

Empire-Advance

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SEPTEMBER 27, 2024 | EMPIRE: VOL 120 NO 6 / ADVANCE: VOL 139 NO 8 | PUBLISHING FRIDAYS

**KIDS EAT FREE**
ALL SEPTEMBER LONG

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WITH MINIMUM PURCHASE.

“Our goal is just to slowly build it better for the next generation and hope we hand over something of value.”
Lisa De Ruyck
Lakeshore Holsteins Ltd.
Bruxelles, MB



De Ruyck Family

Contact **Sunrise Credit Union** to meet with an expert for your Farm Transition goals!



The Golden Eagle begins its fall migration



PHOTOS BY ANNE DAVISON

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE ADVANCE

On a gravel road near Miniota, what appears to be a huge golden eagle, is not afraid of the photographer, and why should he be? He's that big! And I'm only shooting with a camera. As we watch for a few minutes, the bird looks down from time to time at the remains of something on the bale that is his dinner plate. Nearby, noisy geese are on the wing. According to the Cornell Lab ebird site, "The Golden Eagle is one of the largest, fastest, nimblest raptors in North America. Lustrous gold feathers gleam on the back of its head and neck; a powerful beak and talons advertise its hunting prowess." Only during the non-breeding season does the golden eagle range into the western part of Manitoba. Immature bald eagles that don't have their white head and tail feathers clearly distinguishable until they are about four can be mistaken for golden eagles. But judging by this fearlessness bird's mature looking black beak, I believe this is a golden eagle.



Inside...



HISTORIC BUILDING TORN DOWN
P10



OIL CAPS HOME OPENER
P13

Pumpkin truck comes to Kenton



Baby Aspen MacDonald is helping pick her favourite pumpkins.

By Jessica Coulter
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Six years ago, the Gabor family was asked by a neighbour if they would like to take over a pumpkin business and the Gabors decided it would be a great idea for their kids. Ty Gabor, age 16, and Harley Gabor, age 10, work a two-acre pumpkin patch each year to collect pumpkins to sell in their area. The pumpkin business is called Ty's Pumpkin Patch and is located just outside of Gladstone.

They grow many different varieties of pumpkins of all shapes, sizes and colours. Some of those varieties including Pie Pumpkins, Jack-o-Lanterns, Blue, Warty, Peanut Pumpkins and a few others. They try to add a

new one or two each season. They also have a selection of ornamental coloured corn and gourds available 3 for \$5. The large pumpkins were selling for only \$7.

To help with the selling of the pumpkins, Ty and his parents fixed up an old vintage truck to hold the pumpkins and bring them to market.

Currently they are setting up their truck in Gladstone and Plumas regularly. They brought a selection of pumpkins to Kenton on Monday, September 23, to sell to the community where Ty and Harley's grandmother lives.

If you would like to know more about the Pumpkin Truck and Ty's Pumpkin Patch, or if you would like to have them visit your community, please reach out to Leslie at 204-872-1165.



Ty's Pumpkin Patch vintage delivery truck.



Harley and Ty Gabor sold pumpkins to the Kenton community this fall.

PHOTOS BY JESSICA COULTER

SOURIS RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

Job Opportunity - Financial Administrator (FULL-TIME)

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

Job Objective:

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

The Financial Administrator reports directly to the General Manager

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

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

Skills Required:

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

Qualifications:

- Graduate of a degree, diploma, or certificate program in Business Administration, Accounting, or equivalent relevant experience (Accounting concentration preferred)
- Previous experience in an office setting
- Experience in management of employees would be an asset.

Compensation:

- 35 hour work week
- Salary range \$52,000.00--\$67,000.00
- Employer paid Blue Cross Health Benefits Plan III
- Municipal Employee Benefits Pension

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

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

Souris River Watershed District Attention: Dean Brooker
Box 339, 404 4th Street, Reston, MB R0M 1X09
Ph: (204) 877-3020 Fax: (204) 877-3090

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

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Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries provides funding to Manitoba not-for-profit organizations that deliver harm minimization services for alcohol, gambling or cannabis in their communities. Eligible programs include those for counselling or addictions treatment, public education, pregnancy/post-partum supports and community safety and outreach.



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#MBLLGoodTogether

Health Care Support Workers serve Strike Notice

Unions say fair contract needed to fix Health Care staffing crisis

By Empire-Advance Staff
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Support staff in Manitoba's hospitals and care homes are looking for a raise that would bring them to parity with the rest of Canada. If wage negotiations do not progress these institutions of care may be running on a skeleton crew by early October according to an announcement earlier this week.

On Tuesday, unions representing approximately 25,000 health care support workers across Manitoba served formal notice that a strike will begin on Oct. 8, if a fair settlement is not reached before then.

Workers, represented by CUPE and MGEU, include health care aides,

laundry workers, dietary aides, ward clerks, and recreation coordinators at health care centres and personal care homes, as well as workers in the Home Care program. They are the lowest paid health care support workers in Canada, with a starting wage of just \$17.07 per hour for many.

"If Manitoba is serious about fixing health care, it will need to resolve the health care staffing crisis, and that means paying fair and competitive wages for health care support workers," said CUPE President Gina McKay.

Many of these often physically demanding jobs start at just above minimum wage and people in Manitoba communities are choosing other jobs. The employers' last offer would still leave employ-

ees the lowest paid health care support workers in Canada.

MGEU president Kyle Ross explained, in an interview, that it is all about the pay scale. "We need dollars. It's unfortunate... the jobs are just not competitive in the market anymore."

He said facilities around the province are struggling with staff shortage due to an unattractive wage.

"We have care homes and hospitals running at a 50 per cent vacancy rate. The Benito care home is at an 80 per cent vacancy rate," Ross said of the village about 40 kilometres southwest of Swan River.

"You have to remember that the workers that perform these roles can get a job in the lumber yard. They can go work at the

deli in the co-op... they are just regular people and the jobs are not competitive where the people live. So, no one is picking them up."

He says the wage agreement expired over five months ago, at the end of March, and bargaining for a new deal began over the summer.

"By mid-August our members rejected the deal. When we tabled a response on September 5th, we've yet to hear back from the employer."

He said union members were frustrated by that.

"We have to push this along a little bit... it's really unfair that we have to do it this way. We'd rather bargain at the table and work with the employers to find a fair deal."

Just who are these 'employers?' Well Ross says

there are several layers, but it is the health regions and provincial health authorities who are responsible to negotiate wages and salaries. The negotiators are Provincial Health Labour Relations Service (PHLRS) representing all the regional health authorities, plus Shared Health.

A strike would mean a reduction in the services that will be provided. It would affect hands-on time, but they would assure that no harm comes to patients and residents.

"We want to avoid a strike, in all honesty."

The province's health care support workers wages are standardized. PHLRS negotiates on behalf of all of the regions involved, which includes Prairie Mountain Health.

In response to a ques-

tion from the Virden Empire Advance, a Shared Health spokesperson said, "Health system employers remain committed to bargaining in good faith with CUPE and MGEU. Since the spring, nearly two dozen bargaining sessions have occurred with the unions, resulting in offers that were taken to CUPE and MGEU membership in the summer.

"Additional sessions have been offered and dates are in the process of being confirmed.

"While we remain hopeful that an agreement will be reached and a strike's impact to health services avoided, essential service agreements are being finalized and we are preparing for all contingencies in order to maintain essential health services for Manitobans."

HELEN DRYSDALE

OUT OF HELEN'S KITCHEN

Give that stale loaf of bread a second chance at life with these resourceful recipes that will satisfy both your taste buds and your budget. Stale bread is often seen as a disposable item, but I am here to say "don't toss it!"

Say oui to a perfect fall breakfast with this pumpkin French toast recipe-slices of bread dipped in a pumpkin spice mixture and drizzled with maple syrup.

Pumpkin French toast

- 4 eggs
- 3/4 cup milk
- 1/2 cup pumpkin puree, not pumpkin pie filling
- 2 Tbsp. brown sugar
- 1 Tbsp. molasses (optional)
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 tsp. pumpkin pie spice
- butter, for griddle or pan
- 8-9 slices bread

Preheat oven to 160 F for keeping the toast warm after cooking. In a shallow pan whisk together eggs, milk, pumpkin, brown sugar, molasses, vanilla extract, cinnamon, and pumpkin pie spice.

Butter a preheated griddle or frying pan. Dip bread into egg mixture, allowing the bread to soak up some of the mixture. (Not too long) Cook on griddle for 3-4 minutes or until golden brown. Flip and cook on the other side until golden brown. Repeat with slices of bread until coating mixture is gone. Serve with desired toppings. I like maple syrup and a dollop of whipped cream.

Leftover bread croutons are a great way to use up any stale bread, and croutons work great on top of soup or salad!

Croutons

- 4-5 cups cubed leftover bread, crusts on
- 2 tsp. minced garlic
- 2 tsp. Dash
- 2 tsp. dried parsley
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 1/4 cup oil

Mix the garlic, Dash, parsley, salt and pepper into the oil. Add the bread cubes to a bowl and sprinkle the oil on cubes and mix well. Lay bread cubes on a cookie sheet in a single layer. Bake in a preheated 350 F (180 C) oven turning bread cubes every 5-6 minutes until bread is toasted to your desired crispness. Let cool. Store in an air tight container.



MONEY MATTERS

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Tanner Lewis
Financial Advisor
Keystone Wealth | Aviso Wealth

BUILDING A NEST EGG FOR THE FUTURE

Planning for retirement is crucial for securing financial stability and peace of mind in your later years. To build a retirement nest egg, save early, invest wisely, understand available resources like RRSPs and TFSAs, utilize employer plans and government benefits. Review and adjust your strategy regularly, seek professional advice, and start planning early for a secure retirement. Here's a guide to help you plan effectively for your retirement.

