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PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

This proud group of five to eight-year-olds showed off their mural Friday to wrap up their week-long spring break art camp project at the Winkler Arts and Culture Centre. The artwork depicted the kids' predictions for Winkler's future. Check out the full story on Pg. 14.

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Gamers raise \$4,400 for The Bunker

By Ashleigh Viveiros

PC, console, tabletop, and board gamers of all ages joined forces in Winkler last weekend to make the spring EtherLAN fundraiser a huge success.

About 150 people took over The Bunker and Central Station for round-theclock gaming Friday through Sunday, raising \$4,400 for the construction of the youth ministry's sister facility in Puerto Rico.

"We're 110 per cent pleased," said organizer Harold Espinosa on Monday. "It was just amazing with the connections with people, amazing with the turnout. And we still have room to add more people."

EtherLAN, held twice each year, has certainly grown in leaps and bounds since the first event 12 years ago. "When we started it, it was slow. We had about five people," recalled Espinosa."

In contrast, today's EtherLAN events include upwards of 100 computers brought in by gamers so they can go head-to-head in a variety of multiplayer games.

Meanwhile, other participants duke it out on nearby Wii consoles, face off in Warhammer matches, or vie for the title of best Settlers of Catan player.

It's an awful lot of fun for everyone involved, but Espinosa, a pastor with Pathway Community Church, said the weekend is about much more than just gaming.

"EtherLAN is an organization that has a goal. And the goal is to share a message ... that Jesus can change lives," he said."We do that by starting with relationship building through





PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Nine-year-old Carson Klassen spent four hours creating this EtherLAN sign in Minecraft to celebrate the fundraiser last weekend. About 150 gamers came out to enjoy three days of camaraderie at The Bunker.

gaming ... we're building connections, and once we've built a connection it gets easier to talk to people."

The fundraising side of the event brings even more meaning to the weekend.

"That's why it's growing. Because people are hearing what we're doing and why we're doing it," Espinosa said, "and they're already seeing the impact that's here ... this type of dropin centre is an amazing lighthouse to encourage our young people today, with all the challenges of life, that there's always hope."

It's a mission that resonates with the event's participants and volunteers alike.

Lisa Friesen, who was helping to run the Settlers of Catan tournament, said the event is a great way for people to do what they love while also giving back.

"There's not a whole lot of opportunities for younger people to go out and support a good cause, do something, and show the community that just because they're young doesn't mean they can't make a difference."

The camaraderie of EtherLAN is also a big draw, noted fellow organizer Myles Suderman.

"It's a different environment than what people are used to in their basements, playing with their friends online," he said. "These types of events, they draw people because they want to get together with their friends and it's an opportunity to meet other people and have a good time, have a chance to win some prizes, trophies, and it's all for a good cause."

All of those things are what attracted Austin Schaeffer to his fifth Ether-LAN.

"My buddies and I don't really get to play games together as much as I'd like to, so, you know, everybody's here ... it's a fundraiser and it's fun, so why not?" he said. "It's a good place to experience new video games, new things that you might not try otherwise."

Continued on page 5



PC gamers brought their own computers or rented ones to compete in a variety of multiplayer competitions at EtherLAN's spring event.

Kids have a blast at animation workshop

"IT'S A GREAT WAY

TO MEET NEW

FRIENDS ... AND

WORK TOGETHER

TO MAKE A FILM."

TO BE ABLE TO

By Lorne Stelmach

The technology at the centre of a workshop at the Pembina Hills Gallery in Morden last week seemed to

come easy to the two dozen youth taking part in the spring break session.

Being able to let the kids run with the idea of making their own Lego movies then made it fun for facilitator Alain Tshinza.

"For these kids, they grew up with this technology ... so it comes very naturally ... it's almost

an extension of their normal expressions," suggested Tshinza, who is marketing and logistics manager for Freeze Frame Manitoba. "Adults would almost be overwhelmed ... but for these kids, it comes so naturally. We don't need to do too much learning. It's more like we show you how to do it and they figure it out."

Freeze Frame Media Arts Centre for Young People is a not-for-profit organization based in Winnipeg that offers workshops and projects throughout the year. It also organizes the International Film Festival for Kids of All Ages, the 21st edition of which took place last month.

Tshinza led the daylong workshop in Morden last Tuesday on stop

motion animation.

The agency provided the technology while the 25 kids brought their own Lego sets and figures to film.



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

About two dozen youth spent last Tuesday at the Pembina Hills Gallery for a spring break workshop led by Freeze Frame Manitoba. They were led through the steps of creating their own Lego movies using the process of stop-motion animation.

Tshinza took them through all of the basic steps involved in the process.

"It's a good introduction for filmmaking later on," he suggested, noting there actually are some simple techniques involved in stop motion filming, but the key here is having the kids go through every challenge themselves.

"They learn to shoot, edit, and then screen their own videos," he said. "So they create their own sets and create their own stories and use their Lego to build their films."

Continued on page 4



Deadline nearing for book sale donations

By Lorne Stelmach

Preparations are ramping up for the annual South Central Regional Library book sale.

Set for the Access Event Centre in Morden May 11-13, volunteers will be kicking things into high gear come the April 20 deadline for used book donations.

^{*i*}That gives us time to price them and box them and get them over to the event centre so we can get them ready to move. We sometimes are pricing for three weeks in a row," noted Cathy Ching, SCRL director of library services.

The sale is important to the library system and its branches located in Winkler, Morden, Altona, and Miami.

While the libraries get operational funding from the local governments, they need this funding for other expenses, especially purchasing new books, Ching stressed.

"It's our one and only fundraiser. We don't fundraise for anything else during the year unless we have a special project," she noted.

"The book sale brings in money that we put towards buying new books," Ching explained."It's divided equally among the branches."

Ching said they are always grateful that they have come to be able to count on the communities each year for both book donations and turning out in droves for the sale itself.

"We are pretty lucky. We have such good support from the community," she said.

"With our book sale, we have steadily increased each year ... but we don't hang our hats on that," she added. "We always kind of estimate that we are going to get, ballpark, around \$18,000.

"We are usually pretty bang on by the time we pay our expenses. So that's a huge increase for our budget. Some libraries, that is all they will spend in a year ... and this is on top of what we get from the government and our municipalities."



South Central Regional Library's Cathy Ching with a few of the thousands of books that will be up for grabs at the library's annual book sale next month. PHOTO

BY LORNE STEL-MACH/VOICE



Ching said it is always interesting to see the donations that come in for the sale.

"We started getting book donations in June of last year ... and they were brand new to our system ... I couldn't believe there were still books out there that we hadn't seen yet," she said. "People clear out their collections or people move ... books are donated throughout the year."

There is always a wide variety of genres, though there are some perennial favorites.

"The children's books are a huge draw," Ching said. "Hard cover fiction is really popular as well ... we get a lot of that ... and Christian fiction or inspirational stuff is huge as well. "Then we also surprisingly get a large number of old books donated," Ching said. "We have a special system for pricing those. Some of these books could be quite valuable."

With the volunteers getting ready to finish up their pricing efforts, Ching said she's thankful for people like Elaine Ivey, who has been the long time chair of the book sale committee, as well as the many members of the pricing committee who have been involved for years.

"We are adding a few more as we go ... as one person leaves, we recruit another," said Ching, who encouraged anyone interested in volunteering to stop by any of the four branches for more information.

> FREEZE FRAME, FROM PG. 3

Tshinza said he tries to offer only as much direction as is needed, letting the kids take the lead.

"We are just there to guide them and not tell them to do this or do that," he said. "It's much more fun to give them some guidance and then let them go through with their creative process by themselves.

"It's about, first of all, letting them share their own stories ... tell their own stories ... trigger that creativity that is already in them," Tshinza continued. "We want them to be able to express their stories ... figure out by themselves how they want to tell their story."

He added the co-operation involved is another important aspect.

"When you're making a film you have to work as a team ... we have four or five kids working on one computer, so they have to learn to work together ... and they have to learn how to channel their creativity."

Many of the students involved were not only enthusiastic but in many cases already wellversed in how to make their own movies.

"It's awesome ... I like the fact that we are able to make movies out of Lego," said Ian Fehrmoore.

"I've done this kind of stuff before, and one cool thing we've added to our film is the fact that characters are jumping," he said. "It's also a great way to meet new friends ... and to be able to work together to make a film."

"It's pretty cool," agreed Brody Driedger. "I like making stop motion videos ... I have this action cam at home and I make a stop motion videos on it."

"I just really like to make claymation videos ... I've done it with clay before," added April Janzen. "It's just really fun to do it with other people and have lots of fun doing it. When you take a whole bunch of pictures, then you can see what kind of video it makes after ... that's the best part of doing it."

Ultimately, the reward for Tshinza is seeing that creative spark ignite in the kids.

"The fun part is to just be in the environment where you have kids being creative and exploring their own potential," he said. "Some are shy, some are more expressive than others, but they are all expressing themselves in one way or another."



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE While computer and console gaming make up a big part of Ether-LAN, participants can also take part in Settlers of Catan (above) and Warhammer (right) tournaments.

> ETHERLAN, FROM PG. 2

"And anybody can come. I see kids here that are, like, three years old playing Minecraft ... You don't even have to like playing games. I've seen people just walking around watching the games and enjoying the mu-

His enthusiasm was echoed by a much younger gamer: nine-yearold Carson Klassen, who spent several hours at the event creating a virtual EtherLAN sign within the



game Minecraft.

"[It took] about four hours with my dad's help," he said, adding the weekend was "awesome. It's awesome that we can just game all day."

None of this would be possible without the generous support of the community, noted Espinosa.

"What I want the community to know is thank you," he said. "Thank you for the prayers, thank you for the encouragement, thank you for the amazing support physically as well as financially."

Expression of Interest

Leased office space Pembina area (Manitoba)

Farm Credit Canada (FCC) invites Expressions of Interest from anyone interested in leasing office space to FCC. All proposals must meet the following criteria:

- 1. Approximately 4,200 usable square feet within one building, offering the entire space on one floor. Preference will be given to space with high visibility that provides for illuminated exterior signage. Ten (10) electrified staff parking and two (2) customer parking spaces are required.
- 2. The office space must be located in Pembina area (Manitoba).
- 3. The building must be accessible to FCC on a 24-hour basis. Heating, cooling and lighting must be available at all times and under the control of FCC.
- 4. The physical characteristics of the building and surrounding area, including the use of land in the neighbouring area, must be compatible with FCC's intended use as a business office. Build-to-suit options are also considered.
- 5. FCC requires the landlord or builder to ensure both copper and fibre facilities as well as spare conduit space to the building are available with a private DMARC area for network services. The landlord is to provide written confirmation of DMARC in the building a minimum 60 days before occupancy by FCC. The landlord or builder shall be available to work with our Telco provider to ensure a smooth installation.
- 6. The space must be available for tenant fixturing no later than March 15, 2018, with a move-in date of August 1, 2018. The term of the lease is negotiable but FCC will require a five-year term, plus an option to extend the lease for at least one additional term of five years.
- 7. Evening cleaning service must be included in the lease.
- 8. Must be accessible to persons with disabilities

For more information, contact Jon Starcevich, Facilities Manager, at 306-780-6384, or email jon starcevich@fcc.ca.

Please respond in writing with all relevant details of the space being offered and a simple building plan. Agents submitting an Expression of Interest must provide FCC with a letter from the owner authorizing them to do so.

To ensure consideration, letters expressing interest must be received at the following address no later than 5 p.m. on Thursday, May 11, 2017.

