug addictions either directly or indirectly affecting them. Crime either directly or indirectly affects them and the cost of living is directly affecting everybody. If as a society, if as a government we spent the time, effort and money that goes into space travel, space stations and moon shots on things of real value and serious concern, I think our society would be much much better off.

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



Thresholds... the place between

The thought of a threshold space has been sitting with me; that moment when you are neither here nor there, but somewhere in between.

Rather like waiting - hopefully ready for whatever and wherever our next step lands us. It's a place and time where thoughts are formulated and decisions are made. It can be a heavy time or a joyful time.

My image of a threshold is a doorway. Here I see an early home, possibly crafted from logs, where the perfect large flat stone has been found and placed as an anchor for the doorway. That image, of something so firm and fixed, so natural, gives me the permission to explore the coming and going of life.

Many of us may use travel time as a time to debrief from an encounter, or to prepare for one. It is an opportunity to reflect on what has been said and what needs to be said. A time where we are neither here nor there. A time between: a short drive to the grocery store or post office, a road trip holiday, or the drive to an airport to reach a new or familiar destination. This in between time is a little different than sitting in a waiting room, but not totally, for that, too, is a time between. Both allow one to reflect and do a bit of introspection.

The writings of John O'Donohue are among my favourites. (And if I can listen to him read to me it's even better - I love his accent!) In his book 'Eternal Echoes' he wrote "Each day we live in what we call reality. Yet the more we think about it, the more life seems to resemble a dream. We rush through our days in such stress and intensity, as if we were here to stay and the serious project of the world depended on us. We worry and grow anxious; we magnify trivia until they become important enough to control our lives." There are numerous life thresholds that I can think of that would prove this statement correct. A couple on the threshold of marriage: the attention to detail and the work and cost of preparation is overwhelming. There is much stress and anxiety over an event that is meant to be loving and joyous. Or a couple expecting their first child! The paraphernalia 'required' to welcome a baby is idealistic and extreme. The wee one needs to be fed, dry and loved — not necessarily in that order. Marriage and parenthood are certainly two of the major thresholds, as are graduations, first jobs and first homes. Stepping through those doorways, (and here the in between may be brief!), any one of them is life changing.

O'Donohue completes that thought with these words "Yet all the time, we have forgotten that we are but temporary sojourners on the surface of a strange planet spinning slowly in the infinite night of the cosmos." This comforts me. For all of us there is that one more threshold; our last breath, our passage from this world to the next. With confidence may we continue to progress, step by step, across each of life's thresholds, ready for change if not welcoming it.

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Viriden Landfill: 204-748-6033

Tundra Oil & Gas Place: 204-748-2736



Animal Control: 204-851-5881

Facility Bookings: 204-748-2440

Emergency After Hours: 204-851-5540

Check your mailbox!

2026 property tax notices have been sent out.

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

2026 property taxes are due by October 31, 2026.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event

August 22, 2026, 10 am – 2 pm

Viriden Farmer's Market – 505 Sixth Avenue

Upcoming Council Meetings

September 1

Council Meetings start at 7:00 PM

Notice of Voters List / Personal Security Protection

Notice is hereby given that a copy of the VOTERS LIST may be revised at: 236 Wellington Street West, Viriden, Manitoba, during regular office hours, Monday to Thursday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m, and Fridays between the hours of 8:30 am to 4:00 p.m or Town of Viriden Council Chambers, 232 Wellington Street West, Viriden, Manitoba on

Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2026 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

At this time the Senior Election Official (SEO) will be available to update the voters list by:

- adding the names of voters who are entitled to have their names on the list;
- deleting the names of persons who are not entitled to have their names on the list; and
- making such other correction of errors to the list as required.

Voter Eligibility:

A person is eligible to have his or her name added to the Voters List if he or she is:

- a Canadian citizen and at least 18 years of age on election day; and
- a resident of the local authority for at least six months prior to election day, OR a registered owner of land in the municipality for at least six months prior to election day.

Application for Personal Security Personal

A voter may apply in writing to the SEO (at the address / fax number below) no later than September 15, 2026 to have his/her name and other personal information omitted or obscured from the voters list in order to protect the voter's personal security. The application may be submitted in person, by mail, email or fax and must include your name, address and include proof of identity.

All changes to the voters list must be completed on or before September 22, 2026.

Dated at Viriden in the Province of Manitoba, on August 10, 2026

Rhonda Stewart
Town of Viriden

Senior Election Official (S.E.O.)

Viriden, Manitoba ROM 2C0

Email: rlstewart64@outlook.com

Phone: 204-851-0769

Employment Opportunities Recreation and Events Coordinator

This position is responsible for assisting with the planning, implementing, and managing of a broad range of community recreation programs and events in the Town of Viriden, but primarily the coordination and booking liaison for Tundra Oil and Gas Place.

Full job description is available on the Town of Viriden website.

Resumes will be accepted until 4:00 pm on Wednesday, August 26, 2026.

Please forward resumes, complete with covering letter to:

Faye Pope, Office/HR Manager

Town of Viriden, Box 310, Viriden, MB, ROM 2C0

Email: office.manager@viriden.ca

Sanitation II Position

This is the senior position in the garbage collection division of the Public Works Department.

This position requires an individual that is in good health and capable of carrying out the physical requirements of the job and able to pass a medical examination. A high school diploma or equivalent is required as well as a Class 3 with Air driver's license.

Full job description is available on the Town of Viriden website.

Please forward resume with cover letter to:

Faye Pope, Office/HR Manager

Town of Viriden, Box 310, Viriden, MB, ROM 2C0

Email: office.manager@viriden.ca



Please be advised that a general municipal election will be held on October 28, 2026.

Prospective municipal election candidates must register with the Senior Election Official (SEO) during the registration period before they may begin to accept contributions, incur expenses, fundraise or borrow money for their campaign.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I will be receiving candidate registrations:

For the office of head of council: Between May 1, 2026 and September 22, 2026

For the office of councillor: Between June 30, 2026 and September 22, 2026

at the Town of Viriden office, 236 Wellington Street West, Viriden, MB, during the regular hours of business.

To obtain a registration form contact the SEO at the email or telephone number listed below.

Registration forms are available for pickup at the Town of Viriden office.

Rhonda Stewart, SEO

Phone: 204-851-0769,

Email: rlstewart64@outlook.com

Dated at Town of Viriden,

Viriden, MB on April 14, 2025

HELEN DRYSDALE

OUT OF HELEN’S KITCHEN

Enjoying the garden

Cabbage pancakes

Hearty, wholesome, and full of flavor, these Cabbage Pancakes are a tasty new way to enjoy cabbage!

6-7 cups shredded cabbage
2 Tbsp. minced onion
2 eggs
1/2 cup milk
1 cup flour
2 Tbsp. melted butter
1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. pepper
red pepper flakes if you’re feeling adventurous.
Vegetable oil for frying

Cook the cabbage in salted uncovered boiling water for five minutes. Rinse under cold running water till cool, then press out any remaining water with your hands. Add the shredded cabbage and minced onion together into a large mixing bowl. Add the remaining ingredients except for oil, to a blender and blend well. Add to the cabbage in the bowl. Mix well. In a large frying pan pour in a tablespoon of vegetable oil. Heat it over medium heat. You want the oil hot enough to sizzle when you drop in the batter. Scoop about 1/4 cup of the cabbage mixture and carefully place it in the skillet. Use the back of a spatula to flatten it slightly. Cook for about 3-4 minutes on one side until it turns golden brown and crispy. Flip it over and let it cook for another 3-4 minutes. Reduce heat if browning too quickly. Add more oil to the frying pan as needed. Keep the cooked ones warm in a low oven while frying the remainder of the batter. Serve hot as is or with sour cream.

Green fried tomatoes

Are you wondering what to do with all the green tomatoes from the garden. Give this recipe a try for a change of taste.

2 large eggs, beaten
1/2 cup milk
1/2 cup flour
1/2 tsp. Paprika1/2 cup cornmeal
1 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. pepper
2 large green tomatoes, sliced 1/2 inch thick
1/2 cup vegetable oil for frying

Make a dredging station, in one bowl eggs and milk are whisked together, in a second bowl mix the flour and paprika, and in the third bowl mix the cornmeal, salt and pepper together. Dip the tomato slices in the flour, then the milk/egg bowl, then the cornmeal bowl. Use a heavy bottom frying pan for frying the tomatoes. Don’t crowd the pan. Fry your tomatoes in a single layer. Flip when golden brown and cook the other side. Keep the cooked ones warm in a low oven while frying the remainder of the tomato slices. Enjoy.

Police Report

Westman RCMP Service Report

for July 28 – August 8

Submitted
BY WESTMAN RCMP

Weekly Calls for Service Overview. During the week of August 2 to August 8, 2026, the Westman RCMP received a total of 44 calls for service. These calls included 11 traffic offences, 2 assaults, 3 calls for assistance to the general public or other agencies, 2 911 calls, 2 Mental Health Act calls, 3 mischief complaints, 2 suspicious person reports, and 1 wellbeing check.

July 28 – RM of Sifton – Traffic Stop for Improper Window Tint: During a routine patrol, RCMP officers conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle with dark window tinting. A tint meter confirmed the tint exceeded legal limits. The driver was issued a Traffic Offence Notice for improper window tint, \$174 fine.

