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Voice

VOLUME 11 EDITION 1

THURSDAY,
JANUARY 9, 2020

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Rhonda, Connor, and Erica Plett together with Jett Nickel enjoy some sledding at the Morden golf course last weekend.

PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Slip sliding away

news > sports > opinion > community > people > entertainment > events > classifieds > careers > everything you need to know

The **V** *Winkler* **•** *Morden*
Voice

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Please contact Gwen Keller at
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Celebrating the new year with Grandfather Frost

There were colourful costumes and characters as the LEADER Cultural and Educational Centre held its new year's celebration Dec. 28 in Morden. There were games, songs, and dances as part of the lively program for the families of the Russian-speaking community. The stars of the show were Grandfather Frost and his granddaughter



Snowmaiden, who gave presents to the children. "New Year's Eve is usually celebrated in a close family circle with sparkling wine and lots of good food. New year is the biggest holiday in Russian culture," noted LEADER founder and program director Olga Vorobyeva.

PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE



Next session of Thrive mental health courses starts this month

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A gift from two homegrown professional hockey players is allowing the Central Station Community Centre

to continue offering its popular mental health courses.

Central Station has announced that the next session of Thrive Learning Centre classes begins a new semester

later this month.

It wouldn't be possible if not for the \$30,000 gift from the Falk Fehr Foundation—created by NHL veterans Eric Fehr and Justin Falk, who together host an annual charity golf tournament—presented to Central Station last summer, said executive director Bev Wiebe.

"That donation basically covers one semester, so it's wonderful," she said. "It came at the perfect time. We knew

we wanted to offer these courses again but we were wondering where we were going to find the funding for them.

"We are so grateful for the support from the Falk Fehr Foundation towards mental health education in Winkler."

The foundation is happy to help.

"We love hearing about the posi-

Continued on page 3



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3M supports United Way

The 2019 campaign of the Morden and District United Way got a major boost recently with a \$14,000 corporate donation from 3M Canada. In addition, employees at the Morden plant also contribute through payroll deduction, and an employee sale with 3M products brought in another \$2,000. "We're very excited that the team here is putting in that kind of effort," said Brendan Klassen (far right), who joined plant manager Kent Burak (far left) in making the presentation to United Way directors Harvey Kinsmen (second from left) and Alex Fedorchuk. "They are our top supporter year after year, so we are extremely grateful," Fedorchuk said of 3M Canada.

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE



> THRIVE, FROM PG. 2

tive impact Central Station has been making in the community and are excited to have a hand in contributing to the Thrive program," Falk said.

"We believe mental wellness is an area that deserves increased attention with respect to funding, programming and awareness, and we cannot say enough good things about these programs and support systems Central Station is providing to the city of Winkler and surrounding area."

The Thrive courses, which are offered in partnership with the Canadian Mental Health Association, focus

on a wide array of topics including depression, anxiety, addictions/substance abuse, navigating local mental health services, stress management, and self-esteem, among others.

"It's giving people the tools they need to succeed in life," Wiebe said, stressing that all the courses are free and open to anyone interested in self-improvement or in understanding and helping friends, family members, or co-workers in their mental health struggles.

Earlier sessions have been very well-received, she said, and they're

excited to be able to offer a few new topics this go around.

"Everyone that has taken the courses has asked for more," Wiebe said.

Classes will run on Mondays and

Wednesdays at the community centre. Registration details are available online at central.cmha.ca/thrive or by calling 204-325-0257.

Our mistake

Our Dec. 19 article on the Morden Christmas Cheer Board's hamper campaign had an error in it.

Volunteers spent Dec. 15-18 at the Morden Mennonite Church on Gilm-

our St. preparing the hampers for delivery to families in need in the community, *not* at the EMMC.

We regret the mistake and any confusion it may have caused.



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Teens, Gr. 1 students team up for book project

By Lorne Stelmach

A high school class project became a collaborative effort connecting older students with younger ones last month.

Students in teacher Jennifer Bates' Gr. 11/12 English class worked alongside Asten McGill's Gr. 1 students at Maple Leaf School to create children's books based on the younger kids' ideas.