1. Start saving early for retirement to benefit from compound interest. Regularly save around 10-15% of income to build a significant retirement fund.
2. Maximize RRSP contributions in Canada for tax benefits and tax-free investment growth until withdrawal. Set up automatic contributions to save consistently.
3. Consider Tax-Free Savings Accounts (TFSAs) for retirement savings. Contributions are not tax-deductible, but withdrawals are tax-free, including investment gains. TFSAs offer flexibility with no penalties for withdrawals, suitable for short-term and long-term goals. Use TFSAs alongside RRSPs for tax-advantaged savings.
4. Diversifying investments with stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and ETFs can manage risk and boost returns. Seek advice from a financial advisor to align your strategy with risk tolerance and retirement objectives.
5. Take advantage of employer-sponsored plans like pension plans or group RRSPs in Canada, which may include employer contributions. Ensure you contribute enough to receive the maximum match to boost your retirement savings effectively with free money.
6. Familiarize yourself with Canadian government retirement programs like CPP and OAS for retirement income planning. CPP benefits depend on your work contributions, while OAS offers monthly payments to seniors aged 65+. Plan retirement income considering these benefits alongside personal savings.
7. Regularly monitor and adjust your retirement plan to stay on track with your goals. Life changes can impact your savings strategy, so adapt contributions, investments, and timeline accordingly. Use online calculators to estimate future needs and savings sufficiency.
8. Consider seeking professional advice for retirement planning. Financial advisors offer personalized guidance to optimize savings strategy, investment choices, and stay updated on relevant tax laws and retirement programs.

Mutual funds and other securities are offered through
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Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



Gift or bonus?

Speaking with my Sister the Elder this week we reflected on our lives; how very good we have it – great health, adequate means and strong support of family and friends. She has studied life expectancies of women born in our generation, in Canada, with Caucasian heritage. And yes, every one of those points factor into our projected lifespan. We are both doing very well statistically and practically. Sister the Elder is just past her eightieth birthday and in the next ten days is competing in a world weight lifting competition in South Africa. As an aside— she was the least athletic of the four of us sisters and just two years ago decided to get into lifting weights. She took the gold in a recent regional competition and with no other competitor set her own new standards. Then Sister the Elder was lifting for Thailand, this time it will be Australia that receives the honours.

In the course of our discourse she stated that each day was a bonus. I maintain that each day is a gift. In my world each day is a blessing, gift is universal...After a short discussion, she acceded, a bonus is a reward for a job well done, and whereas we are both doing well, and both are indeed eligible for a bonus- that's not quite how life works. I know many individuals whose daily achievements in actions and attitudes are deserving of rewards. For now, the gift of another day is just that- a gift.

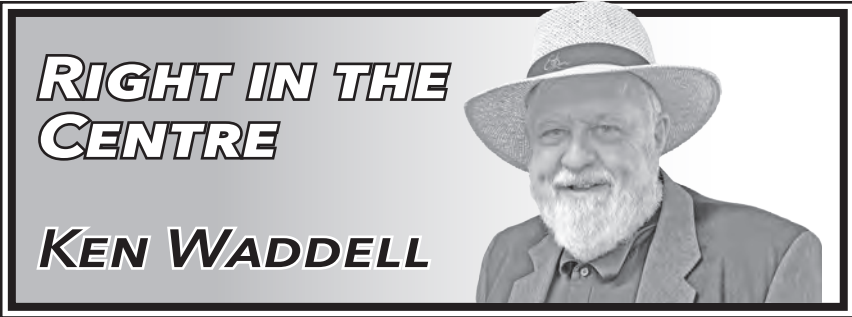
This is a topic we have spoken of before; how come we have it so good? We have concluded that for both of our personal developments that not having a brother was good for us; we were allowed to follow interests, not set aside for the male lineage to excel. And back in the day— way back— having a male heir was important in our culture and climate. More women are taking over the family farm, or buying their own farm, than would have occurred fifty, sixty years ago. Not having a brother also meant that we got to work alongside our father, and he was a natural born teacher, and we learned about politics, racism, faith and fundamentals in the course of a workday. That was an incredible gift!

As I was speaking with the last of the Dietrich Friesen clan, a brother-in-law who is ninety-two, he reflected on the wonder that his ancestors had migrated from the Ukraine at the turn of the last century, from the area that is now war torn and under siege, to the peace of Canada. How come us? My maternal and paternal great grandparents made much the same trek, at about the same time. Here too, a gift for generations, including me.

There have been rough patches in my life journey. I have known real hunger, abuse, poverty and rejection. How did I have the strength and courage to say 'enough is enough', walk away and start over? How blessed was I to find a partner that accepted me, encouraged me, and challenged me to grow as a person. Bonus? Never. Always a gift.

Beware of the promise makers

The Provincial government announced some goals for energy production and conservation last week. Below are the main points and in italics I have written some things to watch for or to question about the policy. The government acknowledges that a main source of energy in Manitoba comes from hydro power and that is true. However, Manitoba Hydro has been politically squeezed over the decades and some things haven't worked out that well. Some examples are flooding of communities by constructing power dams, wasting millions by re-directing the BiPole III route and installing political appointees into the top jobs at Manitoba Hydro. We can't go back in time but maybe we can learn from mistakes committed over the past few decades. Here's the points and my questions and comments in italics.



“ Manitoba Hydro has been politically squeezed over the decades and some things haven't worked out that well. ”

- Creating an Indigenous loan-guarantee program to provide First Nations and Métis the capital support and capacity to participate in the energy transition and finance new partnerships in wind generation.
Loan guarantees have to very carefully set up or the guarantees quickly turn into grants and defaulted loans.
- Refurbishing Manitoba Hydro generating stations to unlock up to 200 megawatts of power.
Sounds like a good idea but does the government have any idea how much money needs to be invested and how long before it pays back?
- Ending the first-come, first-served approach for large grid connection to better align with Manitoba's economic development goals.
I think that means projects will have to go on a waiting list while a government advisory board decides who gets power and

- who doesn't. I understand there is already a waiting list for power. Businesses can't expect to just start a project and assume there will be electricity to run buildings and factories.*
- Strengthening energy codes for homes and buildings to generate long-term energy savings for Manitoba families.
I think this will be a waste of time and money as current Manitoba building codes already dictate high standards for windows doors and insulation.
- Stronger oversight of the oil and gas sector with regular provincial inspections to ensure environmental safety and reliability.
Before I would applaud that move, I would want to see the past performance records of the oil and gas sector. For example, have there been serious spills or accidents or is this just another government implemented set of regulations to fight an imaginary problem?
- Installing new Manitoba Hydro owned and operated public electric vehicle chargers.
So far, I rarely see vehicles using the

- charging stations we already have. In rural areas where electric vehicles are largely unproven or lack realistic range, I wouldn't rush into that expense. We already subsidize the purchase of electric vehicles, why should we subsidize the charging stations too.*
- A renewed focus on energy security with stronger protections in place for procurement and data management to keep Manitoba's energy supply safe and secure.
That last point may be code for "Let's build up a bureaucracy of number crunchers so they can bombard us with meaningless facts and figures."
- I welcome feedback, but be very wary of politicians who promise prosperity bought with your money.
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 newspaper staff.

Letter to the Editor

RE: The Virden Pioneer Home Museum needs your help

The Town of Virden has many historical treasures. The fieldstone former CPR station is a rarity in Manitoba because of its construction. Occupied by Arts Mosaic, its art gallery is a popular destination for artists and art lovers. The Arts Mosaic committee does an excellent job of celebrating artists from the area in this facility.

Built in 1911-12, the Virden Auditorium Theatre had its official opening on February 29th in 1912. Since its re-opening in 1988, it has become the centre for performing arts in the community. The theatre is in the process of a major restoration of the seating on the main floor and the first balcony. The Virden Auditorium Board had the foresight, and the fortitude to undertake such an ambitious project. The Aud Board is comprised of a group of resolute volunteers whose bond is a love for the theatre.

The Virden Pioneer Home Museum is another jewel in the crown of historical Virden. Built in 1888 by James Frame, a hardware and lumber merchant, the building became a museum in

1970. In many ways the name of the museum is a misnomer because the items in the museum are much more upscale than those of a pioneer family. It truly is a Victorian mansion on the prairies. But here is the problem. The museum board is exceedingly small and most of us are almost as old as some of the antiques in the museum. While some might think that it is befitting that a museum be run by a bunch of old people, I beg to differ. The museum needs an infusion of younger people to care for this community treasure. New people with a new vision for the museum. We need people who believe in the history of this area and want to promote this valued asset just like Arts Mosaic or the Virden Aud Board do.

If you want to help, please call me at 204 748-2808 or message me at rickk@mymts.net

Submitted
By Rick Kristjanson
Virden, MB
204 748-2808

News from Miniota

Submitted

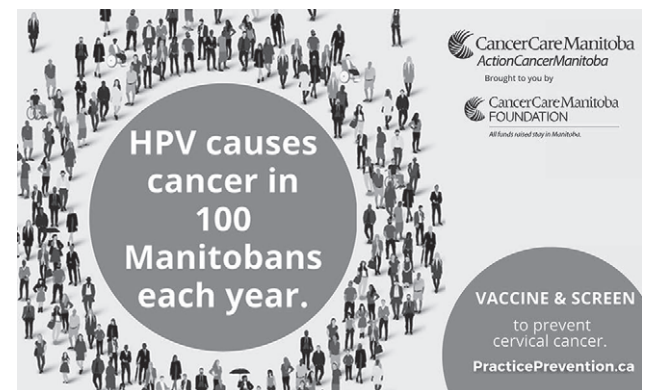
By LINDA CLARK

Congratulations to Brett and Kim Clark on the birth of their twin daughters, Ashtyn Skye and Isla Evelyn, born on Sept. 15 in Brandon. Ashtyn and Isla are also welcomed by grandparents Barry and Dianne Clark, and Kim's parents, Ferne Bayerle and Marty Johnson of Saskatchewan, as well as many other family members eager to meet these tiny little ones.