July 28 – RM of Wallace-Woodworth – Speeding; Window Tint: During a routine patrol, RCMP observed a vehicle travelling at high speed. Radar confirmed a speed of 130 km/h in a 100 km/h zone. The driver was issued Traffic Offence Notices for speeding, \$442 fine, and improper window tint, \$174 fine.

July 28 – Sioux Valley Dakota Nation – Assault Causing Bodily Harm: RCMP responded to a report of an assault in Sioux Valley Dakota Nation. The victim was transported to a local hospital for visible injuries. Following victim statements, officers identified and arrested two suspects related to the victim. Both accused were charged with Assault Causing Bodily Harm and are scheduled to appear in court at a later date.

July 31 – Town of Virden – Two-Vehicle Collision: RCMP, along with Virden Fire and EMS, responded to a two-vehicle collision in the Town of Virden. Witnesses reported that one vehicle failed to stop at a stop sign, causing the collision. The driver admitted fault and was issued a Traffic Offence Notice for failing to stop at a stop sign, \$203 fine.

July 31 – Town of Virden – Excessive Speeding: During a routine patrol, RCMP conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle travelling 80 km/h in a 40

km/h zone. The driver was issued a Traffic Offence Notice for speeding, \$573 fine.

August 3 – Sioux Valley Dakota Nation – Stolen Vehicle / Taking Vehicle Without Consent: RCMP responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in Sioux Valley Dakota Nation. The owner reported her grandson took the vehicle without consent and crashed it. Officers located and towed the vehicle, and subsequently arrested a 20-year-old male. He was charged with Taking a Motor Vehicle Without Consent and is scheduled to appear in court at a later date.

August 4 – RM of Pipestone – Speeding: During a routine patrol, RCMP conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle travelling 123 km/h in a 100 km/h zone. The driver was issued a Traffic Offence Notice for speeding, \$351 fine.

August 4 – RM of Sifton – Speeding: During a routine patrol, RCMP conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle travelling 126 km/h in a 100 km/h zone. The driver was issued a Traffic Offence Notice for speeding, \$391 fine.

August 6 – Town of Virden – Impaired Driving, Excessive Speeding: During a routine patrol, RCMP conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle travelling 127 km/h in a 60 km/h zone. The driver displayed signs of impairment and failed an Approved Screening Device (ASD) demand. The driver was arrested and transported to the Virden RCMP detachment, where breath samples yielded results of 160 mg per cent and 140 mg per cent. The 40-year-old driver was charged with Operation While Impaired, Operation While Impaired Over 80 mg per cent, Unlawful Transportation of Liquor, and Speeding. The driver was released once sober and is scheduled to appear in court at a later date.

August 7 – RM of Wallace-Woodworth – Speeding: During a routine patrol, RCMP conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle travelling 138 km/h in a 110 km/h zone. The driver was issued a Traffic Offence Notice for speeding, \$416 fine.

Virden

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Pierson author writes, *When God Knows Your Name*



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Maggie Mae Holmes with the tools of her trade, a laptop and a microphone for voice to text work and videos that she also creates.

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Maggie Mae (Marjory) Holmes from Pierson, Manitoba is an author who overcame a childhood learning disability and in June of 2026, her first full-sized book *When God Knows Your Name*, is available on Amazon and a host of other platforms.

Holmes birthed a message that grew within her from seeds planted in her 9-year-old heart and she confirms Christ's words, "My sheep hear my voice..."

"Writing this book was planned by God. I would have never written a book otherwise," says Holmes as she considers why and how she came to write this book.

It came out of the trials of life.

"I ran into some really tough issues when I was in my 30s. I cried out to God, actually, for help, because I knew I was going to need some extra money in the future."

She said God's answer

brought vision and filled her with a will to write as from that prayer, she says, "I woke up with a poem flowing through my head, and then within the next few weeks, I had children's stories, my mind would take

pictures of the things that my children and my dogs were doing. And in the morning, they would turn into a children's story so, I would get up and I'd write them down, but I thought, I can't do this."

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But writing a book was the farthest thing from her early school experience.

"I had such trouble in school the first few years. They sent me for testing, and I couldn't read or write, my short-term memory wasn't working. Professionals in the city told the teachers to tell my mom that I would never be able to learn...it was that bad.

But she had a mother who took the matter in hand. As a trained teacher, her mom began to tutor her daughter.

And harkening back to her childhood, children's books were born.

"Writing a book wasn't something I thought I would do ever. But I could see that God was calling me into writing these children's books."

Her vision to write took Holmes on a journey toward her goal. She joined a writers' group in Estevan, Saskatchewan. There, she met a woman who lived an hour distant from her, someone she'd never met,

who seemed to be writing a play about Holmes' own life.

In the writer's script Holmes found phrase after phrase that mirrored her own life. The Divine Hand was once more at work, assuring Holmes and leading her forward. She says that story may also become a book.

Her new book's full title - *God Knows Your Name: Experiencing His Life-Changing Friendship and Love*. On the front cover are words from a well-known minister, and that's a story for another day. Patricia King has endorsed her book and, on the cover, says, "This book will inspire you to trust God more deeply, seek Him more passionately and walk with Him more intimately."

A woman named Linda McCannell takes a different tack. She says, "Truthfully, I was a little hesitant that a religious book would be overwhelming and very dry, but this book felt like having a coffee and a long cozy chat with Maggie Holmes..."

Holmes is also a licensed minister. She says, "I had a strong desire to learn as much as I could, because I knew the word of God holds power and I needed His power in my life."

As a small girl who attended Sunday School, she felt an urge to pray, but couldn't quite get there. Now she's written about her many prayers that God has answered and she marvels.

"I was just that little girl who couldn't read and write and do math... and I was a hairdresser for 28 years and always wondered if there was more to life, you know?"

Holmes' day to day life in Pierson includes walks with her two dogs, a 14-year-old 'Westy' named Baxter, and a female golden doodle named Charlie.

In her spare time, she carves figurines out of (wait for it) ... avocado pits - people's faces, children on a teeter-totter, stacks of books.

Maggie enjoys giving book readings and speaking to groups.

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Costume Closet and SAIL fashion show and tea



Hats go from plain to fancy... and of course everybody enjoyed the teacups, and dainties.



Trying on, taking pictures, or enjoying a quiet moment with a hat that looks like a bouquet; there were choices for everyone.



Friends Laura Reimer, Donna Sutley, and Jean Carr share a joke and a laugh.

PHOTOS BY KRISTA PEDERSON

By Krista Pederson
SAIL

On Friday, August 7, the Costume Closet hosted a Fashion Show and Tea. We had lots of fun being in the space, which holds many many costumes from old-fashioned, (mediaeval even!) to modern - and everything in between. Guests were encouraged to look through and

try on. Lots of smiles and stories came out as new looks were modelled. The Costume Closet is a fantastic way to pass along unused, modern or vintage clothing. The Costume Closet volunteers are a wealth of knowledge. They help with finding the right fit and then accessorizing for a great look. Whether you are planning a Tea, a theme party, a show, or a holiday party, the Costume Closet has something for you!

WDFD - two complimentary fire halls - created



By Empire-Advance staff
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Recently retired Chief Administrative Officer for Virde n, Rhonda Stewart provided a brief history of Wallace District Fire Department and the two halls—Station 1 (Virde n) and Station 2 (Elkhorn). Wallace District Fire Board was formed in 1977 with Chief Chesney appointed district chief over Virde n, Station 1 and Elkhorn, Station 2.

Station 1 hall was completed in 1978, almost 50 years ago. In 2006, a motion was made to spend up to \$45,000 for the repair of Station 1 roof, the largest repair on that hall. But as early as 2004, discussion had started regarding renovations and expansion. In 2014, the Board purchased the property behind the hall (where the 2026 expansion will be). The Building Committee, comprised of the firefighters themselves, studied the location for response times out of Virde n in every direction, determining the best design and overall plan at a reasonable cost. “Truly a team effort in getting this project to fruition,” notes Stewart.

History of two fire halls

- June 28, 1977, District Chief, and fire chiefs from Virde n and Elkhorn were tasked by the Wallace District Fire Board with recommending construction of and sites for a new fire hall in Virde n.
- Aug. 11, 1977, authorization was provided to purchase a portion of Block 158, Plan 67 providing it could be serviced with municipal water and sewer.
- September 22, quotes were received for new halls in both Virde n and Elkhorn; Chief Chesney recommended building Virde n hall and buying a new fire truck for Station 2.
- Oct. 3, a motion was carried to build a new Virde n fire hall for \$81,399.55
- March 24, 1982, the council of Village of Elkhorn expressed concern regarding a location for a new Elkhorn hall with access in mind.
- April 28, 1983, a meeting was set with the Village of Elkhorn council regarding the proposed site of the fire hall and installation of a cistern on site
- Dec. 12, Fire Board agreed the next capital project would be the new Elkhorn firehall.
- June 4, 1984, Chief Chesney presented an estimate from Crane Steel; the Board discussed it and Chief Tutthill stated he'd take the proposed plan to Station 2 for their input.
- Aug. 20, a resolution passed to obtain working schematic drawings and specs from Crane Steel Structures of Brandon and invite tenders; cost not to exceed \$500. Tenders to close Sept. 15, 1984.
- Sept. 28, resolutions passed for proceeding with building Station 2 hall and that Board members Brockman (Elkhorn), Chesney (District Chief) Tutthill (Elkhorn Chief) determine the location of the new building. The tender of L Penner Lumber for \$112,500 with conditions was accepted.

