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SEPTEMBER 25, 2026 | EMPIRE: VOL 122 NO 06 / ADVANCE: VOL 142 NO 08 | PUBLISHING FRIDAYS



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Boston Pizza

KIDS EAT FREE
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A little adventure downtown, completing the Border Regional Library Scavenger Hunt

By Beth McConnell
EMPIRE ADVANCE

There's something wonderful about a community scavenger hunt. No screens, no apps, no timers. Just a sheet of paper, a handful of photos of things to find, and the chance to explore the town you call home. This week, my daughter and I took part in the Border Regional Library's scavenger hunt, and it turned out to be exactly the kind of back-to-basics outing we both needed.

The challenge was straightforward: search within the purple-highlighted area on the map, find each of the small images printed on the sheet, and mark them off as we went. The photos ranged from building details to murals, street signs, and little pieces of Virden's personality that you only notice when you slow down enough to look.

Starting Out

We began at the newspaper, where my daughter proudly wrote her name and age at the top of her sheet. She took her pink highlighter like it was official detective equipment, and off we went.

The first few clues came easily. A familiar storefront here, a sign we've passed a hundred times there. But as we moved deeper into the highlighted blocks, the hunt became less about checking boxes and more about noticing things we'd never really paid attention to before. A lion mural. A tiny "eh!" sticker. The old EmpireAdvance lettering. A heart painted on concrete. The "Think About Someone You Love" sign that always seems to appear when you need it most.

A Parent's Kind of Adventure

There's a particular joy in watching your child take the lead, even if it means doubling back three times because she's convinced, she saw the lamp on a building that absolutely did not have a lamp on it. But that's parenting in 2026: letting them explore, letting them be wrong, letting them figure things out without rushing them along.



PHOTO BY BETH MCCONNELL

Willow Mulligan, age 9, this reporter's daughter, in front of the Border Regional Library with our completed scavenger page.

We talked about the history behind some of the landmarks, about the people who painted the murals, about why certain signs matter to a town like ours. And in between all that, we laughed. Because scavenger hunts are supposed to be fun, and because sometimes the best memories come from the smallest moments.

Finishing the Grid

By the time we found the last image my daughter's sheet was covered in pink ink (her favourite colour). She held it up like a trophy. And honestly, it felt like one. Not because the hunt was difficult, but because it was ours. Time spent together, wandering familiar streets with fresh eyes, rediscovering the place we live. So, if you get a chance, pick up a sheet from the Border Regional Library at 312 7th Avenue in downtown Virden and rediscover your community with your own family.



VIRDEN OIL CAPITALS

HOME GAME
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25
VS. NIVERVILLE
NIGHTHAWKS
PUCK DROPS AT 7:30PM

Inside...



**OIL CAPS
SEASON STARTS**
P15



**FARMERS'
ADVOCATE**
P9-12



Orange Shirt Day

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

On September 30, 2026, Orange Shirt Day and 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


Valleyview Co-op's record-breaking Fuel Good Day helps youth, pickleball

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Valleyview Co-op members and customers once again demonstrated the power of supporting local during this year's Fuel Good Day (FGD), raising \$10,783.16 for four community organizations across the trading area.

Proceeds from FGD will support the Pierson Pathfinders, Kenton Kraftsmen 4-H Club, Melita Beef 4-H Club, and the Virden Pickleball Group, helping each organization continue programs and projects that strengthen their community.

The Co-op store at Kenton held a dinner barbecue that drew the community to enjoy a hamburger, chips and a drink together. The sky cleared and it became a gorgeous fall day.

In total, the Kenton event yielded \$1,629.19 for the Kraftsmen 4H.

Public relations for Valleyview Co-op, Amber Vandale Torrence reported: "The parking lot was full. The kids were unbelievably enthusiastic in helping me."

Some were inside the store preparing the chip packages.

Outside, older kids were washing car windows. "They were the most enthusiastic window washers I've ever seen," she said, adding, "4H leaders felt it was very important to involve the youth, to help them understand that money doesn't just appear."

Their participation gave them a perspective on the work involved to raise money to run their 4H program.

A total of \$5,784.95 will boost the Virden outdoor pickleball court project.

Pierson Pathfinders will receive \$1,560.74 from the Pierson store FGD and at Melita, the 4H Beef Club will receive \$1,763.73.

During the event, Valleyview Co-op donated:

- 10 cents per litre of fuel sold and 5 cents per pound of propane sold
- \$1 from every Co-operative Coffee and Big Cool sold
- Proceeds from special meal fundraisers held throughout the day

"We are incredibly proud of our teams and their enthusiasm surrounding Fuel Good Day," said Vandale Torrence. "Fuel Good Day is about so much more than a single day of fundraising. It's a celebration of the communities we serve and the people who make them special. We have the privilege of hearing stories about 4-H projects, meeting the young people involved, and seeing firsthand the passion and dedication that exists in our communities. Whether it's supporting youth development through 4-H or helping create more opportunities for physical activity through organizations like the Virden Pickleball Group, we're honoured to play a small part in helping these initiatives grow."

Fuel Good Day, held on the third Tuesday in September, is an annual fundraising day in Western Canada across the Co-operative Retailing System.



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Manager for Valleyview Virden Gas Bar, Faye Gerring makes the draw for the 50/50 winner, Delsie Wiebe and Ginny Fridd (out of the frame) were on hand. Randy Slater holds the bucket of names, and the winner is a local pickleball player, Caroline Barnett, won \$2,105.

READY, SET, HUNT

SEPTEMBER 26TH, 2026 | 9AM - 4PM

- BRING YOUR OWN RIFLE AND AMMO TO GET SIGHTED IN.
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- IN STORE SPECIALS ON AMMUNITION, OPTICS AND ACCESSORIES.

WOLVERINETM SUPPLIES

Virden Historical WALKING TOUR

The Last Weekend, Saturday, Sept 26 & Sunday, Sept 27

Before the flowers and leaves disappear join the last weekend of the year walking tour.

Prices: \$9 for Adults ~ \$6 for Seniors and Teens
\$3 for Children ~ Free for Children 6 and under

Required for walking tours: Sturdy Footwear, Hat and Bottle Water for a two hour tour weather permitting.

Please contact Kel Smith at 204.748.3321
Walking Tours will start up again in the June 2027

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Permanent daylight-saving time



PHOTO FROM METRO CREATIVE

Submitted

By MB GOVERNMENT

After listening to the views of Manitobans on seasonal time changes, the Manitoba government has decided to remain on daylight saving time (DST) permanently, Premier Wab Kinew announced today.

“We heard from Manitobans loud and clear – no more changing the clocks in Manitoba,” said Kinew. “Permanent daylight-saving time is good for our health, good for business and good for parents. For families, especially those with young kids, that one-hour shift can disrupt sleep and routines for days. This change means one less adjustment families have to deal with each spring and fall. That’s why this November your clocks won’t be changing.”

This change means Manitobans’ clocks will not revert to standard time on Nov. 1. Manitoba joins several other provinces and territories that have adopted or are moving toward a permanent time including British Columbia, Yukon, Northwest Territories, Alberta and Saskatchewan.

In May, Manitobans were asked to share their views on the future of time changes and nearly 72,000 votes were submitted. A total of 92 per cent of Manitobans surveyed wanted to see an end to seasonal time changes. A majority of Manitobans (58 per cent) preferred to stay on permanent DST, while 34 per cent voted to eliminate the time change but stay on standard time.

The Manitoba government is working closely with organizations, businesses and industry partners as it works to implement permanent DST, the premier noted.

“Permanent daylight-saving time is good for

Manitoba businesses,” said Loren Remillard, president and CEO, Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce. “More daylight in the evening means more opportunity for restaurants, retailers, farmers, and communities to make the most of the day. Ending the twice-a-year clock change reduces friction for companies working across provincial borders and offers all Manitobans greater predictability and stability. The Winnipeg

Chamber welcomes this practical step to make doing business in our province a little easier.”

An analysis by Manitoba Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care concluded that eliminating time changes would be better for population health than maintaining the status quo.

The full report is available at: https://manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/proactive/20252026/time-policy-factsheet.pdf.



HOW TO TRANSITION YOUR BUSINESS WITHOUT LOSING CONTROL

For many small business owners, retirement isn’t just about stepping away—it’s about ensuring the business they built continues to thrive. Transitioning ownership can feel daunting, especially when you want to maintain influence, protect your financial future and preserve your legacy. The good news is that with the right structure, valuation and timing, you can hand over the reins without giving up control overnight.

The first step is defining how ownership and management will change. Will you sell shares gradually, transfer ownership to family, bring in a partner or sell the business outright? A clear structure can help avoid confusion and conflict while allowing you to retain voting rights or decision-making authority during the transition. Shareholder agreements or buy-sell arrangements can outline roles, responsibilities and timelines so everyone knows what to expect.

Your business may be one of your largest assets, so don’t guess what it is worth. A professional valuation considers revenue, assets, market conditions and future potential. An accurate valuation helps establish a fair price for both you and the buyer and can also support tax planning and financing decisions. Updating the valuation regularly is important, particularly if your business is growing or changing.

Timing is another important consideration. Transitioning too quickly can disrupt operations, while waiting too long can limit your options. Ideally, succession planning should begin three to five years before retirement. This gives a successor time to learn the business and allows you to gradually reduce your responsibilities while maintaining oversight. A staged approach, such as transferring partial ownership before eventually handing over full control, can make the process smoother for everyone involved.

If remaining involved is important to you, build that into the plan. You could retain a minority ownership interest with voting rights, serve as an advisor or board member, or establish specific decision-making responsibilities through formal agreements. This allows you to continue providing guidance without managing the day-to-day operations.

There are also several common mistakes to avoid. Waiting until the last minute can result in rushed decisions, tax inefficiencies and strained relationships. Skipping professional advice may mean overlooking important legal, tax or valuation issues. It is also important to ensure your successor is properly prepared before taking control. Open communication with family, partners and employees can help prevent uncertainty and mistrust. Finally, don’t forget to plan for your own retirement income so your financial security doesn’t depend on the continued success of the business.

A successful transition starts with clear goals, a realistic valuation, an appropriate ownership structure and a well-thought-out timeline. Most importantly, start planning early. Transitioning your business doesn’t mean giving up control—it means planning strategically so you can retire with confidence while protecting the business, your financial future and the legacy you worked so hard to build. A financial advisor experienced in succession planning can help you explore your options and create a transition strategy that works for you.



Orange Shirt Day

By Lauren Halowaty
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Wednesday, September 30, marks the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, also known as Orange Shirt Day. This significant day serves as an opportunity to recognize and reflect on the tragic history and ongoing legacy of residential schools, honour survivors, and remember the children who never returned home.

In December 2023, Manitoba established Orange Shirt Day as a provincial statutory holiday to provide all Manitobans the dedicated opportunity to reflect on this legacy and its enduring impacts across our communities. To further support these ongoing efforts, the Manitoba government offers the Orange Shirt Day Fund, which provides financial support for community initiatives focused on observation,

reflection, and commemoration. Local residents and families should note that in Virden, area schools will be closed on Wednesday, September 30, in observance of the statutory holiday, with regular classes

resuming on Thursday, October 1. Everyone across the community is strongly encouraged to wear orange on September 30 in honour of residential school survivors, their families, and their communities.

The Virden Empire-Advance

will have an
Early Deadline for the
October 2nd issue:

12 noon, Monday, September 28th

as our office will be closed Wednesday, September 30th for
National Day for Truth and Reconciliation



Guild Insurance Group
Sep 15

Come and go between 1-4pm!

HAPPY RETIREMENT
Sara Curtis

Join us for Cake
and Refreshments
to celebrate Sara's
retirement!



After many years of dedication and contributions to our Virden office, we’re excited to celebrate Sara Curtis as she begins her retirement!

Please join us to share memories, laughter, and well wishes for Sara as she starts this exciting new chapter.

Tuesday, September 29 from 1:00–4:00 PM at our Virden Office.