The morning of Sept. 20 was a beautiful day for students and staff of the Miniota School holding their annual Terry Fox run around town.

The Miniota Valley is a beautiful picture these days as the colors of our landscape change. Summer activities are coming to an end and autumn/fall activities have begun. Many of our youth are participating in the power skating lessons being held at Elkhorn, as they gear up for another hockey season.

"There is nothing too small for gratitude."
-Mary Davis



The Virden Empire-Advance is now available for FREE

Find the newspaper at the following locations:

Alexander store, Sioux Valley Petro, Valleyview Co-op - Oak Lake, RM of Sifton office, Joe Dandy's, Miniota, Lenore Post Office, In Kenton at Valleyview Co-op, Whyte's Lumber, Woodworth Dodge and Briarwood Cafe. In Elkhorn at Twin Valley Co-op, Elkhorn Library, KT's Kitchen and the Auto Museum, Traci's Place-Kola, Cromer Valley Store. In Reston at Reston Fine Foods and Reston Drugs, Reston Library and Willowview Care Home. Turnbull's Sales, In Sinclair at Irwin Automotive Ltd. and Service at Pipestone.

Virden:

Drop Box at Flower Attic, Drop Box at Virden Empire advance and in the newspaper office, Sooper Daves, Fountain Tire, White Owl, Virden Golf Course, Stillwater Adventures, MJ's, Valleyview Co-op Grocery, Valleyview Co-op C-Store, Town of Virden, Custom Creations, Virden Dental, Super Thrifty, Prairie Dentist, Virden Footwear, HiWay Grocery, Virden Sport and Fashion, Alex Hotel, Virden Drugs, Central Hotel, Virden Train Station, Red Apple, TJ's, Chicken Chef, Town of Virden, Home Hardware, Kullberg's, Nu-Art, Shear Expressions, Swift Oil Field, Kola Store, Virden Ford, Virden Dodge

Plus the Virden Empire Advance is made available to residents of the seniors homes and care homes.

If you would like to have the Virden Empire Advance delivered to your place of business, please contact the VEA office at 204-748-3931.

Music in the Park bids summer goodbye



Young at Heart playing in the Legion Hall for the final concert in August.

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Viriden’s Music in the Park organizers, Leona Joseph, Michelle Gervin, Jill Radwanski, Adeline Savy, Krista Pederson and Tara Davies, rounded up a variety of talent to perform on Jubilee Stage. Musicians Dan Kristoff, Revival, Michelle Chyzyk & Friends, Young at Heart, Darrell Corbell (with guest appearance from Viriden Ukulele Club), and Heart’s Desire shared their talent with the community. When inclement weather plagued the final concert, Heart’s Desire took up the Royal Canadian Legion’s offer to play in the hall.

Organizers look forward to seeing you in the park again next year

Speeder receives serious offence notice

RCMP Service Report, Sept. 15 –21

Submitted
By WESTMAN RCMP

During this week Westman RCMP received a total of 85 calls for service. Of these, 23 were traffic related including 12 moving traffic – speeding violations. Also included in the calls for service were 6 suspicious person/vehicle/property files, 3 mischief files, 4 assault files, 5 failures to comply with order, 3 false alarms, 3 calls under the child welfare act – other activities, and 3 files of uttering threats against a person.

On Sept. 18 during a routine traffic patrol in the RM Two Borders, RCMP observed a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed a speed of 157 km/hr in a 100 km/hr zone. A traffic stop was conducted and driver was issued a traffic offence notice for speeding, which carries a fine of \$796. A serious offence notice was also issued for MPI to review.

On Sept. 20 during a routine traffic patrol in the town of Viriden a driver was observed using their cellular telephone or other hand-operated electronic device while driving. A ticket was issued which carries a fine of \$672 and a driver’s license suspension of 3 days.

On Sept. 21 RCMP responded to a call of an altercation in the community of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation. One male was arrested and charged with resisting arrest /obstructing a peace officer. A female was also arrested and charged with impaired driving, assault on peace/public officer, failure to stop when signalled by police, and licence related charges such as not having an ignition interlock device (alcohol breath screening device that’s wired into the vehicle’s ignition), plus illegal liquor in the vehicle. She was released on paperwork and will appear before the court in December.

BE ON TIME!

Advertising deadline: **12 noon Tuesday**

VIRDEN LIONS HALL

CALL TO BOOK YOUR SPECIAL EVENT
204-264-0785
230 Nelson St W • Viriden, MB

Hall capacity is limited based on current Manitoba Public Health restrictions/guidelines; renters and attendees must comply with up-to-date Manitoba Public Health Orders.

Thank-you

The Viriden Music in the Park Committee

Thank you to everyone who came to watch Dan Kristoff, Revival, Michelle Chyzyk and her crew, Young at Heart, Darrell Corbell (with guests, the Viriden Ukulele Club), and Heart’s Desire this summer! Your presence is so appreciated.

To our sponsors and those who donated, THANK YOU for your monetary support of the arts. We are so happy to provide a space for musicians to share their talent and an opportunity for people in the community to gather at the park for a common interest: music!

Thank you as well to those, young and old, who came to Arts Mosaic’s craft table to be creative. We could not have done it without you! Thank you for sharing your talent in our community.

See you next summer for some more Music in the Park! Have a great year!

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION
SALE OF LANDS FOR ARREARS OF TAXES
RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF WALLACE-WOODWORTH

Pursuant to subsection 367(7) of The Municipal Act, notice is hereby given that unless the tax arrears for the designated year and costs in respect of the hereinafter described properties are paid in full to the Municipality prior to the commencement of the auction, the Municipality will on the **30th day of October, 2024**, at the hour of **1:00 PM**, at Rural Municipality of Wallace-Woodworth, 154023-PR 257, Viriden, Manitoba, proceed to sell by public auction the following described properties:

Roll Number	Description	Assessed Value	Amount of Arrears & Costs for Which Property May be Offered for Sale
322700	THE NW 1/4 OF SECTION 28-10-24 WPM EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS RESERVED IN TRANSFER 1469643/2 BLTO - NW 28-10-24 W1	L - \$127,000	\$3,012.32
322900	THE SW 1/4 OF SECTION 28-10-24 WPM EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS RESERVED IN TRANSFER 1469643/2 BLTO - 141101 ROAD 58N	L - \$151,300 B - \$72,500	\$4,486.74
323000	THE NE 1/4 OF SECTION 29-10-24 WPM EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS RESERVED IN THE GRANT FROM THE CROWN - NE 29-10-24 W1	L - \$133,300	\$3,031.75
323200	THE SE 1/4 OF SECTION 29-10-24 WPM EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS RESERVED IN THE GRANT FROM THE CROWN - SE 29-10-24 W1	L - \$158,500	\$3,412.46
323300	THE SW 1/4 OF SECTION 29-10-24 WPM EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS RESERVED IN THE GRANT FROM THE CROWN - SW 29-10-24 W1	L - \$169,200	\$3,537.72

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

- The purchaser of the property will be responsible for any unpaid municipal utilities and any property taxes not yet due.
- The Municipality may exercise its right to set a reserve bid in the amount of the arrears and costs.
- If the purchaser intends to bid by proxy, a letter of authorization form must be presented prior to the start of the auction.
- The Municipality makes no representations or warranties whatsoever concerning the properties being sold.
- The successful purchaser must, at the time of the sale, make payment in **cash, certified cheque or bank draft** to the Rural Municipality of Wallace-Woodworth as follows:
 - i) The full purchase price if it is \$10,000 or less; OR
 - ii) If the purchase price is greater than \$10,000, the purchaser must provide a non-refundable deposit in the amount of \$10,000 and the balance of the purchase price must be paid within 20 days of the sale; AND
 - iii) A fee in the amount \$500.85 (\$477 + GST) for preparation of the transfer of title documents. The purchaser will be responsible for registering the transfer of title documents in the land titles office, including the registration costs.
- The risk for the property lies with the purchaser immediately following the auction.
- The purchaser is responsible for obtaining vacant possession.
- If the property is non-residential property, the purchaser must pay GST to the Municipality or, if a GST registrant, provide a GST Declaration.

Dated this 20th day of September, 2024.

Managed by: Garth Mitchell
Chief Administrative Officer
Rural Municipality of Wallace-Woodworth
Phone: (204) 748-1239
Fax: (204) 748-3450

Virden Theatre Productions Presents Freaky Friday the Musical

Submitted

By VIRDEN AUD THEATRE

The talented creative team behind the consistently stellar community productions at the AUD Theatre know they have a hit show on their hands with this year's Freaky Friday the Musical.

An adaptation of the classic novel and beloved films, Freaky Friday follows teenager Ellie Blake and her mother, Katherine, on the weirdest, strangest, craziest, freakiest day of their whole lives. Try as they might, Katherine and Ellie just can't seem to understand each other; Ellie wants her mom to stop trying to change her, while Katherine wants her daughter to be the best possible version of herself. On a fateful Friday, the day before Katherine's wedding, something magical occurs when mother and daughter swap bodies. Now, both will have to literally spend a day walking in each other's shoes, learning about each other and the struggles each goes through, and forging a new mother-daughter relationship in this hilarious, energetic, and moving musical comedy. The 41-member cast and a huge backstage crew of problem solvers are working tirelessly to bring this magical show to life.

At the forefront of this perfectly cast ensemble are the dynamic and hilarious Brandon mother daughter team of Ramey and Avery Praznik, who appear as Katherine and Ellie Blake. These two women bring such professionalism and vibrancy to their roles. Ramey is a guidance counsellor at Crocus Plains High School in Brandon, and she has taught drama and directed productions for many years. Avery is a graduate of Randolph School of the Performing Arts in Toronto, and she is, beyond a doubt, one of Westman's most incredible triple threats EVER to take the stage. These two actresses are hilarious, and man, can they sing!