Good things come in small packages

The Virden Miniature Horse Show



PHOTOS BY JESSICA COULTER

Miniature Hunter, 18 yrs & under were judged on jumping style. Winner Myah Leboutillier with her horse Zeus' Regal Prince from Fields of Blessings farm.

By Jessica Coulter
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Horse Show that takes place once a year. This is the first year that the miniature horse show took place as its own event day. This fun and exciting event took place on Saturday, August 8 at the Virden Ag Society Grounds. All those who wanted to watch were free to do so.

The day included events such as Halter Classes, Jumping/Hunting, Driving Classes, and Obstacles. "Obstacle and Jumping classes are usually the favourites for the youth exhibitors," says event organizer Shannon Boreham.

There are guidelines for judging and exhibiting Miniature Horses. Each of the judges are required to know these very detailed guidelines. Each of the categories have multiple requirements.

Halter - Horse is shown with a halter being led by the exhibitor.

Hunter - A division of a Jumping class where the horse is judged mainly on style.

Jumping - A division of a Jumping class, it is a timed event judged on speed.

Driving - There are a few different driving divisions. Western/Classic Country Pleasure Driving, Country Pleasure Driving & Roadster are the most common ones.

Obstacle - This class can be done driven or in-hand, the horse in a halter with the exhibitor leading them. The Virden Miniature Horse Show only offered in-hand obstacle.

Entries for the day tends to include multiple horses for each exhibitor. The youth are energetic and often bring many horses each. They had 15 exhibitors and 35 horses.

"The show ran smoothly and was a great day for everyone," says Boreham, "we had generous sponsors and volunteers which made the show possible." The show was put on by a group of mini horse enthusiasts from the Virden area. Winners of each event received ribbons for their hard work and effort training their horse to impress the judges.

The next show is in Kemnay and is put on by Lloyd Mennie. There are 15 shows in Manitoba that offer Mini Classes.

Results

Miniature horse 38" and under shown by a youth 10 yrs and under: 1. Cole Jacobson - Fields Of Blessing Sassy Lil Redhead

Miniature horse 38" and under shown by a youth 11-18 yrs: 1. Adriana Jacobson - JEM Silver Bullet; 2. Myah Leboutillier - Fields of Blessing Zeus' Regal Prince; 3. Lainey Betteridge -

JEM Lady Lovely.

Miniature filly, gelding or stallion - yearling, 32" & under: 1. Conner Betteridge - Eastside Acres Knight Swing; 2. Lily Leboutillier - Prairie Hills Slick Tango.

Miniature filly, gelding or stallion - yearling, over 32" - 36": 1. Adriana Jacobson - CC Minis Just A Cowboy; 2. Lainey Betteridge - CC Minis It Takes Two To Tango; 3. Lily Leboutillier - Fields of Blessings Ace of Spades.

Miniature filly, gelding or stallion - 2 yrs old, 33" & under: 1. Lainey Betteridge - CC Minis JEM Midnight Legacy;

Miniature filly, gelding or stallion - 2 yrs old, over 33" - 37": 1. Dee Longfield - Lovett Farms Idols Cherokee Hawk; 2. Lainey Betteridge - CC Minis Thors Wild Reign; 3. Conner Betteridge - CC Minis Stop Pressin My Buttons.

Miniature mare or gelding - 3yrs and older, 34" and under: 1. Lily Leboutillier - Eastside Acres Dexter; 2. Lainey Betteridge - JEM Fire It Up Baby.

Miniature mare or gelding - 3yrs and older, over 34" - 38": 1. Shannon Boreham - Prairie Hills Straight Shooter; 2. Amanda Forbes - JEM Whisper O'White; 3. Myah Leboutillier - Countrylanes Silver Marvel.

Western Stock mare, gelding or stallion, 38" and under: 1. Dee Longfield - Lovett Farms Billy Hawk; 2. Shannon Boreham - Paririe Hills Billy the Kid; 3. Amanda Forbes - Peanut.

Western Stock mare or gelding - 38" and under shown by a youth: 1. Lainey Betteridge - JEM Iron Man; 2. Cole Jacobson - JEM Patches of Silver; 3. Conner Betteridge - JEM White Illusion

Champion and Reserve - judged on 1st and 2nd place from classes 3-9: Champion - Dee Longfield - Lovett Farms Billy Hawk; Reserve - Shannon Boreham - Prairie Hills Straight Shooter.

Youth Champion and Reserve - judged on 1st and 2nd place from classes 1-2 and 9A: Champion Adriana Jacobson - JEM Silver Bullet; Reserve Cole Jacobson - Fields of Blessing Sassy Lil Redhead.

Color Class - Miniature horse 38" and under shown by a youth 18 yrs and under: 1. Adriana Jacobson - JEM Silver Bullet; 2. Lainey Betteridge - JEM Lady Lovely; 3. Cole Jacobson - JEM Patches of Silver.

Color Class - Miniature horse 38" and under shown by an adult: 1. Dee Longfield - Lovett Farms Billy Hawk; 2. Shannon Boreham - Prairie Hills Straight Shooter.

Showmanship 19 yrs and over: 1. Shannon Boreham - Prairie Hills Straight Shooter; 2. Dee Longfield - Lovett Farms Idols Cherokee Hawk; 3. Corinne Betteridge - JEM White Illusion.

Showmanship 11-18 yrs: 1. Tori Mitchell - Meadowind Rebel Rouser; 2. Adriana Jacobson - JEM Apache Phoenix; 3. Lily Leboutillier - Fields Of Blessings Born 2B Brave.

Showmanship 10 yrs and under: 1. Cole Jacobson - Fields of Blessings Sassy Lil Redhead

Miniature Hunter, 19 yrs + (judged on jumping style): 1. Shannon Boreham - Prairie Hills Straight Shooter; 2. Shannon Boreham - Prairie Hills Billy the Kid; 3. Albert Kooiker - Countrylane Thrill of the Escape.

Miniature Hunter, 18 yrs and under (judged on jumping style): 1. Myah Leboutillier - Fields of Blessings Zeus' Regal Prince; 2. Lainey Betteridge - JEM Fire It Up Baby; 3. Adriana Jacobson - JEM Silver Bullet.

Miniature Hunter, 10 yrs and under (judged on jumping style): 1. Cole Jacobson - Fields of Blessing Sassy Lil Redhead

Miniature Jumper, 19 yrs+ (judged on speed): 1. Albert Kooiker - Countrylanes Thrill of the Escape; 2. Amanda Forbes - JEM Canadian Frost; 3. Shannon Boreham - Prairie Hills Straight Shooter.

Miniature Jumper, 18 yrs and under (judged on speed): 1. Myah Leboutillier - Fields of Blessings Zeus' Regal Prince; 2. Adriana Jacobson - JEM Silver Bullet; 3. Lainey Betteridge - JEM Fire It Up Baby.

Miniature Jumper, 10 yrs and under (judged on speed): 1. Cole Jacobson - Fields of Blessing Sassy Lil Redhead;

Western Country Pleasure Driving - 34" and under driver 10 yrs and under: 1. Cole Jacobson - Fields of Blessing Sassy Lil Redhead

Western Country Pleasure Driving - 34" and under driver 11-18 yrs: 1. Lily Leboutillier - Eastside Acres Dexter; 2. Lainey Betteridge - JEM Fire It Up Baby.

Western Country Pleasure Driving - 34" and under driver 19+ yrs: 1. Hilly Kooiker - LB Living the Highlife Marley;



Amanda Forbes with her horse Peanut competed in the Miniature Hunter, 19 yrs +.

Western Country Pleasure Driving - 34" - 38" driver 19+ yrs: 1. Albert Kooiker - Countrylanes Thrill of the Escape; 2. Shannon Boreham - Prairie Hills Billy the Kid

Best boy or girl driver 11-18 yrs: 1. Conner Betteridge - JEM Raise A Lil Hal; 2. Adriana Jacobson - JEM Apache Phoenix; 3. Lainey Betteridge - JEM Fire It Up Baby.

Best Lady or Gent driver 19+ yrs: 1. Albert Kooiker - Countrylanes Thrill of the Escape; 2. Shannon Boreham - Prairie Hills Straight Shooter; 3. Hilly Kooiker - LB Living the Highlife Marley.

Country Pleasure Driving - 38" and under, driver 11 -18 yrs: 1. Conner Betteridge - Fields Of Blessings Color Me Magic; 2. Adriana Jacobson - JEM Apache Phoenix.

Country Pleasure Driving - 34" and under, driver 19+ yrs: 1. Amanda Forbes - Peanut.

Country Pleasure Driving - 34" - 38", driver 19+ yrs: 1. Shannon Boreham - Prairie Hills Straight Shooter.

Open Versality, Miniature 38" and under: 1. Shannon Boreham - Prairie Hills Billy the Kid; 2. Lily Leboutillier - Eastside Acres Dexter; 3. Lainey Betteridge - JEM Fire It Up Baby.

Carriage Driving - Miniature 38" and under, driver all ages: 1. Shannon Boreham - Prairie Hills Billy the Kid; 2. Lainey Betteridge - JEM Fire It Up; 3. Amanda Forbes - Peanut.

Single Roadster 34"-38", driver 19+ yrs: 1. Shannon Boreham - Prairie Hills Straight Shooter.

In hand obstacle 10 yrs and under: 1. Cole Jacobson - Fields of Blessing Sassy Lil Redhead; 2. Cole Jacobson - JEM Patches of Silver.

