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Empire-Advance

Drafts and miniatures show in Virden ring



PHOTOS BY ANNE DAVISON

The Scott Birnie wagon is hitched to a combined team of miniatures, horses that had not been driven together. He had his hands full with these quick moving small horses.

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The largest and the smallest of horses showed off their beauty and talent at the Virden Draft Horse / Miniature Horse Show in Virden. The two-day event ran last Saturday and Sunday during fine July weather that made it a pleasure for the audience and competitors alike.

Held on Virden Agricultural Society grounds the show entertained possibly its largest audience, to date, as the stands were comfortably full.

Line classes were held in the mornings both days, with performance classes showing during the afternoons. Alternating classes between drafts and minis gave competitors time to prepare and kept the ring active.

At the close of the day on Sunday the announcer said this was one of the largest miniature horse shows in Manitoba. About 40 miniature horses and some 80 draft horses were shown.

The Belgian provincial competition was held in conjunction with this event with four stables represented. In the driving events the Champion Belgian team was awarded to Bar RB Belgians owned by Robert Berry of Birtle. In line classes Gardiners Belgians of Virden took top places with Gardiner's Major Playboy the Supreme Champion Belgian while the stable's yearling filly was Champion Belgian mare.

Meadowlark Percherons from St. Alphonse received the Champion Stallion award.

Find out more about the show on pag 20...

Inside...



**MINIOTA
DEVIL'S DROP
RACING**

P11



**AG HALL
OF FAME
INDUCTEES**

P3, 10

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Madesa MX Motocross

By Jessica Coulter
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The weather was extremely hot and the morning fog may have caused a few delays, but that was not going to stop the Saskatchewan Motosport Association (SMA) race at Madesa MX Motocross Park on Sunday, July 21.

The camper trailers started rolling in on Friday, July 19 to get ready for the races. On Saturday, July 20, riders geared up for practice runs all day. Attendance at the riders' meetings and practice are mandatory to race on race day.

Races started at 9am and did not end until 6pm on race day. In order to have all thirty-three races in one day, some races had staggered starts where more than one group of racers would be on the track. First aid crews have been brought in from Armour Safety.

Did you know that the track got its name from the Cosgrove men? Ma(Mark), De(Declan) and Sa(Sam), Ma-de-sa. Mark and his two sons Declan and Sam lease the land that the track is on and built the track. These three are in charge of keeping the track in its best shape for the races. They use some heavy equipment to keep everything at its best. They have a front wheel assist 200 hp tractor, a large rotary tiller, and a 3500-gallon water tank truck to help them keep the dirt where it needs to be, on the track. Pam, Mark's wife and high school sweetheart, also helps out where she can, and you can meet her at the gate on race days selling wrist bands.

The Madesa racetrack had to follow guidelines when it was being built. The track needed to be a certain width, had to be a safe distance from fence lines, trees and no barb wire anywhere near by. The distance of the track needed to be a minimum of a two-minute lap time. One of the best features of the Madesa track is its starting gate. This starting gate is top quality expanded metal that provides 100 per cent traction for the races at the beginning of their race. Most tracks have concrete or dirt at the start gate. This start gate material that you find at Madesa can only be found at other high-end tracks such as Grand Prix or US State Supercross.

Races are normally a timed event. Junior classes will run for 10 to 12 minutes, where intermediate and pro races will run for 16 to 20 minutes. On this day, the races were reduced due to the morning fog and time restrictions and the races were changed to best of three laps.

Although the races are over for this year, maintenance still needs to be kept up at the track, the grass will be mowed, the track will still need to be watered and general upkeep need to be done. Now that the races are done at the track for the year, the family, Mark, Pam, Declan and Sam, will be traveling to the other races on the circuit so that Declan and Sam can compete.

Next year, Mark is thinking there will be two races on the track for the Manitoba circuit and one race for the Saskatchewan circuit too, bringing them up to three races for the season instead of two. For now, they will continue to train, and practice at their home track and teach others the skills to be great dirt bike racers.



MX3 Pro riders launch off the expanded metal starting gate and the dirt starts to fly.



Top: MX3 Pro riders come around the Madesa sign and hit the first jump after the finish line on their second lap around the track.

Right: 85cc 7-11 and 85cc 12-16 riders line up and at the gate to start their race at 2:58pm.

Bottom: 50cc 4-6 riders making a turn on their second lap around the track.



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Hugh Drake inducted to Agricultural Hall of Fame

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Hugh Frederic Drake of Elkhorn was one of four Manitobans recently inducted into the Agricultural Hall of Fame. AHO of inductions paused for two years during Covid and Drake's induction came posthumously, an honour he did not see himself.

He was born on March 18, 1944 and passed away Dec. 26, 2023. In 1904, Hugh's grandfather, also named Hugh Frederic, moved to a farm outside Elkhorn where he farmed with his son.

Hugh married Myrna, and today, their two sons Darwin and Dwayne run a 22,000-acre grain, oilseed and livestock operation. Hugh's grandson Danny is the fifth generation on the Drake farm and operates a forage harvester business as well as farms with the family. In 2004 the Drake family celebrated 100 years working together on the family farm.

Hugh attended Elkhorn High School and dedicated most of his life to service on various boards within the Manitoba agricultural industry while helping out in his community.

He helped build the skating rink in Elkhorn in the early sixties, and served on the local skating rink board in the early 1980s. During these years he helped raise money to put artificial ice in the rink which included raffles of a new John Deere tractor.

Hugh served on the Elkhorn board of Manitoba Pool Elevators for 28 years and became a MPE delegate in 1980.

Historic changes

The 1990s brought a period of unprecedented change. The days of having a grain elevator in every town to deliver grain and buy fertilizer and chemical were rapidly coming to an end. Management and boards of directors were making tough decisions to close hundreds of smaller elevators and build a small number of large inland terminals. This would require substantial trucking for most producers. Many rail line abandonments also caused further small elevator closures and a massive increase of heavy traffic on roads.

As a member of the board of directors of MPE, Hugh was responsible for attending meetings to deliver welcome news as well as the challenges of telling local boards their elevators would be closing. Obviously (like most changes) many people were not happy and probably apprehensive about what the future would hold for their family businesses and small communities.

Mergers

By the mid '90s it was clear to the board that with more multinational companies entering Western Canada and building large facilities, that MPE must get larger to compete. The board had more tough decisions regarding mergers and acquisitions.

Finally, in 1998 Manitoba Pool Elevators merged with Alberta Wheat Pool to form Agricare. Only one board of directors would be required and Hugh stayed on when the new board was formed, so it was clear the value that both boards thought that he brought, especially during merger negotiations.

Grain Services Strike

This new board was tasked with an additional challenge in the fall of 1999 when the Grain Services Union decided to go on strike during negotiations for a new agreement to replace the existing agreements each previous company had in place. After months of negotiations and a month-long strike, the two sides reached an agreement in December.

By 2001, the board decided to merge Agricare with United Grain Growers to form Agricare United. More head office and board member positions were cut but Hugh was kept on the new Agricare United board, which became the largest grain handling / farm supply company in Western Canada.

At Agricare United, Hugh served on the Human Resources, Risk Review and Agriculture Policy Committees and worked to represent farmers during a difficult takeover.

Hugh was also instrumental in taking the company public. It traded on the TSX under the symbol "AU", limited voting common shares, convertible nine per cent debentures and series "A" preferred

shares.

By November 2006, the company became the target of takeover bids from Sask Pool and James Richardson International (JRI).

Sask Pool made several initial offers which Hugh and the rest of the board voted against. Intense negotiations were ongoing for months and in February 2007 the board announced a merger to form a new publicly traded company - Richardson Agricare - subject to shareholder agreement. In the months that followed both Sask Pool and JRI continued raising their bids.

Sask Pool came back to the table multiple times with higher bids until JRI bowed out. This marked the end of the Agricare United board and the beginning of the new company, Viterra, with all Sask Pool management on their board.

For 14 years Hugh served as a director with three different grain companies. During this time Hugh also sat on the Heartland Livestock board, an amalgamation of Manitoba Pool Elevators and Saskatchewan Wheat Pool livestock markets. While Hugh was on the board of Heartland Livestock they built a new auction barn at Virden which remains operational today.

Continuing education

In the late 1980s Hugh participated in the provincial debt review board and played an active role assisting farmers in financial crisis. In 1993 Hugh completed the 20th Farm Leaders course in Winnipeg which concentrated on the grain industry. He received his Farm Business Management certificate in 1988 from ACC, as well as the Management of Leadership Program certificate from the University of Calgary in 1999. He received the Institute of Corporate Director Designation from the Haskayne School of Business at the University of Calgary in 2005.

In 2008, he became treasurer of the Manitoba Canola Growers Association. He was a member of the board for six years. At the same time Hugh was a director with the Manitoba Flax Growers Association for eight years. Serving on the executive committee, he helped with the amal-



PHOTO BY BRIAN BOWDEN

Seated at the banquet celebrating the Agricultural Hall of Fame awards is Hugh Drake's family and their friends: (l-r) Coralee & Wes Rozak, Rod Frederick, Hugh's grandson Danny Drake, Myrna Drake, Darwin Drake & Carla Cook, Darlene Bowden.

gamation from MFGA to the Manitoba Crop Alliance in 2020.

During this time Hugh was also a member of the Wasagaming Foundation, operator of the Camp Wannakumbac program at the Riding Mountain Conference Centre in Clear Lake and chairman of the board.

Hugh dedicated his life and time away from his own business and family to ensure that these Western Canadian non profit

agricultural organizations, co-ops and companies were successful, keeping agriculture in Manitoba a cornerstone of our economy and rural communities.

Hugh was proud to have the family farm going into its fifth generation. He supported the local 4-H Beef Club that his grandson Danny participated in, proud to be showing home raised cattle every year. His proudest moment was watching Danny's steer be judged Grand Champion

in 2016.

Hugh's peers described him as an influential leader, great listener, and advocate with a calm demeanor. He was active on a number of boards during trying times in Manitoba, and worked hard to represent the best interests of his organization and farmers. When asked about his favourite experience serving on various agriculture boards, his response was - the friends he and his wife made along the way. That's what he enjoyed most.