Acting alongside these two unbelievably talented women are clever Grade 7 student Corbyn Waller as

the little brother Fletcher, and much-loved Brandon photographer Rob Lovatt as the patient, loving fiancé Mike. Ellie's romantic interest in the musical is Adam, and a Brandon veteran of the stage, Brody Burr, is cast perfectly in this role. Audiences will love his smooth vocals, and Brody's skill as a trained dancer shines through in all choreography. Virden Collegiate students Charley Dunning and Avrin Krieser play Gretchen and Hannah, Ellie's two best friends. These two homegrown talents certainly are proof of the strong training and opportunities that Virden music and theatre programs offer. Souris performer Nyah Perkin steps into the role of Savannah, Ellie's feisty, confident adversary. Nyah has many professional acting credentials, including starring in a feature film that has garnered her many international awards.

This vibrant show offers an excellent showcase for local talent. Retired FLB music educator Sandra Unger is truly wonderful as the demanding gym teacher Ms. Myers, Jill Radwanski (née Wakely) sets the professional acting standard in her role as Grandma (she's a scene stealer), local favorites Todd Plaisier and Darrell Corbel make a fabulous team as officers Sitz and Kowalski. Of course, the depth of the cast's talent shines through in both the ensemble and in supporting characters – Danielle the reporter played by Cheryl Sisson and Meagan Perkin, Scott Perkin as Louis, Cody Thiessen as Parker, Rixon Suski as Wells, Piper Sisson as Laurel, Shane Groom as Mr. Blumen, Greg Kirk as Pastor Bruno, Les Martens as Grandpa, and Wendy Bancescu as Mrs. Time. Virden Theatre Productions is so incredibly proud of the growth of all our performers, both young and old. We love the process as much as the product.

Producer/Director Michelle Chyzik is excited about so many moments in the show, but she did mention that one definite highlight in her mind is

the scene in the guidance counsellor's office that features Mike Thiessen as Dr. Ehrin, Darrell Corbel as Senor O'Brien, and Monique Waller and Christie Archambault sharing the role of Mrs. Luckenbill... laughs guaranteed.

When asked why people should attend this particular show, Dramatic Director Dean Munchinsky said, "This Freaky Friday is an absolute blast. We are fortunate enough to have amazing talent who have worked hard and collaborated with the entire team to create a very entertaining little universe. The story, the acting, the singing, and the visuals are stunning. We'd love to share this with everyone."

Dean and Michelle are very excited about having added two young talents into their production circle. These women have injected intelligence, hard work and magic into this venture. Jaysa Lee Davies has capably taken on the role of Assistant Producer, while also appearing on stage as Torrey, Katherine's high-strung personal assistant. Brandon dance teacher and choreographer Katey Rogowsky has certainly made her mark with innovative and exciting choreography that will have huge audience appeal. These four are joined by the most amazing, hard-working and creative crew who are planning costuming, props, sets, Ladies' Night, as well as some elaborate rock concert style lighting and technology. There is never anything "amateur" about these departments.

Audiences for Freaky Friday will be the first to try out the Aud Theatre's brand new seats. Shows are on November 6 - 9 at 7:30 pm, and we are also offering 1:30 pm matinees on Saturday, November 9 and Sunday, November 10. This fast-paced show is family friendly and suitable for most ages, although children under age 4 will not be admitted.

All tickets are \$22 and will go on sale October 1 on Eventbrite. Ladies Night tickets will also go on sale that day at Flower Attic and Gifts in Virden.

Robert Eslinger to receive Assiniboine College Alumni award



SUBMITTED PHOTO

By Empire-Advance staff
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Assiniboine College's Alumni Association has announced the recipients of the 2024 alumni awards for the Brandon region.

A total of four awards will be presented at the Advancement Dinner in October.

This year's Distinguished Alumni awards will go to Robert Eslinger, CPA, CGA, and CFO of RFNow Inc. and Andrea Epp, LL.B, Lawyer and owner of Epp Law Office. This award recognizes alumni who have excelled in their chosen professions and made significant contributions to their communities.

Eslinger graduated from the Business Administration program in 1985 and earned his professional accounting designation in 1999. He became involved with the Assiniboine Alumni Association in 2015.

"I was surprised with the award announcement. I didn't think something like this would happen to me. Assiniboine provides quality on-target education that is accessible to students throughout the region and across the world," he said.

Eslinger spent the early part of his career in municipal administration, serving as the CAO for the Town of Virden, before moving to the Moston House Group of Companies based out of Virden. At the time, Moston House included Air Andrew Ltd., RFNow Inc., Andrews Agencies Ltd., and Custom Software Solutions Inc. His involvement with Assiniboine (formerly Assiniboine Community College) has been significant as well, serving with the Alumni Association and as a member of the Prairie Innovation Centre Campaign Cabinet.

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Fall Care of the borders



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Submitted
BY PATRICIA HANBIDGE

Autumn is a lovely time of year. The air has a crispness to it and the colours are usually quite spectacular! Our chores in the garden change a little bit as freezing temperatures convince hardy plants, trees and shrubs to rest as winter approaches. Most of us that live in places that have seasonal change have planned mixed borders. These are areas in the garden that are not devoted to just

annuals or perennials. They grace us with beauty for as long as possible during the growing season with a great variety of colours, textures and shapes. A mixed border contains trees, shrubs, perennials, vines, bulbs and even annuals. It is for sure the most attractive and best option for any garden with four seasons.

Perennials and annuals that are not late bloomers are finished for the year and those that have little winter aesthetic value can be cut back anytime. Remember that seed heads, grasses and other perennials can be quite attractive during those long winter months so if there is value in leaving them standing, they can easily be cut back in early spring. Another consideration is whether or not you wish to trap a little bit more snow in your border. Anything vertical will help to keep the snow on your beds providing much needed moisture for early next spring.

Roses are always one of those plants that might warrant some extra protection for the winter. Hardy shrub roses that are established don't really need any extra help but if you like to grow tea roses or other roses that are less hardy here, it is good to

prepare those for the upcoming winter. Those tender grafted roses need to be mulched over the crown with soil, mulch or other insulative material. A few inches of mulch can raise the temperature as much as 5 or 10 C. One word of caution if you have a rodent problem, mulch once the ground has frozen. In the spring, remove the mulch as early as possible once the snow melts and very low temperatures have ceased to be a threat. One very important chore for any newly established woody ornamentals and perennials is to give them one last big drink so they go into winter surrounded by damp soil. Watering in anything tender or newly planted will keep that soil temperature more constant thus keeping them happier while they rest. Once this chore is done and we are unlikely to have any warmer days, it is a good time to drain those hoses and put them away for the winter!

Decorative clay pots, concrete ornaments and wooden furniture should be protected from the ravages of our long winter. Some items can easily be tucked into a corner and covered with tarps to protect them from the sun and keep off the snow and rain. For clay pots that tend to crack over the winter, I tuck them here and there in sheltered areas empty and upside down.

If you are expanding any planting areas, fall just happens to be the best time to get those areas prepared for spring planting. Remove any turf and those pesky perennial weeds and then amend the soil. The freeze, thaw cycles help to break down soils so come spring you are ready to plant!

Hopefully you have thought about adding some early spring colour to your garden. Before the ground freezes, set in your spring flowering bulbs allowing them time to root prior to winter. They need the cold temperatures to initiate the bloom that is always enjoyed after a long winter! Enjoy the last days of mild temperatures prior to the big freeze!

Raise the stakes of family game night

Submitted
BY METRO CREATIVE

Getting the entire family together can take a little effort. There is no shortage of activities that pull family members apart most days of the week, from work obligations to sports practices to school events. The United Kingdom-based media provider Independent reported in 2023 on a study of 2,000 parents with children at home. The study found families are only spending six hours a week together, which is less than an hour each day. Furthermore, they only eat meals as a household four days out of seven.

Eking out more time for family may be as easy as scheduling activities that everyone can rally behind. Family game nights give everyone an excuse to gather at least once a week. These tips can make family game night a can't-miss activity.

Start with simple games and branch out. The first step to a successful family game night is choosing the right game to engage all participants. This can be challenging when there are young children, teenagers, middle-aged adults, and even seniors participating. Visit an independently owned toy and games store and pick the brain of the proprietor. He or she will likely have some suggestions to get you started. As participants become more comfortable, you can branch out with games.

Make it a recurring event. Set a firm day of the week for the game night. This way participants will block out that date and time and make every attempt to attend. Treat game night like any other important appointment.