FCC. Facilities and Administration Attention: Jon Starcevich 1800 Hamilton Street, P.O. Box 4320 Regina, SK S4P 4L3

Note: Do not submit a price as this is not a tender call.

This is only an inquiry as to the availability of the space to lease, and FCC will not necessarily invite offers or lease any of the said space. FCC reserves the right to invite offers for this or similar projects, from any of the interested Lessors, any other Lessor, or by way of public tender.

Déclaration d'intérêt

Location de locaux à bureaux dans la région de Pembina (Manitoba)

Financement agricole Canada (FAC) invite toute personne désirant louer des locaux à bureaux à FAC à soumettre une déclaration d'intérêt. Les propositions doivent répondre aux critères suivants :

- Une superficie utilisable d'environ 4 200 pieds carrés dans un seul immeuble et l'ensemble des locaux doit être sur un même étage. La préférence sera accordée à un espace qui offre une grande visibilité et qui permet un affichage extérieur lumineux. Dix (10) places de stationnement (avec services d'électricité réservés au personnel) et deux (2) places de stationnement réservées aux clients sont requises.
- 2. Les locaux à buraux doivent être situés dans la région de Pembina (Manitoba).
- 3. FAC doit avoir accès à l'immeuble à toute heure de la journée. Le chauffage, la climatisation et l'éclairage doivent être disponibles en tout temps et FAC doit pouvoir les régler.
- 4. Les caractéristiques physiques de l'immeuble et des environs, y compris l'usage des terrains avoisinants, doivent être compatibles avec l'utilisation prévue des locaux par FAC, soit un bureau d'affaires. Nous considérerons aussi des projets sur mesure
- 5. FAC exige que le propriétaire ou le constructeur s'assure que les installations sont dotées de réseaux de câblage en cuivre et en fibre optique ainsi que d'un conduit additionnel vers le bâtiment avec zone DMARC privée pour les services de réseau. Le propriétaire doit confirmer par écrit qu'il y a une zone DMARC dans le bâtiment au moins 60 jours avant que FAC n'occupe les lieux. Le propriétaire ou le constructeur devra se rendre disponible pour travailler avec notre fournisseur de télécommunications afin d'assurer une installation sans problème.
- 6. FAC, en qualité de locataire, doit pouvoir accéder aux locaux à bureaux pour l'installation des accessoires fixes au plus tard le 15 mars 2018. La date d'emménagement est prévue le 1^{er} août 2018. Les modalités du bail pourront être négociées, mais FAC exigera un bail de cinq ans, assorti de la possibilité de le prolonger pendant au moins une autre période de cinq ans.
- 7. Le service de nettoyage en soirée doit être inclus dans le bail.
- 8. Doit être accessible aux personnes handicapées.

Pour obtenir de plus amples renseignements, veuillez communiquer avec Jon Starcevich, Directeur, Installations à FAC, par téléphone au 306-780-6384, ou par courriel à jon starcevich@fac.ca

Veuillez nous faire parvenir, par écrit, tous les détails pertinents concernant les locaux à bureaux en guestion, accompagnés d'un plan simple de l'immeuble. Les agents qui soumettent une déclaration d'intérêt doivent aussi fournir à FAC une lettre de la part du propriétaire de l'immeuble les autorisant à effectuer cette démarche.

Afin d'être prises en compte, les déclarations d'intérêt doivent être acheminées à l'adresse suivante ou par courriel, au plus tard le 11 mai 2017, à 17 h.

FAC. Installations et administration À l'attention de Jon Starcevich 1800, rue Hamilton, CP 4320 Regina (Saskatchewan) S4P 4L3

Remarque : Ne soumettez pas de prix, car il ne s'agit pas d'un appel d'offres. Il s'agit seulement d'une demande visant à évaluer la disponibilité des locaux à bureaux à louer et il n'est nullement garanti que FAC lancera un appel d'offres ou louera ces locaux. FAC se réserve le droit de faire un appel d'offres pour ce projet ou des projets semblables auprès des bailleurs intéressés, de tout autre bailleur ou par soumission publique.



Farm Credit Canada Financement agricole Canada







DURINGHER Rick Reimer



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Nicole Kapusta The Winkler Morden Voice is published Thursdays and distributed as a free publication through Canada Post to 15,000 homes

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REPORTER Lorne Stelmach



Harry Siemens

PRODUCTION

ing doom ... as if we were experiencing the proverbial calm before the storm, so to speak.

Throughout these conflicts I would of-

ten overhear Mum on the phone with one of her sisters with whom a peace treaty existed asking what the other sister was up to and if she had said anything about her at all.

My family and extended family was a hotbed of grapevine-developed gossipy news and information. I credit this "information environment" for my own stubborn and annoying need to know literally everything.

CEDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

Please tell me everything

This is not an exaggeration (something else I am prone to). It is a bit of an obsession that likely could be diagnosed if I bothered to pursue such therapy. I simply need to know.

These attributes make for a great foundation as a journalist and columnist, but not so great a foundation for friendships and the like. I have to work VERY hard to keep my nose out of other people's business. This is why I am a "front porch person." Not simply because I enjoy the squirrels, trees and vintage view of Morden. No, it's really because I want to know what everybody is up to.

I like to watch the cars go by and try to guess who is in them, where are they going. I like to see people walking by and consider their destinations and possibly where they live.

I am a nosy know-it-all.

This being said, I try to use my powers for good and not evil. But sometimes the temptation of the dark side can be strong.

I am thankful that, while I inherited my nosiness, I did not inherit the tendency toward familial warfare. My sisters, brothers and I get along fine. One of the reasons for this is an inherited tendency toward plain speaking (read: insufferable jerk). We try to be clear communicators about what we think and feel about one another.

One thing I have learned in my years of clandestine listening and snooping is that often people who are arguing about something actually agree with one another ... they just don't realize it. This is because when I say "BLANK" and you say a different "BLANK" we are actually meaning the same thing.

So many family conflicts could have been avoided if people would have simply taken the time to listen to each other instead of just launching verbal cannons back and forth with no regard for what the other person was saying.

I have seen this work the other way as well where people assumed they were agreeing with one another simply because they used the same words but, in reality, nothing could be further from the truth.

Once again, this has a lot to do with assumptions and a distinct avoidance of listening and plain speaking.

I will continue to work at keeping my nosiness out of your business, but feel free to email me your work schedules and forthcoming vacation plans ... you know ... just to keep me informed.

letters

Liberal budget continues to nickel-and-dime Canadians

On March 22nd, Justin Trudeau and the Liberal government released their second budget since assuming office.

Unfortunately, the document was full of tax hikes on Canadian families, small businesses and students to pay for excessive Liberal spending that is making no difference in people's day-to-day lives.

The budget confirms that Justin Trudeau broke his promise to keep deficit spending under \$10 billion. The fact is the deficit will balloon to over \$28 billion in the next two years, three times the size of Justin Trudeau's promise. The biggest disappointment is that there is no plan to balance Canada's budget at all.

Meanwhile, Budget 2017 hikes taxes on public transit users, Uber and ride sharing, beer and wine, donated medicines, child care, small business owners (including farmers, fishers,

doctors, lawyers, and accountants), oil and gas companies, and tourism. This is in addition to already hiking taxes on gas and home heating, and ending tax breaks for children's arts and sports lessons.

Canadians should not be surprised by the Liberals' latest budget. The last one they introduced did not grow the economy, failed to create



come from a long line

of inquisitive, clear

communicators ... by

which I mean my family

was a group of nosey.

argumentative screamers.

My aunts and mum would often be

in a fight about one thing or another

By Peter Cantelon

letters

No, we really don't have "messed up priorities" when it comes to sex, violence

Re: Peter Cantelon's column Do we have messed up priorities? (March 30)

In his column Peter asks,"What offends you more: sex or violence [in our media]?" He contrasts sex and violence, stating that sex is an expression of a drive towards creation while violence is an expression of a drive towards death, and that we are too sensitive to the sexual content in our movies, television, or music because of a certain deep seated sense of shame.

I disagree. Although violence may be prevalent in movies we can always identify violence as "wrong." However, the insidiousness of sexual content in the media is that it provides temptation and gives permission to society to pursue sexual immorality (lust), sending signals to our youth that this kind of voyeurism is normal.

Peter wrote that we are making too big a deal about sexual content in the media-after all, sex is a natural part of our lives ("seeing as you and I exist"). Should that not that be a private part of our lives? We as a culture have already moved the line of acceptability to unhealthy margins.

I am a man who strives to honor God with my thoughts and actions and frankly I prefer not to have these distractions in my life. It is difficult enough without engaging tempta-

> LETTERS, FROM PG. 6

the jobs it promised, and their "infrastructure plan" is in shambles. This is on top of ending income-splitting for seniors, gutting the TFSA, and imposing a CPP tax hike.

Budget 2017 does little but boast about last year's budget and increase taxes on everyday Canadians while at the same time investing little to no money back into taxpayers' pockets. Seniors, the agriculture sector, and tions and fueling lusts.

Sexuality outside the moral guidelines given by God is destructive to marriages, families, jobs, our health, and generally to our social well being. Many Christian books have been written regarding sexual integrity,

and many Christian ministries have suffered from sexual sin.

We do not have messed up priori-

Manitoba specifically were virtually

This seems to be a pattern with the

Liberal government. They continue to

spend in Ontario and ignore Prairie

provinces like Manitoba. Eighteen to

35-year-olds deserve more from this

government besides being saddled

Justin Trudeau and the Liberal gov-

ernment's priorities are not the pri-

with debt for the next 30 years.

left out of this year's document.

ties regarding the importance of sexual integrity. Yes, there is violent content in the media and it desensitizes us, but so too would sexual content and we would much more easily be moved to express ourselves sexually. After all, nobody's getting hurt, right?

> Murray Soltis, Morden

orities of ordinary, hard-working Canadians.

Conservatives will continue to be the voice of the taxpayer and we will not stay silent while the government nickel-and-dimes Canadians.

Candice Bergen, P.C. Opposition House Leader, Member of Parliament for Portage-Lisgar

High school hosting info. night on internet issues

By Lorne Stelmach

Morden Collegiate is holding an information evening Monday on issues around internet child exploitation.

Cst. Gord Olson of the RCMP will speak at the community event at 7 p.m. as well as to students at the high school earlier that day and at École Morden Middle School on Tuesday.

It was important to do sessions not only for the students but parents as well "to make sure that parents have an idea of what their children have seen and heard at school ... and are able to put it in context at home in a way that makes sense to them," explained high school principal Marianne Fenn.

The aim ultimately is to help encourage them to "continue the dialogue, because it is more than just a school issue," said Fenn, suggesting it is vital to take a preventative approach and help students be aware.

"We see kids who have more and more prevalent connections with social media ... who are in a position to make one click split-second decisions that can have huge long lasting implications for them."

For Olson, keeping kids safe online is not just about enforcement but also preventing victimization through education and awareness.

Olson will explore the definition of the media-coined phenomenon"sexting" and take the audience through a scenario to explain sexting and its impacts as well as offer options to prevent the risks associated with sexting behaviors.

The presentation will also tackle issues surrounding

having an online presence, being safe online media, including the consequences of bullying and on social media, criminal aspects of social someone online, and other related topics.



City starts expropriation process for ag society land

By Lorne Stelmach

The City of Winkler is now looking to expropriation in order to secure the Stanley Ag Society land needed for the Meridian Exhibition Centre project.

Council voted at its March 28 meeting to begin the expropriation process because they felt the negotiations and discussions with the society on moving ahead with the land sale have been dragging on for far too long.