NOTICE

Under The Oil and Gas Act Pierson Oil Field

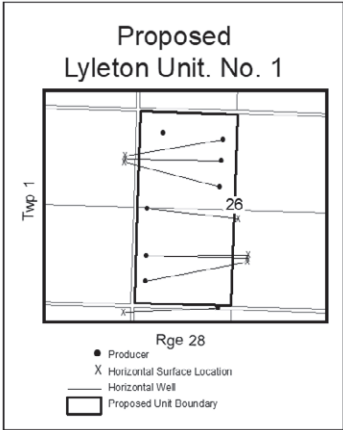
Melita Resources Ltd. (MRL 2 Ltd.) has made application under The Oil and Gas Act for approval to form Lyleton Unit No. 1 and within implement a Waterflood Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) Operation, within the Lower Amaranth formation. The inset map shows the proposed boundaries.

If no valid objection or intervention is received in writing by Manitoba Economic Development, Investment, Trade and Natural Resources, Petroleum Branch, at Suite 360 - 1395 Ellice Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3G 3P2 before **August 23, 2024**, the Minister may approve the application.

Copies of the application can be obtained from:

Brad Caldwell
MRL 2 Ltd.
136 Main Street
Melita, MB R0M 1L0
(306) 339-7714, bcaldwell@melitaresources.com

This application may be viewed in full at:
manitoba.ca/iem/petroleum/applications/index.html



Tundra
By Chad Carpenter

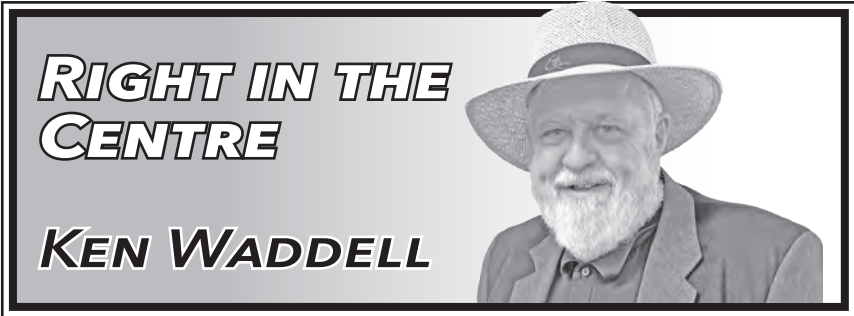


Olympics opening ceremonies not surprising but very disappointing

The world was looking forward to seeing the beginning of the 2024 Paris Olympics. It's still a great show but the opening was severely smeared by a crude and lewd portions of the Opening Ceremonies. There has been enough attention given to the very bad taste shown on the stage but safe to say, the boat loads of athletes going down the Seine River was impressive but there was, well, a lot of bad stuff interspersed.

My father's generation was not impressed with France because of their lack of courage in WWII. It's not talked about very much but, had France stood up to Hitler's Germany in 1939, WWII might never have happened. The French leadership of that era had a much more powerful army than Germany but they were afraid to take a stand. Their lack of courage cost the Allies a lot of lives, injuries and money. My father's generation had a hard time with that.

I also have some trouble with the French as thousands of Canadians fought to get France and General Charles de Gaulle back onto French soil in 1944 with the Normandy invasion and the subsequent freeing of France from the Nazis. Only 23 years after Canadians died to get France back in de Gaulle's hands, insulted Canada. In 1967, now French President de Gaulle proclaimed Vive, Quebec Libre!", words that helped fire up Quebec separatism. He was a visitor to Canada, president of a country that Canada helped get back into French control and he had the audacity to try and inspire French Canadians to leave Canada. I have visited Quebec a few times and fortunately there is still a majority of Quebecers who see it as best that they stay in Canada.



“Lewd is lewd, crude is crude, sacrilege is sacrilege and the majority of people are not amused or comfortable.”

Well they should, as like Manitoba, it's richer Canadian provinces that heavily subsidize Quebec and Manitoba. Left to their own resources, both Quebec and Manitoba would be bankrupt.

But all that considered, why are people, French and others, so infatuated with the lewd things in life. The French government and the Olympic officials “apologized to anyone who was offended.” That is political speak for, “I am sorry I got caught.” If you have ever watched the movie, Cabaret, you will see similar trends in moral lacking among the people of 1930s Berlin.

Maybe there is pattern here. Today's French Olympic organizers and the Cabaret era 1930s Berlin organizers were purposefully hiding immorality behind a facade of artistic endeavours. What could be wrong with loud music and gaudy clothing, what indeed.

Nothing I guess unless in the case of 1930s Berlin and 2024 Paris where every kind of immoral behaviour was wrapped up in bright colours and passed off as “artistic”. People were not to be fooled and God is not to be mocked. The surprise about the Paris thing is that the organizers are surprised at the reaction to their “art”. Lewd is lewd, crude is crude, sacrilege is sacrilege and the majority of people are not amused or comfortable.

We don't want censorship but we do expect citizenship and we didn't get it from the Olympic organizers in Paris.

Fortunately, the athletes from all countries are giving us quality citizenship, quality entertainment and true pride in our countries.

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.

Homebodies
Rita Friesen



Eight years later...

It was eight years ago on a frightfully hot day when we made ‘the move’. I say ‘we’ for I could not have done it by myself. Four able bodied men, and two strong women helped. It was moving a minimalized two-story home that needed to be relocated to a three bedroom, no basement home. The contents of a garage, a partially emptied shop, and several outbuildings then compacted into an attached garage and a two-car garage here in town. We had a system going. Load one set of units, unload them, reload and on it went!! Thankfully a wonderful friend treated us to a home cooked supper, and thankfully the house in town has a wall unit air conditioner. With dedicated help, the move was completed in one day.

So, why am I revisiting a day from eight years ago? This very hot weekend I was able to assist a supportive friend in their move. Hot really doesn't cover the temperature, outside temp and body temp! as we carried boxes and totes up stairs, down stairs and loaded them into vehicles. Hot. Plain and simple. The task at hand and the temperature reminded me clearly of the day I moved into town.

The other reason is that I am so enjoying my home and yard. There was a clean coat of paint in the house when I gained title to it. Not my colour, but clean and fresh and well done. Slowly I added some on my colour; a soft blue in the main living room a few years ago. And this past week, I found the perfect paint colour, one I've aimed for, and missed, several times-like the sky just before a thunderstorm. A soft, yet intense, blue. (Yup, Annette, blue!) It is so what I want that after painting the master bedroom, I tackled the spare room. One wall in both rooms is much lighter, so I never feel closed in. And the feature wall, in one room is wall paper, and in the other-well, a light blue. See a pattern here?

The yard has become exactly what I want. The freezer holds raspberries and strawberries, from my yard. The saskatoons produced just enough to encourage me to go pick at a berry farm. The gooseberry has outdone itself and the ripe fruit is a daily treat. The old apple tree is loaded, the Prairie Magic has many apples set, and the Trail has one lone apple that I'm watching closely. The produce from the vegetable patch has enhanced several meals, with extra being frozen for the winter. The broccoli and cauliflower didn't produce the way I wanted, but the kohlrabi looks promising. I am days away from fresh potatoes and cucumbers. Tomatoes are slow. The fenced back yard is my haven and simply sitting in the shade of the old apple tree, coffee in hand and dog on the lap is rewarding. There are a few flowers to add colour, the petunias out front excelling the others. I am fit, I am free, I am faith filled. I am content. Now, if the town could change a by law and let me have chickens...

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The crowds gather on a beautiful sunny Saturday at Oak Lake Beach Farmers' Market.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

By Jessica Coulter
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Every Saturday, from 10am to 12pm, Oak Lake Beach plays host to the Oak Lake Farmers' Market. It starts in May and ends in September.

Oak Lake Farmer's Market began in 2011 out of a grant from the local economic development board. The mandate was to provide an avenue for local people to sell the things they grew or made. The market was moved from the town to the resort in 2013 to access the summer vacation crowd. Currently 10-15 vendors sell home-baking, vegetables, honey, handcraft jewelry, cedar furniture, bird houses, soap, art, and other crafts.

This last Saturday, July 26, I had the pleasure of visiting all the vendors. The vendors were well informed about everything they make and carry. I was able to find some beautiful lite weight earrings for my daughters and the most delicious Buttermilk Apple Pie. It was worth the trip to the beach on a gorgeous Saturday morning.

Pioneer Home Museum shares gramophone history



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Submitted
By DYLAN SOUTHAM

The gramophone was one of the early music players, with the ability to play back sounds recorded on to the flat records. Before the gramophone, there were phonographs and the Edison cylinder player.

Interest in recording devices and music players started in 1877, creating competition between different inventors to create the best sound recording device. Thomas Edison quickly made the phonograph, however the device did not produce quality sounds, and playback and recording could only be done once. There were many inventions that followed that, but in 1887 a German immigrant named Emile Berliner invented the gramophone and patented the word. His innovations transformed the way record and playback devices run from cylinders to flat discs.

There's little known about what the first recorded audio was on the gramophone style discs.

According to the Smithsonian archives, there are two retrieved sound recordings from 1885 that may be the first two recordings ever done on the gramophone before it was sold for commercial use. The first recording was a man speaking the first few lines of Shakespeare's Hamlet, while the other recording was a man reading the device's description at the New Hampshire factory.

The first gramophone had only four main parts to it, unlike today's record players that are much more complicated. These first gramophones had the needle, the groove, the diaphragm, and the horn. The small needle of the gramophone is attached to the groove. The needle is also attached to the diaphragm and then the diaphragm is attached to the horn. The vibrations from the diaphragm will incite the recorded sound in the single records. The sound is produced completely from vibrations, with no electrical component. Sound storage happened



Rest in peace, garlic. You will be minced.

in reverse with the gramophone, with music playing through the horn and then being consolidated in the diaphragm.

The gramophone was the transition towards modern record players and turntables. The gramophone changed the way recording operated, going from a spinning cylinder to a flat disc, which were more easily transported than the cylinders. Gramophones remained very popular throughout the 1890s, becoming famous enough that the UK and USA had coin-slot gramophones that people could pay to use. Eventually, Emile Berliner and his company patented the rights and sold it exclusively.