Consider games with movement. Game night doesn't have to mean sitting around a board game, which young children who have trouble sitting still may characterize as a "bored" game. Games that get people moving, whether

it's charades, drawing games or a game such as Twister® can be more engaging. Game night also can take activities to a golf driving range or an arcade. Gather for the right reasons. Game night should focus on having the entire family together laughing and competing in a good-natured way. It should not be a strict competition where winning is the only goal. Avoid the potential for sore losers who can sour game nights in a flash by letting everyone know that fun is the foremost priority of the night. Offer prizes. Encourage participation with the lure of prizes at the end. Prizes will not just go to the overall winner. There can be humorous awards, such as the player who messed up trivia questions the most, or the one who

rolled matching pairs of the dice most frequently. You can customize the winning categories depending on the game played so everyone gets a fighting chance at a prize. Keep awards simple, like candy bars or other appealing treats. Identify a "game master." Every game night should feature a game master who presides over the rules of the game. The rules can be the ones strictly off of the information sheet, or the ones you customize for your own fun. The game master's job is to make sure the rules are enforced, but also to determine when it's alright to let things slide. Family game nights are a vital way to bring everyone together at least once a week in a manner that is entertaining and fosters solid family relationships.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

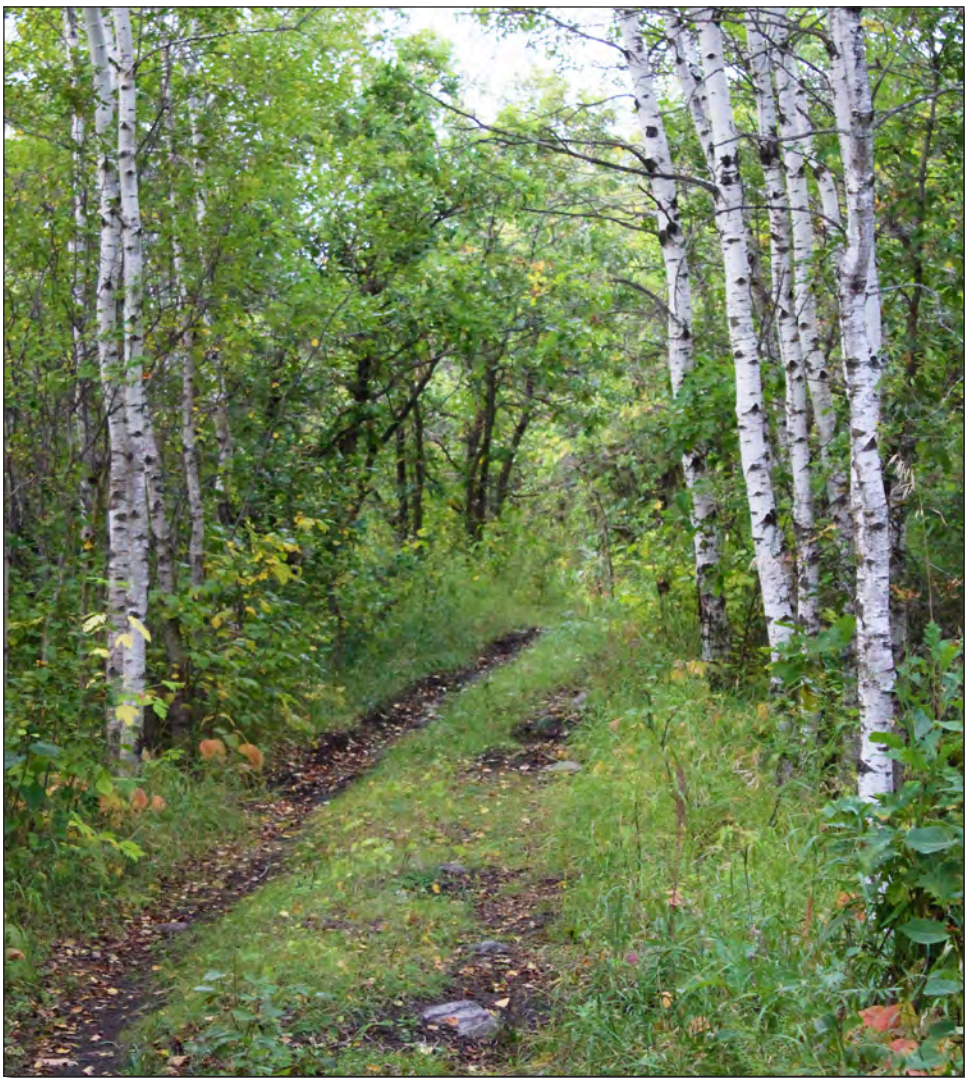
Silver Bend offers mysterious beauty



Top: Where humans and nature meet, a train rumbles by providing an interesting contrast to the wild prairie valley.

Left: Wakpa Tanka Lookout with Miniota's Assiniboine Valley far below. A massive rock with a bronze plaque reads: "In memory of Pauline Rowan who gave us the inspiration to complete this project, May 28, 2009."

Right: The upper trail has steep places, but all well cleared.



PHOTOS BY ANNE DAVISON

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Silver Bend Trail drew us in for a glimpse. The Wakpa Tanka Interpretive Centre sign and the bill board for the 'Silver Bend Trail - Miniota Riverboat Country' call you to leave the well beaten path, Highway 83, and head west down a little road toward a wooden railroad overpass.

Take the overpass to arrive at the valley's edge and Wakpa Tanka (Great River) Lookout and interpretive centre gazebo where a mural features the Indigenous lifestyle of centuries ago. Dakota First Nations signage also welcomes visitors to this area where their ancestors set up winter camps centuries ago. "The spirit of the people rests here and you have come to honour and respect them...."

Trails have been created and a map shows a moderately difficult eight-kilometre trail loop.

Enjoying the lookout, the gazebo interpretive centre and the top trail only, we're walking in the footsteps of Indigenous people, prairie settlers and decades later railroad builders. We're surrounded by nature.

Equinox is past, daylight and darkness equal, and there's no time on this spur of the moment visit for a two-hour hike over the whole loop.

But the upper trail held rewards enough on this Sunday excursion as a long CN train rattled past, occasionally wheel bearings shrieked as it travelled southeast alongside the valley top land, just yards away from the trail. It was the new mode of transportation that put the paddlewheel out of business over a century ago.

It remains a mystery how, until about 139 years ago, in the valley below the river truly did serve as a paddleboat highway for supplies and probably people to come and go to settlements.

There were neither bears nor bugs, just clean fresh air and growth everywhere. As described on Prairie View Municipality website, the lower loop passes "historic settler grave sites and an old homestead where a family of ten was raised in the early 1900s...." We will be back!



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Historic store in Kenton comes down



120-year-old building in Kenton, MB.



A new space for Whytes Lumber.

PHOTOS BY GERRY NOLAN

By Gerry Nolan
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The main street of Kenton has had a huge change as a 120-year-old building has been removed. It was a landmark of memories and history.

Built in 1904, sixteen different proprietors raised families and ran a business out of this building. Built for a man named Sam Best as a home, he sold to Mr. Stinson who turned it into a store. Ownership changed a lot in those days when Mr. Kinley bought the store then sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Smith. Mr. Benedict was the next owner then sold it to the Termuendes in 1927. In 1945 it was sold to Stewart Bullock, then to Tim and Ruth Breed in 1947. Next up were Gord and Phyl Hames who purchased the store in 1955. The Hames added the Post Office and in 1969 sold it to Lois and Bill Redikopp. Redikopps stayed for six years and sold it to Bruce and Sharon Cummings.

The Cummings sold the store to Dallas and Judy Gray who in turn sold it to Gwen Argue. 1996 the store was brought by Jule Hunter and a hair salon was opened in the back in 1998, the space rented to Wendy Drake then to Sarah Lelond. In 2002 the store was sold to Leith Corney and Sarah Lelond and made into a mini mall. It was a convenience store, had a tanning bed, massage parlour and reflexologist with Leith manning the Post Office and Sarah the beauty salon.

In 2004 the doors closed, the small store couldn't compete with larger stores and people were going elsewhere. The closing of the store does not minimize the importance of this business

as it served the area for 120 years!

But all is not lost as the lot has been purchased by Whytes Lumber and a new seed will spring up and will see the beginning of the next 100 years, hopefully. The best town by a Dam site, Kenton, will continue to grow and succeed.




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7 p.m. | 421 King Street East, Virden

To register, visit assiniboine.net/CHCAopenhouse.

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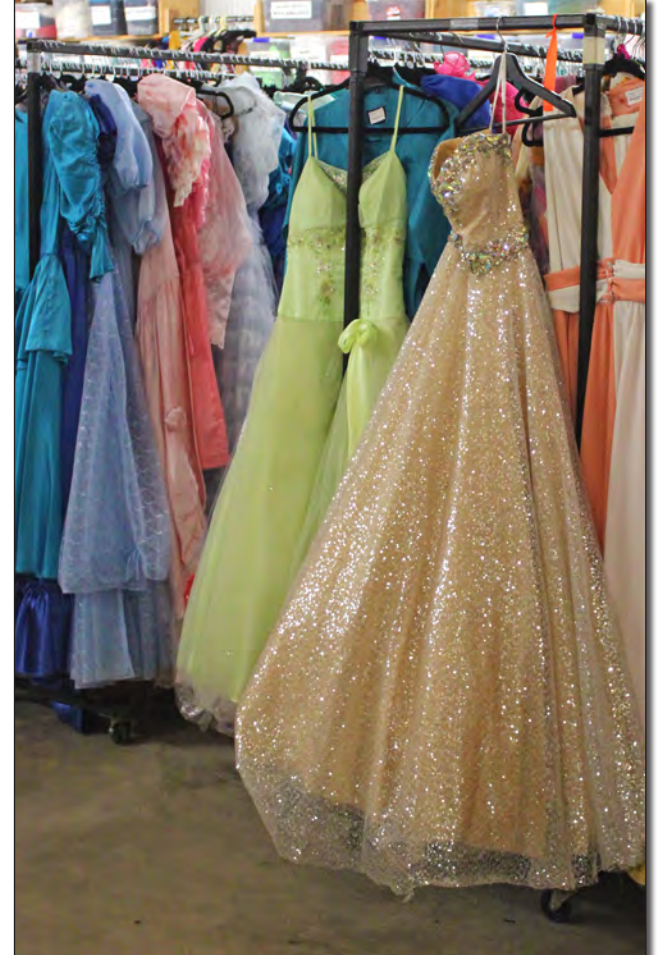
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PHOTOS BY JESSICA COULTER

Dozens of trendy and vintage grad dresses for graduation or to dress as a princess for Halloween.

By Jessica Coulter
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Every year people get invited to costume parties, theme birthday parties, Halloween socials, school themed events, and other fun events that require an outfit the average person just doesn't have in their closet. The great solution is to visit the Costume Closet in Virden at 4846 Ave S. A person can find and borrow practically anything they can think of and probably a few items they didn't think of to build the perfect outfit for any event. Then return it when you are done.