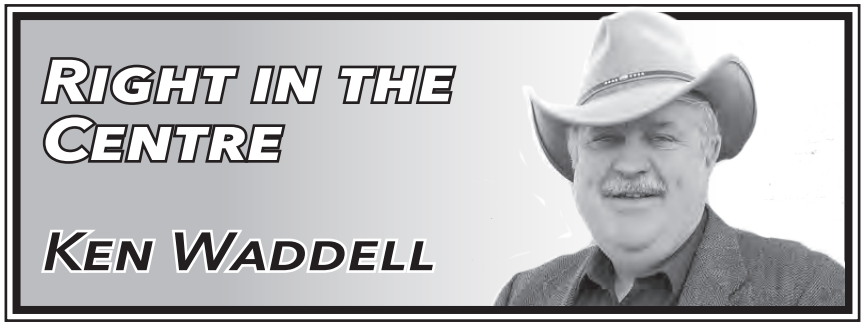
Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



Bearing down on the facts

It's important to examine the facts surrounding news stories. Apparently some people in England want to see the famous guards at Buckingham Palace make a change in the very traditional and unmistakable head gear. I am speaking of the high bearskin "hats" that the guards wear. That image is likely one of the most famous symbols in British history. It was reported this past week on the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) that a letter was sent to British Defence Minister Luke Pollard from 18 MPs and one member of the House of Lords. The letter urged the government to stop using bear pelts sourced from legal culls in Canada and instead adopt faux-fur alternatives. To me this seems to be just another case of virtue signalling as it's not as if we're short of bears in Canada. There are places where you can find lots of them, sometimes you can find 10 or 15 all in one spot albeit at a bear-baiting station. If you want to see bears, you can go to many farm yards and rural acreages. They come in the front yard, they walk up on your deck and they look in the window. No, we are not short of bears in Canada. The people who want to do away with bear hunting simply don't understand the economics and the ecology of bears in countries like Canada. Left unchecked, the bears would become not just a nuisance but dangerous to people and certainly to livestock. I guess it's important to understand they would want to save bear's lives but if you save every bear's life there would be no control of the population of bears in the cottage, lake and wild country. Unchecked in Canada you will have lots of problems a lot bigger than a few bears. There's another area of wildlife management that gets completely



Believe me, the people of Churchill don't want too many polar bears around their community.

carried away and that is the Canada goose population. There was a time when there was a shortage of geese in southern Manitoba. I can remember when people would get permits to have geese on their property so they could propagate and increase goose population. That was about 50 years ago and now there are geese literally everywhere. By everywhere, I mean parks and golf courses as well as even downtown areas in just about any urban district. I have long said, and I sincerely believe, that geese are a bird that should be harvested. In large numbers they are dangerous and make park areas almost unusable. I am told that Canada geese are not that great for eating but I also understand that there's some good meat on them. They could be harvested in a humane as way as possible and the meat given to the food banks and food shelters across the city or anywhere else where there are food banks. I find it amazing that groups, and it's largely urban groups, have lost touch with reality in regard to wildlife populations and management of wildlife. Many years ago there

was a big move afoot to do away with fur trapping in Canada. The First Nations and Inuit people of Canada had to actually go to Europe and have discussions with the protesting people who were objecting to trapping and let them know this is not only a way of life, it's a source of income, a tradition, a culture and in fact, unless you have some trapping and culling, you're going to have problems with the wildlife population. Believe me, the people of Churchill don't want too many polar bears around their community. It's all fine and dandy to say that you're gonna live in harmony with wildlife but it has to go both ways. Once the population of wildlife is overly abundant, there are problems with disease, with wildlife being predators in the livestock population. In some cases wildlife like bears, wolves and cougars will injure or kill humans out on a hike. It's important that we bear down on identifying realistic practices. *Disclaimer: The views expressed in this column are the writer's personal views and are not to be taken as being the view of the Banner & Press staff.*



Alas and Alack

The phrase itself is an old one used to show great sadness, regret, or disappointment. AI says that people rarely use this phrase today, except when they want to sound dramatic or funny. Trust me, in this case it is not the latter, but a phrase to indicate great sadness. Alas and alack, the oven needed cleaning—desperately needed deep cleaning. It is my custom to use the aluminum oven protector sheets, however there comes a time when the spill exceeds that boundary! I had baked a set of apple pies, and planned on baking another set. I turned the oven to the required 425 degrees as I began rolling out the dough (wouldn't it be more fun to be rolling in the dough? But I digress...) It began with a whiff of smoke puffing out the exhaust vent. I took a peek. First things first—remove the smoke detector cause it's about to whine! I decided that because the process had begun, the die had been cast so to speak, let the crud burn off and go ahead with the baking. Windows wide open, bathroom fans at full howl, and the range hood thingie on high as well, and occasionally opening the oven door and swinging it forth and back— and slowly the air cleared. (You know you can't go back until you have gone forth—right? Again, I digress). Very much aware that with the over abundance of apples I would be baking more, and more, pies, the decision leaned to the cleaning. Not my favourite task. I wondered if I could bypass some of the scraping if the charcoal area was dampened, liberally sprinkled with baking soda, and topped with a damp paper towel and left overnight. The idea proved genius, and if this is a method you have used for generations, I don't need to know about that! The next morning the oven interior wiped ever so clean with only one spot that required a repeat treatment. To say I was satisfied is an understatement. The oven protector had done a great job, the mess simply exceeded the coverage provided. The hunt was then on for a replacement. After checking several retail outlets and coming up empty, I wondered if it would work if I simply lined the oven with aluminum foil. I won't have to find out, yet, for the last place I looked had the liners in stock. My least favourite room in my home is the kitchen, which is unfortunate for my most favourite room in my home is the dining room! I fed the first family well; home made meals, baking and cooking. I was pleased to discover that a meal of soup, stew or chilli was welcome as long as there were fresh buns and pies. And I make great buns and pies! I'll admit the second set of children had more fast foods, packaged food, than perhaps was good for them, but they, too, forgave much for buns and pies! So, alas and alack, the oven needed cleaning. With a minimum of effort and no fowl or eye wiping stench, just good old baking soda, the job is done.

Town Office: 204-748-2440

Viriden Landfill: 204-748-6033

Tundra Oil & Gas Place: 204-748-2736



Animal Control: 204-851-5881

Facility Bookings: 204-748-2440

Emergency After Hours: 204-851-5540

Cemetery Cleanup

The Town of Viriden asks that items that have been left on plots be cleaned up by September 30, 2026.

All items must be removed from each grave in the cemetery - artificial flowers, ornaments, solar lights, plant hooks, stuffed animals, etc. must be picked up. Only headstones should remain in order to prevent damage to personal items throughout the winter months.

Following spring thaw, families are welcome to replace items to their loved ones' gravesites.

Items that remain after the date above will be removed by Cemetery Maintenance Staff.

Check your mailbox!

2026 property tax notices have been sent out.

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

2026 property taxes are due by October 31, 2026.

Upcoming Council Meetings

October 6 & 20

Council Meetings start at 7:00 PM

Notice of Board of Revision

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

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

Application for Revision

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

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

Application Requirements

An application for revision must:

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

Dated this 21st day of September, 2026.

Neil Smith, RPP
Chief Administrative Officer
Town of Viriden

Orange Shirt Day

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

To honour the children who never returned home, and survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities, the Town of Viriden Office, Tundra Oil and Gas Place and the Viriden Landfill will be closed on Wednesday, September 30.

2026 Citizen of the Year

Nominations now open!

Nominate a deserving citizen for Citizen of the Year.

Deadline to submit your nomination is November 13, 2026.

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

Fall Cleanup

September 21 to October 6, 2026

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

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

To ensure pick-up, please call the Town Office or email info@viriden.ca with a description of the items and pick-up location (boulevard or lane and pickup address).

Employment Opportunity

Sanitation II Position

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

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

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

Please forward resume with cover letter to:

Faye Pope, Office/HR Manager
Town of Viriden, Box 310, Viriden, MB, ROM 2C0
Email: office.manager@viriden.ca

IT'S MUNICIPAL ELECTION TIME!

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

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

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

Please contact Rhonda Stewart to apply,
Senior Election Official
Phone: 204-851-0769 or Email at rlstewart64@outlook.com

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HELEN DRYSDALE

OUT OF HELEN'S KITCHEN

Many Canadians, including myself, are concerned about the rising cost of groceries. The affordability factor is important to me when I choose my protein choices, and I have become more creative in the kitchen with protein sources such as lentils. Having also purchased more pork than I have in the past for its excellent source of protein, I value its lower price option.

Our pork is Manitoba grown - a bonus. From the Manitoba's pork site at <https://manitobapork.com>: "Manitoba pork producers are proud to provide consumers at home and abroad with some of the best tasting and highest quality pork in the world." This site has a multitude of recipes to try, and their first recipe is taken from this site.

Philippine Pork Kabobs

If using bamboo or wooden skewers, soak in water for about 30 minutes; these can be cooked in the oven under the broiler.

1 pork loin, centre roast, boneless, about 1 1/2 lb cut into 1-inch
1/4 cup light soy sauce
2 Tbsp. unseasoned rice vinegar
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 Tbsp. grated ginger root
2 Tbsp. chopped fresh cilantro
1/4 tsp. ground black pepper
1 bay leaf
Pinch of each ground cloves and cayenne pepper
1/4 cup sweet & sour barbecue sauce and water

Place pork cubes in a resealable plastic bag. In small bowl, combine soy sauce, vinegar, garlic, ginger, cilantro, black pepper, bay leaf, ground cloves and cayenne pepper; pour over pork cubes. Seal bag; marinate in refrigerator, 4-24 hours. Remove pork from marinade; discard marinade. Pat pork with paper towels to remove excess marinade. Thread pork loosely onto bamboo or metal skewers; set aside. Meanwhile, in small bowl, combine barbecue sauce and water.

Preheat barbecue on high; reduce heat to medium. Grill kabobs 5-6 minutes per side, turning occasionally. During the last few minutes of grilling, baste kabobs with sauce, turning a few times until pork is nicely browned.

Pineapple Pork

From my collection comes the following recipe. This pineapple pork recipe delivers juicy, tender pork bites in a savory-sweet sauce.

1 lb. cubed boneless pork stew meat, or pork tenderloin, cubed into 1-inch pieces

2 Tbsp. oil	1 cup sliced celery
1 small red pepper, slivered	1 small onion, diced
3/4 cup ketchup	1/2 cup brown sugar
1 Tbsp. mustard	1 Worcestershire sauce
1/2 tsp. salt	1/2 tsp. pepper
1 Tbsp. corn starch	
1 small can pineapple tidbits, undrained	

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Marlene Hunter
Certified Forever Ambassador
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simmer for a few minutes while combining the remaining ingredients. Pour sauce over the meat and vegetables. Cover and simmer on stove top for 15 minutes or until vegetables are tender and sauce has thickened. Enjoy over rice.

Greg NESBITT
MLA for Riding Mountain

204.759.3313
Toll Free 844.877.7767
gregnesbittmla@mymts.net
#7 - 515 4th Avenue
Burlington Place, Shoal Lake, MB

BE ON TIME!

Advertising deadline:
12 noon Tuesday

Miniota News

Submitted
LINDA CLARK

Miniota Discoveries Learning centre held their annual Formal Family Dance at the Miniota Hall on Friday, Sept. 18. Despite the rainy weather earlier on in the day, it turned out to be a lovely evening with a great attendance! Around 130 people of all ages from our community and surrounding areas were welcomed. Many children and families got up and danced throughout the night, as well as enjoying the great food, good company, beverages for the adults and fun activities for the kids including glitter tattoos, glow sticks, a candy bar, and prizes for the awesome dancers. Congratulations to Janine Walker for winning the 50/50 draw, and to Beau Bryant who won the entry prize "Boo Basket". The MDLC send a shout out to Twin Valley Co-op and also the families for the donations of food, and to the dedicated staff, board members and everyone who attended to make the night such a fun and successful night.

Sharon McKenzie with her sister, Pat Moldowan of Stonewall, enjoyed a bus

trip to the Maritimes.

Isabella News

Hazel Wall, along with Kelvin and Becki Wall and family visited with Dylan and Ziah at Erickson on Sunday. Family honoured Dylan and Ziah with a baby shower for their soon to be bundle of joy, and a visit with Dylan prior to his leaving shortly to work in Churchill.

Hazel Wall is also enjoying family time with her brother Jim Gill and his wife Janet who have arrived from Minneapolis for a visit. Several family members gathered at the home of Hazel's sister, Bernice and Pete Olson at Minnedosa for good food and visiting.

"May your choices reflect your hope, not your fears."
-Nelson Mandela

Police Report

Westman RCMP Service Report for September 13 to 19

Submitted
BY WESTMAN RCMP

During this week, Westman RCMP received a total of 67 calls for service. Some of these calls for service include 21 traffic offences, 3 Assaults, 3 Assistance to General Public/Other Agencies, 1 Break and Enter, 3 Mental Health Acts, 2 False Alarms, 2 Mischief, 2 Wellbeing Checks and 2 Utter Threats.

On September 16, RCMP attempted to arrest a 36-year-old male who was wanted by RCMP and Brandon Police. As members attempted to execute the warrant, the suspect male fled in a vehicle. RCMP attempted to conduct a traffic stop which the suspect failed to stop and due to high traffic, a pursuit was not authorized. Members located the suspect vehicle on a rural property in the RM of Wallace-Woodworth. With the assistance of RCMP Dog Services and RPAS, members were able to safely locate and arrest the male suspect. The 36-year-old male, Kacey Packham, was charged with Dangerous Operation of Motor Vehicle and Flight from Peace Officer along with the three warrants. The suspect male was remanded into custody.

and the driver was issued a Traffic Offence Notice for Speeding which carries a fine of \$351.

On September 17, during a routine patrol in the Town of Virden, RCMP observed a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed the driving speed of 78km/hr in a 50km/hr zone. A traffic stop was conducted, and the driver was issued a Traffic Offence Notice for Speeding which carries a fine of \$416.

On September 17, RCMP responded to a report of an active assault in progress in Sioux Valley Dakota Nations. Complainant reported the boyfriend of the victim was actively assaulting and would not let her leave the residence. Members attended the residence along with EMS and located the female victim who had visible injuries, she was treated medically. Members obtained statements and gathered evidence and were able to locate and arrest 36-year-old male. The male was charged with Assault with Weapon, Assault cause bodily harm, Forcible confinement and Utter threats. The male was remanded into custody. RCMP continues to investigate.