Now, the gramophone and phonograph are often referred to as the same thing, despite the phonograph being invented 13 years before the gramophone. Also, the phonograph used a spinning cylinder while the gramophone played on flat discs. The gramophone and phonograph both changed a lot in the way of recording and playing back sound, paving the way for newer formats of sound recording.



The berry best homemade jam.



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For more information, including a link to the online survey, visit: api.legerweb.com/MPISurvey.



Westman RCMP Service Report for July 21 - July 27 2024

Submitted
BY WESTMAN RCMP

During this week Westman RCMP received a total of 65 calls for service. Of the 65, 12 were Traffic Related including 5 Moving Traffic – Speeding Violations. Also included in the calls for service were 5 theft files, 4 Suspicious Person/Vehicle/Property files, 3 Mischief files and 5 False Alarm files.

On July 21, during a routine traffic patrol in the Town of Virden, RCMP observed a passenger in the backseat of a vehicle light a firework and shoot several charges from the firework out of the vehicle window at the roadway and a stop sign. A traffic stop was conducted and the passenger will be receiving a Traffic Offence Notice for Depositing Burning Material on a Highway, which carries a fine of \$237.

On July 22, RCMP were notified about a commercial alarm going off at Kenton Consumers Co-op in Kenton. Police attended and discovered that the glass door was broken and power tools were stolen. Images of suspects were obtained and police continue to investigate.

On July 24, RCMP received a request for assistance from Sioux Valley First Nations Safety Officers regarding a driver that they had detained as a result of a traffic stop. Police attended and learned that the driver was suspended from driving in the Province of Manitoba. When RCMP queried the vehicle, it was discovered that the vehicle was stolen. A 25-year old male was arrested and charged with Possession of Property Obtained by Crime Over \$5000 and Operation While Prohibited. He also received a Traffic Offence Notice for Driving While Disqualified which carries a fine of \$672. He will appear in court in October.

On July 25, RCMP received a report of a domestic assault that had occurred in the community of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation. Police attended and spoke to a female who advised that she had been punched in the face and kicked by her boyfriend. As a result of this investigation, a 30-year old male was arrested and charged with Assault. He will appear in court in October.

On July 26, RCMP received a report of a stolen vehicle that was parked in the owner’s driveway in the community of Pipestone. The vehicle was unlocked with the key fob inside at the time of the theft. The vehicle was later recovered in Brandon. Police continue to investigate.

On July 27, during a routine traffic patrol in the RM of Sifton, RCMP observed a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed on Highway 1. Radar confirmed a speed on 137 km/h in a 110 km/h zone. Police entered the westbound lane behind the driver with emergency lights and siren activated to initiate a traffic stop. The driver failed to stop for police and continued at excessive speeds for 5 km, eventually pulling over after police pulled up beside the driver. The driver received a Traffic Offence Notice for Speeding, which carries a fine of \$403. The driver was also issued a Traffic Offence Notice for Failure to Stop and Remain Stopped When Signaled or Requested by a Peace Officer, which carries a fine of \$672.

On July 27, RCMP, fire and EMS were dispatched to a vehicle rollover on Highway 1 in the RM of Sifton. Upon arrival, police were advised that the passenger was seriously injured and in critical condition. Numerous beer cans were located inside and near the vehicle and a strong odour of liquor was detected on the driver. Both the driver and the passenger were transported by EMS to the hospital to be treated. The driver was arrested for Impaired Driving Causing Bodily Harm and Operation while impaired and will appear in court in December.

There has been an increased volume of property offences, thefts, mischiefs, suspicious persons and suspicious vehicles. Police would like to remind everyone to please be diligent with ensuring your property is locked up, security cameras are in place and operational, and if you do note suspicious activity please report it immediately. In all cases of the thefts of vehicles reported this week, the vehicles were unlocked and the keys were inside the vehicle.

With help from Virden Ford for a second year, we will be running a positivity ticket campaign for children again! Police will be on the lookout in our communities for good bicycle safety practices. If observed by our members, children will receive a “ticket” for a free soft ice cream from Ice Cream Island.

Canupawakpa woman charged with manslaughter By Anne Davison, Empire-Advance

RCMP Major Crime Services and Manitoba First Nations Police Service investigate homicide.

On July 26, at approximately 9:10am, Manitoba First Nations Police Service (MFNPS) responded to a report of a sudden death at a residence on Canupawakpa Dakota Nation. Officers along with Emergency Medical Services attended and located a 42-year-old male from the community, deceased with obvious injuries.

RCMP Major Crime Services handled the investigation with assistance from MFNPS Criminal Investigations Unit and the RCMP Forensic Identification Section.

On July 29, Marissa Jean Benn, 36, of Canupawakpa Dakota Nation, was charged with Manslaughter. She has been remanded into custody.

Oak Lake Ag Fair results

By Jessica Coulter
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

There were so many entries at the exhibit hall and events. Almost 1000 entries were listed on the Oak Lake Ag Fair results page. Below is a summary. If you would like the full list, please take a look at their Facebook page or contact the Ag Society for more information.

Court of Honour 2024:

Baking & Cooking: Brown Bread - Maureen Buckley; Lillian Enns Special - Best Four Decorated; Cupcakes - Rhett Klassen; Rocking W Special - Lemon Tarts - Maureen Buckley;

Preserves: Sweet Mixed Pickles - David Sawatsky;

Horticulture: Mandavilla - Cathy Gompf; Lettuce Head - Maureen Bailey; Sheaf Sweet Clover - Claire Griffith; Rose and stem - Jean Ryall;

Needle Craft: Maria Branum Special - Marion Masson; Tack Long Arm Quilting - Margaret White; Wooden Article - Aaron White;

Point of Praise: Hand Knit Shawl - Karyn Morrow-Penner;

School Childrens Work: Oak Lake Lions Club Special - Ethan Medwid; Black and White Drawing - Emmersyne Stannage; There were 160 entries from kids 12 and under in the exhibits hall.

Here is the list of pig catcher’s participant: Brynlee Ferland, Cody Higgins, Paisley Ferris, Kylie Higgins, Hudson Rogers, Jonah



PHOTO BY JESSICA COULTER

Delicious veggies!

Thiessen, Jase Thiessen, Jordan Thiessen, Callen Tolten, Harper Holland, Blake Griffith, Elliot Burns, Berklee Kozoroski, Amina Saban, Elyaas Saban, Cora Abbott, Avery Low, Jesse Abbott, Ethan Smith, Grayson Smith, Grace Ariss

In potted plants there were fifteen varieties. There were twenty-three different varieties of cutflowers entered. Twenty-six fruits and vegetables categories, thirteen grains, grasses and herbs varieties, thirty-eight baking categories, nine junior baking categories, thirteen preserves, eight sewing, five machine quilting, thirteen knitting, nine crocheting and so much more. Dozens of creative art pieces were entered from photography to painted rocks.

Horse events: There were 35 horse events at the fair ranging four different categories, Halter, Showmanship, Riding, and MGRA Competition. There were almost two hundred entries list for different ranks and winners in these categories. There were 60 entries in mini horse and ranch horse.

Cattle: There were 52 entries in multiple cattle events including Limousin, mixed group, and market steers.



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Our sales professionals redefine what it means to engage in the automotive purchasing process. These aren’t just individuals who sell cars; they are curators of your automotive journey, deeply invested in aligning with your aspirations and ensuring the path to your perfect vehicle is as thrilling as it is satisfying. Their knowledge is vast, their approach, hands-on; their priority, unmistakably, is you.

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We are proud to sponsor and partner with a wide variety of local organizations including the Virden Rodeo, Virden Arts Mosaic, Virden Light Horse and Heavy Horse shows, fundraising for the Virden Food Cupboard and many others.

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2024 Harding Ag Fair results for horse and cattle

Submitted

BY WENDA BEST

Total beef cattle entries were approximately 160 head. There were 17 pens of Commercial cow/calf pairs. The Jackpot heifer class had 33 heifers split into 3 classes and judged by a panel of three judges. The panel of judges was Sean Tolton, Cameron Kent and Les Wedderburn. They also judged the Commercial cow/calf class.

Beef Cattle judges were Laura Horner and Jake Rawluk from Minnedosa MB.

Cattle came from as far west as Radville, SK and as far east was Severn, ON.

A new class this year in the beef cattle section was the Supreme Breeders Herd, Sherry and Wyatt Wilson sponsored it in memory of Jim Wilson who was the announcer at the fair for many years.

There were 30 miniature horses entered. Judged by Dan Myhill from Shoal Lake MB

There were 80 light horse entries. Judged by Donna Sagin from Carberry MB

Miniature Horses

Grand Champion Miniature 34" & under - Denise Longfield,

Bradwardine, MB; Reserve Champion Miniature 34" & under - Deanna Spencer, Belmont, MB; Grand Champion Miniature over 34" to 38" - Denise Longfield, Bradwardine, MB; Reserve Champion Miniature over 34" to 38" - Gwen Schubert, West St. Paul, MB.

Light Horses & Ponies

Grand Champion Pony - Marcia Carter, Kenton, MB; Grand Champion Light Horse - Laura Miskiman, Rocanville, SK; Betty Best Memorial Costume Class - Kora Thompson, Oak Lake, MB; Ranch Riding / Trail - Amy Grainger, Brandon, MB;

Jackpot Pole Bending

Pee Wee - Clary Muir, Kelwood, MB; Youth - 1D - Ryder Muir, Kelwood, MB; 3D - Harper Holland, Stockholm, SK; Open 1D - Brenna Johnston, Griswold, MB; 3D - Emrie Earnshaw, West End, SK;

MBRA Jackpot Barrel Racing

Pee Wee 1D - Ryder Muir, Kelwood, MB; 3D - Kora Thompson, Oak Lake, MB; Youth 1D - Eden Lanoie, Wawanesa, MB; 3D - Adi McKenzie, Nesbitt, MB; Open - 1D - Leah Obach, Kenton, MB; 2D - Danika Smith, Hamiota, MB; 3D - Ricki Hill, Lenore, MB

Commercial Cow/Calf Pen Show

Nora Curtis Memorial - 2yr Old Commercial Cow/Calf Champion - Cam Ramsey, Oak River, MB; Overall Commercial Cow/Calf Winners - Cam Ramsey, Oak River, MB and Dave Logan, Lenore, MB.