"We have to move on," said Mayor Martin Harder, calling it a decision that they did not take lightly.

"It's a very difficult decision," he said. "It is a decision based on having had quite some time ... having presented it to the Stanley Ag Society ... having not really received a decision from them."

The society has no desire to delay the exhibition centre project, but has been guided by the wishes of its members throughout the process, representatives maintain.

"In 2016, the society's membership voted not to sell it to the city. As a board, our position has always been to serve the best interest of our membership," said society president Toban Dyck via e-mail last week.

The organization plans to have a general membership meeting sometime this month to address the issue further, Dyck noted.

Mayor Harder stresses that the city would still prefer to reach an amicable settlement, with the key issue centring around a difference of opinion on the value of the land.

"Even though the expropriation process has begun, we can still negotiate the values between us ... it doesn't need to go any further ... but this serves notice," he said. "We want to do this together with them, and we've proven that over the years. That's our intent and still is to this day."

Harder said part of their reason for starting the expropriation process now is that it can take months to come to a conclusion—whether that might be a compromised land value or one proposed value being chosen over the other.

"That's why we need to do it now rather than dragging it out even longer," he said.

Harder noted that the city had an assessment done and based its offer on an amount above that value, but the society had an assessment number of its own.

"The difference is going to be who's assessor is right or who's wrong," he said, adding that the city takes issue with any valuation that might use examples from Winnipeg or Brandon. "We also don't believe that it's fair to evaluate this property as residential or commercial because it will never be ... it's recreational property.

Dyck agreed that "there is a value discrepancy between the appraisal the city commissioned and the one SAS commissioned."

He declined, though, to go further into it at this time, suggesting that "to comment further would be conjecture, and that's not healthy."

Dyck again stressed that they have been trying to ensure they do what is ultimately best for the society.

"While the society has been motivated to begin searching for a new property on which to continue offer-



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

The City of Winkler has begun the process of expropriating land in the Parkland area from the Stanley Agricultural Society to build the Meridian Exhibition Centre on.

ing important, provincially-mandated services to the rural community, it would be happy to continue operations in its current location," he pointed out.

"We are working to make sure the society thrives. It's important children, adults, and families receive an education in rural Manitoba living. This is what Manitoba's ag societies were mandated to provide, and it's a responsibility we're driven and equipped to carry out."

Harder said that the city has spoken with landowners about other land that could be available to the society. "I shared that information with the Stanley Ag Society ... I believe they also went out to take a look at the property," he said.

"We are willing to purchase the land on their behalf and use that as a part of the payment process ... but that's their decision. They need to decide where it is they want to be."

Dyck said they did have discussions with local farm owners about land that could be available but suggested "the land that has been presented to the society so far would not serve as a suitable replacement for its current property."

Winkler weighing ways to reduce waste

By Lorne Stelmach

No decision has been made to reduce Winkler residents to a one bag limit for trash, but the mere suggestions has been enough to generate a great deal of discussion in the



city.

Not all of it has been positive, noted councillor Andrew Froese as the matter came up at the March 28 council meeting.

The chairperson of the waste reduction task force for the city got encouragement from other members of council that it was one of a range of ideas being considered for the right reasons.

"We're creating real issues for our next generation," said Coun. Henry Siemens. "I would encourage you to keep going ... this is the right direction to go."

Mayor Martin Harder afterwards stressed the long term costs associated with not stepping up their efforts to reduce the amount of waste going to the landfill.

"We are in the process of adding a \$1.2 million cell that may last up to 10 years ... then we have

to do this all over again," he said. "If we are going to be composting and doing it properly ... it will likely extend the life.

"I think we need to very carefully look at it before we become all carried away ... just recognize the amount of garbage that goes to the garbage dump ... and the cost of continuing to develop that particular site."

As part of these efforts, the City of Winkler is purchasing kitchen compost bins for residents that will also be augmented with filters to help reduce odour.

Harder said they anticipate the bins will be delivered in late May or early June.

"We want to make sure it gets rolled out properly with the proper instructions so people un-

Jane Curtis named new CEO for Southern Health

By Lorne Stelmach

The new head of health care in the region comes into the role at a challenging time.

Jane Curtis becomes the new chief executive officer of Southern Health-Santé Sud at the end of the month as the organization faces implementing provincially-mandated budget cuts.

"I think we've done some really good work in the last few months on how we are going to address some of the tough fiscal challenges," said Curtis, who succeeds the retiring Kathy McPhail, who was in the role since 2007.

Southern Health has identified an estimated \$11 million in budget cuts that are now before the Manitoba government for approval.

Part of the challenge in trimming expenditures to this degree is to "do it in a thoughtful and respectful way," suggested Curtis. "I'm sure that people are feeling a little uncertain, and our job is also to make sure people feel confident that as a leadership team we will do our best," she said.

"Our key priorities are always the services that we provide to our patients and making sure that they are quality services and are delivered in the most effective ways."

Curtis said she is committed to improving the sustainability of the health care system based on the region's health needs and with a continued focus on people and partnerships.

She was excited and honoured to be offered the position.

"I've worked in the region for many years and have always had great respect and regard for our organization," said Curtis, who comes to the job with a wealth of experience and education in the health care field.

She has spent the past 24 years in

various health-related positions, including most recently as vice president of planning, innovation, quality and risk for Southern Health.

Curtis has also served on numerous provincial committees and as a champion of LEAN management where she has been instrumental in helping streamline regional operations and gain some financial efficiencies.

"Her extensive knowledge and experience in health care coupled with her proven skills in team building, strategic planning and fiscal management will continue to be valuable assets to the region," RHA board chairperson Abe Bergen said in a statement.

"She has a great appreciation for the diversity in our region, values the many working relationships with various external stakeholders, and embodies the qualities of integrity, compassion, excellence and respect," he said.



Jane Curtis steps into the Southern Health's CEO role later this month.

Access CU building new high-tech branch

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Access Credit Union has broken ground on a new kind of branch in Morden.

The financial institution last week announced its plans to open a hightech facility for the innovation and testing of new banking systems, processes, and member experiences.

"There's certainly an understanding that technology is going to continue at a very fast pace and that's borne out by the amount of transactions we're seeing going through technology as opposed to face-toface," said Larry Davey, ACU president and CEO. "Right now it's just under 90 per cent."

Access members have embraced new self-serve methods of banking such as e-transfers, mobile banking, and electronic cheque deposits, Davey said, and the credit union wants to ensure it's able to remain at the forefront of future technologies.

"We know there's going to be a continued influx of technology," he said, pointing to upcoming services such as the ability to open bank accounts or even apply for loans without ever having to set foot in a traditional branch office.

This new location, construction on which is getting underway east of Morden near Boston Pizza, will give Access a testing and training ground for those and other new services.

It will be a place where customers can "come down and we're there to assist them in dealing with this technology if they're uncomfortable or not quite sure about it," Davey said.

"In addition, we see this branch testing things like video conferencing where there might be a couple sitting at home wanting to apply for a mortgage ... that would then help them do that without having to get a babysitter or bring the children in with them, for example.

"All of this is about making it easier for members and helping them understand how some of this technology can be used," he said.

The site will give ACU the opportunity to work out any bugs in experimental concepts before implementing them across their entire network, Davey noted.

"We will be the first credit union in Manitoba to operate a branch of this nature and we are excited to see the innovations that this will bring," he said.

Access is still working out the details, but it's likely the new location will not have cash on hand inside, though there will be drive-thru and possibly walk-up ATMs.

The new location will not impact

"ALL OF THIS IS ABOUT MAKING IT EASIER FOR MEMBERS ..."

the existing ACU branch in Morden, Davey said, which will continue offering traditional face-to-face banking services.

The facility is expected to open by early 2018.

Commercial waste discussions continue

From Pg. 8

derstand what is compostable," he said. "I think as residents we all need to learn some things about how to handle it."

A report from the task force further noted that a curbside composting program could possibly be developed in the community down the road.

In the meantime, discussions also

continue about reducing commercial waste.

One pilot project undertaken recently suggested that as much as 75 per cent of commercial waste could be recyclable.

As well, the city had received feedback from at least a half dozen major local industries that expressed interest in handling waste themselves, including pursuing opportunities for diverting more from the landfill.

"It is very encouraging," said Hard-

er. "Take a look at the volume of waste that is produced commercially ... if we can remove that as well ... that would be ideal."

Also at last week's meeting, council approved a zoning bylaw amendment that clears the way for short term rental property in the city.

It will allow AirB&B type rentals with a three night minimum and three week maximum as well as being subject to a conditional use and business licensing.

That Burrito Place open for biz in Winkler

NEWS > VIEWS > WINKLER > MORDEN > SURROUNDING AREAS

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler's newest restaurant opened its doors this week, offering a new kind of Mexican cuisine experience.

After weeks of putting the finishing touches on its space at 204 Main St., That Burrito Place welcomed its first official customers on Wednesday.

The 40-seat restaurant puts a new spin on ordering your favourite Mexican dish, says co-owner Jeff Hildebrand.

"You can order your burrito, your taco, your quesadilla, which is essentially the only three items that we're having right now, and then you build it in a number of different ways, however you want," he says. "You choose your meats, you choose your fillings." Staff then build your dish right in front of you at the counter so you can ensure your order is exactly the way you like it.

"I think one of the biggest plus about our place is most of our food is made on-site and fresh," Hildebrand added.

Hildebrand said they plan to expand the menu in the future, but they're starting small for now.

"We are working on other stuff but right now we want to get this right," he said.

The idea for That Burrito Place goes back quite a few years.

"We were on holidays and we went

to a version of this in the States and we loved it, we thought it was fantastic," Hildebrand said. "When we got home I couldn't get it out of my mind."

Fast forward to today and Hildebrand, who also runs the popular Iceburg Drive-In on the other side of town, decided the time was right to start something new.

"Mexican right now is hugely popular everywhere," he said. "And Winkler is not a small little town anymore I think we can become a little more specialized and there's enough people to support that."

Hildebrand will be helping partner Andy Wiebe get That Burrito Place up and running, while his daughter, Leandra, and her husband, Jonah Unger, take over the reins at the Iceburg.

"We're passing the torch," he said, noting he'll remain involved at both establishments, helping management as needed.

That Burrito Place is open daily from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. You can learn more online on their Facebook page.





PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

That Burrito Place opened its doors at 204 Main St. this week. Partners Jeff Hildebrand (third from right) and Andy Wiebe (far right) are heading up the new restaurant. Hildebrand's wife Val (far right), daughter Leandra, and son-in-law Jonah Unger will take over the reins of the Iceburg Drive-in while he gets this new venture going.

GVC screening 'Most Likely to Succeed' doc

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Garden Valley Collegiate invites the community to a special screening of the documentary *Most Likely to Succeed* next week.

The Winkler high school will show the award-winning film on Wednesday, April 12 upstairs in The Zone common room at 7 p.m.

Principal Scott Jantzen said GVC staff and principals throughout the school division watched the film earlier this year and found it to be a thought-provoking piece that explores the future of education in the modern world.

"[We] used it as a springboard to start talking about what is the purpose of education and is it still the same as it was 50 years ago when GVC started?" he said. "We need to take a look at redefining what the purpose is while continually trying to maintain all of the great things that we currently have within our school." It's vitally important to get the community at large involved in this discussion, Jantzen said, which is why they hope people will come check the movie out and share their thoughts on it.

"Research is really clear that the more you involve parents and the community in your school the more successful your students become," he said.

"This is open to anyone. We would love to have some other community members, business owners—just whoever wants to engage in this discussion on the purpose of education." The 89 minute film will be followed

by small table discussions.