To report a complaint or non-emergency incident to RCMP please call 204-748-2135. For general inquiries or administrative requests including criminal record checks please call the administration line at 204-748-2046 Ext. 3, during regular office hours. If you are reporting an emergency, please call 911. If you witness a crime and wish to remain anonymous, please contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477. Crime Stoppers is entirely confidential and completely anonymous. The tip line is not traceable, and they do not subscribe to caller ID or call display.

On September 17, during a routine patrol in RM of Sifton, RCMP observed a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed the driving speed of 134m/hr in a 110km/hr zone. A traffic stop was conducted, and the driver was issued a Traffic Offence Notice for Speeding which carries a fine of \$364.

On September 17, during a routine patrol in the Town of Virden, RCMP observed a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed the driving speed of 73km/hr in a 50km/hr zone. A traffic stop was conducted,

Elkhorn SAIL presentation



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Hosted by Elkhorn SAIL, Jolene Toder presented an informative session on Downsizing and Decluttering at the Elkhorn Leisure Centre

By Karen Mitchell
S.A.I.L. RESOURCE COORDINATOR

On Thursday, Sept 17th Elkhorn SAIL was thrilled to have Jolene Toder from JT Interiors come and present for us at the Elkhorn Leisure Centre. The presentation was based around the topics of downsizing and decluttering, and Jolene was able to walk everyone through the process, while

providing tips and tricks to help anyone confidently start these skills in their own homes.

We all know what a feat it is to look at decades worth of items, especially those we cherish so dearly, and have to part with them. With over 20 years of experience, Jolene brought the compassion and understanding of what this task can mean to someone.

Tech troubles?

Submitted
By KRISTA PEDERSON

Where do you turn when you don't know how to update your phone, or when your email has been hacked?

We rely so much on technology in our day-to-day life, and with good reason: It makes life easier in lots of ways. We can find information quickly and it's quick to connect us with folks, even from a great distance.

My first call goes to the techie people in my family, who include my husband and kids, and also my mother-in-law. She's always been up to date on the latest things and if she doesn't know it, she knows how to find out!

Maybe your Grandkids are the ones who help when you encounter a problem.

Some common problems...

Purchasing tickets online?

You don't want to miss out on any Virden Theatre Productions, or a favourite artist who

happens to be coming to town.

Arts Mosaic has helped people purchase tickets in the past. Drop by the station and chat with Lauren.

You can always reach out to Julie or myself at SAIL for some help.

How about calling

A.P.P.L.E. to get some good computer training? When I started needing a computer for work, I got some excellent training from them.

The Border Regional Library is a great resource for anything! And if they don't know, they will be able to point you in the right direction. On September 29, Service Canada will be out for a presentation and Clinic to make sure you're getting all your benefits.

Look for posters on their foyer wall with other events coming



up.

If you'd like to go Online:

Cyber seniors have excellent video tutorials, whether it's learning how to use your cell phone, or watch for online scams: they are very informative.

Senior Centre Without Walls is a program of A&O out of Winnipeg. For that one, you don't even need a computer!

Manitoba 211 is a great resource as well.

Look it up online or stop by the SAIL office to have a look at a paper copy.

In order to keep up to date with technology... in my mind, it all comes back around to reaching out to a real person, and then using the tools to keep you connected.

No sick days

**PARENTING
WITH PURPOSE**
**BETH
McCONNELL**



Parenting is hard work. Beautiful work, meaningful work, work we wouldn't trade for anything, but still work. We love our kids. We love watching them grow into their own fully formed selves. We love seeing the tiny flashes of who they're becoming. But raising good humans takes effort, patience, and energy on a normal day. And on the days when you're sick, that effort becomes something else entirely.

Because unlike your job, your kids don't have a backup system. You can call in sick at the office. You can postpone a meeting, reschedule a deadline, let the equipment sit for one more day. But you can't call in sick from parenting. Children don't pause their needs because you're running a fever or your body feels like it's made of wet cardboard. They still need snacks, supervision, answers to impossible questions, and someone to referee the argument about who gets the blue cup.

Parenting while sick

is a particular kind of challenge that only parents truly understand. Trying to manage a feral toddler while you're shivering under a blanket with a 102 degree fever is not a scene they put in parenting books. It's doing the bare minimum while hoping the minimum is enough. It's counting down the minutes until bedtime and then realizing you still have dishes, laundry, and a school form you forgot to sign.

And yet, we do it. Every day, every minute, no matter how we're feeling. There is no off switch. No sick day. No substitute teacher waiting in the wings. Even when you're lucky enough to have a partner who steps up, like the lucky ones of us, the guilt still creeps in. The guilt of needing rest. The guilt of not being able to give your best. The guilt of watching someone else carry the load you normally shoulder without thinking.

But here's the truth we don't say out loud

often enough: parenting while sick is still parenting. It still counts. The days when you're exhausted, foggy, or barely upright are not failures, they're proof of your commitment. They're evidence of the quiet, unglamorous resilience that defines so much of modern parenthood.

Kids don't remember the days you were sick and the house wasn't perfect. They remember the stability. The presence. The fact that even when you were running on fumes, you were still there. They remember being cared for, even if the care looked a little different that day.

So, if you're parenting through an illness right now, whether it's a cold, the flu, or just the kind of exhaustion that settles deep in your bones, give yourself grace. You're doing enough. More than enough. You're showing your children what perseverance looks like, what love looks like, and what it means to keep showing up even when life gets heavy.

And when you finally get better, when your energy returns and the fog lifts, you'll go right back to the full version of yourself. But the version of you that parents through sickness? That one deserves credit too. That one is doing some of the hardest work of all.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026

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Elkhorn Royal Canadian Legion Event

By Ed James
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

It's been a busy year for the Canadian Legion right across the country as 2026 is the 100th anniversary of the group. All over the country, many special events were held by large and small Legion branches. Back in the spring, the Virden Legion branch presented a performance on the R.C.N. in WWII and their role in protecting the lifeline convoys between North America and Great Britain. Known as the Battle of The Atlantic it was the longest continuous con-

flict of WWII between convoy ships and the German U-Boat wolf packs. This battle saw 1000's of casualties on both sides in the cold waters of the North Atlantic! In the month of September, many Legions celebrate Legion Week; to show the work they do in the community and recruit new members. This week the Elkhorn Royal Canadian Legion Branch #58 held a special lunch at the hall that brought in many members of the community. It featured a selection of home-made soups, desserts and sandwiches with fall-coloured decor on the

tables. There were two free door prize draws of Fall related gift baskets. The event also featured a display of Canadian WWII military artifacts medals and personal effects from all three branches of Canada's military forces. A new addition at the Elkhorn Legion building, on the wall of the front steps is a colourful poppy and message, done by NRG Signs in Virden. The lunch organizers were very happy with the lunch turn out and in November they will be involved with, "The No Stone Left Alone" project at the Elkhorn cemetery.



PHOTO BY ED JAMES

Elkhorn Royal Canadian Legion Branch #58 held a special lunch at the hall.

Where should most Manitoba businesses start for tariff relief?

By Grant Jackson
MP FOR BRANDON-SOURIS

The ongoing trade dispute with the United States is creating real challenges for businesses across Westman. Whether it is higher input costs, disrupted supply chains, reduced exports, or uncertainty around future investment, I know businesses in Brandon—Souris are feeling the effects.

My job as your Member of Parliament is to make sure local businesses are aware of every available opportunity for support and are not leaving money on the table. Thus, to help local businesses navigate the various federal programs that have been announced, I have attached a guide outlining the main federal supports currently available. We have tried to make it as straightforward as possible, with information on who may qualify, what support is available, and where businesses can go to apply or get more information.

For most small and medium-sized businesses in Manitoba, the best first call is the PrairiesCan Regional Tariff Response Initiative, or RTRI.

RTRI is particularly important because it can assist businesses affected by tariffs, both foreign and domestic and supply-chain disruption.

Generally, an incorporated business must operate in the Prairies, have had at least \$1 million in annual revenue in one of its last two fiscal years, have been viable before the tariff disruption and be able to show how tariffs are affecting the business.

Businesses may be able to access two kinds of assistance: Liquidity assistance and Pivot projects.

Eligible businesses may qualify for up to \$2 million in non-repayable liquidity assistance to help maintain operations and employment, including support related to payroll and certain essential operating

expenses. Businesses can also apply for up to \$1 million in non-repayable funding for projects that help them adapt, including investments in equipment, automation, productivity, supply-chain resilience, and the development of new markets. Larger projects may also qualify for repayable financing.

Contact PrairiesCan General phone: 1-888-338-9378, 940 Princess Ave., Unit B, Brandon, MB, or by email: wd.mb-mb.deo@prairiescan.gc.ca. PrairiesCan staff can also help determine whether RTRI is the right program or whether another federal program would be a better fit.

Another option is the Business Development Bank of Canada's Pivot to Grow program, which has recently been expanded. Businesses with at least \$1 million in annual revenue that are materially affected by U.S. tariffs may be eligible for financing to address cash-flow pressures, purchase equipment, strengthen supply chains or diversify into new markets. The new liquidity stream includes loans ranging from \$250,000 to \$5 million.

I also want to flag an option that may be particularly relevant to businesses importing equipment, components, or other inputs from the United States.

If your business is being required to pay Canadian counter-tariffs on a U.S. product that cannot reasonably be sourced in Canada or from another country, you may be able to request tariff remission from the Department of Finance. These applications are considered on a case-by-case basis and require businesses to demonstrate why alternative sourcing is not reasonably available and the impact the tariff is having on their operations. Requests and questions can be sent to remissions-remises@fin.gc.ca with "U.S. Remission" in the subject line.

Submitted

BY CONSERVATIVE PARTY COMMUNICATIONS

Ottawa, ON – Scott Aitchison, Conservative Shadow Minister for Housing, issued the following statement regarding the latest data from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC):

"Prime Minister Mark Carney promised to double housing construction to 500,000 units per year and move forward at a pace not seen since the Second World War. Instead, CMHC announced today that housing starts fell by nearly 4 per cent in the first eight months of 2026 compared to the same period in 2025.

"This means that 6,100 fewer housing starts were started nationally in the first eight months of this year compared to the same period last year. Housing starts were down 30 per cent in Nova Scotia, 16 per cent in Alberta, 11 per cent in New Brunswick and 10 per cent in British Columbia. In urban centres with a population of 10,000 or more, housing starts in August 2026 were down 2.3 per cent compared to August 2025.

"Worse still, new estimates indicate that housing starts in Canada would need to increase to between 417,000 and 469,000 per year for housing affordability to return to pre-2020 levels by 2036. However, with Mark Carney, this number is expected to fall from more than 250,000 to just 203,500 by 2028.

"As residential construction increasingly lags behind demand, the consequences are very real. Young Canadians are being forced to postpone important decisions while the Liberals continue to fail to build more homes. Canada has become a nation of renters, as rental housing dominates the new housing supply in most major markets, with purpose-built rental housing now accounting for two-thirds of all housing starts.

"Meanwhile, the number of known cases of homelessness has increased

by more than 23 per cent in just three years to surpass 76,000 in Canada's most populous province. Chronic homelessness has jumped by more than 37 per cent in just two years, now accounting for nearly half of all known people experiencing homelessness in Ontario.

"Even the Financial Accountability Office has confirmed that lack of housing affordability has played a major role in homelessness. Ontario's median market rent increased by 19.3 per cent between 2022-2023 and 2025-2026, while income for low- and middle-income households increased by only 14.1 per cent.

"Instead of removing barriers to housing construction, Mark Carney is simply adding to the bureaucracy, trapping builders in paperwork without speeding up approvals or cutting costs. He continues to offer temporary tax schemes instead of real solutions that increase the supply of housing.

"Mark Carney also chose to leave Canadians behind with a \$1.45 billion bill for the purchase of vacant and expensive condominiums, instead of working with the Conservatives to cut development charges in half and permanently eliminate the GST on new housing.

"Big speeches and new bureaucracies don't build housing. Mark Carney just talks, without getting results.

"To find a real solution, Mark Carney needs to eliminate taxes and bureaucracy so that builders can build and Canadians can own their homes.

"That's why the Liberals must pass our Conservative plan to eliminate the GST on new homes under \$1.3 million. This would save buyers up to \$65,000, while also encouraging the construction of an additional 36,000 units per year.

"The Conservative plan would also speed up permitting and lower development charges to lower prices and help restore the promise of affordable housing for all Canadians."

Truth and Reconciliation - Knowing the history

Treaty 2 is a Numbered Treaty signed on August 21, 1871, at Manitoba House on the shore of Lake Manitoba

Source of Materials

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA WEBSITE

ARTICLES OF TREATY made and concluded this twenty-first day of August, in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-one, between Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, by Her Commissioner Wemyss M. Simpson, Esquire, of the one part, and the Chippewa Tribe of Indians, inhabitants of the country within the limits hereinafter defined and described, by their Chiefs chosen and named as hereinafter mentioned, of the other part.