In hand obstacle 11 - 18 yrs: 1. Conner Betteridge - Fields Of Blessings Color Me Magic; 1. Adriana Jacobson - CC Minis Just A Cowboy; 2. Lily Leboutillier - Fields of Blessings SOS Lone Ranger; 3. Myah Leboutillier - Fields of Blessings Zeus' Regal Prince.

In hand obstacle 19+ yrs: 1. Erica Darvill - Meadowind Rebel Rouser; 2. Shannon Boreham - Prairie Hills Straight Shooter; 3. Dee Longfield - Lovett Farms Billy Hawk.



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Downtown Bites, locally fed

Meet you at Cantina's!



Tina smiling happily at her mobile food cart.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

By Lauren Halowaty
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Meet Tina, the absolute heart, soul, and magic behind Cantina's! She's dishing out total comfort food, jumbo hot dogs, juicy classic burgers, tasty snacks, ice-cold drinks, sweet ice cream treats, and fun daily specials—all for \$5 or under! Talk about a total steal!

What a wild, wonderful year it's been! Tina feels so lucky to have popped

up at so many amazing local events, from dusty motocross tracks and 4-H gatherings to pony shows, slow-pitch tournaments, auction marts, vibrant powwows, and beyond! Plus, you can catch her serving up smiles every Thursday at the Virden Farmers' Market!

Her heart is completely full:

"I am most thankful for the kids I cooked for, for 4 years at the high school as that is where it all started in 2020 and how I got the

name Cantina. Tears, support, love and conversation with those kids was everything and they, along with a very supportive principal gave me this career which I will be forever grateful for!"

Come give Tina a big wave and grab a bite at Downtown Days this Thursday, or track down Cantina's all across town during Rodeo Weekend! Tina thanks everyone of you for all the love and she can't wait to feed your happy faces!

Grillin' for a Good Cause

Viriden Legion Teams Up with The Hideout!



Viriden Legion Branch #8 BBQ tent to keep an eye out for.

PHOTO BY WENDY GILL

By Lauren Halowaty
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Get ready to follow your nose to the corner of 7th Avenue right by Prairie Life Dental during Downtown Daze because Viriden Legion Branch #8 is sizzlin' up something special!

The legendary BBQ

team of Wendy Gill, Brian Grenier, and Don Nugent are bringing the heat, joined by a fantastic crew of volunteers from The Hideout jumping in to serve up the goodness.

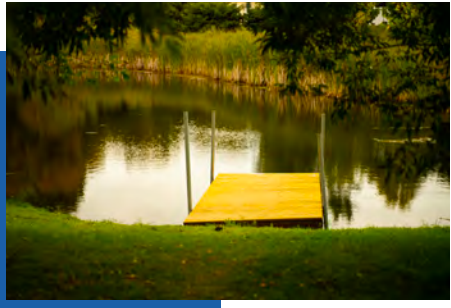
Keeping the community spirit rollin', just like the Legion's popular Music in the Park series

this summer, every single bite gives back! Half of all proceeds cover the tasty BBQ essentials, and the other 50% goes straight to supporting the incredible team and youth programs at The Hideout.

Come hungry, grab a bite, and celebrate local people supporting a local cause!

VISIT VIRDEN

- Viriden Fish Pond
- Viriden Historic Centre
- Viriden Splash Park
- Viriden Indoor Rodeo & Wild West Daze Aug 13 - 16



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Volunteers at the Heart of Downtown Daze



PHOTO BY PRAIRIE GATEWAY TOURISM

The Virden Community Chamber of Commerce organizes and facilitates Downtown Daze.

By Beth McConnell
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Virden Community Chamber of Commerce is gearing up for another Downtown Daze, and organizers are putting out a call for volunteers to help bring the event to life. This year's event is Thursday, August 13, 2026.

The Chamber is still looking for 8 to 10 volunteers to help make this year's event a success. Volunteers are needed to assist with the bouncy castles and Kids Zone, help with cleanup, and lend a hand with other tasks as required. There are

many ways to get involved, whether volunteers can help for a short shift or stay a little longer.

As Downtown Daze continues to grow, so does the need for helping hands. The event has become a summer staple in Virden, drawing families, local businesses, and visitors from all around to the downtown core for a day of music, activities, food, and western-themed fun. Behind the scenes, volunteers are the ones who make the experience seamless, from early morning setup to the final wrap up at the end of the day.

Downtown Daze relies on community businesses, sponsors and volunteers working alongside the Chamber to keep this annual celebration affordable for local families. Their support helps bring downtown Virden to life with live music, food trucks, vendors, children's activities, entertainment and much more.

Held as the kickoff to the Virden Indoor Rodeo & Wild West Daze, Downtown Daze is presented by the Virden Community Chamber of Commerce. Although the Downtown Daze and rodeo committees work closely together,



they are separate groups supported by their own dedicated volunteers and sponsors.

Known as Virden's busiest weekend and largest annual event, the celebra-

tion requires a great deal of planning, preparation, setup and teamwork. Every volunteer plays an important role in creating a safe, welcoming and memorable evening for the community.

Anyone interested in volunteering or learning more about the available opportunities is encouraged to contact the Chamber at virdenchamberofcommerce@gmail.com.

DAZE Events now includes JJ Voss



PHOTO FROM FACEBOOK

Voss' latest release entitled 'I Wanna Go Home' dropped on October 29th with dates to follow and new music in the works for release in 2026.

By Lauren Halowaty
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Put on your boots and get ready to kick up some dust because award-winning Saskatchewan artist JJ Voss is in town

tonight, August 13, to headline Downtown Daze.

This ain't our first rodeo, but it might be Virden's best yet! The party wrangles together on 7th Avenue from 5:00

pm to 9:00 pm, serving as the official kickoff for the Virden Indoor Rodeo & Wild West Daze festivities. Best of all? Admission is completely free.

JJ Voss was raised on

a small farm in southern Saskatchewan. Voss began his journey in music at the age of 8 when he picked up his Dad's old flat top and has been following in the footsteps of legend-

ary troubadours like Steve Earle, Charlie Major, Tom Petty and Bruce Springsteen ever since. With close to two decades of dedication to his music career and craft, JJ Voss has taken his passion for songwriting and performing, along with his many experiences in life, to build an authentic and professional solo career rooted in the soil of the working class. JJ Voss is currently on tour with Doc Walker but is making a stop in Virden for Downtown Daze.

Beyond the main stage, the street will be packed with entertainment for the whole family. You can stroll through the amazing car show showcasing vintage relics, new speedsters, army vehicles, and demolition rides. Go browse fresh local goods at the farmer's market or shop unique creations from artisan vendors downtown. Kids can

burn off some energy in the bouncy castles or test their skills on the mechanical bull. There will also be various business booths with prize draws and a wide array of food vendors to keep you fueled, including Cantina's and the Virden Legion's BBQ booth.

If you're looking to gear up, explore the vast array of local store sales happening throughout the evening. You can find the perfect outfit for Rodeo weekend at multiple sales being held by the Downtown businesses at Downtown Daze.

Before JJ Voss takes the stage to show us how it's done, we'll be showcasing our own herd of mini stars with the "Virden's Got Talent" competition. The Virden Chamber of Commerce can't wait to see everyone tonight and throughout the weekend!

High Point Awards presented at Light Horse Show



PHOTOS FROM FACEBOOK

Hi-Point winner Sadie Davis of Moosomin, Sask. and her horse Driftwood King.



Senior Hi-Point Winner is Brandi Matheson from Brandon and her horse Ice In This Zipper.



Hi- Point Pee Wee award goes to Ivy Hebert of Moosomin, Sask. on I'm Lopin Texas Style.

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Light Horse Show (original story Aug. 7 edition, pg. 12).

In this third year of the show, strong competition came from Eastern Saskatchewan and Western Manitoba, drawn in part by the many sponsors and good prizes to be earned, thanks to sponsorships providing the quality prizes and awards.

“We wouldn’t be able to do this show without our sponsors, because to pay out prize money, you don’t generate enough off the entry fees, so that’s why we rely on the sponsors to keep the show going,” explains Colleen Chapman.

This meant that the show committee could add \$100 to the entry fees for the English and Western Stake classes. Winners this year took home \$68 in each class with pay out to fifth place, \$40, \$30, \$20 and \$10. Lisa Vanlenthe as Countrified Photography is the genius behind many photos from the day’s events.



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History of the XII Manitoba Dragoon Cadet Corps



PHOTO FROM FACEBOOK

Badges of the XII Manitoba Dragoons 1892 to 1965. Composite frame of Badges to the Regiment.

By Krysian Dupra

VIRDEN PIONEER HOME MUSEUM

At the museum, we have lots of artifacts and memorabilia that was retrieved following war times, and it is our mission to preserve the past despite the pain behind it. Unfortunately, a program with a rich, long history was announced to be shut down in the Virden area, the XII Manitoba Dragoon Cadet Corps. Due to the lack of inter-

est in recent years and the dwindling number of applicants, the cadet program will no longer be offered. Future cadets will have to apply in surrounding areas.

The Cadet Programs in Canada have roots to the creation of Drill Associations in 1861, which were voluntary military and school units. They

accepted people from ages 13 to 60. Young men over 14 were invited to participate in the program. These early cadet units mark the beginning of the Canadian Cadet Movement, one of the country's oldest youth programs. The Manitoba Province was divided into military districts, which is where the XII comes from in the name of the unit, the 12th Manitoba Dragoon Corps.