Commercial Cattle

Grand Champion Heifer - Jaymarandy Livestock, Beausejour, MB; Grand Champion Steer - Ellie Nolan, Cypress River, MB;

Beef Cattle

Angus: Grand Champion Bull - Bar H Land & Cattle Co., Langenburg, SK; Reserve Champion Bull - Freyburn Farms, Oxbow SK; Grand Champion Female - Merit Cattle Co., Radville SK; Breeders Herd - Freyburn Farms, Oxbow, SK

Charolais: Grand Champion Bull - Steppler Farms, Miami, MB; Reserve Champion Bull - JMB Charolais, Brookdale, MB; Grand Champion Female - HTA Charolais, Rivers, MB; Reserve Champion Female - Steppler Farms, Miami, MB; Breeders Herd - JMB Charolais, Brookdale, MB.

Gelbviegh/Limousin: Grand Champion Bull - Maple Grove Gelbviegh, Narcisse, MB; Reserve Champion Bull - Diamond T Limousin, Kenton, MB; Grand Champion Female - Maple Grove Gelbviegh, Narcisse, MB; Reserve Champion Female - Maple Grove Gelbviegh, Narcisse, MB; Breeders Herd - Maple Grove Gelbviegh, Narcisse MB

Simmental: Grand Champion Bull - KCH Cattle Co., Rapid City, MB; Reserve Champion Bull - Big Sky Simmentals, Rivers, MB; Grand Champion Female - More Bros., Virden, MB; Reserve Champion Female - KCH Cattle Co., Rapid City, MB; Breeders Herd - More Bros., Virden, MB.

All Other Breeds: Grand Champion Bull - Medonte Highlands Polled Herefords, Severn, ON; Reserve Champion Bull - Sinnibar Stock Farm, Russell, MB; Grand Champion Female - Medonte Highlands Polled Herefords, Severn, ON; Reserve Champion Female - Medonte Highlands Polled Herefords, Severn, ON; Breeders Herd - Sinnibar Stock Farm, Russell, MB.

Jackpot Heifer Bonanza - 33 entries, Grand Champion - Kenray Ranch, Redvers SK; Reserve Champion - Freyburn Farms, Oxbow SK.

Jim Wilson Memorial Supreme Champion Breeders Herd - Freyburn Farms, Oxbow, SK; Ron Sangster Memorial Supreme Champion Bull - entry into Agribition CN Beef Supreme - Bar H Land & Cattle Co., The Hogberg Family, Langenburg, SK; Ron Sangster Memorial Supreme Champion Female - entry into Agribition CN Beef Supreme - Merit Cattle Co., Trent & Janelle Liebreich, Radville, SK;

News from Miniota

Submitted

BY LINDA CLARK

Ken, Jody, Conan, and Dannica Still, Peace River, Alta. were home to spend time with Mac and Pat Lelond & family and Glen Margaret Still & family.

Steve, Amber, Ashby and Violet Young of Wakefield, Quebec visited with Jim and Lin Young and family. Devon Sanders from Swift Current, Sask. was also home for the family gathering.

Congratulations to Del and Sheila Sheane on the occasion of their 40th wedding anniversary. Their sons and their wives hosted family and friends on Saturday evening in their parents' honour at the Miniota Golf Club Campground.

Visiting with Linda Clark and family this past week and here to attend the funerals of Marilyn Reid and Chris Reid were Kevin and Julie Halipchuk, Aidan, Reese and Carley of Ottawa, Ont.; Don and Carolee Reid of Edmonton, Alta.; Marg Tew of Calgary, Alta.; Mike Reid of Fort St. John, B.C.; Daryl and Melanie Clark, Ituna, Sask.; Scott and Donna Gammack, Garson, Man.; Harold Reid, Brandon as well as several other family members and cousins from nearby.

Brady Brown and Brittany Asselstine and children Hadlee and Miller; and Dan and Mariah Bryant and son Harlo attended their cousin, Kristen Graham's wedding to Wade Osuder at their farm at Birtle on July 27th.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Michelle and Randy Bryant, Monelle, Baker and Hadley on the death of Michelle's mom Gail Salmon. As well we extend sympathy to Gail's mom, Alice Bolter of Sunnyside Manor at Birtle and to Michelle's sister Deanna and her family of Brandon. Our thoughts are with you all.

MDR Dirt Bike Races were held at the Miniota site on the south valley hill this past weekend. Little Kitchen on the Prairie provided a confectionary booth.

The Miniota Golf Club sponsored the Ladies Open Golf Tournament on July 27th with 36 golfers competing.

Doug and Caroline Geib of Conquest, Sask. made their home at the Miniota Golf Campground for a few days and many Lelond and Clark cousins stopped by for a visit.

"History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be unlived, but if faced with courage, need not be lived again." -Maya Angelou

Isabella News

Congratulations to Bernice Still on her milestone birthday. The Doran family held a family gathering on Sunday, July 28th at Bernice's home to honour her. Family attending were Rusty and Randy Still; Marg Gregory, Cam and Lucy Gregory Hamiota; Sandy Bridge-man, Rossman Lake; Gail Brown and her daughter Nicole, Calgary, Alta.; Walter and Diana Brydon; Jon and Christie and family; Cam and Ruth Gammack of Weyburn; Kevin Doran; Wes and Kerrie Gregory and Travis and Ennie Gregory and families; Kaitlyn, Easton, Davyn and Scottlyn Wever from Monarch, Alta. and Rute, Hanna and Jacob Still from Spy Hill. A few community ladies called on Bernice, Monday evening, to continue the celebration with cake and ice cream.

Visiting with Ron Huberdeau and Kathy Meekins for the weekend were Leigh and Margaret Huberdeau, Jodan and Annick of Debolt Alta; Joel and Barb Huberdeau and Gabriel of Airdrie, Alta.; Daniel and Sylvia Huberdeau, Jonah, Jaice and friend Declan and Jax of Grand Pointe, Man.; and Jamie and Tana Huberdeau, Cadie and Deone of Isabella. Joining in Sunday's festivities were Mike and Lisa Knight and family and Chris Norrie, ending the weekend with a family ball game.

An article of interest of one of our former Isabella people is the story of Julie Clark Moroney of Brentwood Bay, B.C. Julie continues to golf despite her failing eyesight. Her husband Pearce Moroney discovered Blind Golf Canada and he acts as her coach in tournaments. Julie has been very successful at the competitive level. We are proud of you, Julie.

A family graveside service was held at the Isabella Cemetery on July 23rd for Marilyn Reid. The Reid family is appreciative of the beautifully manicured grounds.

The Heise House museum is being painted and we all await the transformation.

Word has been received of the death of Gordon Campbell of Neepawa. Gordon was raised and farmed at Isabella for many years prior to retirement. We extend our sympathy to his wife Vivian, and children Pat, Ron, Tannis, Scott and their families. Tannis visited with Bernice Still delivering the news of her father's death.



Virden Mainline, The King Of Trucks, in Virden, Manitoba is Manitoba's premier GMC, Chevrolet and Buick Dealer! With two locations to serve you in Virden and Birtle, our friendly, knowledgeable staff will ensure that you receive the best service possible! From our expert service department, featuring GM Certified Technicians and the latest state-of-the-art equipment, to our award winning Sales staff, Virden Mainline should be the only name you think of when it comes to purchasing or servicing your vehicle. Our Service Department also features a very welcoming "Drive-Thru" and our Parts Department stands at the ready to provide you with the best GM parts and aftermarket accessories knowledge in the business. Our "King's Customs" accessorized trucks are always a big hit, featuring everything from lift kits to mud flaps!

As part of the Mainline Automotive Group, we hold firm to the belief that our customers come first, every time. Being part of a large automotive group also means better service for you. If we don't have the new or pre-owned vehicle that you are looking for, we can often get it from one of our sister stores. When you walk into our Dealership, you will be greeted with a friendly smile and always have help offered, no matter the purpose of your visit. We always have the coffee on, so we also love it when any of our existing customers, as well as new friends stop in to visit. Our General Manager, Derek LeBlanc, invites you to stop in and see what Virden Mainline has to offer and see why we are Manitoba's largest rural GM Dealer with customer service that is second to none. Whether that means coming to pick you or your vehicle up to make your service visit as convenient as possible, or delivering your brand new GMC, Chevrolet or Buick vehicle right to your driveway, Virden Mainline has you covered! Virden Mainline has been a proud sponsor of the Virden Indoor Rodeo since 2005. We see the benefits an event like this has on the community. We welcome all of the competitors to the Virden Indoor Rodeo at Tundra Oil & Gas Place and wish you all the very best of luck! The King Of Trucks in Virden Manitoba; Worth The Drive, Every Time!

Happy Terry Fox Day

From an ordinary kid born in Winnipeg to an iconic Canadian hero



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Submitted by Kris Wallace
TERRY FOX ORGANIZATION

Terry Fox was 18 when he was diagnosed with cancer and just 22 when he died. In between, he changed the world. On Monday, Manitobans will celebrate our 10th Terry Fox Day. Learn more about this Canadian hero and his enduring legacy.

The Fox family roots run deep in Manitoba. Betty and Rolly, Terry's parents, were born and raised in the province. They met in unique Win-

nipeg style at the corner of Portage and Main. Terry was born a few years later on July 28, 1958. The family moved to British Columbia in 1966 in search of milder winters.

Terry was an ordinary kid with extraordinary determination. He channelled that determination when he lost his leg to bone cancer (osteosarcoma). Back then, even with aggressive treatment, the prog-

nosis was bleak with a survival rate of less than 5 per cent. Despite his own uncertain future, Terry was most affected by the suffering of the cancer patients around him. In an instant, he knew what he had to do: he would run across Canada to raise money for cancer research.

Marathon of Hope

Terry endured 16 months of chemotherapy and ran 5,000 kilometres to build his strength and conditioning. On a chilly April morning in 1980 in St.