They met three times through December and then presented their books at a launch party just before the holidays.

Bates Lagae said her students worked very hard but also had a blast with this project.

"They were pumped and motivated to see their Gr. 1 buddies every week," she said.

The initiative started when her stu-

dents had to do a creative project or a research paper for class.

"We brainstormed different ideas, and a lot of my students were struggling readers in Gr. 1, so we talked about maybe partnering with a Gr. 1 classroom," Bates Lagae explained.

The process became not only a fun exercise but in some ways a challenging one as well.

"They had to learn and research how to work with Gr. 1 students," said Bates Lagae. "A lot of them actually don't have siblings or haven't had that experience before."

"They had to figure out how to be the big person and how to take charge and how to work with small kids and how to engage with them."

Amber Waldner, one of the students who participated, agreed with that assessment of the project.

"I enjoyed getting out the high school," she noted. "I enjoyed working with the kids again because I did that last year for a spare and I got to volunteer here, so to be back here in a different classroom is great."

"I don't have very much experience with younger kids because I have no siblings," Waldner added, "so being

the big person in the room is a lot of pressure on all of us."

Waldner noted as well how very creative their young charges were.

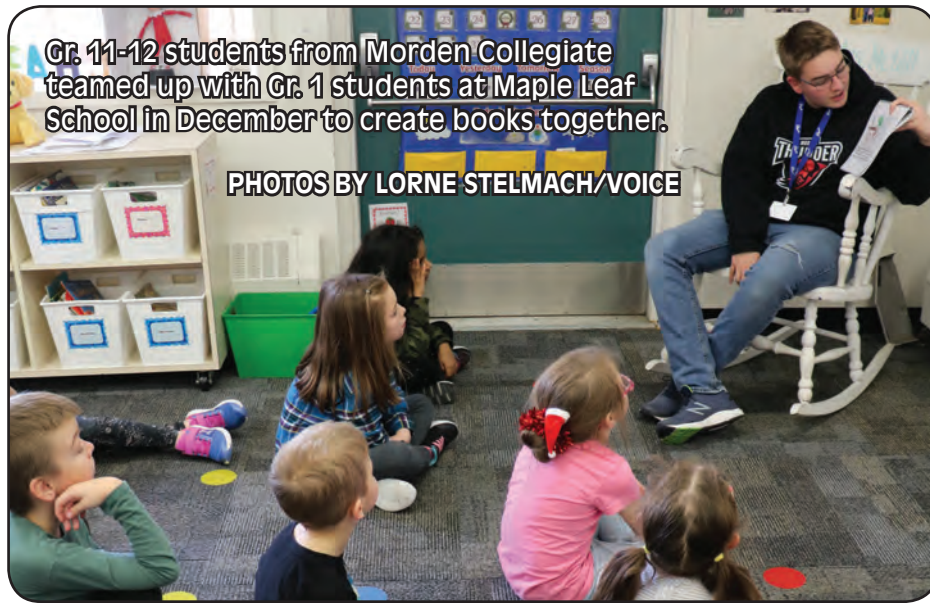
"It was around their ideas. We asked them what their interests were and they gave us what they could, and they were very creative with it. We had to write stories about the stuff they liked. We wrote it and we told them what they could draw, and they illustrated it."

For the younger kids, it was a chance to learn it's okay to try something new.

"They aren't so willing to try anything unless I spell it out for them," said McGill. "Having them notice these kids ... these kids are older and they can take risks ... has given them some confidence to try something on their own."

"That's probably the biggest piece we've taken away from this, and how to work in a group," she added. "They are self-centred and want their own ideas at this age, so to have to work in a group and share their ideas and get other people involved was really

Continued on page 5



Gr. 11-12 students from Morden Collegiate teamed up with Gr. 1 students at Maple Leaf School in December to create books together.

PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

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"It has been a year of solidifying the bones of the community"

By Ashleigh Viveiros

While the start and completion of major municipal projects is generally what makes the biggest splash in the news, the foundational work that leads up to those memorable sod-turnings and ribbon cuttings are no less important, says Winkler Mayor Martin Harder as he looks back on the highlights and challenges of the past year and shares his hopes for the year ahead.