"We'll have a question or two and

have people just jump in and discuss those questions," Jantzen said, "and then we'll try and gather feedback and use that information as we continue our discussions within the school."

Drop-ins are welcome, though if you know you're going to attend organizers would appreciate you RSVP in advance so they can make sure they have enough snacks available for everyone.

To RSVP or for more information, head to gvc.gvsd.ca or the school's Facebook page.

Hometown Ford receives seventh President's Award

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Hometown Service in Winkler has done it again.

The Ford dealership just received word it will be recognized as a 2016 President's Award winner by the Ford Motor Company of Canada.

This marks the seventh straight year Hometown has received the honour.

The President's Award, one of the company's highest honours, is presented annually to dealerships that demonstrate outstanding achievement in sales and customer satisfaction.

General manager Alvin Derksen attributes the run of accolades to the dedication of Hometown's employees.

"It's obviously our staff ... it's the

people that make this happen," he said.

"A lot of manufacturers put a lot of importance on customer satisfaction because the competition's fierce out there," Derksen added, "so we have a fair amount of training that goes on throughout the year for all the different departments."

Dealerships become eligible for the award in part due to the feedback Ford Canada receives from their customers. Derksen said it's gratifying to know people think so highly of the long-running local business.

"Our success is driven by our strong customer relationships and our ties to Winkler and the surrounding community," he said.

Part of that includes giving back, Derksen noted. Past recipients of the



VOICE FILE PHOTO

Hometown Service's Brian Derksen, Bob Derksen, Ron Derksen, and Alvin Derksen with one of the President's Awards the company has received the last seven years running.

dealership's fundraising efforts include the Plum Coulee Community Foundation, the Parkland School Par-

ent Advisory Council, Southwood School, and Winkler Imagination Library.

CFS investigating after young kids left home alone

Child and Family Services is investigating after four young children were briefly left home alone in Morden.

Police responded March 28 when they were called about the children being left unattended.

When officers arrived, the children, age three to eight, told police that a parent was just running an errand. The parent returned home shortly after police arrived.

Other items of note in the weekly police reports include:

• Morden police were called March 27 about damage to a fence located near Buhler Dr. entering the Wiebe Funeral Home property.

Officers saw tire marks where the vehicle drove through the fence and noted it appeared to be travelling north when the driver lost control, went through the fence, and entered the ditch on the south side of Thornhill St. It also looks like the vehicle had trouble getting out of the ditch before continuing east into Morden.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Morden Police Service at 204-822-4900, Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477, or submit a tip online at www.manitobacrimestoppers.com.

• Officers responded to a call March 28 from the Liquor Mart in Winkler about a theft. Staff provided descriptions of two female suspects, and police got there in time to see one of the suspects get into a blue GMC Envoy. As the vehicle drove past the police vehicle, officers noted the vehicle did not have a front licence plate and that it was being driven by a male. It sped away north on PR 428 and then eastbound on a gravel road, at which point officers called off the pursuit due to poor road conditions and unsafe speeds.

In total, five bottles of liquor with a value of about \$300 were stolen.

• Winkler police learned March 30 of a fraud from a woman who sent quantities of money to a person she connected with on the dating website plentyoffish.com.

Police say the two corresponded for a few months during which time the fraudster claimed to be a member of the U.S. military on a secret mission in Africa. He said he wanted to marry the victim and move back to North America. The victim provided personal banking information to the fraudster.

• Morden police were on patrol March 31 when they stopped a vehicle for speeding. Officers then found a passenger had 1.7 grams of marijuana as well as other drug paraphernalia.

All the items were seized and an 18-year-old resident of Morden was given a caution for drug possession.

• Morden police got a 911 call March 31 about an accident at the intersection of Thornhill St. and 3rd St..

Officers found a vehicle going east was turning north off Thornhill when it collided with another vehicle. A 17-year-old driver was issued a notice for proceeding before it was safe.

• Shortly after 9 p.m. April 1, Winkler officers received a report of an injured male lying on the median of Hwy. 14 near the intersection of Hwy.

32.

There was no evidence to suggest what had occurred. The man, although heavily intoxicated, described what had happened to him but changed his story from being hit by a car to being beaten up.

Paramedics were called and, due to the man's extreme mood swings, an officer escorted him in the ambulance to hospital. While at the hospital the man became increasingly more violent and further restraints were needed. After being cleared by doctors, he was held in custody and then later released without charges.

• Morden police are investigating a complaint of a historical sexual assault. The department said the incident occurred some years ago and that the victim and accused are known to each other.



Support an Easter basket for kids in shelters

By Lorne Stelmach

Kids who find themselves at the women's shelter in Winkler at Easter will get a gift to help brighten their day.

Three Discovery Toys consultants in the region are working on a fundraising project which provides Easter baskets for children through the Manitoba Association of Women's Shelters, of which Winkler's Genesis Home is a member.

Easter is meant to be a joyous time of year, but for children experiencing emotional or financial hardships the holiday can be difficult.

"I think that any holiday where a child is displaced is tough ... even times when they are displaced when it's their birthday," said Heather Deamel, who, along with fellow consultants Heather Scharf and Jennifer Williamson, is donating commissions to this project.

They are asking individuals and businesses throughout the area to contribute \$30 for each basket. Sponsors who donate over \$100 will have their name or logo posted on the project's Facebook banners and ads.

Each basket includes a toy or game and a book as well as some basic toiletries.

"It is age specific to the child receiving it and we also include Easter candy treats," said Deamel, noting that businesses can also donate specific items to the baskets.

"As long as it's stuff that is kidfriendly and that they can use," she said."The baskets are worth considerably more than the \$30 that we ask for sponsoring a basket."

Deamel said they already have a few businesses in the Morden area that are getting involved in the drive, but they are working to spread the word and get more on board.

The goal provincially is about 125 baskets to be distributed among 10 shelters in the province.

"We ask them what their projected need is, but of course they can't give us the exact numbers ... they never know who is going to arrive and when, but we try to fill the need that they have right up until the last minute," she said, noting this is the project's third year.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Discovery Toys consultants are looking for sponsors to help them fill gift baskets for kids spending Ea ster in Manitoba's women's shelters, including the local Genesis House.

"We have had some really great support from some of the local businesses ... but it is a project that is still fairly new, so we're still trying to spread the word about it."

The children on the receiving end of this generosity certainly appreciate the Easter gifts.

"They shared with me that in the first year they had one child at the

shelter who felt so lucky that he was receiving such a gift," Deamel said. "The way I feel about it is that if we can make one child in a shelter feel lucky, we've certainly done something right."

You can find out more at www.discoverytoys.com/heatherdeamel or through Facebook at facebook.com/ HeatherDeamelDiscoveryToys

Natural gas project expands its scope

By Lorne Stelmach

A group working to bring natural gas service to more communities in the south central region is expanding the scope of the project.

The initiative began about four years ago with a focus on public facilities and larger business and industry, but proponents are now looking to also serve residential customers.

The aim is to fill the gap in southcentral Manitoba where natural gas service is not available with a proposed route that could serve 13 communities and eight Hutterite colonies as well as some other rural customers along the way with a network of over 500 kilometres of pipeline.

"We had a bigger group when we initiated this ... we've narrowed it down now to municipalities that are prepared to be in it, and I think it is a viable project," said Doug Collins, chairperson of the Growth and Prosperity Stakeholders Group.

"Gas right now is cheaper to put in then hydro ... I think it's a no-brainer. It's a tough sell, it's a big project ... a lot of money," he added.

"I think we're gaining a lot of traction now. We're meeting with the politicians and working on acquiring funding."

Collins said the project has been driven by the belief that natural gas can provide an affordable and reliable energy option that could encourage economic growth and retention in their communities.

On board with the project are a range of communities, he said, including Treherne, Rathwell, Holland, Cypress River, Glenboro, Swan Lake, Somerset, Notre Dame de Lourdes, Mariapolis, St. Leon, Pilot Mound, Crystal City, and Miami.

"We expanded it to include households in these communities as well ... to give us more hookups," said Collins.

"The thing that's precipitating all this now is the increase in hydro rates," he added.

They see this expansion of the project adding an additional 1,862 potential customers and \$1.7 million in additional annual savings.

At current electric and natural gas rates, they estimate the average household would see an annual savings of \$700 or \$17,500 over the 25 year lifetime of a natural gas furnace compared to an electric furnace. Annual water heating savings could be \$204 per year or \$2,040 over the 10 year lifetime of a power-vented natural gas water heater.

"A lot of these communities are retired people or semi retired ... they're on fixed incomes," noted Collins. "So to save this money over the rest of their lives is huge for those people ... \$700 a year can buy you a lot of groceries."

New residential customers would be asked to contribute \$250 plus GST as a connection fee, and it is noted Manitoba Hydro has programs that will finance a new furnace, ducting and water heater equipment and installation costs.

The group has set a target of having 40 per cent of households convert in

the first year and then building to 70 per cent by the end of the 10th year.

With the growing interest expressed so far from the residential sector and Manitoba Hydro electrical rates rising, the group feels those targets are achievable.

The cost of the capital infrastructure had previously been estimated at \$54 million.

They see the project being funded with one-third from local contributions from customer fees, new tax revenue, and municipal debentures while the other two-thirds would come from the provincial and federal governments.

There will need to be a number of steps yet including having environmental assessments done, but Collins said they hope for a timeline of "two and a half to three years, basically … we are thinking 2020 that gas will be flowing if everything goes well."

More information about this project can be found online at www.southcentralnaturalgas.com.



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- Lack of interest in peer relationships
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If your child experiences these symptoms, please make an appointment with their pediatrician to discuss your concerns.



April is, National Autism Awareness Month

South Central ASD Family Support Group

They bring support and awareness about autism and the autism spectrum to the Pembina Valley and surrounding areas. Their goals include information sharing, education and proactively supporting each other. They welcome ALL family, friends and support workers who are touched by the Autism Spectrum Disorder.

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Budding artists look to the future

Winkler Arts and Culture's spring break camp had kids work together to create a giant mural depicting their predictions for the future of Winkler. PHOTO

By Lorne Stelmach

The spring break art camp at the Winkler Arts and Culture Centre had youth making their own small contribution to a bigger venture.

The kids spent the week working together on a giant wall mural, which was unveiled before family and friends on Friday.

"I like that it's a collaborative art project," said facilitator Karina Cardona Claros.

The work began with the kids sketching and drawing out their contributions to the mural, later adding



colour and developing it further.

It was centred around the theme of Canada's 150th birthday in 2017, but for this mural the youth were looking ahead at the next 150 years for our nation.

"Because they are kids and they haven't experienced a lot of the past and the history ... they're still learning about it ... they have a future to look forward to, so that's why we were talking about the next 150," said Cardona Claros. "I asked them what do



they think might be happening ... so they get to use their imagination."

Cardona Claros said she saw a number of benefits to a project like this for these kids.

"I love working on collaborative murals with kids because it helps them to learn teamwork. It helps them to share ideas, to learn to

open up with one another and trust each other," she suggested.

"They can build on one another's work and think outside the box ... and then they have to communicate their ideas."

She also saw the exercise as helping them build on their creative thinking skills.

"Creative thinking is really about learning strong problem-

solving skills and is about learning to work your way through anything that seems like an obstacle," she said.

"When you draw, one of the most important things to learn to do is not to draw what you think is there but what you see," Cardona Claros added.

Morden Mennonite Church

Westside Community Church

"What should a foot look like ... it can look a certain way depending on the position that it is in.

"So when you are thinking creatively, it's remembering that things aren't always what they seem."