John's, Newfoundland, Terry dipped his artificial leg into the Atlantic Ocean and into the hearts of our nation.

For the next 143 days, Terry got up at 4am and ran the equivalent of a marathon (42 kilometres). He ran more than halfway across this country – 5,373 kms – until the cancer forced him to stop just outside of Thunder Bay.

As he ran, something very special happened. Canadians rallied behind his fierce determination and his message of hope. Donations poured in. Adults along the road emptied their wallets. Kids gave the change from their piggy banks. A musician, who didn't have any money, gave Terry his expensive

guitar.

An enduring legacy

Bringing cancer into the open has been one of Terry's most enduring achievements. He spoke openly about it; he unabashedly showed his prosthetic leg; and he launched a rallying cry that echoes to this day.

Terry died on June 28, 1981, at the tender age of 22. The young man who started with the humble goal of raising \$1 from every Canadian has raised more than \$900 million in support of innovative, life-changing cancer research.

Where does that money go? To the world-class research network that carries his name: the Terry Fox Research Institute (TFRI).

TFRI brings research-

ers together to find better ways to diagnose, treat, and prevent cancer. And to give families living with cancer the precious gift of time.

The pace of progress can seem slow, but it's working. Even Terry's cancer now has a survival rate as high as 80 per cent depending on how early it's diagnosed.

Today, in addition to celebrating Terry Fox Day, we honour Terry's courage by participating and fundraising in more than 9,000 Terry Fox School Runs and over 800 Terry Fox events across Canada and around the world. This year's Terry Fox Run is September 15, 2024. Participate. Volunteer. Donate. terryfox.org



Keystone Wealth Management is a financial consulting firm serving its clients with various wealth management services. We take pride in our capacity to provide a wide range of financial strategies tailored to cater to the individual requirements of every client. From retirement planning, investment management, business or farm transitions, estate planning, to insurance solutions, Keystone Wealth Management offers a comprehensive approach to financial well-being.

Our dedication to personalized service is evident in our continuous effort to understand the individual goals and circumstances of our clients. By doing so, we can craft financial plans that not only address immediate needs but also secure long-term financial stability and growth.

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Keystone Wealth Management is deeply engaged in the local community, regularly taking part in and endorsing community events and projects. This active participation strengthens the bond between the firm and the community it serves, solidifying its standing as a reliable financial advisor.

Our main objective at Keystone Wealth Management is to assist you in reaching your financial goals. By working closely with you, we gain insight into your financial status, pinpoint your objectives, and create a tailored strategy to help you attain them. Whether you aim to increase your wealth, safeguard your assets, or prepare for the future, our team of seasoned advisors is dedicated to offering professional advice and assistance at every stage. Count on us to be your reliable partner to attain financial success!

Virden Horse Show



PHOTO BY ANNE DAVISON

Brenda Hunter of Virden prepares the Belgian team for Ladies Driving at the Virden Horse show July 27-28.

Virden Draft Horse Show



PHOTO BY ANNE DAVISON

Brad Delgaty at the reins as the Delgaty Clydesdales six-horse hitch heads into the Virden showing. He stood second in this class won by Wallace Clydesdales.

The Virden Empire-Advance is now available for FREE

Find the newspaper at the following locations:

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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.

Hamiota veterinarian, farmer inducted to Hall of Fame

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Dr. Allan Preston spent his career advancing agriculture, imparting his infectious love for the livestock industry, and doing his utmost to make rural Manitoba and Canada a stronger and more vibrant place.

Gifted with a curious mind, his early years in Crandall School, near the Preston family farm, were in a multi-grade learning environment. Here an observant teacher, Anne Shelvey, discovered Allan had finished his own grade work and she decided he needed to start learning a second language and he says, "All of a sudden, I leaped two years ahead." He said he had opportunities in that rural school that didn't exist in a single grade classroom.

Along with other Crandall classmates, he finished his education in Hamiota Collegiate where he shone as an exceptional student and a student leader.

Allan grew up helping his father Frank with the cattle and other animals, and those experiences inspired him to pursue a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVN).

Although, at first it wasn't his sole focus. "I worked at the Brandon Research Station in my two years of pre-vet education." But once accepted to the veterinary college in Saskatoon, he found himself on a very focused path.

Upon graduation, Allan practised as a veterinarian out of the clinic in Hamiota, while continuing to raise Simmental cattle on the family farm.

Despite a busy professional life, he took time for his kids and his community, taking a leadership role guiding the Hamiota Agricultural Society and chairing the Hamiota Community Foundation.

Allan and his wife Sharon, whom he met in high



SUBMITTED PHOTO

With his grown children, Dr. Allan Preston displays the Manitoba Agricultural Hall of Fame award; (l-r) Scott Preston, Dr. Allan Preston, Shelly Rowan and Julie Gooch

school, spent many busy years supporting their son and two daughters in their sports and school activities. Allan coached minor sports teams and led the 4-H Club. The family also travelled from Victoria to Halifax showing their purebred Simmental cattle.

"I've been part of this community all of my life, and it's important for me to be engaged in its activities," Preston explains. "Without volunteers in small communities, the many activities will stumble and fall, and eventually the community starts to erode as well." Preston was also active in industry organizations. He

was the president of the Canadian Simmental Association and active on many livestock organizations including the Beef Science Cluster Advisory Body and the Westman Opportunities Leadership Group.

After 20 years of reproductive and obstetrical veterinary work, chronic arm and shoulder problems warned him it was time for a change.

Government work

When he applied for his first job with Manitoba Agriculture, he soon realized it might mean a move to Winnipeg. But his life was a rural one, where family and farm was important, so he said "thanks but no thanks."

He received a quick response: "24 hours later I got a call from head of veterinary services who asked 'if we provided you with an office and support staff in Hamiota, would you be interested in the job then?'" His response, "Where do I sign?"

Dr. Preston left rural practice and moved on to a position with Manitoba Agriculture in 1995. As manager of Veterinary Field Services for nearly

five years, he was involved in extension work, oversaw the province's veterinary service districts, managed student programs and handled animal welfare situations.

"They thought I was the right guy and the rest was history. It was nice to work out of the local office here... It helped keep me grounded in rural Manitoba. Sometimes folks get inside that perimeter highway and they tend to lose that (rural) perspective."

He received the 1995 Canadian Veterinary Medical Association's (CVMA) Humane Award which annually recognizes a CVMA member who has shown leadership and significant contributions to the welfare and well-being of animals.

He said, "These critters, whether they be cows, horses, dogs... we're in charge of their health and their welfare. To me, you don't have one without the other."

In addition to chairing the CVMA Animal Welfare Committee for several years, Preston was also president of the Manitoba Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA) and was named the MVMA Veterinarian of the Year in 1994-1995.

One accomplishment that stands out for Preston was his involvement with the recombinant bovine somatotropin (rBST) panel – a committee investigating the use of rBST to increase milk production in Canadian dairy herds. Their conclusion that the product would have detrimental effects on the cattle influenced Health Canada to deny licensing for it. That significant decision not only promoted animal welfare but also had an impact on human and environmental medicine.

He then served as Manitoba's Chief Veterinary Officer for five years before his appointment as Assistant Deputy Minister at Manitoba Agriculture and Food, where he chaired the Manitoba Agriculture Research and Innovation Committee.

"As I moved up the ladder to the CVO (Chief Veterinary Officer) role, I had to spend more time in Winnipeg." He continued to work as often as possible in his Hamiota office doing work that he loved.

"It's gratifying to be able to influence research and innovation... to kind of steer the research agenda."

Most recently, Dr. Preston gave leadership to the Assiniboine River Basin Initiative as flood mitigation became a need for Manitoba agricultural producers.

He has received many honours for all of his involvement. Dr. Preston was particularly gratified when he received the 2008 Lieutenant Governor's Medal for Excellence in Public Administration in Manitoba.

He recalls, "It was quite something to be on a list that included people whose credentials would make your head spin. I firmly believe that public service is indeed a high calling."

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NEVER TOO YOUNG OR OLD TO PLAY IN THE DIRT

Miniota Devil's Drop Hare Scramble



Riders start from the ground to make the race even.



Rider Royden Tutthill of Elkhorn made it out for the races in Miniota on the last July weekend

By Jessica Coulter
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

An incredible fun filled weekend for Manitoba Dirt Riders Inc (MDR) was staged at the Miniota Devil's Drop trail. Hundreds of people came out to ride, to race, to watch or to volunteer for this weekend of outdoor adrenaline infused excitement. Miniota trails inaugural race was in 2009.

Saturday, July 27 was all about the fun races. Sunday, July 28 was time to score points in your race class. The MDR scoring system is Moto Tally. Riders and their support crews arrived early and set up camp for the weekend. Helmet scans had to be completed by each rider before they were allowed to race.

There are 22 different race classes with riders ranging from as young as four years old all the way up to 50+. The PeeWee Loop, for the PeeWee racers, marked by the pink arrows, riders all under the age of eight years old are separated into two race classes. The Short Loop is for the Beginner race and for some of the classes in the Intermediate racers. Five race classes participate in the short loop which is marked by the blue arrows and runs for one hour. Three Intermediate race classes took part in the long loop which was marked by the orange arrows for one hour. The final race on each day was for the Advanced Race block which included twelve race classes on the long loop, marked by orange arrows, and was two hours long.

The Miniota Devil's Drop trail is definitely a site to see hosting a wide variety of elevation changes, thick bush and flood terrain Miniota will be sure to provide exciting muddy challenges for all riders. The pro loop is upwards of 14 kilometres in length and features butt clenching drops, and white-knuckle hill climbs. The youth loop is a fun filled winding trail with slight elevation changes allowing riders show of their skills.

For safety, first aid stations are found along the trails and volunteer riders called Sweepers are out on the trails keeping watch and making sure everyone is staying safe.

MDR is a board governed non-profit corporation dedicated to ensuring sustained off-road riding in a family-based atmosphere. Through respect, teamwork, and dedication it is our hope to give a unified voice to off road riders in the province of Manitoba.



PHOTOS BY KRISTINA WALKER

The crowd was excited and waiting for the hundreds of rides to start their race at the starting gate.