The XII Manitoba Dragoon Corps was one of the Militia Cavalry units in rural Manitoba. This militia wasn't properly named until 1903, but before then, the unit saw action in the North-West Rebellion and the Boer War. The North-West rebellion was an armed rebellion of the Métis, led by Louis Riel as a protest against the Canadian government. The Boer war was a conflict between the British Empire, and the Boer Republics due to Britain's actions in Southern Africa. When this unit became the XII Manitoba Dragoon Corps, the unit fought in the First and Second World War. In World War I, this militia acted as reinforcement to the 5th Western Cavalry Battalion, organizing the 32nd Battalion shortly afterward. The unit also provided recruits for the 1st Canadian Mounted Rifles.

Despite the program being shut down in Virden, there are other programs in Moosomin, Melita, Brandon, and Strathclair. It is important to remember that those involved in the Cadet program in the past will still have their experiences to keep the memory alive.

Miniota News

Submitted

BY LINDA CLARK

Del and Sheila Sheane are our newest residents moving from Elkhorn. A warm welcome to Miniota!

Congratulations to Heather Howarth, daughter of Matt and Karen Bunn, and Jon Gaudry, on their marriage on Aug. 8 at the Wakpa Tanka site with the celebration held at the Miniota Community Hall. Heather and Jon make their home at MacGregor.

Congratulations to Damon Bajus, son of Joey and Lana Bajus, and to Damon's bride Kenzie Hyde who were married at their farm on the 8th also. Home to attend the wedding, and visit her parents Ron and Vicki Bryant, was Susan Bryant from Hebert Sask.

Randy and Michelle Bryant and their family not only attended the wedding of their nephew Damon on Saturday, but as well, the wedding of their niece Amy Lovas to Tyler Lowry on their farm at Virden. Amy's great grandma, Alice Bolter, who is 103 years was excited to also attend this wedding.

This past weekend the U15 Westman Fury, with Miniota players Hadley Bryant, Claire Regnier and Adrianna Cousins, along with assistant coach Michelle Bryant competed in AA Provincial Tournament at Portage la Prairie. Unfortunately they struggled this weekend and were not able to make playoffs

on Sunday.

Congratulations to the Oak River Dodgers who were Gold Medal Champions at the Senior AA playoffs in Winnipeg. Ty McKenzie is a member of the Dodgers.

The Miniota Golf Course sponsored the Men's 27 Hole tournament this past weekend with 34 teams of 2. Results were as follows: Championship Flight: 1st Kent Plaisier and Graham Freeman; 2nd Mark Couvier and Brock Anderson; 3rd Brady Joseph and Dustin Morton.

First Flight: 1st Jaxon Lelond and Gavin Drake; 2nd Plow and Hurl; 3rd Derek Coulter and George Kreiser.

Second Flight: 1st Dean Bryant and Dan Bryant; 2nd Dale O'Greysik and Tanner; 3rd Brian Armitage and Desmond Stone. Clubhouse staff served a supper for the golfers.

Word has been received of the death of Irene Armitage at her home at Birch Lodge PCH on Aug. 2. Irene had celebrated her 100th birthday in March. Sympathy to family members from the Miniota Community.

"We cannot ask the powerful people in the world for peace if we do not begin to live it out ourselves, starting with our daily relationships. Peace is built with small daily gestures, the gift of a smile, an injury pardoned, a kind word." -Pope Leo XIV in his book 'Disarmed and Disarming: Peace Is a Gift'



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Elections are coming up fast, let's hear from another councillor

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

This fall there's a new opportunity to vote for municipal leaders. Some current councillors are returning to run again in the Oct. 28 election. It's a job for the willing.

We have asked some simple questions of a few current councillors. We're hoping to encourage new prospective candidates to take a run at the role and, maybe to help current councillors redefine their purpose and run again.

Why do people choose to run? And what does the job entail?

Here's what we found from Russell Thiessen, a 20-year councillor with the RM of Sifton, who was first approached by a current councillor, John Vachon, who had decided to step down. The current reeve, Cyril Druwe, has led the municipality for a decade. Again, Thiessen's been encouraged by a councillor, the reeve in this case, to run in his position.

Q: What got you into local politics?

A: John Vachon asked if I would run in his position. He talked to a number of different individuals, that he felt he

would respect carrying that position forward. And so, I was the one that chose to take him up on the invitation, I guess.

Q: What can people expect, coming to council work?

A: Learning the process of working as a team, as a council, the process of decision making as a team, and understanding how to carry ideas or policies forward as a team is a big thing. Understanding that there is a process and realizing the need for that process.

Q: What have you

learned to this point?

A: We sometimes go into there thinking, well, I'm going to fix this problem, and then when you get in there, you find out there's a reason why it takes a bit of time to get certain things done or to provide a certain service. But also, being persistent, if we do run into roadblocks, that we continue to work through them and be willing to keep digging until you get the answers.

Q: What kind of perspective have you gained?

A: I guess, from a personal level, is just how

important the whole community is. It wasn't just the (Oak Lake) North Country, or just the urban, but as a team, we're all working together to make our RM tick, and that goes, I guess, right to the foundation of our tax base...working together to make our community a better place.

Q: People may come to council with no prior experience. Are some things that are difficult to understand, to navigate?

A: For a new councillor coming in, there's a lot of information. There's so much infor-

mation that sometimes we get lost within it. I think that first couple of years in your term, you're learning and sorting through the whole process.

Q: Sifton is currently a male council. Have women served as well?

A: In the past there was Dorothy Winters at the table. She had excellent opinions and a voice about how things should go for the community.

Q: Final thoughts?

A: It's a family, at the end of the day. It's a community.

In Your Student Era: Tips for Stretching Your Dollar

By Krista Powell, Communications & Content Coor
SUNRISE CREDIT UNION

Starting post-secondary is an exciting new chapter - but it can also bring new financial challenges. The good news is that adopting a few smart financial habits can make a meaningful difference in your financial journey.

Here are some practical tips to help you stretch your money further during school and build financial confidence that lasts beyond graduation.

Maximize "Free" Money

Scholarships and bursaries are valuable tools for reducing education costs, - and they're not just for first-year students.

Make it a habit to look and apply for scholarships and bursaries every year. Many awards are designed for students in specific programs, faculties, schools, or communities, and new opportunities may arise at any point during your financial journey.

Not sure where to start? Your school's financial aid or student services office can help you find awards you may be eligible for. Spending a little time on applications now could save you hundreds - or even thousands - of dollars later.

Budgeting 101

Creating a realistic budget is one of the best ways to stay in control of your finances while you're in school. A simple place to start is the 50/30/20 rule:

- 50% for needs, such as rent, tuition, groceries, and transportation.
- 30% for wants, like dining out, entertainment, and hobbies.
- 20% for savings or paying down debt.

Remember, this is a guideline - not a strict rule. Adjust the percentages to fit your income and expenses.

Budgeting worksheets and apps can help you stay organized and make it easier to track your spending.

If you're able to set aside some money each month, consider putting it into a high-interest savings account where your money can grow.

Most importantly, make a habit of staying on top of your finances. Reviewing your spending regularly and checking your account balance can help you avoid overdraft fees, spot unexpected charges, and make informed spending decisions.

Textbooks – Your New Book Club Feature

Textbooks are often the biggest expense, but you don't always have to pay full price.

A great way to save money is to wait until after your first class before buying any required textbooks. Professors and instructors will often let you know if the textbook is essential, if an older edition will work, or if free online resources are available instead.

If you need to buy a textbook, consider purchasing a used copy. Not only are used textbooks much more affordable, and some even come with helpful notes and highlights from previous students that can make studying a little easier. Check local swap and shop social media groups, the campus bookstore and posters on campus for used books for sale.

Cost Saving Study Breaks

When you need a break from studying, you don't have to spend money to have fun. Go for a walk, enjoy some fresh air. Check out the student services on campus and local community social media groups, they often share a variety of free activities and opportunities to connect with others.

Maximizing Your Dollar's Mileage

Making your money go further doesn't mean you have to live on a diet of instant noodles! Small changes to your daily spending habits can make a big difference over the course of a semester. Every dollar you save can make a difference over time.

Take advantage of resources that are included in your student fees. For example, many post-secondary institutions offer access to on-campus fitness facilities, which can save you the cost of a gym membership.

Another way to reduce costs is to look for discounts. Many coffee shops, restaurants, retailers, entertainment venues, and public transit

providers offer discounts to students - when you show your student ID. If you're unsure whether a business offers one, it never hurts to ask.

When grocery shopping, look for coupons, loyalty programs, and weekly sales to stretch your budget even further. A lot of stores also have a clearance section where they mark items down that are near their expiration date – just make sure you use these items right away or freeze them.

Finally, check your school's student services office. They may be able to connect you with campus resources, discounts, food programs, and other services designed to help students save money throughout the school year.

Credit Cards: A Helpful Tool - When Used Wisely

A credit card can be a great way to build your credit history while you're in school, but it's important to use it responsibly.

Only charge what you know you can afford to pay back. Paying your balance in full each month helps you avoid interest charges and supports a healthy credit score. Missing payments or carrying a balance can become expensive, as many credit cards have interest rates of 20% or more.

One easy way to stay in control of your credit card spending is to pay off purchases as you make them. By treating your credit card like a debit card, you can stick to your budget and avoid accumulating debt, while building your credit history.