The students unanimously liked the idea of using their imaginations

"MAYBE THERE'S

KNOWS ... MAYBE

THERE'S GOING TO

GOING TO BE

ROBOTS, WHO

BE ALIENS ..."

to picture what the future might be like. "How is the future going to be when we are not going to be alive anymore?" wondered Madison Chateauneuf.

"Maybe there is going to be robots, who knows ... maybe there's going to be aliens that are going to be discovered. Maybe we're not going to live in houses anymore?"

"I think it's very interesting. There is no right or wrong to what we want the future to be like," said Emily Bennett."It might not be possible, but it could be one day."

"It's really just a lot of fun," added Natalie Elias. "I love art, plus it's just a very intriguing and interesting what others think about the future and what might happen."

Cardona Claros said it was also an important part of the week to have the young artists' families and others invited to come see the finished artwork up on the gallery's wall.

"We are hoping with the murals that they will be comfortable with the final product," she adding that they hope to "shop it around perhaps to the summer festivals so that we can have it put up and displayed in public.

"Hopefully, they walk away from here feeling like it was fun and that they will want to come back."



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE Canadian Cancer Society volunteer Nettie Friesen with Ruth Wall at the Winkler Co-op, which is one of the many area businesses who will have "Badges of Courage" daffodil pins available for purchase by donation all this month. The bright yellow pins are a show of support for those coping with cancer, Friesen said, with all donations going toward patient support programs and cancer research. Look for boxes in retail stores, restaurants, gas stations, and banks in Winkler, Morden, Miami, and Manitou. You're encouraged to wear your daffodil pin all month long, but especially on Daffodil Day, April 27.



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Youth injured in collision

A young boy was seriously injured following an accident near Osterwick last week.

Morden RCMP responded to a report of a motor vehicle collision just after 8:30 p.m. on PR 201 south of Winkler.

A car was travelling west on the road when it struck a dirt bike travelling the same direction.

The 11-year-old male driver of the dirt bike was transported to hospital with very serious injuries.

The 22-year-old male driver of the car was uninjured.

Alcohol is not considered a factor.

A RCMP forensic collision reconstructionist is assisting the Morden RCMP detachment with the ongoing investigation.





Southern Manitoba Concerts wrapped up its 45th season in fine form Sunday in Winkler with a performance from the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. The show was very well-received, said SMC president Linda Butler, as was the entire season's lineup of musical and dramatic performances. Butler said they've averaged upwards of 350 people per concert and feel this milestone year was an unqualified success. Work now begins on next year's schedule of shows. which will get underway this fall.

> SUBMITTED PHOTO **BY SHEENA SANDERSON**

Future is bright for Pembina Hills Arts Council

By Lorne Stelmach

The Pembina Hills Arts Council is putting the turbulence of the past few years behind it.

The organization has not only stabilized its finances and staffing but is now also working to expand its programs and activities once again.

"I think it's taking off again and things are good now," chairperson Bill Potter said after the arts council's annual meeting last Saturday.

Now in his fifth year of heading up the board, Potter said it was good to be getting past the challenges of the last couple of years and be moving forward again.

"We've had staffing issues where we had staff turnover ... but I think we've got the right mix now," he said.

"We had challenges with the renovations we had here as well," Potter added of the work that basically shut down the main gallery space with only six exhibitions in 2015. That increased to nine in 2016 and is back to a full slate now this year.



"The gift shop was closed for six months longer than we had planned to be closed,"he noted. 'I think the right structure is in place now and it's easier now for the staff, a little less inventory to keep track of on an ongoing basis."

Financially, the arts council posted a surplus of \$13,526 in 2016 with income of over \$104,000 and expenses of just over \$90,000.

The financial picture was boosted by such areas as increased revenue from its programs, but another important step was the City of Morden forgiving their rent over a two year period taking in the time when the gallery was not fully operating during renovations.

"The reason we asked for that was to give us the resources to concentrate more on programming and classes," said Potter.

"We finally had a surplus after two years of losses," he added. "We are in a good cash position, replenishing our accumulated surplus."

The council now set out what is virtually a break-even budget for 2017 of \$114,000 in revenue with just a slight surplus at year-end.

The largest single source of revenue is \$36,000 through the City of Morden, with others including just over \$24,000 from the province, \$18,000 from programs, and \$16,000 in fundraising.

"I think we have a fairly aggressive budget laid out for this year," Potter suggested.

"We are always looking for money ... applying for extra grants to do extra projects," he added. "And our fundraising hasn't gone beyond our expectations, which is good ... and we want to continue to try to grow that."

Potter said a key for them has also been expanded programming ranging from art bar painting parties to the free creative play dates for pre-schoolers.

They are also expanding into other cultural events, including a number of concerts as well as private rentals.

He sees them continuing to work to engage more with the community once again.

"That's always a challenge ... how do you get public more involved ... get more people in through the door?" said Potter."We are trying to

> involve all of the arts.

> "I think more people know we are here now than there were a few years ago," suggested, he crediting their staff including program and outreach co-ordinator Margie Hildebrand for stronger enrolment in classes and workshops. Hildebrand

echoed his comments in her re-

> Continued on page 23

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3 money-saving travel tips for retirees

Though a transient lifestyle is something few people aspire to during much of their lives, come retirement, the idea of staying in a place for only a short time has more appeal. According to a 2014 study from the Transamerica Center for Retirement Studies, 36 percent of baby boomers want to spend their retirements traveling. Many are succeeding in doing just that, as a study from the luxury travel network Virtuoso found that today's seniors spent an average of just over \$11,000 per year on travel. That was more than any other generation, highlighting just how much older adults like to get out and explore the world. Retirees who fear they cannot afford to travel can explore the various ways for seniors to cut costs and still satisfy their wanderlust during retirement.

1. Take advantage of agerelated discounts. Some adults prefer to hide their ages, but when it comes time to travel during retirement, honesty is the best policy. Many businesses that cater to travelers offer discounts to seniors. Car rental agencies, hotels, travel agencies, and cruise lines may offer direct discounts to customers 65 and older, while membership in organizations such as AAA and AARP may make seniors eligible for additional discounts. Discounts on lodging and airfare might net the biggest savings, but even discounts on various smaller expenses can add up to big savings.

2. Don't overlook travel agencies. While many prospective travelers' first instincts are now to visit various travel websites in an effort to find the most affordable trips, it's important that travelers not overlook travel agencies when planning trips. Travel websites, though a valuable resource, only list the hotels and airlines that agree to be included on their sites. While many participate, some do not, and those that do not may instead work independent of travel websites or partner with travel agencies. Travel agencies have access to the latest information, and many specialize in certain countries, knowing all the attractions visitors to their countries want to see. Travel agencies may offer packages that include admissions to popular attractions, which can be more affordable than planning a trip a la carte.

3. Travel as part of a group. Group travel may not appeal to everyone, but it should appeal to older, budget-conscious travelers. Retirees who are uncomfortable driving at home will likely be even less comfortable driving in foreign countries where the rules of the road are not the same. Traveling in groups, whether it's with a retirement community, religious organization or another program, can save travelers substantial amounts of money. Many hotels and tourist attractions offer steep discounts for group tours, which can even be arranged through travel agencies. A hidden benefit of signing up for a group tour is the chance to meet new people and develop new relationships with fellow globetrotters. Many working professionals hope to spend the bulk of their retirement traveling the globe. While such a goal is potentially costly, there are various ways to save and still see the world.





PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE





Prepping the ice

Workers last week painted the lines and logos on the ice at the Access Event Centre rinks in preparation for Morden hosting the Esso Cup championships later this month. The provincial champion Pembina Valley Hawks will be competing for the national female midget hockey title at the tournament, which takes place April 23-29.

Lunch & Learn to tackle provincial budget

By Lorne Stelmach

The Manitoba government introduces its 2017 budget next Tuesday and local business will have a chance the following week to hear an assessment it.

The Morden and District Chamber of Commerce hosts a Lunch & Learn April 18 that will feature a presentation entitled *Small Business Perspectives on the 2017 Manitoba Budget.*

Jonathan Alward, director of provincial affairs for the Manitoba Canadian Federation of Independent Business, will discuss important issues facing small business in Manitoba.

He will address a range of topics including creating a more competitive tax environment, fixing the province's fiscal fundamentals and reducing red tape headaches for entrepreneurs.

In his CFIB role, Alward leads the

federation's legislative agenda and serves as the government lobbyist and media spokesperson for CFIB's 4,800 Manitoba small and mediumsized business members.

He also pays special attention to such matters as government spending and taxes, workers' compensation, labour laws, banking and financing matters.

Prior to joining CFIB, Alward worked for a federal cabinet minister for five years with responsibilities that included undertaking extensive research on parliamentary bills, community development projects and case files for constituents and local businesses.

The Lunch and Learn starts at 11:45 a.m. at Homestead South at a cost of \$23 for chamber members or \$28 for non-members.

For more information or to register, head to the chamber website at www.mordenchamber.com.



OCN knocks out Flyers

By Ashleigh Viveiros

For the second straight year, the Winkler Flyers came within spitting distance of the MJHL finals but saw their championship dreams dashed in the second-last round.

Winkler was down 2-0 heading into game three of their best-of-seven semifinal series against the OCN Blizzard, and they were looking for a win to keep them in the running.

They couldn't quite get it, though, instead dropping a 3-1 decision to OCN March 29.

Matt Christian scored the team's lone goal, while Troy Martyniuk took the loss in net, making 30 saves in all.

That brought things to a head in game four Thursday night, which ended in a frustrating 6-2 defeat for Winkler.

A scoreless opening frame was followed by two goals from each team in the second, OCN drawing first blood in the first 10 minutes and Winkler's Gino Lucia and Christian tying it up in the second half.

But period three was firmly in OCN's control. The Blizzard scored four goals, including an empty-nett-er, to seal the Flyers' fate.

Martyniuk was in net once again this final game, facing down 29 shots in all as Winkler outshot OCN 32-30.

It all came down to simply not being able to capitalize on their many scoring chances, said coach and general manager Ken Pearson in reflecting on the season-ending series earlier this week.

"Our guys did everything that we asked of them, except we weren't able to score," he said. "That was the big thing. We had our chances, but our execution on the net, for whatever reason, wasn't there.

"And they [OCN] did a good job at defending. Their goalie made the saves they needed to make."



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT

Sven Schefer, Brayden Klippenstein, and Brock Moroz were just three of many Flyers hopefuls that attended the junior team's annual spring camp last weekend. The camp came just a day after the Flyers saw their championship hopes dashed by the OCN Blizzard in game four of the semifinals.

Not making it to the finals—which would have been against either the first place Steinbach Pistons for the fifth place Portage Terriers, depending on how that series wraps up this week—does leave a bitter taste in everyone's month, Pearson said, but it doesn't take away from what was a phenomenal regular season.

The Flyers finished their 2016-2017 run with a 39-17-4 record to take second place behind the Pistons and one spot ahead of OCN.

"Talent-wise and personnel-wise, we have the right people here," Pearson said. "It just basically came down to not being able to execute. We need to spend a little bit more time, more than we already do, on special teams stuff for next season."

The 2016-2017 season was also a standout one for several players, he noted, as Cole Weaver, Lawson Mc-Donald, Scott Gall, and Tyler Jubenvill were all either nominated for league awards, received league honours (Weaver was named the top rookie), or made the all-star teams.

"So we had a very successful regular

"WE HAD OUR CHANCES, BUT OUR EXECUTION ON THE NET, FOR WHATEVER REASON, WASN'T THERE."

season and off the ice we were successful, too," Pearson said. "Our guys were busy in the community helping to run minor hockey practices and going to the schools to read ...