BUILDING FOR TENDER

**The highest or any tender is not necessarily accepted.
Tenders at the Virden admin office up until 5:00 pm August 23rd.
The building must be moved by September 27;
for each day past that, it will be subject to a \$1,000 per day fine.**

**To arrange viewings, contact the
Admin Office 747 6700 or admin@valleyview.coop**

Horse and cart go over

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

It was a wreck, but it could have been much worse. When bad things happen, it's what happens next that people will remember. At Virden Draft and Miniature Horse Show this past weekend an overturned cart might have led to a fiasco in the ring, but thanks to the experienced horsemen and horsewomen at ringside, that did not happen.

When Kent Anderson's Percheron two-horse tandem hitch went wrong, the cart and the wheel horse ended up on their side. It all happened in an instant. Anderson jumped off the back of his cart and a crew of people (exhibitors, judge, ring steward and other exhibitor crews) rushed into the ring to take control of the horses as best they could while Anderson sat on the head of his wheel horse, pinning it to the ground and preventing excessive struggling that could have led to more trouble.

An alarming event for people and horses, the audience watched quietly, on pins and needles.

Immediately the announcer calmly asked for the in-gate to be opened, excusing the other three tandem hitches from the ring in orderly fashion.

The lead horse, which remained on its feet, was immediately controlled, freed from the harness and led from the ring.

While Anderson kept his downed horse under control, others worked to free the horse from harness and cart shafts.

Before a hushed audience, the big black horse got to its feet. It was led from the ring to the applause of a relieved audience.

Anderson said after, that while they're rivals in the ring, fellow competitors are quick to help each other out, and that's just what they did at Virden Draft Show.

He said he was not injured, the horses were ok, but the cart is going to need a little work. "Carts can be replaced," he stated.

The tandem hitch with one horse hooked in front of the other is a challenging hitch to keep in order. The show announcer explained that the tandem configuration originated as a means to take an extra horse along (the front horse) to an event to use as a saddle mount, while the wheel horse does the actual pulling.

Earlier in the day a miniature horse tandem hitch also gave trouble outside the show ring. And in a two-year-old draft driving class a young draft horse



Charleswood Percherons tandem hitch is in trouble, but a crew of horse handlers rush to help. Driver Kent Anderson is safely off and has taken control of his wheel horse that's on the ground.

kicked up its heels and was excused from the show ring without further incident.

While the audience, particularly those who have not driven horses, may take for granted an orderly drive in the ring, it takes hours of patient training to produce show teams. At the end of the day, they are animals with a nature and will unique to each horse. Show day brings an air of excitement with new horses, sights, smells and sounds. Handlers and drivers are to be admired as they prep and show their stock.

That these were well trained animals was evident as, despite the calamity, they remained controllable by those who came to help.

The tandem hitch class was resumed, now down to three entries, with Lone Oak Percherons driver Jim Lane taking the red ribbon.



PHOTOS BY ANNE DAVISON

The wheel horse is up. At least a dozen people are lending a hand as the horse is unharnessed and the show collar removed. Moments later the crowd cheers as the second horse is led unharmed from the ring.



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SPORTS

SOFTBALL: RAMPTON EARNS MOP HONOURS AS MAGIC WIN

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Viriden's Paige Rampton helped propel the U15 Westman Magic to a national tournament berth.

She was named the Most Outstanding Player at the U15 AAA provincial tournament. The Magic defeated the Eastman Wildcats in the championship game of the event, which was held in Winnipeg on July 18-21. Both teams earned a spot in the Softball Canada U15 AAA national tournament on Aug. 14-18 in Ile-Perrot, Que.

A pitcher who also played first base, Rampton threw 36 innings during the provincial tournament. In the Magic's final two contests, coach Jill Twordik described the hurler as a "dominant force against a hard-hitting Eastman Wildcats team."

The No. 1 versus No. 2 contest between the Magic and Wildcats took two extra innings. Rampton threw in all nine - 134 pitches. The Magic prevailed 8-7.

The Wildcats went on to beat Central Energy in the semifinal game to earn another chance against the Magic. Twordik said, "Paige had thrown so well in the 1 v 2 game, we made a decision to have her throw again for as long as she could. I asked her if she was ready to go again, and she said 'Are you serious? Yeah, I'm ready!'"

"She was poised and determined and threw the best I have seen her throw all year. She continued to gain momentum as our team was errorless behind her."

The Magic won the championship tilt, 5-4, on a walk-off single. Twordik said, Rampton allowed nine hits, struck out three, and walked two.

U11 AA

Due to numbers, players from the rural area joined Brandon athletes to form the U11 Westman Heat Yellow team. The squad competed hard at the provincial tournament in Brandon on July 26-28 in Brandon. The team included Lenore's Willow Hodson, the Viriden duo of Kinsley Robertson and Locklynn Hayward, and Abbi Rost of Oak Lake.



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PHOTO BY DARRYL GERSHMAN

Pitcher and on first base, Paige Rampton named Most Outstanding Player.

U13 AAA

The U13 Westman Magic will host the Western Canadian championships in Brandon on Aug. 1-4. The team includes Viriden's Hadley Robertson and Georgia Koop as well as Zaree Routledge of the Rural Municipality of Wallace-Woodworth and Evie McAdam from the RM of Sifton. The squad was 2-4 at the U13 AAA provincials last weekend in Stonewall.

U19 AAA

Viriden's Jessie Henry and the U19 AAA Westman Magic are headed to the Softball Canada U19 AAA nationals. At the U19 AAA provincial tournament on July 19-21 in Winkler, the team finished second. The nationals will be played in Saskatoon July 31 - Aug. 4.

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Letter to the Editor

RE: Accountability in hunting sector

The Manitoba Progressive Conservative Caucus is calling on the NDP government to be accountable to Manitoba hunters and the outfitting sector after a draw for big-game hunting licences was delayed by three weeks without any reasonable public explanation.

Premier Wab Kinew must show transparency and inform Manitobans why the Manitoba resident big-game elk, big-game moose and elk landowner draw has been held over from June 21 until July 12. It is also incumbent on the premier to clear up public confusion that has arisen on this issue since his government announced the delay.

An explanation from the NDP for the lengthy delay is particularly warranted because it was announced after Manitoba Keewatinowik Okimakanak (MKO) urged the government to stop the draw for resident hunting licences in traditional First Nations game hunting areas.

In recent months, MKO has also asked the NDP to stop enforcing provincial regulations against First Nations hunters.

Manitobans support reconciliation, though it is important that the government balances the needs of all stakeholders in decisions on big-game hunting licences.

I urge the NDP government to adhere to its stated commitment to a shared approach to the management of our province's wildlife, and to recognize the rights of all people to engage in Manitoba's hunting heritage.

Manitobans have legitimate questions about the delay in the hunting licence draw. Kinew and his government should do the right thing and explain this decision.

- Rick Wowchuk, MLA for Swan River and PC critic for natural resources

SPORTS

OILDOME 18U WIN AAA TIER 2 SILVER



The Oil Dome team.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

With local athletes playing roles, the Oildome 18U AAA team won the silver medals at the Baseball Manitoba U18 AAA Tier 2 provincial tournament.

The team lost 11-10 to Bonivital in the finals at the July 26-28 event in Winnipeg. Virden's Reed McGrath and Nathan Rowan and Reston's Jamie Williamson contributed to the

squad. Reston's Dallas Williamson was an assistant coach.

"The team was successful due to a total team effort," head coach Ryan Albrecht said. "Our regular season wasn't so good but we knew going into provincials we could make some noise. The boys had confidence knowing we could win some games with the roster we had. We played great defence all weekend and our pitching was outstanding. Hitting at

times was an issue, but we did get timely hits when needed and in the finals our bats really came to life and everyone hit the ball hard."

In the final contest, Oildome led 10-6 going into the sixth inning.

"Bonivital is a good hitting team and we just couldn't keep them from scoring runs," Albrecht said. "We played our best baseball game of the tourney in that final game so that's all you can ask for as a coach. The boys left everything

out on the diamond, but unfortunately came up a bit short."

McGrath was used by Oildome as a left-handed pitcher and outfielder. Albrecht said he "throws lots of strikes and is a good defensive outfielder."

Rowan is a middle infielder who also pitches. The Oildome head coach described him as a "Big kid who throws hard and has some nasty off speed pitches. Was a big part of our pitching staff this season."

Williamson was the team's primary catcher. Albrecht noted he can play anywhere in the infield and also pitch.

"He has a big bat and he hits for power and is a great defensive catcher," the coach said.

13U AA

The Oildome 13U AA team romped past Charleswood, 14-4, in the seventh place game at the 13U AA provincials in Brandon. The tournament was held July 26-28. The team included Virden's Avery Braybrook

and Reston's Blayne Gray. Brett Braybrook of Virden was an assistant coach.

15U AA

The Oildome 15U AA team beat Brandon 15-12 for ninth place at the provincial tournament, which was held July 26-28 in the Wheat City. Local players on the squad include Virden products Rhyse Gabrielle, Cardyn Hayward, and Carter White; Reston's Owen Gray; and Pipestone's Kaden Revet. Virden's Leif Wilson was an assistant coach.

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SPORTS

FLANNERY ENJOYS LIFE ON ICE, DIAMOND, CLASSROOM AT DCB



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Ava Flannery of Pipestone

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Pipestone's Ava Flannery has greatly enjoyed playing two sports at the college level.

The daughter of Wade and Kimberley Flannery suited up last winter for the Dakota College at Bottineau (N.D.) women's hockey team. Then in the spring the first-year student-athlete played for the Lumberjacks women's softball squad.

"Playing two sports at the college level has been an amazing experience," Flannery said. "The atmosphere that both teams had was incredible and the way we would push each other to do better, it allowed me to be a part of two distinct athletic worlds. The connections that I made playing the sports

were great, I met people that I never would have if I didn't play at college. It allows me to keep playing the sports I love while also getting an education, and I am beyond thrilled that I was given this opportunity."

She successfully contributed on both teams while excelling in the classroom. The accounting major was named to the National Junior College Athletic Association All-Academic First Team after earning a 4.00 grade point average. She earned a spot on Dakota College's Dean's List in both semesters in 2023-2024.