Your time at school should be focused on learning, growing, and making the most of the experience - not worrying about your finances. With some planning and the right financial habits, you can reduce money related stress and spend more time focusing on your education.

If you have questions about opening a student account, choosing a credit card, or learning more about a student line of credit, Sunrise Credit Union is here to help. Contact us or stop by your local branch. Our team will be happy to help you find the options that best fit your needs.

The Monarch Butterfly

Submitted

BY PATRICIA HANBIDGE

When we think of migration, it is often the songbirds that we think about. However, monarch butterflies (*Danaus plexippus*) migrate up to 3000 miles (4800 km) every autumn. It is difficult to fathom that our beautiful monarchs can complete this almost unbelievable migration. Monarchs that are born in late summer or early fall enter the “diapause” phase which is a non-reproductive state. They stay in this state for up to eight months and fly thousands of miles south to overwinter in the central Mexico oyamel fir forests or to California.

This is especially unique as most adult butterflies only live two to four weeks. Some smaller butterflies may only live a few days while the monarchs survive for up to nine months. Adult butterflies feed primarily on liquids using a straw-like tongue called a proboscis in order to fuel their flight, mate and lay eggs. Nectar from flowers are their main source of sugar and energy, but butterflies also feed on tree sap, rotting fruit and dung for minerals and amino acids. Males will also gather on mud puddles (called puddling) to absorb essential salts and sodium.

Butterflies undergo complete metamorphosis progressing through four distinct lifecycle stages. Females will lay tiny eggs on specific host plants that will feed the newly hatched young. The larval stage is the primary feeding and growth stage. So yes, before the butterfly comes the worm (technically a caterpillar) which shed their skins multiple times as they go through rapid growth. The pupa or chrysalis is the transformation stage where the caterpillar reorganizes its tissues into a fully formed butterfly

inside a protective casing. The adult or imago stage is focused on reproduction, pollination and migrations before restarting the cycle.

Monarch butterflies hold the record for the longest migration by a single insect and navigate using a combination of a time-compensated solar compass. This type of navigation uses the sun's position alongside their internal circadian clock and magnetic receptors in their antennae. How amazing it is to see both sides of this lengthy migration!

This migration is not a simple one, but actually takes multiple generations to complete both directions of the migration. In the spring, these overwintered monarchs head north to mate, lay eggs on milkweed and die. It takes 3 to four successive generations to repopulate North America each summer. This multigenerational relay goes as such:

- Generation 1 (spring) overwintering monarchs leave Mexico in March, move into the southern US and lay



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Butterflies undergo complete metamorphosis progressing through four distinct lifecycle stages.

eggs on Milkweed before dying. This generation hatches, matures and migrates in the Midwest and Northeast.

- Generation 2 and Generation 3 (summer) These are born in late spring and mid-summer and only live for 2–6 weeks with the sole focus of breeding and moving further north – reaching the northern US and southern Canada

- Generation 4 (fall) born in late summer/fall these do not reproduce immediately, but instead live 6 to 9 months and migrate up to 3000 miles south to Mexico for the winter and head north again in spring to start the cycle again.

To attract monarchs, plant native milkweed species such as common, showy and dwarf along with native flowering plants that provide nectar for adult butterflies. Planting tropical milkweed and other non-native varieties can disrupt the migration patterns and spread harmful parasites. In Saskatchewan, the monarch butterflies arrive from late May through mid-June to breed, relying on native milkweed before heading south by late summer.

In order to aid our monarch butterflies, we need to take action! Please avoid mowing natural ditches and prairie patches where milkweed grows between June 1 and September 15. There is heavy habitat loss of the native milkweed in Canada and this coupled with the winter forest degradation in the south has helped to decrease the population of the monarchs. As always, skip the pesticides and add native asters and goldenrods to help feed the adult monarch butterflies for their long journey south.

Letter to the Editor

RE: Right in the Centre, August 7

My heart breaks as I watch journalism - which I've been privileged to have been a part for much of my life - sink to the depths that it has now. Even as evermore violent weather rips through my beloved Manitoba - ruining homes, lives and infrastructure - articles denying the role of climate change appear far-too-often on the pages and airwaves of our news media here. Last year, wildfire nearly claimed the Town of Flin Flon. This year, we lost Dauphin General, an important regional hospital, to torrential rains and flooding. Its patients have been scattered God-knows-where, as other institutions struggle to accommodate them. As I write this, I'm driving through northern Manitoba, on holidays. I'm seeing miles of dead, scorched trees along the way, reminders of the damage past fires have already caused. Meanwhile, experts serving on the Intergovernmental Panel on climate change - the ultimate authority on the issue - have together, and with a strong consensus, long determined that our profligate production and burning of fossil fuels are the main drivers of a warming planet. Yet we're apparently supposed to believe most anyone but those experts. (A bit like taking your barber's advice on how to fix your clogged toilet.) A good example is Allister Heath— the Editor of the British Sunday Telegraph. One of his columns has been dutifully published in at least one Manitoba weekly. In it, Heath admits the climate is changing. But, “Britain can do almost nothing about it.” Even more shockingly, he tries to have us believe that, it's not really climate change doing the damage, but the misguided fight against it - and that this has actually “crippled British industry!” He conveniently ignores the trillions already spent everywhere, repairing the carnage that all of this has wrought. “We might even enjoy a warmer Mediterranean climate down the road,” he proclaims! (Tell that to the families of the more than ten thousand souls who perished in the heat wave in Europe this summer.) The Telegraph has been a hotbed of climate denial for some time. Informed observers label these numerous articles as “just plain crazy.” There were reports in 2023 that an Abu Dhabi-backed investment fund would take control of the Telegraph. So it looks like we now have a merchant of yellow journalism in bed with a Middle Eastern producer of massive amounts of oil. A match truly made in climate denial Hell. Meanwhile, we're also bombarded with batshit crazy conspiracy theories from other sources - our scientists are “on the take,” getting paid big money to “cook the books” - all the while lying to and deceiving the public. Or that “We've been duped by the climate change people!” (No motive or proof of this is ever offered.) So tell me, how could any well-meaning journalist go wrong by relying - not on these knee-jerk deniers, oil industry shills, pseudo scientists, cranks, amateurs or certain newspaper editors - but on solid, replicated, peer-reviewed science? Is that not the “stuff” that comes closest to the real “truth” that we all swear to seek out and expose? And how do we know the experts have not been wrong, all along? Because what they've been predicting for generations, is pretty much what's been unfolding all along, that's how!

Larry Powell,
Activist, author, blogger, science writer.
Shoal Lake, MB

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OLD SAYINGS

REF TO
WRITER

GERRY
NOLAN



Some more old sayings for you, starting with, "Don't cast your pearls before swine." This means someone is wasting their time by offering something valuable or helpful to a person who does not understand or appreciate its value. This saying originates from the New Testament in the Bible. "Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet and turn and rend you." King James version Matthew 7:6.

"Colder than a witch's tit" originated

from the 1600s back in Salem where witches were viewed as having cold blood and skin, just like the weather.

"Hard to teach an old dog new tricks." It is exceptionally difficult to teach someone a new skill to someone, especially an older person who is already set in their ways. This saying also dates back to the sixteenth century. Man can I relate to this one!

The phrase "the real McCoy" means something or someone is genuine, authentic or the true original, rather than a fake, copycat or imitation. "Everything, but

the kitchen sink," means almost every possible item, choice or thing has been included, used or brought, often far more than what was actually needed. A homestead stew comes to mind with this phrase. This phrase became very popular during World War II. It was military slang used to describe an attack on the enemy where every type of weapon and ammunition available was fired at the enemy.

"Butter wouldn't melt in her mouth," describes a person who looks completely innocent, quiet, or sweet, but is suspected of being insincere, mischievous or devious.

Last one for now, the phrase "the best thing since sliced bread" means something is extremely good, useful or wonderful. Have a great week everyone!

SUMMER SLIPPING AWAY

REF TO
WRITER

GERRY
NOLAN



As we have turned the page on yet another month, we see the fields starting to change colour. The gardens are producing some great vegetables. The market gardens are in full swing. Summer is turning into fall way too fast for me. Fall is my favourite season with spring right behind it. The other thing that is happening way too quickly is the hockey camps that will begin in the next week or so.

The Virden Oil Capitals and the Brandon Wheat Kings training camps are about to fire up shortly. Seems like they just finished their respective seasons. It does beg the question, why so early?

Back in my day, hockey started in December and we played ball until near the end of September. Now they play ball it seems all winter as well.

I suppose it will not be too long until they will play one thing or another all year round.

Harvest is upon us, so once again please yield to the swathers and combines who travel up and down our gravel roads and highways. These farmers are people who

feed the world. There is already enough on their plates without worrying what or who they are going to meet on the roads. Be nice to them, slow down and pull over for them so they can get the grain in the bin.

The crops are looking great again this year. Maybe a little splash of rain would help right now, then the tap can be left off for a while.

Farmers stay safe when working on machinery, we do not need people getting hurt or worse yet an unnecessary death. Stay safe people!



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The Right Plan for a Reliable Energy Future

By Hal Turner, COO
MANITOBA HYDRO

Manitoba Hydro's long-term energy plan is before the Public Utilities Board for public hearings. Debate is healthy, but not when critics ignore the facts.