Over the years Virden's Costume Closet has collected thousands of items. They have items from every genre, every era, and many different characters. This Closet is a historical library of fashion where you can check out items the same way you check out books from a library. The team of volunteers keep things extremely organized and are willing to help each and every person find what ever they may be looking for. Whether you need something Hawaiian for a luau, or western for a rodeo, a cocktail

dress, or a Santa suit, a prom dress, a wedding dress, a band uniform or a three-piece suit, it can be found in the Costume Closet along with so much more. Before buying something new that you will only wear once, it is worth a trip to see if you can borrow it first from the biggest closet in Virden.

The team at the Costume Closet are very proud to announce that they have been working very hard towards building a fully functional online data base of all of their items. They have been busy bar coding almost of the items in stock. Currently they have 29,829 items donated, approximately 6000 have been cataloged into their new and improved computer system and they will be able to soon scan each item as it is checked out of the building. This is an ongoing process that needs volunteer time to be completed.

The Costume Closet does not have memberships like a library, and you do not pay to rent the items you borrow. A deposit is required before any item leaves the Closet. The only money they collect is donations to keep the building

open and operating. It costs approximately \$16,000 per year to keep the Closet going.

All the staff members are volunteers. There are five main ladies that oversee the operations of the Closet, Fran Baylis, Pat Hipwell, Kay Kristjanson, Marilyn Warkentin, and Glenda Clarke. They also have various other community members help out from time to time and a few students come down to earn their volunteer hours. The team is always looking for more volunteers.

They will be open extra hours for Halloween this year as it is the busiest time for them. You are welcome to call ahead and book an appointment with one of the volunteer team members at 204-748-6108. Their hours for Halloween are:

Thur. Oct. 10 3-8pm ~ Tues. Oct. 15 4-8pm
Wed. Oct. 16 4-8pm ~ Thur. Oct. 17 3-8pm
Mon. Oct. 21 3-8pm ~ Tues. Oct. 22 4-8pm
Wed. Oct. 23 4-8pm ~ Thur. Oct. 24 3-8pm
Fri. Oct. 25 4-8pm ~ Mon. Oct. 28 3-8pm
Tues. Oct. 29 4-8pm ~ Wed. Oct. 30 4-8pm

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SPORTS

ROBSON PROVIDES OIL CAPS WITH SKILLS, EXPERIENCE, LEADERSHIP

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Luke Robson is looking to cap his junior hockey career with a successful season. The 20-year-old Virden Oil Capitals forward has already made plenty of memories during his three previous junior campaigns. The Carberry product has competed in two different leagues with his teams based in two Canadian provinces and one U.S. state.

“I’ve really enjoyed the competitiveness that junior hockey has brought,” Robson said. “Nobody likes to lose and every night you got to try and give it your all to beat your opponent.”

The Oil Capitals are certainly hoping the talented and experienced forward will help them do just that. The 5-foot-8, 155-pound Robson scored five goals and accumulated 17 points in 38 games last

season with Virden.

“Luke is a great skater and has good skill,” Oil Capitals head coach Tyson Ramsey said. “He can play up and down our lineup and brings a ton of junior hockey experience both at this level and the (Western Hockey League) level. He is a great teammate, and we look forward to him being a leader on this team on and off the ice.”

Locally Robson billets with Sharla George, her husband Dave Challner, and son Bauer Challner. However, his hockey journey has also taken him out west. The former Southwest Cougars AAA player started his junior hockey career with the MJHL’s Waywayseecappo Wolverines in 2021-2022. The next season he suited up for the WHL’s Edmonton Oil Kings. Robson started last season with the Seattle Thunderbirds of the WHL before coming to Virden. Each stop along the way has helped Robson’s game.

“Every coach has their own style and idea on how they want a team to play,” he said. “I’ve been lucky to learn a lot of different styles of play from multiple coaches. And I have been able to incorporate those styles and habits in my game, which has given me an advantage over opponents.”

Robson enjoyed the time he spent on and off the ice in the major junior WHL.

“The WHL gave me the great experience of traveling western Canada, from all the historical rinks you get to showcase your skills and talents to the amazing places you get to travel and experience,” he said. “It was truly eye opening.”

With only one season left in his junior career, Robson has some thoughts about his future. He would like to study at a Canadian university and play at the U Sports level. Robson is interested in studying kinesiology.

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SPORTS

OIL CAPS SEASON GETS STARTED



PHOTOS BY COOPER CHARLES, VIRDEN OIL CAPITALS

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

This week the Virden Oil Capitals are hoping to earn their first win of the Manitoba Junior Hockey League season.

The Oil Cap fell 3-0 to Dauphin in the season opener on Sept. 20 in Virden. The next night they lost 4-2 in Dauphin.

"I thought we were sporadic," Virden head coach Tyson Ramsey said. "There were stretches of a lot of good things, and then we took our foot off the gas at times. Certainly something that can happen with a younger team."

The Oil Capitals were slated to host the Wayseecappo Wolverines on Sept. 24 after the Empire-Advance deadline. The Northern Manitoba (formerly OCN) Blizzard visit on Sept. 28 and 29.

The opening game in Virden was the first regular season contest for the new large 1920 x 1024 LED score clock. In January, the Town of Virden Council unanimously approved purchasing it for \$185,540. With taxes, installation, etc. the total

cost was estimated to be \$205,000 with various user groups of Tundra Oil & Gas Place, including the Oil Capitals, contributing to the funding.

"The new screen looks amazing," Ramsey said. "It adds a whole different dimension for our marketing partners as well as our gameday experience for fans. We haven't even scratched the surface yet on what we can do with it. It is really exciting."

In their first game of the season, the Oil Caps and Dauphin Kings were scoreless after two periods. In the third, the Kings got a goal from Ashton Paul to take a 1-0 lead and went up 2-0 on a Jack Bechard powerplay marker. Aiden Murray added an empty net goal.

In his regular season Oil Capitals debut, goalie Nik Trakakis made 37 saves on 39 shots. His Dauphin counterpart, Cole Sheffield, had 29 saves. Victor Larin subbed in for Sheffield briefly in the second period and stopped all four shots he faced.

On Sept. 21, the Kings led 2-1 and 3-1 at the intermissions, on their way to a 4-2 win. Rookie Campbell Epp of Winnipeg scored the Oil Caps' first goal of the season. It was Epp's first MJHL marker. Rookie teammate Acoyen Fehr of Morden

lit the lamp for his first time in the league in the third period. Oil Caps goalie Gavin Renwick had 26 saves in his regular season debut with the team.

Ethan Williment and Cayden Glover each scored twice for Dauphin. Sheffield made 40 saves.

Leadership Group

In the summer, the Oil Capitals announced that Ethan Guthrie would serve as the team's captain. Last week the team made public that Brett Sabel, Tyler Dodgson, Noel Englot and Ty Plaisier will be its assistant captains this season.

"Our leadership group is made up of guys that are great role models for our younger players and excellent ambassadors for our organization in the community," Ramsey said. "They work extremely hard on and off the ice."

Trade Made

The Oil Capitals acquired Pierre Gouin last week. The 5-foot-10, 180-pound forward hails from International Falls, Minn. The Oil Caps received the 19-year-old for a player development fee from the Superior International Hockey League's Fort Frances Lakers. Gouin scored nine goals and posted 10 assists in 48 games for the Lakers last season.

SPORTS

FIERCE FEMALE HOCKEY SUCCEEDS IN VIRDEN

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

About 100 players took to the ice in Virden recently for a unique hockey experience. A Fierce Female Hockey camp was held on Sept. 14 at Tundra Oil & Gas Place. All of the participants were female and so were the instructors. The event provided on and off ice training as well as mentorship.

“Every camp I run makes my heart happy,” said Fierce Female Hockey owner Amy Doerksen. “They are examples of how strong our female hockey community is and what happens when you create safe and engaging spaces for females of all ages to get involved. Fierce relies on a significant volunteer network, and I am always blown away by the number of women who want to be a part of making the camps so special. Our ratio of instructors and leads to players is something that parents comment on regularly. They see how much attention, direction, support and encouragement their players receive in our learning environment.”

Players came from across Manitoba and even from Saskatchewan to attend the camp. The event focused on players in U7 to U11 with some minor U13 athletes also attending.

“What I think attracts people to the camp is the unique experience offered,” Doerksen said. “We provide 100 per cent female instruction on and off the ice. The number of women coaching continues to lag behind the number of men and so this provides them with exposure to female leadership.

“The camp also layers in mentorship in role modelling through our team lead role. In that role we have U15, U18 and college/university players who are spending the day with a specific group of players and giving them someone to look up to and aspire to who is female. It builds off the concept of ‘See it. Be it.’ When we see ourselves reflected in something, it makes the experience



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

more meaningful.

“And the final reason why I think the camps have grown in popularity is because the premise of my approach to coaching at these camps is through fun-based learning. We learn best when we are enjoying the experience and having fun so we incorporate a lot of games and interactive activities.”

One of the team leads at the recent camps was Meredith Masson, an area U13 player. Former Virden resident Ashleigh Poole served as an off-ice volunteer.

Doerksen said that she heard anecdotally from off-ice volunteers that there were many positive comments from the parents of participants. She noted the timing of the fall camps seems to be appreciated because it gets players on the ice before the season and gives those interested an opportunity to try the sport before joining a team.

Fierce Female Hockey started in 2022. The social enterprise’s goal is to provide “safe and engaging

spaces for females in the sport of hockey to learn and grow with the ultimate goal of building a stronger, and more connected, female hockey community,” its website states. It began with one camp in Brandon but now holds events around the province. In 2024, Fierce Female Hockey had more than 400 players register to attend camps. A focus of Fierce Female Hockey is ensuring the experience is affordable.