"The challenges for juggling training, practices, games and school work was definitely the time management as it is very demanding, but it is incredibly fulfilling," Flannery said. "Growing up I was used to the

multiple sports/extra-curricular activities that I had already had a good understanding of the balance that is needed to do everything to the best of my ability with the support I needed behind me. The college level was definitely a jump compared to what I was used to but having coaches that supported me on and off the field/ice definitely helped."

She also definitely had the support of her parents.

"From the very beginning, they have been there every step of the way," she said. "Their encouragement and belief in my abilities have been huge in keeping me motivated through both victories and setbacks. Whether it was driving me to practices and games, cheering from the sidelines, or simply being a reassuring

presence after a tough match. Their sacrifices, both big and small, have allowed me to pursue my athletic career. I am incredibly grateful for their unwavering support, which has not only shaped me as an athlete but also taught me the importance of perseverance and dedication."

Last winter Flannery remained dedicated to the Dakota College women's hockey team in spite of a shoulder injury that limited her to six games. Head coach

Reed Loucks said the squad is excited to see how she can help the team next season.

"Ava brings a great work ethic and coachability to the team," he said.

On the diamond last spring, the versatile Flannery was deployed as a utility player. She saw time mostly at second base, shortstop, and catcher. Dakota College head softball coach Jason Lindgren praised her arm and her speed.

"Basically, her arm is

what makes her a valuable utility player for us," he said. "Ava has a very good arm so shortstop and even third would be good positions for her. Her willingness to learn and just the desire to be on the field are very helpful for her at DCB and allowing her to play. ...

"Ava is a hardworking, smart student-athlete that just wants the opportunity to play in the position [where] she can be successful and help the team."

WELL WATER TESTING

Assiniboine West Watershed District will be coordinating well water testing days. Shipping will be covered by AWWD.

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- Rapid City - R.M. of Oakview satellite office
- Minnedosa - R.M. of Minto-Odanah office
- Oak River - AWWD office
- Onanole - Municipality of Harrison Park office
- Rivers - Riverdale Municipality office
- Sandy Lake - Heritage Co-op (pick up), Fire hall (drop off)
- Strathclair - Community Centre
- Newdale - Post office (pickup), Drop-in Centre (drop off)

TUESDAY, August 13

- Miniota - AWWD office
- Birtle - Prairie View Municipality office
- McAuley - R.M. of Ellice-Archie office
- Shoal Lake - R.M. of Yellowhead office
- Hamiota - Hamiota Municipality office
- Kenton - R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth satellite office
- Elkhorn - Elkhorn Village office
- Virden - Town of Virden office
- St. Lazare - Town office

WEDNESDAY, August 14

- Rossburn - Rossburn Municipality office
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SPORTS

SPORTS NOTES: PITZ CHOSEN FOR BU SPORTS WALL OF FAME

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Virden's Tara Pitz will join the Brandon University Sports Wall of Fame.

The local educator will be recognized as part of the Class of 2024 in a Nov. 2 ceremony. The Hamiota product starred for the BU women's basketball team in 1995-2000. A 5-foot-10 forward, Pitz's career included such honours as the Great Plains Athletic Conference second-team all-star and BU's Female Athlete of Year. She was often counted on to defend the other team's top players. The former Tara Dale also excelled in the classroom. She was an Academic All-Canadian and received the prestigious Harvey Young Award for her academic success.

Stevenson wins Senior A

Elkhorn's Mike Stevenson helped the Hamiota Red Sox claim the Senior A provincial championship. The Elkhorn Expos player/organizer was picked up for the tournament. The host Hamiota squad beat Oak River 3-0 in the championship game. Stevenson had played for the Red Sox when the Expos took a hiatus before returning to the South West Baseball League in 2023.

"I enjoyed playing with those guys again," Stevenson said. "They are a great group of guys and did a great job organizing it. The volunteers put on an awesome weekend and it was just fun being around everyone there again. I always enjoy playing against Hamiota and it was fun to play with them for a few games again. An electric weekend all around. It would be fun if

the Expos could play in a provincials one day as well, possibly even host them."

The Red Sox hosted the provincials July 19-21. Former Kenton resident Brady Waddell, now of Hamiota, was also a member of the Red Sox.

Toder Helps Title Team

Elkhorn product Layne Toder was a part of two championships with Red Deer Polytechnic. He helped the men's hockey squad win the 2023 Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference men's hockey championship. Last season the skilled defenceman suffered a season-ending injury before Christmas. However, Red Deer head coach Trevor Keeper said Toder contributed to the 2024 ACAC championship squad.

"We really missed him on the ice, but he was still an important part of our group and very encouraging with his teammates," the coach said.

In the past, Keeper described the playing style of the son of Oak Lake Beach's Curtis and Jolene Toder as "a solid two-way defenseman for us. He has a very high compete level and is tough to play against. ... Layne competes hard in practices and games, which helps raise the level of our play as a team."

Williamson Selected

Reston's Jamie Williamson has been picked for two provincial teams. He will compete for the 17U Youth Team Manitoba at the Canada Cup in Fort McMurray, Alta., Aug. 7-11. Williamson was also selected for the 16U Development Team Manitoba. That team will play in the 16U Prospect Series in Edmonton, Alta. Aug. 29-Sept. 1.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Tara Pitz was named BU's female athlete of the year in 2000.

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CLASSIFIEDS

Obituary

IN LOVING MEMORY OF DOROTHY HUNTER



Dorothy Salome Hunter (nee Backman) passed away peacefully at the Assiniboine Centre in Brandon, MB, on Tuesday, June 11, 2024. Dorothy was born to Gudni and Charlotte (Vera) Backman on December 20, 1939, at the family home on a farm near Clarkleigh, MB. She spent her childhood years with her parents, grandparents, and siblings on this farm, which was 5 miles from Lundar along the old #6 Highway.

Dorothy attended Lundar School for grades 1 to 12, graduating in 1957. For her, attending school was pure joy. She had total respect and admiration for all her teachers. They were incredibly dedicated and instilled in her a love of learning.

Dorothy graduated with a Bachelor of Science from the University of Manitoba in 1960. Her majors were Chemistry, Mathematics, and Geography. She graduated with a Bachelor of Education from the University of Manitoba in 1964.

Growing up Dorothy always wanted to be a teacher. She began her teaching career at Winnipegosis Collegiate in 1960, where she taught Chemistry, Physics, Science, and all-girls Physical Education. In 1963, she moved to Virden, MB to teach Chemistry and all-girls Physical Education at Virden Collegiate Institute (VCI). While in Virden, she loved teaching and enjoyed coaching volleyball, track and field, badminton, cheerleading, and folk dance.

On July 23, 1966, in Winnipeg she married another VCI Science teacher, the late David (Keith) Hunter (d. 2003). They built and moved into their turquoise forever home, continued to teach at VCI, and embarked on some travel adventures before starting a family. Dorothy and Keith enjoyed over 35 years of marriage together and raised two sons, Douglas and Grant, and one daughter, Kristi Ann. It's a reassuring thought that Dorothy may now be reunited with Keith after over 21 years of missing him terribly.

Dorothy retired from teaching in 1970 but never stopped teaching as she was a substitute teacher and Chemistry tutor for 25 years. During this time, she spent 5 years as a Supervisor of Student Teachers for Brandon University. She enjoyed working with these young, enthusiastic future teachers. At home, Dorothy ensured many learning opportunities and experiences were available to Douglas, Grant, and Kristi Ann. She encouraged education to be a priority for them just as her mom had done for her and her siblings.

Over the years, she was an active community member in various churches and choirs; the Virden Music and Arts Festival; the Virden Figure Skating Club; Scouts and Girl Guides; and the Southwest Assiniboine Chapter of Retired Teachers.

Some of her favourite activities and pastimes were knitting; attending church; playing the piano, organ, and accordion; walks, coffee, and drives in the country with Keith or groups of friends; sending and receiving cards and letters; chats with former students wherever she met them; attending performances at the Virden AUD Theatre; attending the Virden Music and Arts Festival; visits and phone calls with friends and family. Almost every day she would have an evening call with her mom, Vera. After Vera's death, it was her brother, Charles, who Dorothy looked forward to having an end-of-day chat with.

Dorothy was a faithful follower and ardent supporter of all the activities of her children. Her greatest joy was seeing their growth and development as they were influenced by their K-12 teachers and university professors and participated in many school and community events whether it be sports, music, or academics.

Above all, being an Amma brought Dorothy the most joy. Her bright blue eyes sparkled the most when her grandchildren were around. Whether it was watching them play with her kid's 1970s Fisher Price sets, getting ice cream, hearing them play piano, going to see their activities, or ensuring they knew she had their favourite treats, she so loved time with Finn, Olive, Jette, Bryar, and Reeve. Dorothy saved all her especially tight hugs just for them.

Dorothy was predeceased by her parents; husband Keith; brothers-in-law Lorne, Don, and Glen; and brother: Winston. She is survived by her children; Douglas, Grant (Tiffany), and Kristi Ann Aston (Blaine); brothers Charles and Earl (Candace); sisters-in-law Shirley Macleod, Louise, Jean, and Mimi Hunter; many nieces, nephews, and their families; and 5 precious grandchildren Finn, Olive, Jette, Bryar, and Reeve. This very caring lady, who always had an encouraging word, will be dearly missed by family and friends.

A private family Graveside Service will be held at the Virden Cemetery on Saturday, August 10, 2024. Friends are invited to join the family from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Anglican Church Hall (633 9th Ave. S.) for a time of fellowship and refreshments.

The family would like to thank the kind staff at the Brandon Regional Health Centre, Rivers Rehabilitation Centre, A2 & A3 of the Assiniboine Centre, and especially Dr. Fourie, for their compassionate care and support of Dorothy.

In lieu of flowers and trees, if friends desire, donations in memory of Dorothy can be directed to the Virden Music and Arts Festival (P.O. Box 2047, Virden, MB, R0M 2C0) or the Virden AUD Theatre (P.O. Box 1982, Virden, MB, R0M 2C0).

Your earthly sufferings are o'er.
May you rest in peace.
We love you, Mom.