Our Integrated Resource Plan would add more than 1,700 megawatts of new capacity to our energy system. Electricity demand in Manitoba is growing and could exceed available capacity during peak periods within a few years. We won't let that happen.

That's why we carefully examined all the options and came up with solutions that work in Manitoba's climate and continue to provide safe, reliable service for customers at rates that are among the lowest in North America.

Our proposed plan includes three new combustion turbines at Brandon Generating Station that would add 750

megawatts of dispatchable capacity, available whenever required.

Critics argue we're ignoring alternative sources of energy like wind, solar and battery storage. They miss a fundamental point: these technologies do not do the same job. When demand spikes on a frigid January evening, operators can turn on a combustion turbine when it is needed. They cannot make the wind blow or the sunshine.

We studied all the options extensively, using state-of-the-art, industry standard modelling software. The results were clear. Solar performs poorly during Manitoba's shortest and darkest winter days, while batteries cannot sustain the extended periods of extreme cold and high demand that characterize Manitoba winters.

Wind will play an important role in our future as part of a balanced, diversified energy system.

We purchase power now from two wind farms. And we're procuring up to 600 megawatts of additional energy from Indigenous majority-owned wind projects. But backup generation is still needed when the wind is not blowing.

While some critics focus on the impact of cold weather on combustion turbines, the reality is that every generation source, including hydro, wind, solar and batteries, experiences occasional outages for maintenance, repairs or other operational reasons.

Even so, Manitoba Hydro's existing Brandon combustion turbines achieve an average start-up reliability of 91%, despite being more than two decades old. Continued investments will further strengthen performance, and the new turbines we are proposing are expected to deliver significantly higher reliability, ensuring a dependable source of power during periods

of peak demand and system stress.

Others criticize the type of turbines we are proposing. The reason we selected lower-efficiency combustion turbines is simple: they are intended to run only during peak demand and drought conditions. Spending substantially more on higher-efficiency units that would operate only occasionally would increase costs without delivering meaningful additional benefits to customers.

We also hear conflicting claims that Manitoba Hydro's plan will achieve net-zero emissions while simultaneously causing climate harm. Those arguments cannot both be true. The reality is that Manitoba's system is already 97 per cent renewable hydroelectricity, and our long-term plan preserves one of the cleanest electricity grids in North America.

Some critics point to batteries in Ontario as proof gas generation is

obsolete. Yet Ontario still relies heavily on natural gas as one of its largest sources of electricity. If batteries alone were the answer, they would already play a far larger role there. Manitoba Hydro's hydroelectric system has elements that are effectively batteries.

Certain commentators cite North Dakota, Saskatchewan and Alberta as proof Manitoba is underestimating wind and solar. What they ignore is that those jurisdictions built renewable generation primarily to reduce reliance on costly fossil fuel baseload generation, particularly coal. Manitoba starts from a very different position. We already have abundant low-cost hydroelectric baseload power.

Electricity rates in these jurisdictions are significantly higher than in Manitoba. For example, Manitoba Hydro's residential rate of 10.52 cents per kilowatt

hour is significantly lower than the comparable rate in Regina (17.89 cents per kilowatt hour) and North Dakota (approximately 16 cents per kilowatt hour).

Here, wind helps meet growing demand, but it does not eliminate the need for dependable backup generation.

That is why Manitoba Hydro is proposing a balanced approach that includes new wind generation, efficiency measures, hydroelectric upgrades and combustion turbines for reliability. The goal is to keep the lights on at a price Manitobans can afford.

Debates and criticisms over Manitoba Hydro's development plans are nothing new. They have been going on for over 50 years. But through it all, our plans, as they have been executed, have resulted in this province having one of the greenest and most affordable energy systems in North America. The results speak for themselves.

CLASSIFIEDS

Obituary

IN LOVING MEMORY
DAVID HAROLD MCLEAN
MARCH 30, 1952 – NOVEMBER 17, 2025



David was born on March 30, 1952 in Hamiota, MB and passed away on November 17, 2025 at the age of 73, at the Virden Health Centre in Virden, MB after a lengthy and very courageous battle with cancer.

David was predeceased by his grandparents, his parents Archibald David McLean and Emilie Henrietta (Hardy) McLean, as well as his sister Frances (Hay) Semenluk.

David is survived by his wife Joyce Rinn; son Jayson (Christi) Rinn, and daughter Melissa (Josh) Hancharyk; grandchildren Haylee Rinn (Travis Denolf), Brendan (Samantha) Rinn, Tristan (Samantha) Rinn, Camryn Rinn (Lexi Heritage), Connor Hancharyk, and Corbin Hancharyk; great-grandchildren Sophia Denolf, Boston Rinn, and Jaxx Rinn; his siblings Patricia (David) Stephenson, Diane (Dave) Price, Robert McLean, Joan Massina, Gordie McLean, Shirley (Donny) Park, and Cindy (Ken) Smith; as well as many nieces and nephews.

David's childhood was spent in Virden, Kenton, and Oak Lake. He especially enjoyed his Grandma and Grandpa McLean's farm in Kenton. In the early years the family travelled where Archie could get work. Moving to Vegreville and Thompson was hard on the kids in school. David talked of the train ride and poor roads in Thompson. He shined shoes and sold newspapers, saving half of the money to buy a bike. He was always a hard worker and had excellent entrepreneurial skills. When Archie became sick the family moved back to Virden.

David met Joyce in October 1976 and by March 1977 they were inseparable. David welcomed Jayson as his own son.

After living in Hinton for a short while, they moved to Edmonton and in July 1980 Melissa was born. They moved back to Virden in 1987.

In 1993 David decided to start his own painting business. He wrote colourful, flashy ads to promote his experience and skills in all things painting, catching the eye of Beaver Lumber who hired him to paint their new homes. He soon found himself doing all the homes for the Parade of Homes. Many of the homes went to the Minot State Fair Parade of Homes, often showcasing David and Joyce's unique techniques and stencilling.

It was a busy time, sometimes painting up to 40 houses a year. David was a perfectionist in every paint job and the endless amounts of woodwork and doors he sprayed in those 30 years. David's painting took him all over the province and into Saskatchewan. He was outstanding in his field and at everything he strived for. David worked until July 2023 when illness forced him to stop.

David and Joyce purchased their little house in June 1994. They rescued many cats over the years. Early in life David developed a love of all animals and plants. He proudly planted all the seeds, plants, and flowers every spring. David planted his beloved yard for the last time in Spring 2025.

David loved cruising and listening to music, taking in as much nature and wildlife as he could. He loved poetry and baking and could amazingly remember so many quotes. David especially enjoyed sitting in his comfy chair in the tent in the yard, listening to music and enjoying all the flowers, birds, and squirrels that he loved to feed everyday.

A private Celebration of Life was held on July 19/26.

Celebration of Life

The Family of **Douglas Earl Pedlow**
Cordially invites you to attend a
Celebration of Life
Monday, August 24, 2026
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Please join us as we gather to share memories, stories, and celebrate a life well lived.
We look forward to honoring Doug together.

Help Wanted

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- Valid Class 5 driver's licence.
- Must be self-motivated and able to work individually.
- Ability to handle all duties associated with this position.

Consideration will be given to applicants that have courses in Water & Wastewater. This position is anticipated to commence on or about September 21, 2026, with a work schedule of 10 days on and 4 days off.
Applications for this position will be received until the position is filled.

Please forward your resume to the Southwest Regional Water Co-operative, Brock Bolton, P.O. Box 364, Melita, Manitoba, R0M 1L0 or by email to waterplant@swrwc.ca. For further information please call 204-522-3463.

Only those applicants chosen for interviews will be contacted.

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Attention: Ashley T. Joyce

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Roll No. 47300.000- RM OF WALLACE-WOODWORTH

CONDITIONS OF TENDER:

1. Interested parties must rely on their own inspection and knowledge of the property and not on any representations made by or on behalf of the Vendor.
2. Tenders must be received on or before **5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 28, 2026.**
3. Tenders must be accompanied by a deposit of 10% of the tender by cheque payable to Meighen Haddad LLP. Deposits accompanying unacceptable bids will be returned.
4. Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE:

1. The closing of any purchase and sale resulting from an accepted tender will have an effective date of October 1, 2026 which shall be the Closing Date.
2. The bidder whose tender is accepted will be required to complete a formal agreement covering terms and conditions of sale within seven (7) days of the acceptance of the tender.
3. The bidder whose tender is accepted must provide evidence of the purchased funds available under conditions acceptable to the Vendor within seven (7) days of the acceptance of the tender. If the balance of the accepted tender is not paid as of the closing date the deposit may be forfeited as liquidated damages and not as a penalty.
4. The Property Taxes will be adjusted as of January 1, 2027.

For further information contact Trent B. Sholdice at 204-725-8768 or tsholdice@mhlaw.ca.

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Canupawakpa Wacipi brings community and generations together

By Charlotte Artyszko
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Canupawakpa Dakota Nation welcomed dancers, singers, families and visitors for its annual Wacipi, held Aug. 1-3.

The three-day gathering brought together people of all ages for a weekend of dancing, drumming, culture and community. Along with the various dance competitions, the weekend also included horseshoes and traditional moccasin games.

Saturday evening, the steady beat of the drums filled the grounds as dancers in colourful regalia entered the arbor for Grand Entry. Spectators gathered around the arena throughout the evening to watch the dancing and listen to the drum groups.