"Those things didn't go unnoticed," he stressed, "We have 101 kids already registered for our August hockey school, which is directly related to our guys' community involvement, giving back in a lot of different ways. That's a success in itself."

Also a success is the role the club has played in helping its veteran players move on to the next phase of their lives.

"All our graduating players are going to go to college someplace and probably all but one are going to play," Pearson said. "But the big thing is the education—everyone is going on to post-secondary schools."

SPRING CAMP GOES WELL

One day after losing the series to OCN, the Flyers already had their sights firmly set on the future.

The team held their spring camp over the weekend, inviting 85 up and coming players to show the Flyers' coaching staff what they have to offer.

"Our focus changed real quick," Pearson said, laughing. "We got back here early Friday morning and we were here welcoming those kids that afternoon.

"It's went very well," he said of the camp, which ran through to Sunday.



Pembina Threshermen's Museum (204) 325-7497 e-mail: info@threshermensmuseum.com website: www.threshermensmuseum.com www.facebook.com/PembinaThreshermensMuseum "Having Fun ... the Ol'-Fashioned Way!"



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CHAMBER MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Getting Down to Business



Preserving history at the Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame & Museum

Joe Wiwchar feels the Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum is most certainly a draw for Morden.

The administrator of the museum located in the Access Event Centre noted recently, though, that he often finds people surprised by it.

"You get visitors in here ... first of all they say they didn't know this was here. Then they start going through the pictures and they say, 'Hey, I know that guy, I know that guy." The hall of fame was incorporated

in 1997 and the museum was officially opened at the third annual induction banquet in 1999.

Wiwchar has been there to help oversee its growth.

"It's been my passion," he said.

"We've grown with extra space," Wiwchar said, noting that "everything in here has pretty well been donated, other than the display cases." Some of those came from places like Sears and Eaton's along with some of the mannequins that are used to display vintage baseball uniforms.

"We have so many different vintage baseball jerseys ... many interesting photographs and other memorabilia," said Wiwchar.

Admission is by donation. The hall of fame and museum rely on fundraising activities and community support to keep the doors open.

"Our big fundraiser is the induction banquet every June," explained



morden and district chamber of

Joe Wiwchar has helped the museum grow since it's opening nearly 20 years ago.

Wiwchar. "There's a committee that reviews the nominations, and from there we induct six or seven individuals and three or four teams."

The facility also has a successful patron program funded annually by past hall of fame inductees.

Learn more about the Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum online at www.mbhof.ca.

MORDEN CHAMBER NEWS

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Winkler junior curlers fare well at youth bonspiel



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Winkler Junior Curling Club teams shone at the Chicken Chef Youth Spring Spiel in Winnipeg last weekend. Clockwise from above left: Reece Hamm, Ryan Zapotochny, Brennan Kezema, and Johnny Trinke were the A-side champs in the 15U men's competitive division; Hope Friesen, Morgan Klassen, Emily Kehler, and Rayna Krahn were the A-side runners-up in the 15U open recreation division; Coach Derek Trinke, Landon Krahn, Luke Trinke, Jace Zacharias, and Jared Bueckert were the A-side runners-up in the 12U open recreation division; and Briah Kilppenstein, Carley Penner, Janae Zacharias, Kacie Hiebert, and coach Katelyn Derksen were C-side champions.



Winkler Flyers hopefuls impress at spring camp

From Pg. 19

"We were really happy with the skill ... it was really competitive out there." There are a lot of talented young

players coming down the pike over the next few years, Pearson said, and he's feeling very good about what the future holds for the Flyers.

"We had eight kids who are on our

protected list who couldn't even be here because they're playing in championships someplace else, so you add those guys into the mix and we have a good group coming up." They're going to be looking to fill a few holes in the roster next season with the loss of fourth year players Scott Gall and Connor Harmonic, third year forward Jeff Michiels, and Brayden Cullum, Tanner Lewis, Nathan Peabody, Tyler Lindstrom, and Ian Mackey.

"Those guys are going to be tough to replace," Pearson said. "But we also think the guys that we've got coming back are going to be ready to take that next step to kind of be those guys ... to really step up to the plate."

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PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

The Winkler Curling Club was a hopping place last week as it threw its doors open to the community for free spring break curling. The afternoon and evening Curing-for-All sessions saw kids and adults alike come out to hone their existing skills or throw their very first rocks.

Jets poised to take series in game three

By Lorne Stelmach

The Pembina Valley Twisters were going to have to come from behind again this week in order to have a shot at the MMJHL title.

Down 2-0 in their semifinal series with Stonewall, Pembina Valley evened the best of seven series last week with 5-4 and 3-1 wins only then to drop game five 6-2 Sunday.

The Twisters needed to take game six in Morris Wednesday in order to force a seventh and deciding game Friday in Stonewall.

The Twisters got back into the series last week Tuesday with their 5-4 overtime victory in game three.

Brendan Turnbull was the hero at 4:55 of extra time with an assist from Mark Klassen, who had four helpers overall in an even game that was tied 1-1 after 20 minutes and 3-3 after two periods.

Fraser Mirrlees had a pair of goals to boost his post-season total to six, while other goals came from Joey Baker and Braeden Beernaerts.

Matt Kohlman earned the win in goal with a 35 save performance as Pembina Valley outshot Stonewall 44 to 39.

The Twisters then barred the door Friday with Kohlman only allowing one shot to get past him that tied the game at 1-1 early in the second period after Brendan Keck had opened scoring in the first.

Turnbull wore the hero's hat again with his second goal of the playoffs proving to be the winner at 5:19 of the second and then adding his third for insurance just over three minutes later.

The Jets then fired two powerplay goals Sunday as they took period leads of 2-1 and 4-2 on their way to the game five win. Keck opened scoring in the first before Devin Muir fired three straight goals to put Stonewall on their way to victory. Corey Mazinke scored the only other goal for the Twisters, who were outshot 42-37 as Kohlman took the loss in net with 36 saves.

The winner of the series will face the

sixth place Raiders. who advanced to the final with an upset five game semifinal victory over the first place Charleswood Hawks.

The Raiders wrapped it up on the weekend with back-to-back 6-0 shut-outs.

Hall of fame bids board members farewell

The Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame presented three long-time board members with appreciation plaques recently in recognition of their many years of service. Accepting the plaques were (from left) Gerald Rach, Jack Mutcheson on behalf of his father Jim. and Lloyd Hemminger. "They have been an integral part of the committee and will be missed," said museum manager Joe Wiwchar.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

arts&culture

Music at the gallery

The Pembina Hills Gallery in Morden hosted an intimate evening last Thursday with singersongwriter Richard Inman (far right). Quickly becoming a staple of Winnipeg's folk and country scene, Inman crafts mature songs that reflect his rural roots growing up on a cattle farm in southwestern Manitoba and listening to songs like Johnny Cash's Sunday Morning Coming Down. The show was presented by Dead Horse Entertainment. PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE



Morden arts festival continues with speech, vocal

By Lorne Stelmach

The 42nd season of the Morden Festival of the Arts continues this month with the speech arts and vocal sessions.

Although numbers are down for vocal, entries overall for the festival have remained strong and even increased in areas such as the upcoming English and French speech arts.

"They are up there with the previous years," said committee member Marlene Britton. "With the speech arts ... we've got more speech choirs and schools coming than I think we've ever had ... we actually had to add a day this year."

Vocal numbers are down somewhat because a local teacher and vocal coordinator on the committee had to leave the region.

"We haven't been able to find someone to fill her spot on the committee either," noted Britton.

As well, the Morden Collegiate choirs were not available this month, but there is good participation from the other schools.

Britton suggested being part of a choir could even potentially encourage some youth to then consider going out on their own. "It gives them the festival experience," she said. "Not all of them are willing to do the individual solo or duet ... but if they can perform as part of the choir, they still get the experience."

The speech arts sessions go next Tuesday to Thursday at the Morden Alliance Church with morning sessions at 9 a.m., afternoon sessions at 1:15 p.m., and evening sessions Wednesday and Thursday at 7 p.m.

There are 143 entries ranging from K-9 and including solos, duets, trios and school choirs.

The works include spoken poetry, prose reading, readers theatre, created script and dramatic speaking in classes including 20th/21st century, classical, Canadian prose, multilingual, and more.

Students will be adjudicated by Joanne Mercier, a mezzo-soprano who was awarded the Royal Conservatory of Music's Gold Medal for her ARCT voice diploma.

Mercier is the conductor of the Holy Cross Catholic Parish Choir and the Pot-Pourri Singers

community choir and has appeared as a soloist and in ensembles as well as with the Manitoba Opera Association and the Opera in the Schools Program, Gilbert and Sullivan Society, Winnipeg Philharmonic Choir, and Rainbow Stage.

The festival's final session will be the vocal competition on April 25 at Mor-

den Mennonite Church. Adjudicator Rosemarie van der

Hooft is a mezzo-soprano who holds a Masters of Early Music Performance from McGill University and is widely respected for her interpretations of Bach and Handel with oratorio and opera performances in England and

"WE'VE GOT MORE

WE'VE EVER HAD."

SPEECH CHOIRS

AND SCHOOLS

COMING THAN

throughout the United States and Canada.

All festival sessions are open to the public with a small admission of \$2 per adult to help offset expenses.

The festival grand finale will be the Hi-Lites Concert on-Sunday, April 30 at 2 p.m. at the Morden Alliance Church.

For more information on the festival, visit www.mordenfestivalofthearts. cfsites.org or contact Erika Dyck at 204-822-6825.

> ARTS COUNCIL, FROM PG.16

port, adding that a priority for her had been building relationships with not only the artists but the community at large.

"I am looking forward to continuing to build our programming and diversifying the classes," she said. "We have an excellent staff," noted Potter. "I think we are going to just let them keep going ... what they are doing is working well, so as a board, we don't want to interfere with that."





Getting creative at spring break art camp

A class of about a dozen kids were making batik dyed t-shirts last Wednesday morning as part of the spring break art camp at the Pembina Hills Gallery in Morden. The week-long program for kids aged six to 10 offered a variety of artistic activities each afternoon under the guidance of programs and outreach co-ordinator Margie Hildebrand.

PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

• AN ARTIST'S LIFE What's the point of the arts?

s many readers may know, besides volunteer work in the arts, I run a large piano studio.

Every year, I and many other teachers receive phone calls or emails from the next group of young kids wishing to begin lessons. And each year, I get to learn about the goals and hopes of these kids.

Invariably, each of them comes in for lessons with an idea of what music is supposed to be. They may feel music is about winning competitions, or making their parents proud, or learning to play songs they heard in movies. My job is to not only teach them about music, but to instill in them an appreciation for the arts in general.

Across the country, many other teachers are working towards the same goal, and one of the most important things we can do is to teach our students WHY the arts are important.

The goal that I give to each of my own students is simple: forget about the idea of

performing perfectly, or (in a competition) winning. Performing

perfectly is impossible, and only one person can win—anyone who spends

enough time at piano competitions will realize rehearsed, technical performances tend to win the day, while true musicality, which particularly in the earlier stages of learning can result in a riskier, less consistent level of performing, often goes unrecognized.

Instead of worrying about whether the performance is technically perfect enough to win, I prefer to give my students the goal of showing the audience exactly what the piece is about, and the further goal of making at least one person in the audience feel an emotion. In this way, every student can be successful, and the audience receives a much more inspiring, interesting performance.

In the end, why does anyone care about the arts? Why is art, and beauty, so important to us?