“Hockey is expensive and if we want to grow the game and make it more inclusive, we need to reduce barriers to entry,” Doerksen said. “Having an affordable registration fee helps address this. I am able to keep the entry fee low because of the corporate support I receive through Brandon Source for Sports and CCM Hockey, who donate all the jerseys, and other businesses who set up to help like the local Tim Hortons in Virden. Volunteers are also an important part of this because everyone is giving up their time to make the camps happen.”



New commander leads active detachment

Town of Virden council meeting, Sept.17, 2024

By Dale Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

RCMP REPORT

The acting commander for the Westman area Sergeant Steve Cooper has 24 years of RCMP service, with most of that time spent in Manitoba. He started his career in Gypsumville before serving in Res-ton for six years. From there, he went to Shima-tawa, Elphinstone, Island Lake, Esterhazy, and lastly Winnipegosis where he has been since 2018.

Cooper transferred to Virden as the Operations Non-Com-missioned Officer, but as Sgt. Scott Fefchak is still on medical leave Cooper will be replacing Sgt. Helen Goodman who recently retired.

One notable event was the recent arrest made for trafficking, cocaine

and methamphetamines following the execution of a search warrant. He said, "Our members are actively working on search warrants to ensure that we're on top of this kind of thing because we know what happens in every community. So, coming into a detachment where we've got active members working on warrants is very nice to see. It doesn't happen in every office."

GAS TAX

The five-year municipal allocation from the Canada Community Building Fund, better known as the Gas Tax Fund, has been determined and Virden's allocation has dropped, apparently due to slower population growth in the community.

DOWNTOWN

MURAL

The Town proposes to coat the new mural on the wall of the RBC building to protect it from weather. Some councillors wondered if this would be a good opportunity to coat the other murals in town but decided that they might need repair or renewal prior to coating. Council approved \$2,453.41 to cover and protect the mural.

AIRPORT APPROACH

The approach to the Virden airport needs approval by Nav Canada, a private, not-for-profit company that determines which runway and flight paths air traffic will use. Until they publish this approach the airport does not meet Nav Canada conditions. But the approval process can take up to

two years and during this time commercial companies will not know that the airport is capable of handling larger aircraft. Council will lobby the government to expedite the publication of this information.

STATION BOARDWALK

Virden's Canadian Pacific Railway Station is a provincial heritage site that houses the Arts Mosaic gallery and the Virden Community Chamber of Commerce office. The boardwalk in front of the building needs repair and the Town issued a request for proposals to do the job. When no proposals were received requests and invitations were sent to specific companies. The repairs will be completed by CLN Inspections Limited.

PHYSICIAN RECRUITMENT

Prairie Mountain Health once again has someone who is dedicated to physician recruitment and retention for the area.

REPORTS

Coun. Tara Maxwell

The Manitoba Municipal Administrators (MMA) is a not-for-profit professional association that provides support, education and continuing professional development to its members. Maxwell attended the MMA annual conference in Winnipeg and reported that the sessions and meetings were informative and interesting.

Coun. Lynette Grumpelt

Grumpelt attended the Aud Theatre board meeting and said the seat replacement is progressing. Repairs will be completed on the main floor this year and on the upper-level next year. The board has sent out public requests for donations to the project.

She also attended the Westman Emergency Group meeting and reported that there are two new members. They are currently receiving training and will take over for Mark Savy when he retires on Dec. 31. Both new recruits will attend the disaster management conference in October.

Coun. Jessie Cruikshank

The Virden Employment Skills Centre assists in finding and sustaining employment

in the area by providing a variety of employment related services. Coun. Kruikshank attended their recent meeting and reported there is a new office and project manager, and a new employment advisor now on staff.

Coun. Travis Penner

Penner attended a meeting about a legal matter, an airport project meeting with the engineer, a WEG meeting and airport commission meeting.

Coun. Mark Savy

Savy reported that Station 1 of the Wallace and District Fire Department received three donations towards a new fire engine. Tundra Oil and Gas donated \$40,000 as did Kingston Midstream and Surge Energy gave \$5,000.

CAO Rhonda Stewart

The base coat on the airport runway extension has been completed and paving is beginning. Portions of the runway will be temporarily closed during the construction and Stewart said, "John Stowe has been in contact with the Medevac and STARS dispatch centres so that they're aware when it will be closed."

Stewart said that preparations for the mural dedication ceremony and reception on Sept. 30 are progressing well and recognized Lydia Taylor, Lola Thunderchild, Candace Murray, Coun. Bruce Dunning and Coun. Savy saying, "It's a good team working together to get this together. It's going to be a great day."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Congratulations to Councillor Maxwell who graduated from the Certified Manitoba Municipal Administrators Certificate Program on September 10, 2024. Well done!

GOT NEWS?

204-748-3931

reporter1@empireadvance.ca

Empire-Advance

serving virden & area since 1885

empireadvance.ca



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Fundraising for Wallace District Fire Department’s new Station 1 engine received a big boost last week with donations of \$40,000 from Kingston Midstream and Tundra Oil and Gas. Surge Energy added another \$5,000 to bring the total to \$85,000. (L to R) Brad Slack (KM), Kerry Sawyer (KM), Craig Lane (TOGL), Chief Tyson Van Eaton, Chris Masson (TOGL), Firefighter Ryan Hayden.

Tundra Oil & Gas Place: 204-748-2736

Emergency After Hours: 204-851-5540

Town Office: 204-748-2440

Waste Disposal Grounds: 204-748-6033

Animal Control: 204-851-1810

VIRDEN

CENTRE OF IT ALL

**Sign up for
LiveBarn
at virden.ca!**

Citizen of the Year

Nominations are now open for this year’s award!

Nominate a deserving citizen or community group for Citizen of the Year.

Deadline for nominations is November 15, 2024.

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

A Huge Thank You

to the following for all of your hard work in making the 34th Virden Indoor Rodeo & Wild West Daze weekend such an amazing success:

- Virden Indoor Rodeo & Wild West Daze Committee
- Virden Community Chamber of Commerce
- High School Rodeo Committee
- Royal Canadian Legion Branch No. 8
- Corex Resources
- Valleyview Co-Op Virden
- Parade Marshall Herb Warkentin & Wallace District Fire Station #1
- Virden Demolition Derby Committee
- Town of Virden staff

and to all of the other organizations, businesses, sponsors and volunteers who assisted and played such an important role in showcasing our community and making this weekend one to be remembered!!

A special thank you to all the competitors for making each event so exciting and action-packed, and to everyone from within the community and beyond, who attended and supported the event over the four days.

Thank you,
Mayor Williams, Deputy Mayor Savy, Councillors Cruickshank, Dunning, Grumpelt, Maxwell and Penner

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

The Town Office and Tundra Oil and Gas Place Arena will be closed on Monday, September 30, 2024.

The Virden Landfill will be closed on Saturday, September 28, 2024.

Public Notice: Fall Cleanup

October 1 - 11, 2024

During the clean-up period, crews will pick up miscellaneous refuse (excluding industrial waste such as building demolition, etc) not deemed to be normal household waste.

Leaves and grass must be in bags or boxed, pickup of branches is meant for trimmings, not major cuttings.

Items are to be placed on the boulevard or lane in a convenient location.

To ensure pickup, please call the Town Office or email info@virden.ca with a description of the items and pickup location.

Upcoming Council Meeting:

October 8 & 22

Please Note:
Town of Virden Council meetings begin at 7:00 PM

Check your mailbox!

2024 Property Tax Notices have been sent out.

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

2024 Property Taxes are due by October 31, 2024.

Town of Virden Notice: Board of Revision

Pursuant to Section 41 of the Municipal Assessment Act, public notice is hereby given that the Assessment Rolls for the Town of Virden for 2025 have been deposited in the Town Office, 236 Wellington Street West, and are open for public inspection during normal business hours.

The public is also advised that the Board of Revision will sit at the Town of Virden Council Chambers at 232 Wellington Street West on **Tuesday, November 7th, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.** to hear applications for revision of assessments.

Application for Revision

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

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

Application Requirements

An application for revision must:

- Be made in writing;
- Set out the roll number and legal description of the property for which a revision is sought;
- State the grounds on which the application is based; and
- Be filed with the Secretary of the Board of Revision, 236 Wellington Street West, P.O. Box 310, Virden MB R0M 2C0 at least 15 days before the sitting of the Board (by **October 22, 2024**).

Dated this 27th day of September, 2024.

Rhonda Stewart, CMMA
Chief Administrative Officer
Town of Virden

CLASSIFIEDS

Help Wanted

We are hiring!

We have a new opportunity to highlight:

Instructor, CHCA
(Comprehensive Health Care Aide Program)
School of Nursing
Full-Time & Part-Time, Term/Casual
(Dec 16/24 to June 20/25)
Competition #32-24/25
Virden, Manitoba
Salary: \$63,431 to \$97,078 annually
(\$33.65 to \$51.50 hourly)
(Educational Supplement:
Masters \$1.52/hour; PhD \$3.03/hour)

As an Instructor in our Health Care Aide program, you will play a vital role in shaping the future of Health Care Aide education. Reporting to the Chairperson or Program Coordinator, you will develop and deliver curricula, evaluate student performance, and engage in various administrative functions. You will also support college promotion, student recruitment, student placement, and industry liaison

For more information, please visit our careers website at www.assiniboine.net/careers

Assiniboine welcomes applications from all qualified candidates who are legally entitled to work in Canada, including Indigenous peoples, persons of all abilities, members of visible minorities, all genders and sexual orientations, and all other groups protected by the Human Rights Code.

Assiniboine's campuses are located on the traditional territories of Treaty No. 1 and Treaty No. 2, and the shared traditional lands of Cree, Ojibwe, Dakota, Dene and Anishinabek/Ojibwe peoples, and the homeland of the Red River Métis Nation.

For accommodations or alternative formats, contact careers@assiniboine.net or 204 725 8729.

If you are interested in this career opportunity, please email your resume and cover letter with reference to Competition #32-24/25 to:

careers@assiniboine.net

We thank you for your interest. Those selected for further consideration will be contacted.