Whereas, all the Indians inhabiting the said country have, pursuant to an appointment made by the said Commissioner, been convened at a meeting at Manitoba Post to deliberate upon certain matters of interest to Her Most Gracious Majesty, of the one part, and to the said Indians of the other; and whereas the said Indians have been notified and informed by Her Majesty's said Commissioner that it is the desire of Her Majesty to open up to settlement and immigration a tract of country bounded and described as hereinafter mentioned and to obtain the consent thereto of her Indian subjects inhabiting the said tract, and to make a treaty and arrangement with them, so that there may be peace and good will between them and Her Majesty and that they may know and be assured of that allowance they are to count upon and receive from Her Majesty's bounty and benevolence.

And whereas the Indians of the said tract, duly convened in council as aforesaid, and being requested by Her Majesty's said Commissioner to name certain Chiefs and Headmen who should be authorized on their behalf to conduct such negotiations and sign any treaty to be founded thereon, and to become responsible to Her Majesty for the faithful performance by their respective bands of such obligations as shall be assumed by them, the said Indians have thereupon named the following persons for that purpose, that is to say:--

For the Swan Creek and Lake Manitoba Indians, Sousonse or Little Long Ears; for the Indians of Fairford and the neighboring localities, Masahkeeyash or "He who flies to the bottom," and Richard Woodhouse, whose Indian name is Keweetahquunnayash or "He who flies round the feathers," for the Indians of Waterhen River and Crane River and the neighboring localities, Francois, or Broken Fingers; and for the Indians of Riding Mountains and Dauphin Lake and the remainder of the territory hereby ceded, Mekis (the Eagle), or Giroux.

And, thereupon, in open council the different bands have presented their respective Chiefs to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba and of the North West Territory being present at such council and to the said Commissioner, as the Chiefs and Headmen, for the purposes aforesaid of the respective Bands of Indians inhabiting the said district hereinafter described; and whereas the said Lieutenant Governor and the said Commissioner then and there received and acknowledged the persons so presented as Chiefs and Headmen for the purposes aforesaid of the respective bands of Indians inhabiting the said district hereinafter described, and whereas the said Commissioner has proceeded to negotiate a treaty with the said Indians, and the same has finally been agreed upon and concluded, as follows, that is to say:--

The Chippewa Tribe of Indians and all other the Indians inhabiting the district hereinafter described and defined do hereby cede, release, surrender and yield up to Her Majesty the Queen, and Her successors forever, and the lands included within the following limits, that is to say:--

All that tract of country lying partly to the north and partly to the west of a tract of land ceded to Her Majesty the Queen by the Indians inhabiting the Province of Manitoba, and certain adjacent localities, under the terms of a treaty made at Lower Fort Garry on the third day of August last past, the land now intended to be ceded and surrendered being particularly described as follows, that is to say: Beginning at the mouth of Winnipeg River, on the north line of the lands ceded by said treaty; thence running along the eastern shore of Lake Winnipeg northwardly as far as the mouth of Beren's River; thence across said lake to its western shore, at the north bank of the mouth of the Little Saskatchewan or Dauphin River; thence up said stream and along the northern and western shores thereof, and of St. Martin's Lake, and along the north bank of the stream flowing into St. Martin's Lake from Lake Manitoba by the general course of such stream to .such last mentioned lake; thence by the eastern and northern shores of Lake Manitoba to the mouth of the Waterline River; thence by the eastern and northern shores of said river up stream to the northernmost extremity of a small lake known as Waterhen Lake; thence in a line due west to and across lake Winnepegosis; thence in a straight line to the most northerly waters forming the source of the Shell River; thence to a point west of the same two miles distant from the river, measuring at right angles thereto; thence be a line parallel with the Shell River to its mouth, and thence crossing the Assiniboine River and running parallel thereto and two miles distant therefrom, and to the westward thereof, to a point opposite Fort Ellice; thence in a southwestwardly course to the northwestern point of the Moose Mountains; thence by a line due south to the United States frontier; thence by the frontier eastwardly to the westward line of said tract ceded by treaty as aforesaid; thence bounded thereby by the west, northwest and north lines of said tract, to the place of beginning, at the mouth of Winnipeg River. To have and to hold the same to Her Majesty the Queen and Her successors forever; and Her Majesty the Queen hereby agrees and undertakes to lay aside and reserve for the sole and exclusive use of the Indians inhabiting the said tract the following lots of land, that is to say:--

For the use of the Indians belonging to the band of which Mekis is Chief, so much land between Turtle River and Valley River, on the south side of Lake Dauphin, as will make one hundred and sixty acres for each family of five persons, or in the same proportion for a greater or smaller number of persons. And for the use of the Indians belonging to the band of which Francois, or Broken Fingers, is Chief, as much land on Crane River, running into Lake Manitoba, as will make one hundred and sixty acres for each family of five persons, or in the same proportion for a greater or smaller number of persons. And for the use of the band of Indians belonging to the bands of which Masahkeeyash and Richard Woodhouse are Chiefs, so much land on the river between Lake Manitoba and St. Martin's Lake, known as "Fairford River," and including the present Indian mission grounds, as will make one hundred and sixty acres for each family of five persons, or in the same proportion for a greater or smaller number of persons.

And for the use of the Indians of whom Sousonse is Chief, so much land on the east side of Lake Manitoba, to be laid off north of the creek near which a fallen elm tree now lies, and about half way between Oak Point and Manitoba Post, so much land as will make one hundred and sixty acres for each family of five persons, or in the same proportion for a greater or smaller number of persons. Saving, nevertheless, the rights of and white or other settler now in occupation of and lands within the lines of any such reserve.

And with a view to show the satisfaction of Her Majesty with the behaviour and good conduct of Her Indians, parties to this treaty, She hereby, through Her Commissioner, makes them a present of three dollars for each Indian man, woman and child belonging to the band here represented.

And further, Her Majesty agrees to maintain a school in each reserve hereby made, whenever the Indians of the reserve shall desire it.

Her Majesty further agrees with Her said Indians that within the boundary of Indian reserves, until otherwise enacted by the proper legislative authority, no intoxicating liquor shall be allowed to be introduced or sold, and all laws now in force or hereafter to be enacted to preserve Her Indian subjects inhabiting the reserves or living elsewhere within Her North-West Territories, from the evil influence of the use of intoxicating liquors, shall be strictly enforced.

And further, that Her Majesty's Commissioner shall, as soon as possible after the execution of this treaty, cause to be taken an accurate census of all the Indians inhabiting the tract above described, distributing them in families, and shall in every year ensuing the date hereof, at some period during the month of August in each year to be duly notified to the Indians, and at or near their respective reserves, pay to each Indian family of five persons the sum of fifteen dollars, Canadian currency, or in like proportion for a larger or smaller family, such payment to be made in such articles as the Indians shall require of blankets, clothing, prints (assorted colours), twine or traps, at the current cash price in Montreal, or otherwise, if Her Majesty shall deem the same desirable in the interest of Her Indian people, in cash.

And the undersigned Chiefs, on their own behalf and on behalf of all other Indians inhabiting the tract within ceded, do hereby solemnly promise and engage to strictly observe this treat, and also to conduct and behave themselves as good and loyal subjects of Her Majesty the Queen. They promise and engage that they will in all respects obey and abide by the law; that they will maintain peace and good order between each other, and also between themselves and other tribes of Indians, and between themselves and others of Her Majesty's subjects, whether Indians or whites, now inhabiting or hereafter to inhabit and part of the said ceded tract, and that they will not molest the person or property of any inhabitants of such ceded tract, or the property of Her Majesty the Queen, or interfere with or trouble any person passing or traveling through the said tract, or any part thereof, and that they will aid and assist the officers of Her Majesty in bringing to justice and punishment any Indian offending against the stipulations of this treaty, or infringing the laws in force in the country so ceded.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Her Majesty's said Commissioner and the said Indian Chiefs have hereunto subscribed and set their hands at Manitoba Post this day and year herein first above named.

Signed by the Chiefs within named, in, presence of the following witnesses Indian Commissioner, the same having been first read and his explained: ADAMS C ARCHIBALD, Lieut. Gov. of Manitoba and the N.- W. Territories, JAMES MCKAY, P.L.C., MOLYNEUX ST JOHN, E. A. ARHCIALD, LILY ARCHIBALD, HENRI BOUTHILLIER, PAUL DE LARONDE, DONALD MCDONALD, ELIZA MCDONALD, ALEXANDER MUIR, Sr. WEMYSS M SIMPSON, [L.S.] Indian Commissioner, his MEKIS, X mark SOU-SONCE, X his MA-SAH-KEE-YASH, X mark his FRANÇOIS, X mark RICHARD WOODHOUSE. Last updated: 1 July, 1997 William F. Maton.

In my Opinion

RE: Budgeting for a Broken System

By Lauren Halowaty
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Gas prices are taking their usual seasonal dip as stations switch over to winter blends, but diesel is doing the exact opposite, it's skyrocketing across the country. According to Natural Resources Canada, the national average for a litre of diesel hit \$2.751 in mid-September. While drivers in cities like Calgary got off a bit easier at \$2.513, Vancouver surged past the three-dollar threshold to a staggering \$3.055 per litre.

Much attention over the past few weeks has been on the potential impact of tariffs on the price of Canadian goods, but this jump in oil prices suggests that geopolitical conflicts are having a bigger impact right now, experts say.

Reporting for CBC News, Alexandra Mae Jones highlighted the ripple effect this price spike will have on everyday consumers:

"With diesel prices skyrocketing due to ongoing global conflicts, filling up the trucks that carry food and goods across Canada has never been more expensive, experts say — and Canadians could be feeling it soon. 'It's very bad,' Tej Dulat, director of government and public affairs with the Canada Truck Operators Association, told CBC News. A commercial truck goes through hundreds of litres every week, making fuel one of the biggest costs for trucking companies, Dulat said. And while the industry can usually absorb a brief spike in prices, he said, the margins have been tighter since prices jumped in 2022, when Russia invaded Ukraine. Now, prices are even higher. 'End of the day, companies have to pass that cost to the consumers,' Dulat said. 'You're going to see that impact coming on the grocery prices.'"

Typically, a spike in diesel prices takes time to trickle down to grocery store shelves, and the impact often gets diluted along the way. This time, however, experts expect the fallout to hit much faster.

Evan Fraser at the University of Guelph's Arrell Food Institute said to CBC that we as Canadians may be entering a decade-long "new normal" for elevated grocery bills. The core pillars that long stabilized global food production and trade—cheap, steady energy, predictable climate conditions for farming, and smooth international relations,

are no longer dependable. As Fraser noted plain and simple: "In the short term, it's going to be really hard for low-income Canadians."

Which brings me to an opinion piece I came across recently. The writer laid into younger generations, painting millennials and Gen Z as a group of careless spenders who simply refuse to live within their means.

The writer, Darrell Nesbitt of Shoal Lake, didn't pull punches: "I'm worn-out hearing people moan, 'Our grandparents could buy a house on one pay cheque, but now we can't even afford rent on two!' Yeah, maybe because grandma wasn't dropping half her income on \$14 iced lattes and avocado toast... Now people cry about being broke while sitting in a house full of gadgets... It's not the economy—it's the lifestyle."

It's the classic narrative: if you'd just stop ordering take-out, ditch the streaming services, and quit buying \$1,100 iPhones for your toddlers (is that even a thing?) then you'd miraculously find yourself with a down payment on a home.

While it makes for a punchy, nostalgia-tinged rant, it entirely misses the economic reality facing anyone trying to survive right now.

It is easy to point fingers at expensive coffees and online subscriptions, but no amount of brewed-at-home coffee is going to offset the reality that the foundational cost of living has shifted dramatically over the last 50 to 60 years. When older generations were buying starter homes on a single wage, housing costs represented a fraction of the average household income. Today, even with two full-time incomes, median home prices, skyrocketing rents, and record-high grocery bills gobble up the vast majority of a family's earnings long before anyone even thinks about buying a fancy coffee.

The reality on the ground looks far different than a lack of discipline. Today, making ends meet often means taking on a second job, picking up roommates, applying for government support or Rent Assist, or uprooting your life to move somewhere else more feasible just to keep a roof over your head. These are unsettling, high-pressure times. More and more adults in their mid-20s, 30s, and even 40s find themselves living back home with their parents or receiving

financial help from them, not because they lack ambition, but because navigating this financial landscape completely alone has become nearly impossible.

Far from being careless or lazy, many are working tirelessly to put themselves through school, only to spend decades chipping away at lifelong debt in an economy that bears zero resemblance to the one their parents inherited. Or just working to simply live. To pin today's systemic financial pressure on "lifestyle choices" ignores the math. Previous generations certainly worked hard and made sacrifices, but they did so within an economic environment where basic necessities such as shelter, food, and energy were relative bargains compared to average wages.

Today, young people aren't living like rock stars on retail salaries; we're trying to survive an economic landscape where traditional milestones like homeownership have been priced completely out of reach for most of us, regardless of how simply we live.