Obituary

IN LOVING MEMORY OF RUTH MELLERGAARD



RUTH MELLERGAARD, BID, FIIDA, retail designer, and eldest of seven sisters, died peacefully on Saturday, July 13, 2024 in Detroit, MI. Her life partner, Keith Kovar preceded Ruth's death in November 2023.

Five sisters remain: Sarah Yates-Howorth, Gabrielle Levin, Fiona Yates, Charlotte Yates and Jocelyn Hagan. Rebecca Yates died in 2002.

Ruth Møllergaard (nee Yates) touched the hearts of everyone she met. Born in London, England, she emigrated with her family to Canada in the early fifties. Her father was a doctor, recruited by the Canadian Army; her mother was the wise keeper of the peace in a family that grew to be seven girls. Released from the Army, the family settled in Virden, MB. Both Paddy and Denis Yates shared Ruth's gift for caring and welcomed strangers, friends and pets into their lives, no matter their status or race. All seven girls grew up as strong creative individuals.

Ruth graduated with a Bachelor of Interior Design (BID) from the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, and commenced her lifelong career and world travels in the early sixties. She loved retail. In Denmark, where she moved to study modern design, she expanded her knowledge.

After working in various locations in Canada, Ruth moved to Toronto and joined a design firm where she met designer Keith Kovar. Together, they moved to New York and in 1982 created GRID/3 International, a retail design firm; they practiced there for 40 years, designing stores across the US, in Canada, South Africa, Australia, Mexico, Panama and elsewhere.

A passionate environmentalist and designer, dedicated to the preservation of bees, she was also a committed gardener. Living in downtown Manhattan, Ruth planted a terrace on the twelfth floor which acted as a magnet for butterflies and bees and her beloved cats, a refuge of colour and profusely scented nature.

As a role model for the professional contemporary woman, especially to her sisters and nieces, Ruth could be found reading mysteries when she wasn't working. A regular visitor to family and friends, she participated in activities from rodeos, to auto and human-powered vehicle races, museums and restaurants.

Donations can be made in Ruth's honour to St. John's College, the University of Manitoba or to the Ontario Veterinary College Trust, University of Guelph, Ontario.

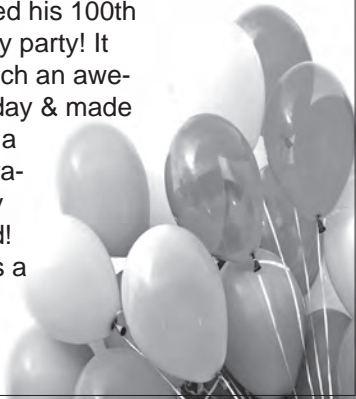
We love you, Ruth and miss you already.

Thank-you

Best Birthday

Ever! Thank-you!

On behalf of Huck Smith & his family (Maxine, Dianne, Shirley & Rick & Spouses) we would like to thank everyone for their awesome generosity – gift cards, beautiful cards, visits & birthday wishes through us kids to pass onto Dad. Dad was so overwhelmed with everyone who attended his 100th birthday party! It was such an awesome day & made it such a memorable day for Dad! Thanks a million!



Thank-you



I would like to thank everyone who attended Hugh Drake's celebration of life in the Elkhorn Memorial Park. Your presence is much appreciated. Thanks also to Cheryl Sisson for officiating.
- Myrna Drake

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VIRDEN
CENTRE OF IT ALL

Tundra Oil & Gas Place: 204-748-2736

Facility Bookings: 204-748-2440

Emergency After Hours: 204-851-5540

Town Office: 204-748-2440

Waste Disposal Grounds: 204-748-6033

Animal Control: 204-851-1810

Summer Ice
Available for Booking
\$210 + GST per hour



Non-refundable 50% deposit due at the time of booking.

Please contact Melody at the Town Office for more information.

Dutch Elm Disease Program
Monitoring and surveys are underway by MB Forestry & Peatlands Branch.

Inspectors will be viewing private and public properties.

For more information, please call 204-748-2440, or the Tree Line at 204-945-7866.

2024 Summer Day Camp



Some spots are still available for this year's camp.
Check out www.virden.ca for registration details.

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.

Well Water Testing



Assiniboine West Watershed District will be coordinating well water testing.

Drop-off will be at the Virden Town Office on August 13, 2024, from 9:00 - 11:30 AM.

Testing kits are available for pickup at the Town Office.

2024 Swimming Lesson registration is open

For more information, visit www.virden.ca or call the pool office at 204-748-2736 ext 3.



August Long Weekend Hours - Terry Fox Day

Virden Town Office – closed August 5
Tundra Oil and Gas Place – closed August 3 to 5
Virden Landfill – closed August 3 to 5

Town Office Summer Hours



The Town of Virden Office will be closed at 4:00 PM on Fridays until August 30.

Upcoming Council Meetings:
Tuesday, August 20 &
Wednesday, September 4

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

Virden Spray Park

Open daily 10:00 AM-8:00 PM



Sioux Valley Dakota gain trades experience



By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

In partnership with Sioux Valley Dakota Nation, Assiniboine College is wrapping up a successful mini-trades course focusing on drywall, paint, and finishing.

Over 14 weeks, 12 students gained valuable hands-on experience working on community housing projects, learning from a Red Seal carpenter. This initiative not only provided students with practical skills but also contributed to home repairs and renovations in the community. We're proud to support our students and the Sioux Valley Dakota Nation in building a brighter future together.

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The Elkhorn Cemetery Association would like to extend their great appreciation and thanks for donations received from January 1st 2024 to June 30th 2024 from the following:

Betty Ann Rattray
Lorne & Leona McAuley
The Kyle Family
Margaret Allison
James Webster
Murray Carradice

Linda Bullock
Cecile Fisher
Bill & Sharlean Bickerton
Elkhorn & Area Foundation
Elkhorn Legion Ladies Auxiliary

Many thanks to Caretaker Kaleigh Kyle and all the volunteers for the hours of work done each year. We depend on your donations to keep our cemetery well maintained. Thanks again.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to the following business and organizations for your generous support, making it possible for us to provide a safe night of fun for the 2024 Virden Collegiate Graduates! Also, a special thank you to all the parent volunteers for your support!

- A. Wilson Autobody
- Ashley Levandosky
- Brandon Bearing and Ag
- CD Oil Well Servicing
- Corex Resources
- Cross Plumbing & Heating
- Forsyth Hauling
- Four Seasons
- Fox Tail Hauling
- Garb & Guise
- Go Hard Oil Field Services
- Hi Way Grocery
- Jan Marie Jorgenson
- Kim Gee
- Kreutzer Metals
- Kullbergs
- Kurt & Linda Somerville
- Longshot services
- Mainline Enterprises
- Stillwater Adventures
- Super Thrifty
- Tanya Slimmon
- Tim Hortons
- Tundra Oil and Gas
- Valleyview Co-op
- Virden Ag and Parts
- Virden Carwash
- Virden Collegiate Institute
- Virden Curling Club
- Virden Footwear
- Virden Ford
- Virden Pharmacy
- Virden Pinnacle Plumbing & Heating
- Virden Rodeo Committee
- Virden Water and Portables
- Your Dollar Store with More

Virden horse show continued



Luke Plett driving his Northern Grit Percherons team.

PHOTOS BY ANNE DAVISON



Here in the last class of the show, the miniature open driving obstacle course, the horse must pull in between these rails and then back out as well as navigating other precise driving requirements.



Team 38" and under, 1-Conner Betteridge, one of the youngest drivers of the day, takes first place with Hal & Illusion. Conner Betteridge, one of the youngest drivers of the day, takes first place in the 38" & U class with Hal & Illusion.

continued from page 1

Among the draft line class entries, the Dale Horn Memorial trophy for Supreme Horse on Grounds was awarded to Charleswood Percherons.

In miniature horse line classes, the Champion for both size categories (38 inches and under and 34 and under) went to a Rivers area exhibitor, Denise Longfield. Reserve in the 34inchandundercategory was Deanna Spencer and reserve in the over 34 went to an entry of Denise Longfield.

From the Miniature driving competition, the high point awards went to Youth

Under (smallest) - Emmy Stannage; Youth Over (largest size) - Chantal Parvais; Adult Under - Trish Aubin; Adult Over - Dee Longfield.

At the close of the Sunday show a driving obstacle course challenged competitors to precise driving moves and the first-place winner was a horse named Shadow driven by Becca Penner.

One of the greatest thrills in the showing is the six-horse hitch. In total this year, six hitches were driven in two heats. There were 36 horses lined up in the ring awaiting judge Lyle Farquar's final decision. Three of those teams were combined from two differ-

ent stables meaning the horses may not have been driven together until show day. All showed well, with the hitch, solely owned by Wallace Clydesdales receiving the red ribbon.

Image Acres, Gardiners Belgians, Silver Oak Percherons, and Northern Grit Percherons were Virden entries.

People will recognize Luke Plett's Northern Grit Percherons for their Christmas season hay rides around Virden. Northern Grit entered line and performance classes was awarded for Youth decorating and Luke placed first in Youth Showmanship and in a Junior Team class.

Heavy Draft Team 1st place was Wallace Clydesdales; Northern Grit placed first in Light Draft Team; Kacee Gee, originally from Virden but now at Minnedosa with West Spring Percherons placed 1st in Ladies Cart. West Spring also won one of the Jr Team classes.

Both horse shows, draft and miniature, were strongly supported with an array of sponsors for the many classes in this Virden horse show.

Museum Day

at the Virden Pioneer Home Museum

Friday, August 9
BBQ
11:00 am to 1:00 pm
Activities, games, raffles, and toonie tours of the museum all start at 11:00 am

SUMMER TUTORING

with Kel Smith
748-3321

- For Grades 4 to 8
- Areas: 1. Language Arts
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 - letter writing
 - handwriting
 - writing a signature
 - oral reading
- 2. Mathematics
 - The Four Operations + - x ÷
 - Telling Time on a Clock
 - Counting Change

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- Renew paddling skills, learn new skills, learn water paddling safety rules, and learn how to read a creek or river.

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with Kel Smith
204-748-3321

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2. Humour
3. Slow and Easy Walk with Stops

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