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50,000 BATTERIES IN STOCK
*Auto *Farm *Truck
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Contact Doug Chapman
Phone
204-748-2162

Manitoba Community Newspaper Association Province Wide Classifieds

NOTICES

Advertisements and statements contained herein are the sole responsibility of the persons or entities that post the advertisement, and the Manitoba Community Newspaper Association and membership do not make any warranty as to the accuracy, completeness, truthfulness or reliability of such advertisements. For greater information on advertising conditions, please consult the Association's Blanket Advertising Conditions on our website at www.mcna.com.

URGENT PRESS RELEASES - Have a newsworthy item to announce? An exciting change in operations? Though we cannot guarantee publication, MCNA will get the information into the right hands for **ONLY \$35.00 + GST/HST**. Call MCNA (204) 947-1691 for more information. See www.mcna.com

under the "Types of Advertising" tab for more details. **SELLING A HOUSE OR BUSINESS?** Hiring for Fall or Winter? NOW is the time to get our information published! Book your ads now! **SELLING SOMETHING?** Have your blanket classified ads seen in the 31

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FALL SPECIAL SHOW HOME ONE ONLY
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1648 SqFt,
3 bedrooms, ensuite,
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www.wgiesbrechthomes.ca
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Member Newspapers which are seen in over 368,000+ homes in Manitoba. Now booking advertising for the remainder of 2024. Plan your success! Please Call **THIS NEWSPAPER NOW** to book, or call MCNA at (204) 947-1691 for more

details or to book ads. MCNA - Manitoba Community Newspapers Association. www.mcna.com
FINANCIAL SERVICES
Private mortgage lender. All real estate types considered. No credit checks done.

Deal direct with lender and get quick approval. Toll free 1-866-405-1228 www.firstandsecondmortgages.ca

Auction

Online McSherry Auctions

Estate & Moving
October 2nd @ 7:00PM

Estate & Moving
October 9th @ 7:00PM

12 Patterson Dr.
Stonewall, MB
204-467-1858
or 204-886-7027
McSherryAuction.com

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Announcement

Manitoba Lung Association
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GUARD YOUR HEALTH
HEALTHY LUNGS HELP YOU LIVE LIFE TO THE FULLEST!
TAKE A MOMENT TO LEARN HOW TO KEEP THEM IN TOP SHAPE THIS SEASON.
TALK TO YOUR DOCTOR OR PHARMACIST TODAY ABOUT SEASONAL IMMUNIZATION.
Protectyourbreath.ca

Obituary

IN LOVING MEMORY
JENNIE NASH (HOLYK)
MARCH 4, 1932 – SEPTEMBER 10, 2024



Jennie Nash passed away peacefully at the Willowview Personal Care Home, Reston, MB on Tuesday, September 10, 2024 at the age of 92 years. Jennie was predeceased by her husband, Stewart and daughter, Brenda. She will be lovingly remembered by her children: Laureen, Marvin, Glenn, Darlene and Marla, nine grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

A memorial service to celebrate Jennie's life will be held at a later date.

Arrangements are in care of Carscadden Funeral Chapel Ltd. – Virden.

Announcement



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Contact this newspaper NOW or MCNA at **204.947.1691** or email classified@mcna.com

www.mcna.com

Coming Events

MANITOBA BEEF & FORAGE CONFERENCE

8 AM – 5 PM
October 30th, 2024
William Glesby Centre,
Portage la Prairie, MB

Hear from industry experts and local producers about a variety of topics related to beef cattle production!

Organized by MB Agriculture in partnership with MB Beef & Forage Initiatives, and MB Beef Producers.

For more info call:
204-761-3300

Or visit: manitoba.ca/agriculture/livestock/beef-conference.html



For Sale

WANTED

Coins,
Coin Collection,
Old Jewelry,



Cash paid for silver coins, gold coins, rare coins, old coins & paper \$, Olympic coins, Royal Canadian Mint Coins, Franklin Mint, US Mint etc, unwanted jewelry, old Rolex & Omega watches, nuggets, sterling silver, Bullion, all Gold & Silver!

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\$349,500

For more info, pictures or to book a showing call:
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(No texts)

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GRAND TRUNK NOSTALGIA CLUB

Annual Vintage & Collectible Sale
SAT, Sept 28th 2024
10AM - 5PM

Manitoba's Largest Indoor Fall Vintage and Collectibles Sale with over 180 tables
If you're looking for something Vintage or Collectible, this IS the place to be.
Admission is only \$5.00 12 and under FREE
Assiniboia Downs
3975 Portage Ave, Wpg.
FREE Parking
For info: 204-990-3463 or 431-374-6925

Mayor Tina Williams invites community to mural dedication

By Empire-Advance Staff
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

On September 30, Truth and Reconciliation Day, the community of Virden will dedicate downtown's newest outdoor artwork to the Dakota Nations of the past, present and future. The mural features heritage activities of the Dakota Nations that are relatable to a wide range of generations. The public is welcome to attend the dedication ceremony and the reception to follow.

"We are extremely thrilled with the completed mural, as the colors, images and history displayed are very meaningful" says Tina Williams, Mayor of Virden. "The mural and the upcoming dedication ceremony is an important milestone in our community's path towards truth and reconciliation."

Lola Thunderchild, local Dakota Advocate supported artists Erica and Mary Lowe, by sharing her knowledge of the unwritten history of the Dakota Nations, resulting

in the creation of the mural. The painting of the mural took approximately 1 month and was completed with supplies generously donated by Home Hardware Virden.

"From the mural, it is hoped that viewers from all backgrounds will share their own experiences, encouraging conversations as to where they came from and be motivated to ask questions about the Dakota history and heritage" says Lola Thunderchild. "Taking the time to inquire, listen and learn will allow for knowledge keepers from all backgrounds to share and provide future generations with the ability to continue passing the information forward."

The mural dedication will be held at 2:00 pm at 229 Seventh Avenue South in Virden, the building where RBC operates. Storyboards explaining key elements of the mural will be on display. Immediately following the dedication ceremony, a reception will take place in the Sunrise Banquet Hall.

MURAL DEDICATION

Our community's newest outdoor artwork, painted by Erica and Mary Lowe, brings to life the culture and traditions of the Dakota Nations.

Join the community of Virden in our path towards truth and reconciliation, as we dedicate this mural to the Dakota Nations of the past, present and future.

DEDICATION CEREMONY

Date: Monday, September 30, 2024
Time: 2:00 PM
Location: 229 7th Avenue South, Virden

RECEPTION

Time: Immediately following the Dedication Ceremony
Location: Sunrise Banquet Hall, 900 Fifth Avenue South, Virden

RSVP's to attend are appreciated and can be sent to:
Email: info@virden.ca
Phone: 204-748-2440



All are welcome to attend.

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Virden's Station to showcase costume closet treasures

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Manager for Arts Mosaic, Alix Potrebka, reminds us of current and upcoming shows at the CPR Station on Sixth Avenue in Virden.

This has been the last week of the September exhibition "Beauty Is Where You Find It" by Laura Stenhouse, which closes on Friday the 27th.

October will start with a joint project between Arts Mosaic and the Costume Closet, "Colours of Autumn," a two-week display of select pieces from the costume closet's vast collection in the beautiful colour palette of the changing leaves outside.

This display will run from Oct. 1 – 15.

The Costume Closet provides costuming for drama groups, schools, festivals, events, reunions and more.

This charitable organization has been renting outfits from their large supply for decades. It was January 2005, when they moved into their very own 4000 square foot



PHOTO BY COSTUME CLOSET

In honour of the new school year, on their Facebook page the Costume Closet features a photo of this vintage VCI gym outfit, just one among so many unique period items.

building located across Sixth Avenue from The Station. The Closet's volunteers work tirelessly to costume the many who come from near and far

to find period wear or just some unique outfit for an event.

Costume Closet is open Mondays and Thursdays, 3:00-5:30pm or by ap-

pointment. However, The Station and the Costume Closet will be closed Monday, Sept. 30 in recognition of Truth and Reconciliation Day.



"Last" Historical WALKING TOUR
of Virden - FREE
with Kel Smith
204-748-3321

When: 10am on Saturday, September 28

Meet at the Train Station with sturdy shoes, hat and H2O bottle!

Last tour until late May 2025. This one is FREE!

Come tour with Kel!
Last tour of 2024!



Party TIME




Mr. Henry "Hank" Kyle turns a young 80 years old. Please come join in the celebration September 28th, 2024 from Noon to 3:30 at the Lion's Hall (231 Nelson St. W) Virden, MB. Homemade soup/sandwiches/sweets with tea and coffee will be provided for your enjoyment.

Routledge Road Creative Co.

Sept - Oct 2024

FALL FAMILY SESSIONS

\$175 - 1 Hour

Limited spots - (Sept. 22, Sept 27 & 28, Oct 5/6, Oct 14, Oct 19)

book now so we get the leaves at their best!

Also great for an informal grad session or gift.


Message/call (204) 748-7239 to book or find out more

Proud to support the Oak Lake Golf Club



Chris Masson, Barry McNish, Alayna Bailey, Avery Brigden

TUNDRA OIL & GAS



National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

A message from the Town of Virden Mayor, Council, and Staff:

On September 30, 2024, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, we memorialize the children who never returned home and honour the survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities.

Today and every day, every child matters.

VIRDEN



**PROSPECTOR
GRAVEL**
204-748-1461
BOX 2643 VIRDEN, MB

Despite the disastrous fire that destroyed our gravel screener 4 weeks ago, we are still operational. We have plenty of product available and plan to be screening again before freeze up.

Many thanks to the Wallace & District Fire Department for their attendance and the many offers of assistance from family, friends and business associates.

Please contact John or Pat 204-748-1461 or text 431-763-7792” for all your gravel and stone requirements.





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