Telling people to turn off streaming services and skip their morning coffee might make for a convenient talking point, but it turns a blind eye to the genuine structural pressures squeezing modern households from every direction. It ignores an even more frustrating reality: while younger generations are forced to save and budget far harder than their parents ever had to, the goalposts have moved so far that traditional milestones like homeownership remain completely out of reach. Unless you can uproot your life for a high-paying gig in the oil fields or potash mines, an impossible choice for a single parent raising kids, no amount of extreme frugality is going to bridge the massive gap to a home deposit.

So yes, people still buy the occasional treat, go out for dinner, or hold onto small comforts while trying to save. It isn't financial recklessness; it's a refusal to live in total austerity for a goal that the current economy has rendered nearly impossible. Expecting modern families to forgo every simple pleasure just to offset systemic, nationwide economic shifts isn't sound advice, it's out-of-touch nostalgia. Younger generations aren't failing to live within their means; they are simply trying to build a livable life within a broken economic framework.

New principal, more students, bus drivers needed

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Fort La Bosse School Division is continuing programming set in motion last year. What is unexpected is an increase in attendance. The model on FLBSD web site's Community Report dated November 2025 indicated an expected drop from 1620 students throughout the division last year to just over 1610. And there is one new principal in the division.

However, 2026-27 has seen a slight increase in enrollment. Superintendent Barry Pitz says the uptick is manageable.

"It's perfect, it's very, very manageable and slow and steady growth is always what we want to see, and we are right on the money with that."

Throughout the schools, which includes Reston, Kola, Elkhorn, Oak Lake, Virden and the colony schools of Boundary Lane and Plainview Colony, nearly 20 more students are enrolled, a number the budget can handle.

Every year there are teachers eligible for retirement.

A big change for Oak Lake Community School came with Brenda Mason's retirement this spring. After 35 years of teaching, she has stepped down from her role as principal and teacher at Oak Lake. Kim Williment, another Oak Lake teacher, has been hired as principal of the K-Gr. 8 school.

Call for Drivers

Last year the school division was crying for bus drivers. As the new school year has rolled out, there are sufficient bus drivers to get the students to school, however, the division is still hiring.

"We desperately need bus drivers," says Pitz.

It's a five-day-per week commitment to take on a bus route which is not actually a full-time job. It means that many bus drivers are retired from previous employment and the superintendent thinks it's just a matter of availability for that kind of part-time work.

To provide relief for regular drivers, the division is looking to hire spare bus drivers.

"When you're a spare, you can pick and choose if you drive or not. It would be wonderful to have, you know, a half a dozen to a dozen people sign up just to help us out when (regular) bus drivers are away for personal reasons or illness. It's a way of making sure that we keep the buses on the road."

There are some special things about driving a school bus that new drivers need to know.

"We try to offer bus driver training a couple times a year, so they'd be always welcome to participate in the refresher course and the training so we would make it work," says the superintendent.

A Class 2 licence is mandatory for driving a school bus and of course, a Class 1 covers the requirements of a Class 2. Pitz encourages people to contact the school division if they're at all interested, or even just would like more information about becoming a school bus driver.

Farmers' Advocate

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An open fall may offer opportunity for farmers

Submitted

DUCKS UNLIMITED CANADA

For Manitoba farmers looking for ways to get more from every acre, late fall can be the right time to tackle fields that consistently struggle to produce a profitable crop.

Flood prone, weedy, saline areas can quietly eat into farm profitability year after year. Rather than continuing to apply crop inputs and fight with wet, saline acres that simply don't pay, farmers can consider perennial forages as a longer-term solution.

Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) is encouraging farmers to take advantage of the fall window for dormant seeding as part of its Marginal Areas Program.

Continued on next Advocate page



Ducks Unlimited Canada says that farmers may still be able to make use of their marginal acres.

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'Every marginal acre has its own challenges'

**Continued from
First Advocate page**

"Some acres aren't as well suited to growing annual crops year after year," says Daphne Appleyard, a marginal areas specialist with DUC. "Fall is a good opportunity to start changing that equation by establishing perennial forages. Perennials reduce the need for annual crop inputs, provide ground cover to reduce erosion and weed pressure, and deep roots use moisture more efficiently than annual crops while mitigating nutrient losses from runoff."

Marginal acres are widespread across the Prairies. Research by DUC partners estimates that about 13 acres in every quarter section are marginal farmland—millions of acres across Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta that remain persistently unproductive despite fertilizer, crop protection products and careful management.

For farmers, those areas can represent a significant

financial loss. Perennial forages provide another option, putting those acres to work while protecting the soil and building a productive forage stand.

Get the timing right

Dormant seeding is designed to put seed in the ground late enough in the fall that it remains dormant until spring.

Although field margins may be currently saturated in some areas, Manitoba soils have a natural ability to infiltrate surface water. And field conditions can change quickly. If long-range weather forecasts hold, prairie farmers could expect to see an open fall with time post-harvest to reclaim challenging acres before freeze up.

Soil temperatures and field conditions should be closely monitored and Appleyard recommends waiting until soil temperatures are below 5C. "You want to seed late enough that the seed stays dormant, while still ensuring



PHOTO COURTESY OF METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Farmers have been busy harvesting their flourishing crops, but Ducks Unlimited Canada has advice for that may help with their marginal acres, too!

good seed to soil contact. Planting too early can allow seed to germinate prematurely during a warm spell, increasing the risk of winterkill."

A diverse forage mix that incorporates both salinity and moisture tolerance will improve establishment, particularly on field edges or wetland margins.

DUC recommends using both grasses and legumes and increasing the seeding rate to mitigate potential establishment losses.

Farmers should also keep expectations realistic. Saline-tolerant perennial forages can take two to three years to fully establish and some areas may need touch-up seeding.

"Rehabilitating marginal acres is a process," says Appleyard. "The goal is to establish a competitive perennial stand that fills in bare areas and gradually outcompetes weeds. It may take some patience, but the long-term payoff can be worthwhile."

Rebates and ag support available

DUC offers rebates to farmland owners looking to address marginal acres, including areas affected by excess moisture and salinity. A bonus discount is available when sourcing seed through Nutrien, and additional incentives may apply to land financed through Farm Credit Canada.

In Manitoba, the Marginal Areas Program is supported in part by funding from Manitoba Habitat Conservancy (MHC) through the Conservation Trust. Established by the Province of Manitoba, the Conservation Trust is an innovative way to fund

nature-based approaches to climate change mitigation and habitat conservation.

Beyond rebates, DUC provides one-on-one agricultural extension support tailored to each farm's specific needs including seed blend, establishment logistics, and ongoing management recommendations.

"Whether you're dealing with flooding, salinity, or field compaction issues, every marginal acre has its own challenges," says Appleyard. "We can work with farmers to look at the conditions they're dealing with and find a forage and management approach that makes sense for their operation."

For more information about DUC's Marginal Areas Program, available funding and agronomic support, visit <https://ag.ducks.ca/program/marginal-areas-mb/> or contact DUC's Brandon office at 204- 285-9779.

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Regen Ag Conference features an all-star cast

By Duncan Morrison

MANITOBA FORAGE AND GRASSLAND ASSOCIATION

Note: Duncan Morrison is the Executive Director of the Manitoba Forage and Grasslands Association.

The Manitoba Regenerative Agriculture Conference is coming to Brandon on Nov. 9-10 at the Victorian Inn and Conference Centre. The opportunity of bringing in cover and relay cropper extraordinaire and "Farm Weird" champion Jason Mauck from Indiana is a big score. Jason's social media presence is staggering. What Jason is doing interests a lot of farmers and Jason's ability to tell his farm story runs through all his posts and presentations.

It is fabulous to have Harold Perry, the dude standing by the llama in the Lays Potato Chip television commercials, of Perry Farms near Taber,

Alberta. Harold is far from the family llama handler though. In fact, the Perry's-Harold and brother Chris, were named 2026 Global Farmer of the Year by PepsiCo for their advanced soil-building techniques. Harold is a Nuffield scholar with a ton of insight and innovation that has attended our conference as a delegate. Manitoba potato, forage, and crop growers and Regen Ag focused soil builders might take note.

And when it comes to soil builders, Manitoba's own Alex Boersch is well respected for the work he is doing on the family farm near Elie, and we are pleased to have Alex at our 2026 conference podium. Alex works in Red River Gumbo, his farm advancements, challenges, and

learnings will balance an excellent presentation.

On the food and health front, Dr. Jayden Dobson, ND, will highlight the intersection of Regen Ag and healthy communities. Jayden knocked a panel appearance out of the park at last year's conference, causing us to want to hear more and learn more from the Manitou-based naturopathic doctor.

We asked Brenda Tjaden to organize a stage full of financial experts for a provocative and insightful financial panel, focusing on Regen Ag for farmers in our crowd. Brenda brought forward a group that could all probably keynote on their own merit. We expect Brenda, a farmer, direct farm marketer, and an agriculture financial consultant, to get the best out of the panel discussion featuring farm and finance

stalwarts Anna Hunter, Karel Stroebe and Adam Pukalo.

As a rule, we never forget our grassland and grazing roots; Colombia's Antonio Pinero will highlight the synergies and similarities grazing in our two far apart countries. Antonio is internationally renowned as a cattle guru and handler, to the point that two of our MFGA connected farmers Peter Tokar and Arron Nerbass spent time with him last February touring on his farms and brought back the suggestion to bring him in to share his experience and knowledge.

And finally, Ross MacDonald, a well-known conservation-minded agrologist from Lake Alma, Sask will share his stories, triumphs and tribulations around grazing and biodiversity on his family farm. No one asked me,

but I believe wholeheartedly that Ross's grassland appreciation, savvy and love for family and farm on one of the first A&W commercials around grass-fed beef was as effective and poignant as anything I have seen produced on the importance of grasslands to urban audiences. For sure, I completely agree, take out the city-focused guerrilla marketing around hormones and steroids that Ross had no control over and what you are left with is a stunning visual of a farmer working herd and grasslands the way he wants to work it.

There will be more 2026 MFGA conference news in times ahead.

What we can tell you is that:

- For the third year in a row, we have not raised conference admission fees.
- We have expanded our

family conference package to include two adults and two kids under fourteen from the same farm at no change to family rate admission fees from last year.

• Daycare will once again be funded by MFGA with coordination help from our good friends at Holistic Management Canada. Our formidable trade show-an experience on its own for the amazing talks and exchanges with service and product experts -has sold out year after year. Please do register soon on that front to access and experience our conference crowd.

And, finally, we will not say much more about the dinner we have planned on MFGA Night, but we do plan to feed you well... or medium rare... stay tuned!! Register now at MFGA.net



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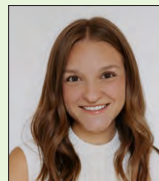
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Alexander Boersch
Nutrition Farming in the Red River Valley



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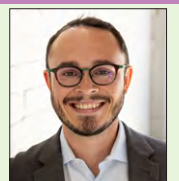
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Thank you for
reading the
Farmers' Advocate!

What’s the beef?: Beef Pad Thai

So you’ve bought some beef from the store (thanks, cattle producers!), but you’re not sure what to do with it. Well, here’s a recipe from the Manitoba Beef Producers Association for a beef Pad Thai to spice things up! It was curated by chef Ann Borys for season 34 of Great Tastes of Manitoba.

The recipe makes four servings, and takes approximately 40 minutes to make (25 to prep, 15 to cook).

Pad Thai sauce:

- 1 Tbsp (15 mL) Sesame Oil
- ¼ Cup (60mL) Tamarind Paste
- ½ Cup (125 mL) Peanut Butter, smooth
- 1 Tbsp (15 mL) Fish Sauce
- 2 Tbsp (30 mL) Soy Sauce
- 1 Tbsp (15 mL) Brown Sugar
- 1 ½ Cups (375 mL) Hot Water
- 2 Thai Chili Peppers, thinly sliced (as desired)

Remaining Ingredients:

- 250 g Pad Thai (wide) Rice Noodles, prepared as per package directions

- 1 Tbsp (15 mL) Canola Oil
- 1lb (454 g) Ground Beef, lean
- 1 Tbsp (15 mL) Garlic, minced
- 1 Tbsp (15 mL) Ginger, minced
- 1 Medium Carrot, matchsticks
- ½ Medium Red Bell Pepper, julienne
- 1 Cup Bean Sprouts
- ½ Cup (125 mL) Green onion, chopped

Garnish:

- Cilantro, finely chopped
- Roasted Peanuts, chopped
- Bean Sprouts
- Green Onion, chopped

Instructions:

Place all ingredients for Pad Thai Sauce in a small pot and bring to a simmer, whisking periodically. Adjust seasoning as required.

In a large non-stick skillet over medium high heat add oil and beef. Once the beef is about 75 per cent cooked, drain excess fat then add garlic, ginger, carrots, peppers,

bean sprouts and green onion.

When vegetables are cooked, but retain a slight crunch add Pad Thai Sauce and noodles. Toss to combine and coat evenly with sauce. Adjust seasoning and add additional water as required. (Noodles should be well sauced)

Plate Pad Thai and garnish with desired toppings such as fresh bean sprouts, slivered green onion, crushed peanuts, chopped cilantro and lime wedges.

Notes: may also use striploin sliced thinly instead of ground beef and can also substitute low sodium beef stock for water for added flavour.