There are many reasons, first among them that the arts enrich our lives. Imagine a world without artwork on our walls or carefully arranged flowers on the table. Imagine driving down the road without any music on the radio. Imagine we have no books, no home decor, no concerts to attend, no dance classes. Our quality of life greatly diminishes without the arts.

The arts also are one of the most potent emotional outlets that exist. Attend a professional level production and you will find that the sellout crowds are attracted to the classics, the shows that are known for their ability to draw the listener in and touch emotion in some way. Students are attracted to pieces that make them feel something, and their music choices are a reflection of their personality! Artists express themselves through their art.

Finally, the arts are one of the most powerful ways in which to engage with the world. Many of the enduring remnants of history are not simple recollections of events. These pieces of history are paintings, compositions, novels, sculptures, and many other art forms. Art can engage with politics, express daily life, and enhance religious practices.

Art is important because art is an integral part of our lives. Thus, the goal I give to my students becomes simple: were you able to help make someone's day a little better? Did you make them feel an emotion, think about a concept, or just sit back and have a wonderful time? Then you have succeeded!

This idea of affecting others, contributing to others' lives, is, I believe, the true goal of the arts.



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By Candace

By Candace Hamm

Agriculture

Farmers come out for carbon tax meetings

By Harry Siemens

The group of Manitoba farmers voicing their concerns about the federal government's mandated carbon tax held their fifth farmer information and awareness meeting in Altona last week, attracting about 200 producers.

Event organizer and Somerset-area farmer Gerry Demare explained what the group is asking for.

"We believe that it's fair and appropriate that we go ahead, pay the tax and then claim it back as a refund like we do with our GST," he said. "Then we're going to bring about change on our farms that benefits the environment with the help of the public."

Demare and his group believe that a carbon tax refund would be a better solution than an exemption, simply because of the administration work an exemption would take.

Altona area farmer Danny Penner, who helped coordinate the Altona meeting, said he's very interested in making sure that farmers make their voices known to the provincial Conservative government.

"That they hear us when we say be conservative, because that's the values you were elected on," Penner said. "We want to make sure that the voice of agriculture is heard through local communities, and that's we organized this meeting in Altona, and that's why Gerry's group is going to keep going, to inform people as to what's coming and that we need to stand up and make a stand."

It was apparent at the meeting that most of the farmers weren't aware of what was really happening about the carbon tax and how it could affect them.

Demare said farmers don't want and should not have another agricultural tax, but it is very appropriate farmers pay the tax and then claim it Farmers came out to a meeting in Altona last week to hear concerns about the federal government's mandated carbon tax.

PHOTO BY HARRY SIE-MENS/VOICE

back as a refund.

"We want a team perspective here, we want to work together as Manitobans to actually reduce greenhouse gas emissions and bring forward well-thought-out climate change initiatives," he said.

Demare said the aspect of some farmers asking for a position of paying no tax at all is somewhat of a misnomer.

"Because if you think about it from an administrative perspective, if the government's going to roll out a carbon tax across all of Manitoba, how would a retailer necessarily know if he should be taxing a farmer or if

he shouldn't be taxing a farmer?" he said.

Instead, farmers should collect back the tax if for farm use and pay the tax if for personal use, just like how GST works for farmers and businesses.

The idea is gaining interest amongst producers.

"We've had lots. Each petition is specific to each constituency because we deliver those to the local MLA inevitably," said Demare about the petitions he's asking farmers to sign. "Right now it's about getting a group of farmers to understand the levels of conversations that occur at a meeting and then afterward in the community, that's what's most important. Because inasmuch as these people here may not have earlier understood the implications of carbon taxation from an agricultural perspective. They go home and they actually have more time for sober thought."

He said then they go, "Yeah, this is right, this could be really damaging for me. Not only is it damaging for the farms, but it's also damaging for those businesses that the farmers support in their local community.

"This is about protecting the interests both about rural Manitoba and also benefiting the society as a whole in Manitoba by carbon deductions."



By Harry Siemens

Canada's new Pig Code of Practice is coming into effect real soon.

Those hog producers who are ready to change and will be building new barns are mostly looking forward to some of those changes, but for some older producers it is causing concern.

This same Pig Code, in my opinion, back when it was in draft stages, had many things in it that caused far more concerns before the committee redrafted it to make it more producer-friendly instead of only pig-friendly. It is one thing to make sure producers treat those animals as humanely as possible, but at whose expense?

George Matheson, chair of Manitoba Pork, says producers are looking for more clarity as dates approach for final changes to code and its incorporation into the Canadian Pork Excellence program.

"Time tends to fly pretty quickly, the code was developed three years ago and we're only two years away from 2019 and the general feeling is we have to make preparations now," he said.

Canadian Pork Excellence, the Canadian pork industry's new on-farm food safety and animal care assurance program, is in the pilot testing phase, the last step before national introduction. Matheson said there are still some outstanding questions with regards to housing gestating sows.

"They've put a deadline of 2024 for a change for moving from gestation stalls to loose housing, but there's also a stipulation put in there that, by 2019, suitable alternatives would be discussed and entered into the code," he said. "So producers want lots of discussion in regards to what will be expected of them and what they can do.

"They're very much concerned and feel that animal care is very important, that they are the ones on the front lines, they will be the ones



Suncrest Colony's new barn still going strong

By Harry Siemens

Suncrest Colony, the first new hog barn to open in the last seven years, is still going strong.

Hog boss Bob Kleinsasser says the Steinbach area facility houses 850 sows in its new barn and 500 in the old.

"We're not quite finishing everything out of what we call the new barn, the east side. The old barn [is] the west side," he explained. "Every four weeks we wean around 900 pigs out of the west side and we need about 1,300 to fill up the truck, so we take them out of the east side."

Kleinsasser said what they don't sell as Isoweans mostly to Iowa, they finish out in their finishing barn marketing to Maple Leaf in Brandon.

When Kleinsasser started 15 years ago, they shipped finished hogs at least 20 kg. lighter than what they ship today.

"We're shooting for a target weight of about 104 kg which is about 130 to 132 kg., or 285 to 290 pounds live weight," he said. "I guess they've got the line going anyway, it doesn't cost them a penny more and they've got an extra 20 kilograms of pork times 70,000 a week. That's a lot of extra of pork ... and they pay really well for those heavy pigs."

The transition to group housing has also gone very well.

"We absolutely love it. People may think it is more leg work, it's just different work ... and you get to know your sows a lot more," Kleinsasser said. "You've got to really walk the pen for almost not quite twice a day, but we do it fairly regularly.

"We've got six pens and there are about 125 sows in each pen. There are two feet of electronic sow feeders. They've got an ear tag which reads when she walks into the feeder. She gets between one and a half and three kilograms of feed depending on her condition and it's all in that tag. It goes to a database and we run it out of our main office and the computer stations."

Sizing the pigs is also very important to keep things safe for the animals.

"So we have gilts, younger bred animals get a designated pen and then as we go we sort them," Kleinsasser explained. "The bigger animals go up to different pens and the mediums to other ones, just to make sure that when they do fight they're the same size and they don't get butchered. There's very little fighting. I'm really amazed at that." Kleinsasser said training the selected gilts is very important.

"When they're about 250 pounds we start training them before we even breed them," he said. "We breed them around 280 to 300 pounds. It takes about ten days.

"You've got to keep them going to that feeder and kind of show them so they're not scared when they come to a door and it opens up," he said. "So yes, there's training and that's prob-

> SIEMENS SAYS, FROM PG. 25

making the changes, they will be the ones working with the changes. So they want to be consulted before this becomes regulation."

Manitoba Pork expects pilot testing and final revisions to Canadian Pork Excellence to be completed in time for the first official validations by January of next year.

The agency's Mark Fynn said pilot testing of the Canadian Pork Council's new on-farm food safety and animal care assurance program began early this month on 80 plus farms across Canada.

Fynn told those attending Manitoba Pork's 2017 District Advisors Winter Meeting recently that the program amalgamates the food safety assurably the biggest amount of work.

"Every week we've got new animals in the barn ... because you've got to get the old ones out and then you've got to get new ones in," Kleinsasser said, noting the cull rate is about 40 per cent annually, with most of the animals priority one.

"You always keep turning. You always want the younger ... the priority twos, threes and fours are your best animals. They get pretty exhausted

ance, animal care assurance and pig traceability programs.

"To deal with food safety we have to understand that there are new expectations from our global marketplace," he said. "There's a big push globally to really standardize how food safety certification programs are handled, to look at it under one standard and so we developed this program with those things in mind so that we could assure our global markets and our domestic markets that we're meeting a high global standard and provide that continuous food safety assurance that Canadian pork has always provided."

He said for the animal care assurance program they've incorporated after priority six. I mean, we're pushing ... if you have 14, 15 born alive ... those girls are tired."

The average litter size in the Suncrest Colony sow operation born alive is around 14 right now—about 30 pigs per sow per year.

When Kleinsasser started as hog boss his sows averaged about 24 piglets per year, meaning a lot of extra money for the same sow.

all the requirements that were laid out in the 2014 Pig Code.

"We see that as a document that really strikes a balance on what the animal care expectations should be and develop that with the group that was around the Code of Practice table," Fynn said. "We see that as a very important step to maintain public trust and ensure that all pigs across the country that are on our assurance programs are actually meeting a standard that the Canadian public can be happy about."

Fynn said the goal is to finish the pilot testing by May, complete revisions to the program this summer, and distribute finalized program materials to producers this fall.

set inspired MEALIDEAS Graceland Mini Cupcakes

Recipe courtesy of Linda D., Coconut Creek, Florida Serves: 36 **Cupcakes:** 2 cups all-purpose flour 2 teaspoons baking powder 1/2 teaspoon salt 4 ripe bananas 1/2 cup light sour cream 4 tablespoons unsalted butter, at room temperature 2 tablespoons canola oil 3/4 cups sugar 2 large eggs, at room temperature 1 large egg white, at room temperature 1 teaspoon vanilla extract **Peanut Butter Filling:** 1/4 cup creamy peanut butter **Bacon Topping:** 4 slices bacon 1/2 cup brown sugar Frosting: 8 ounces low-fat cream cheese 1/2 cup butter

1/2 cup creamy peanut butter 2 teaspoons vanilla extract 3/4 cups confectioners' sugar Heat oven to 350 F. Line cupcake tins with paper liners and lightly

spray with cooking spray. To make batter: In medium bowl, combine flour, baking powder and salt. Stir to combine and set aside. In small bowl, mash bananas and add sour cream. Mix well and set aside.

Using electric hand mixer, beat butter, oil and sugar until incorporated, about 3-5 minutes. Add eggs, egg white and vanilla. Mix until combined. Slowly add half the dry ingredients and mix until almost incorporated. Add sour cream and banana mixture and gently fold into batter. Add rest of dry ingredients until combined.

Spoon batter into lined cupcake pans. Bake 18-20 minutes and let

cool.

After cooling about 30-45 minutes, use paring knife to cut small circle in middle of top of cupcakes and remove plug, creating a well about halfway down cupcake. Add peanut butter to piping bag and fill each hole. Set aside.

In medium bowl, dredge both sides of bacon slices in brown sugar. Place on foil-lined baking sheet; bake 10 minutes. Flip and bake another 6-8 minutes. Remove bacon from oven and place on plate to cool. Once cool, chop bacon and set aside.

To make frosting: In large bowl, combine cream cheese, butter, peanut butter and vanilla extract. Mix until combined. Add confectioners' sugar and mix until well-combined.