A variety of dances took

place during the evening, with dancers of different ages taking their turn in the arena. The men's Chicken Dance and women's Jingle Dress were among those featured, drawing the attention of spectators gathered around the arbor.

There was plenty happening outside the dance arena as well. Food trucks were on site along with homemade bannock burgers and lemonade stands, while several vendors offered items for visitors to browse and purchase.

One of the memorable moments Saturday evening was the recognition of an Elder celebrating an upcoming birthday. As the drums played, people came forward to shake his hand and offer their congratulations.

Canupawakpa Dakota



Dancers of all ages in colourful regalia.

Nation Chief, Charlene Moore, said this year's Wacipi brought the community and local businesses together, with Elders, youth and children all enjoying the gathering.

For Moore, one sight in particular stood out.

"As I was watching, I saw 10 children dancing from Canupawakpa," she said. "They were happy and taking in the pow wow. They are the next generation and leaders of Canupawakpa."

Moore said the Nation



PHOTOS BY CHARLOTTE ARTYSZKO

The Wacipi provided an opportunity for generations to gather and celebrate Dakota culture.

is also "moving forward on new ideas and projects for Canupawakpa."

Throughout the weekend, the Wacipi provided an opportunity for generations to gather and celebrate Dakota culture and community. From

an Elder being recognized Saturday evening to Canupawakpa children dancing in the arena, the gathering highlighted both those who carry the community's traditions and the next generation growing up with them.

DIAMOND NOTES: MIDWEST TAKES SECOND AT PROVINCIALS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Midwest 18U AAA team finished second at Baseball Manitoba 18U AAA Tier 2 Provincial Championship.

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

With a couple of local players contributing, the Midwest team earned second place at the Baseball Manitoba 18U AAA Tier 2 Provincial Championships.

Virden's Luka Mahmutovic and Miniota's Jake Muir helped the team compile a 3-2 record at the tournament in Winnipeg July 24-26. Both of the squad's losses were to Elmwood, who got by Midwest 9-4 in the final.

"We had some injury issues early on that impacted our team and we got healthier at the end of the season," Midwest head coach Andy Drake said of the team's success. "Also, with the rain, flooding and road closures, we had a lot

of trouble getting games and practices in. We cancelled seven games between league and preseason, and several practices."

A first-year player, Muir contributed as a pitcher and in the infield. Drake said, "He did pretty well pitching and has a very good arm and I think will develop into a really good player."

Mahmutovic, who was previously profiled in the Empire-Advance, played in the outfield. Drake praised his speed and solid hitting ability.

Gray Named All-Star

Reston's Asher Gray was selected to Baseball Manitoba's 13U All-Star Roster. The All-Star event will be played in Winnipeg Aug. 20-23.

18U AAA WestBran

The WestBran 18U AAA

team posted a 2-2 record at the provincial championships.

"I was most pleased to see the players kept competing no matter what was happening in the game," Oildome head coach Torey Scott said. "We had a handful of players step up into certain roles that were needed to give us a chance to compete."

During the season, Reston's Jamie Williamson pitched, caught and played third base, first base and shortstop for Oildome.

"One of Jamie's best qualities is his mindset towards the game," Scott said. "That was evident with seeing how he has excelled physically and athletically over the past couple of years. That combined with a strong arm and good plate composure makes him a well-

rounded player."

The head coach said Reston's Kaden Revet "built confidence through the year and built his way into an effective left-handed relief pitcher that we relied upon throughout the summer."

Last season, Virden's Brayden Rowan played in the infield for Scott, but became Oildome's starting centre-fielder this year.

"This was a transition Brayden smoothly made using his speed to his advantage," Scott said. "Brayden also worked off the mound in our starting rotation."

Scott was supported by assistant coaches Dallas Williamson and Brad Vandenberghe.

18U AA

Cardyn Hayward of Virden Minor Ball competed in the

18U AA provincials in Winnipeg with the Brandon Knights July 17-19. The squad went 2-2 in pool play.

13U AAA Oildome

At the Baseball Manitoba 13U AAA Tier 2 Provincial Championships, the Oildome regional team compiled a 3-2 record. The tournament was held in Winnipeg July 31-Aug. 2.

The team got by Midwest 10-9 and fell 13-3 to Winnipeg South and 17-15 to Pembina Hills. It rebounded to romp past North Winnipeg 29-5 and Interlake 17-7.

"We knew day one was going to be our toughest test with games against Midwest and South Winnipeg, two teams that had battled us hard all season," manager Dwayne Bugg said. "Getting the split was huge and gave us confidence heading into the final three games. Unfortunately, a few untimely errors ended up being the difference in us missing the Tier 2 final, but I'm proud of how our group responded."

"Our offence really came alive over the weekend, as we scored 74 runs while finishing with a 3-2 record. More importantly, this group showed how much they had grown throughout the season. We have a great nucleus of kids who continued to improve, competed for one another, and were a very close-knit team that never stopped battling."

The team included Reston's

Asher Gray and Jace Guthrie along with Virden's Grady Hay. Bugg said that "Asher provided leadership on the field as he was one of our two returning players." Meanwhile, the manager said, "Jace provided pop in the middle of our lineup and quality innings on the mound." As for Hay, Bugg said, "Grady proved to be a strong defensive presence and one of the league's fastest players."

Reston's Derrus Gray was the team's head coach. He was assisted by fellow Reston residents John Patmore and Jamie Williamson as well as Hartney's Trevor Derlago.

15U AAA Oildome

The 15U AAA Oildome team had a 3-2 record at the Baseball Manitoba 15U AAA Tier 2 Provincial Championship in Winnipeg July 31-Aug. 2. The team opened with an 18-4 loss to Midwest. It then reeled off three straight victories, beating West Winnipeg 15-2, Bonivital 22-11, and Brandon 19-4. Oildome fell 7-6 to Red River in its last game.

Virden's Eric Rampton was primarily a pitcher for Oildome, but also played third base and in the outfield. Oak Lake's Wyatt Cochran started most games in left field. He also pitched for Oildome.

"The biggest strengths of both players is that they worked hard in practice, extremely coachable and excellent teammates," head coach Bryan Swaenepoel said.

SPORTS

AA BALL REPORT: RESTON/HARTNEY BATTLE TOP TEAMS AT PROVINCIALS

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The 11U AA Reston/Hartney baseball team proved it could compete against the province's best.

The team defeated North Winnipeg 10-3 in its final game at the Baseball Manitoba 11U AA Tier 1 Provincial Championships to finish with a 1-3 record. The event was held July 24-26 in Winkler.

"The team battled against the best players from much larger communities and never gave up," head coach Rory Tycoles said.

The squad was formed from players from the 11U teams from its two communities. Of those 25 players, 16 attended tryouts and 12 made the team. The eight players from Reston were Asher Clark, Preston Harris, Ryder Tycoles, Carter Wheelans, Jett Guthrie, Jakob Myles, Ryder Henderson, and Cole Russell. The coaches from Reston included Tycoles and Adam Russell.

For the provincial tournament, Tier 1 included the top four teams from the city playoffs and the top six rural teams based on qualifier record. This meant the Reston/Hartneysquad competed against top teams from much larger communities.

"Altona was about five times larger than our combined population, and Brandon is about 60 times our combined population," Coach Tycoles said.

The coach said, "We played against the top 10 best teams in 11U in the province and with a couple of bounces and a few less mental lapses that occur more often with the age group we could have finished with a 3 and 1 record and battled for the playoffs as we lost by one to Altona, and were 2 to 1 into the fourth against Corydon before the wheels fell off."

There were many things he was pleased with about the provincial

tournament.

"I was very pleased with how a young group (seven minors and five majors) battled against the adversity of weather delays, extreme heat, and very strong competition to beat a city team and be competitive with everyone other than eventual champion Brandon Marlins, which consisted of the best major age players from the entire city of Brandon," Coach Tycoles said.

He appreciated working with the 11U age group because "you see major growth in players in such a short period of time. Kids improve from game to game and you have the 'Ahhh!' moments where you see it click for the players. It is just the beginning of learning about a very complex game, and I enjoy passing on my passion for the game. Seeing the players having wiffle ball games at the hotel after playing four games in the intense heat shows that they love to play."

15U A

At the Baseball Manitoba 15U AA Tier 2 Provincial Championships in Seine River, July 24-26, the Oildome regional team advanced to the semifinals. Its lone loss of the tournament was to Brandon, the eventual champion.

"Our kids played great all weekend," coach Curtis Bugg said.

The team included Virden's Tyler Warkentin, Landon Plaisier, Ulrich Neethling and, from Reston, Jake Sterling.

13U AA

At the Baseball Manitoba 13U AA Tier 1 Provincial Championships in Portage, July 24-26, the Oildome team compiled a 3-2 record. In the round robin, the squad earned wins against Portage and Bonivital and fell in close contests to Carillon and West Winnipeg. It defeated Red River in a playoff contest. Head coach Matt Palmer was pleased with how competitive the team was at the Tier 1 tournament.

"We are a small region,

and qualified for Tier 1 only by winning the final game of our AA season," he said. "We ended up against the best AA teams in the province and missed out on the semifinal by only one run in our final round-robin game. The kids were really resilient through a difficult weekend of ball, and I was very proud of how they improved throughout the season. Great group of kids to work with."

The squad included Oak Lake's Rhett Klassen as well as Declan Cook and Zack Campbell from Reston. Oak Lake's John Klassen helped coach.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The 11U AA Reston/Hartney team competed at the provincial tournament.

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