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SPORTS

FLANNERY PLAYED SECOND BASE, LEFT FIELD AND CENTREFIELD



PHOTO BY MOUNT MARY UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

Ava Flannery had a successful first season playing softball at Mount Mary University.

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

During the 2025-26 school year, Pipestone's Ava Flannery embraced all the newness that came with attending a new school and joining a new team.

After two seasons competing at the junior college level for the Dakota College at Bottineau (N.D.) women's

softball team, the daughter of Wade and Kimberley Flannery transferred to Mount Mary University. She earned a role on the field for the Milwaukee, Wis., school's squad while also excelling in the classroom.

"What I enjoyed most was getting to be part of a new team and community," Flannery said. "Coming from a small town, it was nice to

have a group of teammates and staff who were welcoming and supportive. I also enjoyed getting the chance to continue playing the game I love while working towards my degree."

She was one of four Blue Angels who competed in a team-high 39 games last season. Flannery played second base, left field and centrefield.

"Ava is a high-character player whose strong work ethic and quiet leadership set the standard for the team," Mount Mary University head softball coach Kaleigh Roop said. "She brings a great combination of versatility, toughness, and offensive capability to the field."

In North Dakota, Flannery competed at the National Junior College Athletic Association level. The Blue Angels play in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics ranks. Flannery said the softball was similar to what she had played before.

"A lot of the teams were slightly faster and threw harder but overall very similar. The biggest adjust-

ment wasn't necessarily the competition. It was more about adapting to a new team, coaches and balancing school, softball, and everyday life away from home."

Located on the shore of Lake Michigan, Milwaukee had a 2020 census population of 577,222. Its metropolitan area had a 2020 census population of 1.57 million.

"Milwaukee was definitely bigger than anywhere I have lived before," Flannery said. "I spent a summer living in Brandon, and growing up my family would travel to Winnipeg for shopping, sports, and other activities. I still haven't gotten used to the traffic, number of people or having so many things to do nearby. I enjoyed being able to experience different parts of the U.S. and things I wouldn't have normally had access to. At the same time, it has made me appreciate my small-town roots even more."

Her family helped her adjust to everything new that came her way in the last school year.

"My family played a huge role in supporting me during my time in Milwaukee,"

Flannery said. "We stayed in touch with phone calls, FaceTimes and messages, which helped make being away from home a lot easier. My parents also made the trip out to Milwaukee to watch some of my games, as well as watched live streams whenever possible. It was special to be able to share that experience with them. They enjoyed getting to see the campus, explore the city, and experience the new environment I was living in while supporting me both on and off the field."

While studying at Dakota College at Bottineau, Flannery spent time on the school's women's hockey team. In Wisconsin, for a second sport, she has swapped skates for running shoes. Flannery has helped out a short-handed women's cross-country team at times by competing for them.

"I enjoy the conditioning it gives me to keep up my endurance for softball as well as just my overall health," she said.

Mount Mary's undergraduate programs are only for women. Flannery ex-

celled in her studies and was named an Easton/National Fastpitch Coaches Association All-America Scholar Athlete. She is majoring in accounting.

"What I enjoy most is that it's a career where you can make a real difference for people," Flannery said. "Coming from a small community, I've seen how important it is to have someone who can help individuals, families, farmers and local businesses understand their finances and make informed decisions. I like that accounting combines problem-solving and attention to detail with the opportunity to help others succeed."

She is excited to enjoy one more season with the Blue Angels.

"I am back at Mount Mary for my senior season and excited for the opportunity to play one more year of softball at a collegiate level," Flannery said. "It's hard to believe how quickly the time has gone by. I'm looking forward to making the most of every game, continuing to grow as a player, and helping the team have a successful season."

OIL CAPITALS OPEN 15TH SEASON WITH SPLIT

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Virden Oil Capitals opened their 15th season in the community with a split on the opening weekend.

The Oil Capitals defeated the Waywayseecappo Wolverines 5-4 in a shootout on Sept. 19 in front of 1,037 at their home opener. Virden fell 5-2 on the road to the Wolverines the night before.

"I liked the pace we tried to play with and I liked parts of both games," Virden head coach Tyson Ramsey said. "I thought we had a good start to the game on Friday, but then lost our way a bit. Then on Saturday, we had some nerves early but showed some resolve to come back and force overtime."

The Oil Capitals host the defending MJHL champion Niverville Nighthawks on Sept. 25. The two teams met in last season's league finals. The Virden squad plays the Pistons in Steinbach on Sept. 26.

Captains Named

Last week, the Oil Capitals announced their leadership group. Nate Schaefer had previously been named captain. The assistant captains will be Oak Lake Beach's Tyson Draper, Carson Wright from Calgary, Homewood's Liam Goertzen, and Bottineau, N.D.'s Brooks Siemens.

Oil Caps 5, Wolverines 4 SO

Rookie forward Dylan Mickelson from Scottsdale, Ariz., came up big for the Oil Capitals in their home opener. He lit the lamp shorthanded late in the second period to pull his squad within one, 3-2. Mickelson later assisted on the goal that knotted the contest at 3-3. After Virden went up 4-3 and the Wolverines tied it up at 4-4, Mickelson

was the lone player in the shootout to score, lifting the Oil Capitals to their first victory of the season.

"Dylan is a big guy that can skate and make plays," Ramsey said. "His hockey IQ is very high and he and Peyton Getzlaff have developed some early chemistry. They were a kickstart for us in the third period 5-on-5 and on the penalty kill."

Oil Capitals goalie Micky Gross made 29 saves on 33 shots. Tyson Ulmer scored in the first period for Virden before Mickelson notched his first MJHL goal in the second. In the third period, Peyton Getzlaff scored his second of the season. His shorthanded marker was followed by Draper's first of the campaign. Mickelson was the game's First Star with Draper being named the Second Star and Getzlaff the third.

Dylan Duzan put the Wolverines up 1-0 in the first period before Ulmer tied things up. In the second period, Carter Haney scored once at even strength and once shorthanded to give Waywayseecappo a 3-1 lead. In the final two minutes of regulation, Max Collyer's power-play goal tied the game at 4-4. Urijah Moosetail stopped 26 shots for the Wolverines.



PHOTO BY SHARLA GEORGE PHOTOGRAPHY

The ceremonial puck drop was done by Valleyview Co-op Petrolium Manager Jamie Charette and his son Aries.

Wolverines 5, Oil Caps 2

The Wolverines scored four goals in the third period en route to a 5-2 win in the opening game of the season for Virden and Waywayseecappo.

Oil Capitals rookie Luka Fay scored his first MJHL goal to stake his team to a 1-0 second-period lead. Haney tied the game before the end of the frame. The Wolverines outscored Virden 4-1 in the third, including an empty-net goal. Getzlaff scored for Virden. It was the first of his MJHL career.

Gross made 23 saves, while Mariko Bercier stopped 34 for Waywayseecappo. Scoring for the Wolverines were Haney, Collyer, Treycen Wuttunee, Liam Flett and Max Dawson.

SPORTS

GOLDEN BEARS OPEN SEASON WITH WIN AT HOME



PHOTO BY KIAHNA BARKLEY

The Virden Collegiate Institute football team won its season-opening contest at home over the Neepawa Tigers.

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

The Virden Collegiate Institute football team had to wait an extra week to open its season, but the delay did not keep it from starting on a winning note at home.

The VCI Golden Bears beat the Neepawa Tigers 32-20 on Sept. 20. The season-opening win was important for both the Rural Manitoba Football League standings and team morale.

"The win is huge for our club," Virden head coach

Marc Talbot said. "For the players that went through a 0-7 season last year and winning the last game, getting one early will be a confidence boost, for sure. For the number of new players to the team, the early win makes it all fun. When

you have a month of three practices a week and we worked them hard during those practices, it just lifts all spirits and makes you think to yourself, 'Yes it was all worth it.'"

The RMFL season was pushed back when

the Transcona Nationals dropped out. The delay gave the Golden Bears an opportunity to integrate new players and continue to refine things.

"I'm happy with the way we started the game... We came out hot, and got an early lead," Talbot said. "We were able to move the ball on the ground and in the air. Our defence came out on fire, only allowing one touchdown in the first half."

"I didn't like how we started the second half. Neepawa was able to climb back into the game and at one point, we were only leading by six. I did like how we rallied in the end, got another score rather than hanging our heads thinking, 'here we go again.' I think that shows how the veterans on this team have matured since last year."

Offensively, quarterback Cohen Canada threw two touchdown passes, surpassing his total from last

season, Talbot said. Dixon Tough reeled in both of those TD tosses in his first game, also caught another pass and chipped in with a rushing TD. Ryder Kotylak was a workhorse rushing the ball 24 times, often gaining tough yards in the middle of the field.

On defence, Isaiah Bar-rate had a team-high 13 tackles and also made an interception. Reed Plaisier made five tackles and a key interception. Shane Blackshaw had VCI's first sack of the season.

The Golden Bears host the Parkwest Outlaws in the Tundra Bowl game on Sept. 25 at 1 p.m. The local team is expected to be cheered on by its classmates as well as Virden Junior High students.

"Parkwest lost their season opener to Southwest 18-16, so I'm expecting a team that is going to be hungry for their first win of the season," Talbot said.

SPORTS NOTES: VCI GOLFERS READY FOR PROVINCIALS

By Robin Wark
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Virden Collegiate Institute golfers are headed to the provincial championships.

The VCI boys team won the Zone 9 championship to earn its spot in the provincial tournament, which will be held Sept. 25 at La Broquerie Golf. In the Zone 9 competition, Zander Clarke shot a 78 to post the tournament's lowest score. The winning team also included Eric Rampton, Swade Penner and Jack Murray.

The VCI girls team were the Zone 9 silver medallists in their category. With the tournament's lowest score, a 45, VCI's Kassidy Hoensen earned the opportunity to compete at provincials as an individual. The VCI squad, which finished second to Wawanese, also included Michelle Waters, Emmy Studer and Joelle Barkley.

Look for more on the teams in an upcoming issue of the Empire-Advance.

Hunter Wins Gold

Virden's Brenda Hunter won four gold medals at the 2026 Commonwealth Powerlifting Championships in Winnipeg. She topped her division, Masters 3 (60-69), in all three lifts - squat, bench press and deadlift - as well as overall. She set a new Canadian totals record (345 kg) in her age/weight class. Look for more on Hunter in an upcoming issue of the Empire-Advance.

Elder Honoured

Former Oak Lake resident Ernest Elder, now of Brandon, has been named the recipient of this year's Larry Nicholls Umpire Award of Merit. The award will be presented at a Baseball Manitoba banquet on Oct. 17 in Brandon.

Brezden to Skate in Georgia

After a successful start to the season, former Skate Virden member Breken Brezden is slated to compete in the Trialeti Trophy in Batumi, Georgia, Sept. 30-Oct. 3. Earlier this campaign, the senior ladies skater exceeded

the benchmark needed by Skate Canada to earn an international assignment. The Dauphin product, who now trains in Ontario, was assigned to one of the 10 international events in the International Skating Union's Challenger Series.

This season, Brezden's results have included gold in Waterloo, silver in Montreal and bronze in Quebec City.

Pitz Signs with Broncos

The Western Hockey League's Swift Current Broncos have signed Virden's Easton Pitz to a WHL Scholarship and Development Agreement. The 2011-born forward will suit up for the Rink Hockey Academy's U18 prep team in Winnipeg this season.

"We are delighted to welcome Easton and the Pitz family to the Broncos organization," Broncos general manager and head coach Travis Crickard said in a statement. "Easton earned the opportunity to sign with his brilliant play during training camp. He has a bright future ahead, and we are excited to play a big part in his development as he becomes a part of our program's future."

Hockey Notes

Pipestone's Luke MacKenzie has been named an assistant captain for the Melfort Mustangs of the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League. After spending training camp with the WHL's Brandon Wheat Kings, former Virden



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Virden Collegiate Institute boys golf team won the Zone 9 championship.

Oil Capitals player Colten Worthington has joined the British Columbia Hockey League's Surrey Eagles. Other members of the 2025-26 Oil Caps playing in the BCHL this season are Dysen Drake for the Trail Smoke Eaters and Virden's Bryce Bryant with the Cowichan Valley Capitals. Former Oil Capitals teammates Jett Deschamp and Cohen Lewko are now with the WHL's Regina Pats and the Saskatoon Blades, respectively. Noel Englot, who was swapped from Virden to the SJHL's Mustangs partway through last season, is now with Adrian (Mich.) College's American Collegiate Hockey Association Division I team.

MJHL Report

Submitted
By DEREK HOLTOM

On average people will change their careers three to seven times throughout their lifetime. This is much different from baby boomers who quite often got a job and kept it until they retired.

I mention this as the MJHL announced that Brian Munz has been hired as their new Manager of League Development. Munz is fairly well known in the hockey world, having covered hockey for pretty much his entire working life – I first met Munz in the 1990s when I was covering the WHL's Prince Albert Raiders and he was covering the SJHL's Melfort Mustangs.

Munz would go onto a prolific career in junior hockey, even being named to the SJHL Hall of Fame in 2014. He would go onto working in

the professional ranks, doing play-by-play for the Winnipeg Jets, Edmonton Roadrunners, and other work for TSN.