Add frosting to piping bag. Pipe a dollop of frosting onto each cupcake and sprinkle with candied bacon pieces.

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COMMERICAL SPACE

Winkler 🔵 Morden





The City of Morden (City) has applied to the Public Utilities Board (Board) for administrative amendments that are non-rate related.

Details of the City's application are available for review at the City's office or The Public Utilities Board's office. Questions concerning the application for administrative amendments should be addressed to the City of Morden.

Any person who has concerns regarding the City of Morden's application for administrative amendments should either write to:

The Public Utilities Board 400-330 Portage Avenue Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0C4

or, send an email to: publicutilities@gov.mb.ca on or before April 17, 2017.

The Board will then decide whether any further notice is required and whether to proceed with a public hearing or paper review process. All concerns received by the Board will be considered in the Board's decision. Council will give By-law 7-2017 final reading at the next Council meeting after receiving Board approval. Note: All proceedings will be conducted in accord with the Board's Rules of Practice and Procedure which the Board may vary in order to constrain regulatory costs. The Rules are available at www.pubmanitoba.ca

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Manitoba Agriculture The successful candidate will have their choice of working out of Morden. Brandon or Winnipeg, MB Advertisement Number: 32482

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Manitoba Agriculture works to enhance the contribution of the agriculture, agri-food and agriproduct industries to Manitoba's economy. The department's activities are focused on food and agri-product development, primary agriculture and the protection of human, animal and plant health. Working across the province, in partnerships with industry, producers, processors and agencies supporting the sector are the most common means of carrying out departmental activities.

Oualifications:

Essential:

- Master of Science or Doctor of Philosophy in agriculture, genetics/breeding or molecular biology; other acceptable combinations of post-secondary education in a related discipline and experience may be considered
- Experience leading research and development programs in the agri-food sector such as crop variety testing
- Experience developing and evaluating scientific research proposals and reports
- Experience with policy and program development
- Technical knowledge of genetics, "omics" platforms, statistics and plant/animal breeding techniques
- Knowledge of crop and livestock industries as well as regulatory aspects in the prairie region
- Project management skills including management of physical, human and financial resources
- Ability to work effectively and collaborate as part of multidisciplinary teams involving internal and external stakeholders
- Strong planning and organization skills, with the ability to manage competing deadlines and be flexible in response to changing priorities and demands
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- Excellent written communication skills
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- Computer proficiency in Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Outlook or equivalent software applications

For complete description of qualifications, duties and conditions of employment, please visit the Manitoba website at www.manitoba.ca/govjobs/

Apply to:

Advertisement No. 32482 Manitoba Civil Service Commission Human Resource Services 608-330 Portage Ave. Winnipeg, MB R3C 0C4 Phone: 204-945-4394 Fax: 204-948-2193 Email: govjobs@gov.mb.ca

WHEN APPLYING TO THIS POSITION, PLEASE INDICATE THE ADVERTISEMENT NUMBER AND POSITION TITLE IN THE SUBJECT LINE AND/OR BODY OF YOUR EMAIL.

Your cover letter, resume and/or application must clearly indicate how you meet the qualifications.

We thank all who apply and advise that only those selected for further consideration will be contacted.

The Manitoba government recognizes the importance of building an exemplary civil service that is inclusive and reflective of the population it serves. We encourage applicants to voluntarily self-declare in the cover letter, resumé or application if they are from any of the following employment equity groups: women, Aboriginal people, visible minorities, and persons with disabilities.

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CO-OP ANNUAL MEETING April 18, 2017 - 7:00 P.M. **BUHLER ACTIVE LIVING CENTRE** 650 South Railway Ave, Winkler

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE WINKLER CONSUMERS CO-OPERATIVE LTD. The purpose of the meeting is to consider:

- **Financial Statements** 1.
- 2. Report of the Board
- 3. **Election of 3 Directors**
- 4. **Auditors Report**
- 5. **Appointment of External Auditors**
- 6. **By-Law Change**

Delete: #4.08(b) No Director is entitled to hold office for more than three consecutive terms Change to: No Director is entitled to hold office for more than four consecutive terms

7. Any other business authorized by the by-laws to be transacted at an Annual Meeting of Members









Community Futures Heartland is currently seeking to fill the position of a Business Analyst for the Heartland and White Horse Plains regions. Community Futures provides financial assistance and support to new and existing businesses. This position would be based out of Portage la Prairie and Elie, MB.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Seek loan opportunities with entrepreneurs
- Meet yearly loan targets
- · Assist loan clients with business plan and cashflow development
- Develop credit assessments for loans committee
- · Analyze loan requests for viability and sustainability
- · Monitor loan clients and their performance
- · Provide aftercare services to clients
- Liaison with government agencies/departments, financial institutions, and other lending organizations

Qualifications and Experience:

- · University Degree in Commerce, Business Administration, or equivalent
- Experience with commercial lending or credit granting would be an asset
- Fluency in creating and understanding financial statements
- · Experience working with a volunteer board of directors

Skills Required:

- · Fluent with Microsoft Office Suite
- · Client counseling skills
- · Strong written and oral communication skills
- Understanding of small business and its challenges
- · Time Management skills
- · Must be able to travel throughout the region
- Salary is dependent upon qualifications.

Please forward a resume and cover letter by 8:00am on Monday, April 17th, 2017 to;

General Manager

Community Futures Heartland Inc. 11-2nd Street N.E., Portage la Prairie, Manitoba R1N 1R8 Fax: 204-239-0176 Email: kreimer@cfheartland.ca

For more information, visit www.cfheartland.ca, and www.cfmanitoba.ca/white-horse-plains

Community Futures Heartland

Community Economic Development / **Special Projects Coordinator**

-Love from

Community Futures Heartland is currently seeking to fill the position of CED / Special Projects Coordinator for the Heartland and White Horse Plains regions. Community Futures focuses on Economic and Community development. Community Futures provides financial assistance and support to new and existing businesses, and community economic development support to our member municipalities and communities.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Coordinate community economic projects for the region
- · Meet yearly training targets for the organization
- Assist community groups with strategic planning
- Initiate and coordinate special projects and entrepreneur training sessions
- · Liaison with government agencies/departments and community organizations
- Provide aftercare services to clients

Qualifications and Experience:

- University Degree in Commerce, Business Administration Diploma, or equivalent would be an asset
- Experience with initiating and coordinating special projects and events
- Experience in coordinating training events for clients
- Knowledge of strategic planning for communities and non-profit organizations
- Knowledge of the Community Futures Heartland and White Horse Plains region

Skills Required:

- Fluent with Computers and Microsoft Office Suite
- Client counseling skills
- · Strong written and oral communication skills
- · Understanding of rural communities and their challenges
- Time Management skills
- · Must be able to travel throughout the region
- Salary is dependent upon qualifications. Benefit package available.
- Please send your resume and cover letter by 8:00am on Monday, April 17th, 2017 to;

General Manager

Community Futures Heartland Inc. 11-2nd Street N.E., Portage la Prairie, Manitoba R1N 1R8

Fax: 204-239-0176

Email: kreimer@cfheartland.ca

For more information, visit www.cfheartland.ca, and www.cfmanitoba.ca/white-horse-plains



OBITUARY



Abram (Abe) Reimer 1925 - 2017

Abe Reimer, aged 91, of Winkler, Manitoba, entered into eternity with his Lord and Savior on Saturday, March 25, 2017 at his home in Winkler.

Abe was born on December 21, 1925 in Schanzenfeld, Manitoba. He attended the Sommerfelder church and was baptized at age 25. He married the love of his life, Susie Penner, in 1955. He worked for the local Creamery as a cream truck driver for 37 years. Abe is survived by his wife of 61 years, Susie; son, Glenn (wife, Darlene) from Edmonton; son, Vern (wife, Cheryl) from Winkler; daughter, Patsy Penner (husband, Ed) from Winkler; seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Funeral service was held at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 30, 2017 at Winkler EMMC with interment at Westridge Memorial Gardens.

Donations may be made in Abe's memory to the Boundary Trails Health Center Cancer Care. The family wishes to thank friends for your kindness during this time.

> Wiebe Funeral Home, Winkler In care of arrangements wiebefuneralhomes.com



OBITUARY

Bradley Scott Wall 1997 - 2017

Bradley Scott Wall, 19, passed away on Sunday, March 26, 2017, at the Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg, MB. Brad was survived by his father, James; mother, Kim; brother, Cody; sister-in-law, Morgan; grandparents; great-grandparents; aunts, uncles, cousins and many friends.

Brad was born July 21, 1997 in Morden, MB. At a young age he accepted Christ into his life. Brad's interests included hockey, football and above all, racing. Over the past number of years, Brad's passion for racing grew. He spent countless hours preparing his car for his next race. His dedication paid off with multiple wins and ran consistent.

Funeral service was held at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, March 31, 2017 at Winkler Mennonite Church with interment at Westridge Memorial Gardens.

We wish to thank - First responders, Boundary Trails staff, Health Sciences Centre staff and Stars Air Ambulance service for their efforts, family and friends for support and Wiebe Funeral Home for their compassionate care.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Brad's memory to the Stars Air Ambulance Foundation 155 West Hangar Road Winnipeg, MB R3J 3Z1 (https://foundation.stars.ca/MBdonatenow).

> Wiebe Funeral Home, Winkler In care of arrangements wiebefuneralhomes.com





Anne Patterson (nee Wiebe) 1931 - 2017

Anne was born on a farm south of Morden near Haskett on February 13, 1931 to Ben and Margaret Wiebe. She was the second youngest of seven children. She was born with Spina Bifi da and subsequently had many diffi culties throughout her life. She completed grade eight in school but because of health concerns could not continue consistently. During this time Anne helped out on the farm whenever her health would permit. The family eventually moved to Morden and as a young adult Anne worked at the sewing factory and then at the Morden Times office. In 1967, Anne married Cliff Patterson, a widower with four children. She stayed home and worked as a homemaker after her marriage. Cliff passed away in 1988 and Anne remained in their home until

October 2004 when she moved to Oakwest Estates on Gaslight Drive. She then moved to the Tabor Home in May 2007. Her interests included knitting, ceramics, gardening, listening to the radio and reading. Her faith was important to her; she is a member of the Morden E.M.M. church.

OBITUARY

Anne was predeceased by her parents; husband; sisters, Kathrine, Margarite and brothers, Bernard, David and Abram. Left to mourn her passing are her sister, Mary (Abe) Friesen, sister-inlaw. Annie Wiebe as well as many nieces, nephews and friends. All remember her as a cheerful. compassionate person in spite of a lifetime of pain, disappointment and hope deferred. She was one super special person.

Memorial service was held at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 29, 2017 at the Morden EMMC. Interment at Hillside Cemetery at a later date.

If friends so desire, donations may be made in Anne's memory to Samaritan's Purse.

Wiebe Funeral Chapel, Morden In care of arrangements wiebefuneralhomes.com



OBITUARY **Evelyn Kay Thiessen (nee Ginter)** 1947 – 2017

On Monday, March 27, 2017 at Boundary Trails Health Centre, Evelyn Thiessen aged 69 years passed away.

She leaves to mourn her passing her husband, Rick; two sons, Shawn (Mary) Thiessen, Terry Thiessen; three grandchildren, Ashleigh, Brittany and Charity and two great-grandchildren Avery and Ethan.

Funeral service was held at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 2, 2017 at Wiebe Funeral Chapel, Morden with interment at Hillside Cemetery. If friends so desire, donations may be made in Evelyn's memory to the Tabor Home Memorial Fund.

Wiebe Funeral Chapel, Morden in care of arrangements

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