He took a break from actual hockey coverage to work as the director of communications for Golf Manitoba before coming back to hockey with this MJHL job. So while his jobs varied slightly, Munz has always been in the business of being involved in sports, and that looks to continue – though now rather than covering sports, he'll be helping develop it.

The MJHL explains Munz, in this newly-created position, will be responsible for the following duties:

- Working with teams to elevate operational hockey standards across the league.
- Help to ensure a high-quality, consistent experience for players, coaches, and fans in all arenas (both home and

away).

- Support facility, game presentation, broadcast and service benchmarks.

- Provide guidance on individual team and league-wide broadcast standards and best practices.

- Strengthening grassroots connections to help drive attendance and long-term fan growth.

- Managing special projects for the MJHL.

"We are very excited to welcome Brian to the MJHL," shared Commissioner, Kevin Saurette. "With his vast experience in hockey at all levels, he will be an asset to the league office and member teams across the province moving forward."

The MJHL is making moves to keep up with other junior A leagues across the country,

demanding more from all teams to raise the standard for players and fans alike. It will be interesting to track the return on this investment over time.

- Plenty of trades to report from the eve of the start of the regular season. Here's a recap of teams in my coverage area in the Parkland.

The Northern Manitoba Blizzard shipped forward Dylan Westmann to Hearst of the NOJHL for a player development fee (PDF). He had 11 points in 24 games for the Blizzard last year.

The Neepawa Titans acquired forward Carter Stamp-Vincent from Flin Flon of the SJHL for a PDF.

The Titans also acquired defenseman Casey Magarrell from the Melfort Mustangs of the SJHL for a PDF. Magarrell actually played two games for

the Swan Valley Stampeders last season, but spent most of his time with the Pembina Valley Hawks where he scored 38 points in 48 games.

The Swan Valley Stampeders acquired defenseman Owen Lutgen from Flin Flon of the SJHL. The American had 25 points in 30 games in high school last year.

The Stampeders also shipped forward Simon Ward to Navan of the CCHL for a PDF.

The Waywayseecappo Wolverines traded forward Peyton Thiessen to the Winnipeg Monarchs for a PDF. The Beausejour native had 45

points in 41 games with the Eastman Selects last year.

The Wolverines also sent defenseman Noah Bonds and a PDF to the Selkirk Steelers for forward Carter Haney and future considerations. Bonds had 29 points in 47 games with the Winnipeg Thrashers last year, while Haney had 33 points in 53 games for the Steelers.

And finally the Winkler Flyers shipped defenseman Kaden Sutherland to the Wolverines for a PDF. Sutherland was the captain of the Winnipeg Thrashers last year, scoring 31 points in 44 games from the blueline.

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Superstitions

By Gerry Nolan
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

With Halloween fast approaching I thought I would share some superstitions that go along with just everyday living. What are some of your superstitions? You may not even realize you have them!

First off, what exactly is a superstition? A superstition is a belief that human affairs are influenced, not by purposeful behaviour or natural causes, but by magic choice and divine favour. They usually involve beliefs and practises that attempt to influence events to bring about a good outcome or avoid a bad one. Now you know!

Touch or knock on wood. Touching wood to avoid bad luck is a

superstition borrowed from medieval times when European churchgoers would touch the entrance of wooden churches in the hope of feeling a divine sense of connection via Jesus Christ's wooden crucifixion cross.

Deisidaimonia! The concept of superstition began in the fourth century BC as this Greek word translated as "A fear of god". It is the origin of the phrase "putting the fear of God in them".

See a penny as the old rhyme goes, "See a penny, pick it up and all day you'll have good luck". This is a familiar superstition that is recognized around the world, the belief that if you found a penny on the floor, it would bring

good fortune as it was a gift from the Gods and would also bring protection against evil. This one has sort of gone by the wayside as it is difficult to find many pennies these days!

In Mexico, it is believed that sleeping with a pair of scissors under your pillow can stop a bad dream. Scissors are also used by Mexicans to ward off wet weather with the belief that putting a pair of open scissors in the entrance to your home will keep the rain away. Well nothing else is working to halt the rain so give it a try. We really have nothing to lose at this point.

I will endeavour to have more Halloween and superstition stories leading up to Halloween. See you next time!

In my Opinion: Red Light means STOP

By Gerry Nolan
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

On Sept. 14, at around 7:30 am there was a vehicle collision at the intersection of number 1 highway and King Street, leading into Virden. Thankfully, as far as I know, there were no serious injuries. A vehicle from the east turning on a green light arrow to go into Virden was struck by a semi truck who did not stop for the red light. Why? Good Question!

Fast forward to September 17, I was driving into Virden coming from Lenore on highway 259. As I drove up to the lights on number 1 highway the light was red, so I stopped. Vehicles from the east were turning into Virden. As I was sitting stopped, I turned my head to the right and saw 6 or 7 semi trucks stopped on the red light going east. Obviously being stopped at the red light and starting up takes a moment or two to get moving forward. As the last of the semi trucks went forward through the green light, the last truck was going through the orange light. It was the tail end of his trailer that was in the orange. The light turned red. As I did another check to the right, here comes a semi truck barreling through a red light. He had not even slowed down even though the overhead light would be flashing down the road to the west to let the driver know he would have to stop. The truck went through so fast I really could not get the name of the company on the side of the truck.

The driver had no intention of stopping at a RED light. Why? Why does he even have a license? It seems like some companies just hire anyone and

send them out on the road. I suggest the driver obviously cannot read the signs or know what the lights mean. Just ask the good folks at Kemnay Bridge!

The RCMP cannot sit at every intersection that has lights. How many lives are lost because someone cannot understand what lights and signs mean?

What can be done to stop this recklessness?

Not all truckers are careless, and many have an excellent driver's abstract. What can be done about the drivers who do not understand the highway signs and lights? As a gentleman who delivers feed to my place of employment said, these drivers who are not trained properly are making all of truckers look bad.

I have witnessed trucks not slowing down at all going through Virden. If you are at the lights in Virden do not proceed until you check both ways to make sure that there is not a semi coming at you at full tilt. If you see such a truck, try to get a company name or license number and contact the RCMP.

If the RCMP are able to catch the offending driver, that truck should be taken off the road and the company charged with at very least failing to stop. I think also the companies need to be faced with a serious fine. Not a slap on the wrist fine, but a fine that will make them think twice about sending someone out on the highway who does not know what a sign means or a RED LIGHT for that matter! The driver should also have to go to school to understand lights and signs and good old-fashioned English before they drive again!

In my Opinion: HighMark Stadium

By Gerry Nolan
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

This past Thursday evening, I decided I was going to watch the National Football League game between the Detroit Lions and the hometown Buffalo Bills. This was the first game played in the stadium. It only cost 2.2 billion dollars to build it, and it is called Highmark Stadium.

Of course, there were a lot of things going on leading up to game time including former defensive end Bruce Smith, a former Buffalo Bill great, ringing the bell to get the crowd in a frenzy and proceeded with the anthem and then the game.

The one thing that stood out to me was the Buffalo Bills President invited the Barenaked Ladies rock band to perform O Canada! The crowd sang along and when the anthem concluded there was a tremendous applause. What

a wonderful sight to see!

There are about 8000 season ticket holders from Canada who attend Bills' home games. There were some interviews conducted from Buffalo Bills fans from the United States and this on an American television station. They proclaimed how they love Canada and loved the Canadian people coming to the games. They are our friends and neighbours. We love our Canadian brothers and sisters; they are always welcome in Buffalo!

Terry Pegula is the owner of the Buffalo Bills. He is an American billionaire businessman and petroleum engineer. He also owns the Buffalo Sabres of the National Hockey League. Terry made his fortune in oil and gas. In 2014 he purchased the Buffalo Sabres for a cool 189 million dollars. He outbid Bon Jovi and Donald Trump.

I share this story as with the ongoing trade dispute between the two countries, not all American citizens are very happy with their President and the way we as Canadians are being treated.

My hat goes off to Terry Pegula, as he allowed and he does have final say, that he invited and stood with the 60,000 plus fans and sang along with our anthem. He was obviously in favour of recognizing our nation and the fact is at Sabres games as well they always play O Canada! Thank-you Terry Pegula! The name of the stadium Highmark will not be forgotten by Canadians and for the stand you took which shows a tremendous amount of respect you have for our country. I am grateful that you purchased the professional teams and kept the American President away from our borders. Let's go Bills and Sabres!

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Fort La Bosse makes staffing changes ahead of new school year

Summary of Board of Trustees meetings for May 25, June 8, June 22 and Aug. 24

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

Trustees approved a series of teaching appointments and staffing changes during the spring and summer meetings as the division prepared for the new school year.

At the May 25 meeting, seven teaching appointments were unanimously approved, including full-time positions for Tanner Hepp, Emma Gertz and Shane Keown. One year term appointments were also approved for Taylor Braybrook, Kennedy Charles, Jennifer Yaschyshyn and Janet Brown.

On June 8, the board accepted the resignations of Tammy Pidborchynski, Shae-Lynn Forster and Laura Hey effective June 30. Additional teaching appointments were approved for Ashley Clark, Crystal Durgan and Lauren Lextier, along with a term Community Schools Connector position for April Guintu.

Further staffing changes were approved June 22, including appointments for Reagan Miller, Josée Maguet and Kylie Frattinger and adjustments to the positions of Tricia Hayward, Kim Barkley and Debra Peters.

Transportation

Fort La Bosse School Division will purchase a new school bus as it continues to deal with a shortage of regular and spare drivers heading into the 2026-27

school year.

Supervisor of Operations Mark Johnston reported the division was short drivers for several routes at the start of the school year and was looking for both regular and spare drivers.

Trustees were told one new spare driver had been hired, but the division continued to face a shortage of substitutes.

At its Aug. 24 meeting, the board unanimously approved the purchase of a 2027 Thomas C2 bus from Premier Truck Group for \$202,682.41 plus taxes, Transportation and maintenance staff had also spent a busy summer completing projects and servicing the bus fleet in preparation for the return to school.

Flooding had also affected some bus routes, forcing temporary re-routing.

Capital projects

Work on replacing the boiler at Mary Montgomery School began in late May. By June 22, the project had experienced minor delays and was expected to be completed by July 15. At the Aug. 24 meeting, trustees were told the project was nearly complete.

The board approved a \$22,332.20 plus taxes progress payment to MNK Mechanical Systems for the boiler project at its June 8 meeting.

The division also completed its five-year capital plan and submitted it to the province for consideration. Other capital work included projects at

Viriden Collegiate Institute and an Elkhorn School science classroom renovation.

Viriden daycare discussions continue

The board received information on plans for a new childcare centre in Viriden during both its June 8 and June 22 meetings.

On June 8, trustees received correspondence from the Town of Viriden offering to explore space options for the early childcare centre planned for the community. Two weeks later, Secretary-Treasurer Kent Reid reported on a meeting dealing with the design for the new daycare.

The board also renewed annual use-of-school agreements with early childhood learning centres operating at Goulter School and Mary Montgomery School.

Technology and financial approvals

Technology upgrades also accounted for several expenditures. The board approved \$16,650.54 plus taxes to RFNow Inc. for a VOIP hardware and system upgrade in May. In June, trustees approved \$47,629.84 plus taxes for 37 HP Elitebook computers, \$28,702.78 plus taxes for the PowerSchool student information system subscription and \$10,657.50 plus taxes toward implementation of Microsoft Business Central.

By Aug. 24, the division reported imple-

mentation of its new accounting and payroll software was complete, with the transition expected to continue over the following several weeks.

Other business

Trustees approved a borrowing bylaw setting an operating borrowing limit of \$6 million for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027.

The division's Continuous Improvement Plan framework for 2026-31 was completed over the summer and posted on the division website.



2026/2027 SCHEDULE

Give us a try!

Curling starts tentatively October 20

Monday 4:00 pm • Junior Curling League

Get them started at a fun, inexpensive sport. Grades 4-8 only please.

Contact Chris Warkentin at warkentinfeed@gmail.com

\$80/individual

Monday 6:00 pm • Family League

New Addition. You can enjoy great family fun at the curling rink. 4 end games. Enter as a team or as pairs.

Contact Chris Warkentin at warkentinfeed@gmail.com

\$25/individual until Christmas

Tuesday Mornings • 10:00 am • Senior Men's

Recreational League

Do you miss your morning golf match? Give our club a try! Spares needed for this league! Come have a cup of joe, curl a fun, 8-end game with some friends and enjoy a soup and sandwich special from our canteen afterwards. Enter as individuals. Join us for the whole season or just half.

Call Greg Tough at 204-748-3136

\$250/individual

Tuesday Afternoons • 12:45 pm • Tuesday Afternoon Ladies'

Recreational League

Enjoy an afternoon out with the girls, with coffee and exercise included. Enter as a team or individuals.

Call Jeanette Logan 204-838-2397 or text 204-748-7422

\$1000/team

Tuesday Evenings • 6:00 & 8:00 pm • Ladies'

Evening Fun League

Get out of the house and enjoy a night on the ice. Stay for a beverage and enjoy a chat with the gals. A fun, social night for experienced or beginning curlers! Enter as teams.

Text Mandy Taylor at 204-764-0003

\$1000/team

Wednesday Afternoons • 4:00 pm • High School Fun League

Get your team together and try something new.

Call Mark Robertson at 204-851-5851

\$120/individual

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

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

Call Jay Kinnaird at 204-851-1267

\$1000/team

Fridays • 10:00 am • Senior Mixed League

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

Call Greg Tough at 204-748-3136

\$250/individual

Friday Afternoon • Mixed Stick Curling

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

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Entry deadline is Wednesday, October 14th

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19 • 7:00 PM @ THE VCC LOUNGE

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In memory of MAURICE COULTER

Maurice Coulter of Virden, Manitoba beloved husband of the late Elvina Coulter and loving father of Kerry, Marilee, Melodee and Kent passed away at The Sherwood Home Virden, Manitoba Friday, July 31, 2026 at the age of 93 years.

In keeping with Maurice's wishes, no funeral service was held.

WANTED

Two teens interested in doing community service on October 1st (Weather permitted). All day volunteers. Lunch provided

TWO JOBS: Putting a flag back up securely and painting at Eternal Springs. Wear painting clothing and hat.

Contact KEL SMITH AT 748-3321 HELP WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

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FORT LA BOSSE SCHOOL DIVISION FUEL TENDER

Fort La Bosse School Division invites sealed tenders by the undersigned for clear diesel fuel and regular unleaded gasoline for Oct 1, 2026, to Sept 30, 2027. The tender closes at noon, Friday, Sept 25th, 2026. Lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

Fuel tender pricing is to be submitted using the information provided in the Fuel Tender Form located in the Recent Posts section of the Fort La Bosse School Division website at www.flbsd.mb.ca. Tenders may be submitted for delivery to Fort La Bosse bulk storage tanks as specified or for supplier card locks or retail outlets in any or all the communities listed in the form.

Sealed tenders clearly marked "FUEL TENDER" may be sent to:

Mark Johnston
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mark.johnston@flbsd.mb.ca

THE ASSOCIATION FOR COMMUNITY LIVING

Virden Branch is a non-profit agency providing support for adults living with physical and/or intellectual disabilities.

ACL Virden is holding its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, September 29, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at 216 Bridge Street (main office and Day Program building) in Virden.

Your support is greatly appreciated and we always welcome new members.

For more information contact the ACL office at 204-748-1444.

Public Notice



PUBLIC NOTICE BOARD OF REVISION

Public Notice is hereby given that the assessment roll for the R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth for the year 2027 is available at the R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth. It will be open for public inspection during regular business hours. The Board of Revision will sit to hear applications for revision of assessment on **Thursday, October 15, 2026**, commencing at **10:00 a.m.** at the **R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth Council Chambers**, 154023 P.R. 257, Virden, Manitoba (corner of 83 Hwy & PR257).

Applications for revision may be made in accordance with Sections 42 and 43 of the *Municipal Assessment Act* which in part, are as follows:

APPLICATION FOR REVISION

42 (1) 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, the authorized agent of the person, mortgagee or occupier, or the Assessor may make application for the revision of an assessment roll with respect to the following matters:

- a. Liability to taxation;
- b. Amount of an assessed value;
- c. Classification of property; or
- d. Refusal by an Assessor to amend the assessment roll under subsection 13 (2).

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

43 (1) An application for revision must

- a. Be made in writing;
- b. Set out the roll number and legal description of the assessable property for which a revision is sought;
- c. Set out which of the matters referred to in subsection 42 (1) are at issue, and the grounds for each of those matters; and
- d. Be filed by:
 - (i) Delivering it or causing it to be delivered to the office indicated in the public notice given under subsection 41 (2) or
 - (ii) Serving it upon the secretary, at least 15 days before the scheduled sitting date of the Board as indicated in the public notice.

The board shall not consider applications which do not comply with the above.
The deadline for filing applications is 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 29, 2026.

Dated the 28th day of August, 2026.
R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth
Board of Revision
Box 2200, Virden, MB R0M 2C0

Notice

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

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

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

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

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

Dated this 8th day of September, 2026.

Managed by: Ally Volk
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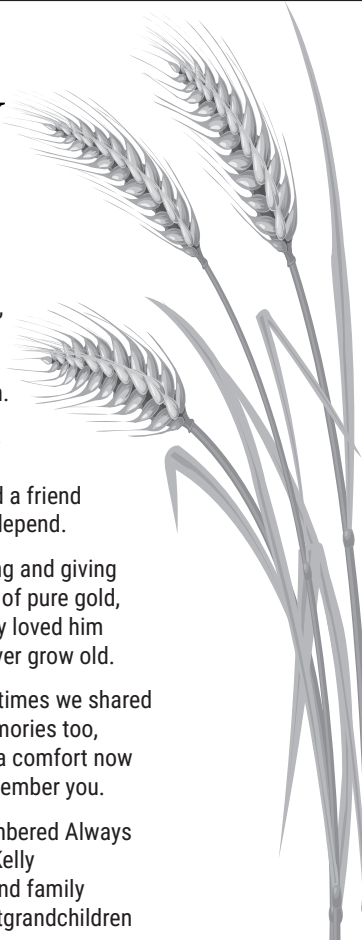
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We are thankful for the times we shared
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or

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Attention: Ashley T. Joyce

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

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE:

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

For further information contact Ashley T. Joyce
at 204.725.8769 or ajoyce@mhlaw.ca

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Priest from Dubai now calls Virden home



The Ekpeluchi family at their Virden home: Fr. Cent, his wife Sandra and their children Pristine, 11, and two boys. Goshen just turned 6 and Jubilee will be 4 on Dec. 25.



Fr Innocent in St. Mary's Anglican Church in Virden.

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

St. Mary's Anglican Church has a new minister who has traveled across the world to become Rector of the Tri-Valley Parish and for the first time in decades, the church has a priest with young children.

Reverend Father Innocent Ekpeluchi (Fr Cent), was ordained as a priest in October 2024 at Christ Church Jebel Ali, Dubai, in the Diocese of Cyprus and The Gulf and was Instituted at his first Sunday worship at St. Mary's in Virden on May 3.

Fr. Cent, his wife Sandra and their three children are adjusting to Canada, coming from a different climate and a very busy part of the world.

Different is an understatement. Fr. Cent says, "But I love it, it's very quiet - I love it."

Backstory

In UAE from 2012, spending 14 years there, he's experienced many cultures, has attended seminary two times and has worked in a secular career as well.

His former diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf states included places like Oman, UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait...

During his early years in Dubai, Fr Cent was involved with church - his father served as an Anglican priest until his death. Now he says, "Some of my cassocks and my vestments are from my father."

He went through seminary school in Nigeria."

Despite a rich heritage within church life, as a young man he needed to find his own path and decided not to continue to become a priest and studied marketing. He went into business.

"I was a salesman for a good 15 years of my life. I was dealing on professional screens (monitors) and that was actually what took me to UAE because UAE is fast evolving as an IT hub."

But he became dissatisfied with the world of advertising and business.

"Then somewhere along the line I became very committed to the church again. I first started as a chorister... singing in the choir and from there, I think the call was just there.

"What brought me back (to the church), I have this soft spot, not seeing people suffering. I like doing a community services volunteer work."

He said the drive to meet sales targets seemed like the opposite of the care that people needed. "Then one day I told my wife I think I'm no more comfortable selling these products...I think I have to go back to my call."

His hiatus in secular work meant six more years of seminary to become a priest, on top of his six years in Nigeria theological school. Many of his former classmates are now bishops and archdeacons today.

Fr. Cent answered the invitation from the bishop to return to training as an Ordinate in Dubai.

"But because there was no formal vacancy for me, I was an assisting priest. So I took up another program..."

He specialized in caring for autistic down syndrome kids. "So I'd volunteer after school time to some centers where we have such kids and I loved that job. Then in the morning I'd go to school.

He was employed with an American curriculum, the School of Modern Skills in Dubai taking care of one autistic and two down syndrome kids as their special teacher, all prior to coming to Canada.

Why Virden

Linda Lane, Virden Anglican church's treasurer, said it wasn't a huge surprise that a man from across the world came to be priest in Virden.

"We had put the word out in our diocese," Lane said. Only one person applied at that time and the Tri Valley parish was not a good fit.

So the call for a priest spread across Canada. "Nobody applied. So then we went worldwide."

Fr. Cent had applied to serve in a parish in the EU. His application to Virden was unintentional.

"Why I said I think it's God that brought me here is that I never applied for this place."

He said his application was on the computer and his wife admitted she must have accidentally clicked and sent it to a church she knew nothing of.

After several online meetings with Bishop Rachael Parke in Brandon, in the spring of 2025 talks included parishioners from all three churches - Reston, Melita and Virden.

But the EU was still looking too. "By early November I received a call from a church in Wales that I should start preparing to join them. My wife was testing my Welsh language," which brought the couple some laughs.

"All of a sudden, first week of November I received

an email saying we have accepted you to join us here in Canada."

Wales? Or Canada?

After discussion with his bishop in Dubai, he was at peace to accept the call to Virden Manitoba.

Lane says the congregation accepted Fr. Cent with open arms. "We haven't had a family for such a long time, we're hoping it will revive our Sunday School."

The church has an organist and a pianist who take turns and Fr. Cent's voice carries the singing.

Recently, the church has had three baptisms - an adult and two children.

"He's so welcoming," says Lane.

The congregation used to have lunch once per month. Now they gather in the meeting hall next door regularly. "We meet after every service just for a coffee, just to see how everyone's doing... and the first Sunday of the month we have a sit-down lunch."

Seniors are made welcome and several have come via handivan from a care home. They were hugged and welcomed.

Fr. Innocent's schedule is full. And he relies on Lay Readers to help with some of the services particularly in Reston and Melita. He holds regular services at the Westman and the Sherwood and has a singalong at Bolton Place.

Sandra Ekpeluchi has started as a casual with ACL, (Association of Community Living) with their youngest in daycare twice per week.

Prayer and teaching is bringing vibrancy to the church that has been without a pastor for about four years now.

"We have been doing teaching on forgiveness for about five Sundays now. And it's working. People are coming out from their shell. The church is becoming more lively and my heart is like a heavy load is being taken away. Because you feel, as a pastor, the burdens of the spirit realm of the church.

"That is your job as a priest. You are like a shepherd if any of your sheep is not feeling okay the weight is on you."

Fr. Cent adds, "The handshakes and hugs, these are what makes our worship perfect in the sight of God."

Embracing his new community Fr. Innocent Ekpeluchi also volunteers with Virden firefighters. He says, "I help out. They are training me on using the hoses and working with them.

"My job is to save lives."



GET MORE FROM YOUR DAY...
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International rescues make a pit stop



PHOTOS BY ANNE DAVISON

In Lynn's arms, Gemma shows her two prosthetics.

By Anne Davison
EMPIRE-ADVANCE

A group of well behaved canine travelers and their people were enough to brighten anyone's day.

On a grassy stretch behind Virden's Valleyview

Co-op Gas Bar, four dogs on leashes were eye catching—dogs with prosthetics and leg braces.

"Purebred rescue is their breed," Lynn, one of the dog owners said with a smile.

This couple was on their



The Ontario couple and their four purebred rescues - Jersey, Kenzie, Gemma and Stewie - pose for a picture before loading up to travel.

way from Barrie, Ont. to visit family north of Calgary. The large motor home parked nearby was home away from home for the dog pack and people as they headed westward.

Three of the dogs came from Russia with a history of special needs. They had missing appendages to show for a life that had

been rough on them. Two of these dogs had been abused or neglected,

while the other dog had been struck by a vehicle. But they were happy dogs

now.

Gemma the small blonde dog has prosthetics on her hind legs. The pure black is "Kenzie Eileen, because she always leans on me," says Lynn. Kenzie is missing a hind limb.

Stewie has white on his chest and he has prosthetics too.

Jersey, the couple's newest dog is a bully breed. Her legs were fine but she was rescued from the United States and it was evident this gentle girl had recently nursed puppies. "She was found in an abandoned home with her babies. Good mom. Great dog," said the owners.

This was Jersey's first motor home trip.

As the crew turned to load up, Lynn said, "Rescues are the best breed."

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Round building is down



As of September 17, just before 10:30 am, the round building, once called the 'Judge's Tower' was demolished.

PHOTO BY T.R. HAYWARD

Storage tanks departed



PHOTO BY LAUREN HALOWATY

On Tuesday, September 22, at approximately 11 am, eight large storage tanks departed Virden. Mounted on flat-deck semi-trucks, each load was accompanied by about two "wide-load" pickup trucks en route to Morris, Manitoba, and the U.S. border. Ahead of the move, Manitoba Hydro advised customers across Southern Manitoba that they will experience a series of short power outages from September 22 to 24 to allow for the safe transport of the oversized load. Safely moving the massive tanks requires workers to lift or cut approximately 220 power lines along the route. Each planned outage is expected to last about 1.5 hours. Because exact start times depend on the real-time progress of the transport, these temporary disruptions may not appear in advance on the planned outage map on Manitoba Hydro's website or Facebook page. The storage tanks are expected to reach their destination in Morris by September 24.



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