"To me, it has been a year of solidifying the bones of the community," he says. "When I look at any city that falls apart, literally it is because the structure isn't sound."

"2019 has been one of those years where we have taken a look at the whole. We've looked at our structure, we've changed some reporting processes, we've created some different positions in order to undergird the structure that is there from an administrative perspective."

That included hiring a new city manager, a community services director, and additional parks and recreation staff, all with an eye to supporting the many projects—both the splashy and the routine—the city has on its plate right now.

"But those [hirings] are all things that the public doesn't necessarily know about," the mayor says. "You don't see it, but it's happening and it is important."

Part of having a healthy community, Harder reflects, comes from focusing on three critical areas: recreation, relaxation, and rejuvenation.

The first "R" will be met in spades with the opening of the Meridian Exhibition Centre this fall, while Harder lauds projects like the further development of the Discovery Nature Sanctuary as integral in providing Winkler area residents with places to let their cares slip away.

"We are a very high-strung community, there's no question about it. And I find myself in that same place. We all need a place to be able to relax," he says, pointing as well to Winkler's extensive walkway system and many park and green spaces as vital to the community's overall health. To that end, the mayor also noted a major announcement is coming soon regarding a new playground development.

When it comes to rejuvenation, Harder has nothing but praise for organizations like Central Station that are working to help families through such initiatives as the Community Care program.

That program, which has supportive individuals work closely with at-risk people to help them get their lives back on track, as well as the com-

munity centre's relationship-based management of Winkler's affordable housing units has had a huge impact on dozens of local families.

"You put a seed in the ground and you see how it develops and flourishes," Harder says. "Well, that seed is having huge returns."

"There is no city worth living in that isn't a healthy community and that is really, as we focus on this last year, that is exactly what has come out," he says. "You make decisions from that perspective and it gives a lot of satisfaction to see it come together."

Looking forward, Harder is excited to see 2020 bring the completion of several projects the city has been lobbying for and working towards for years.

Among them is the twinning of Hwy. 32 through Winkler, which is expected to get underway this summer.

The mayor also hopes to see further headway made on the city taking over management of all of the Manitoba Housing units in the community—a project that got held up by the fall provincial election.

The application for government funding for the regional wastewater treatment project was another casualty of the back-to-back fall elections, Harder noted.

"It's almost felt like in this last year there was so much flying debris around it was hard to dodge it all," he lamented. "The federal

election, which stalled absolutely everything that was going on which we as a community were looking for, and the provincial election, where everything got put on hold.

"It's very hard to have patience to wait ... that part of it has been very stressful."

But even while the city waits for the gears of higher levels of government to slowly grind out answers regarding funding requests, community growth shows no signs of slowing down in the meantime.

"Had we not had a solid foundation to work off, we would not be growing the way we're growing, whether it's industrial, whether it's residential, or whether it's commercial," Harder says.

Winkler was on track to hit \$52 million in building permits in 2019. On paper, that's down from the \$87 million in 2018, but that year included permits for both the exhibition centre and the new Pine Ridge school. Without those projects, 2018 was closer to \$45 million in building permits.

New housing starts continues to be a booming category for permits.

"We have had consistently between 80-100

"2019 HAS BEEN ONE OF THOSE YEARS WHERE WE HAVE TAKEN A LOOK AT THE WHOLE."



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

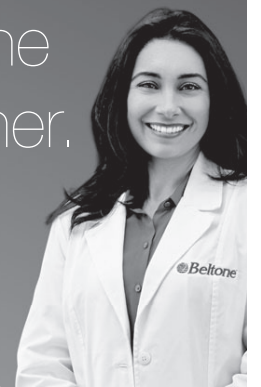
Winkler Mayor Martin Harder said the city worked hard on strengthening the bones of the community in 2019 and he's looking forward to seeing a number of major community projects make headway in 2020.

housing units starts in a year ... this year, to the end of November, we had 146 housing units," Harder says. "In 2018 we had 95. So if you extrapolate that into extra residents you see the population growth is not slowing down."

Continued on page 20

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> BOOK PROJECT, FROM PG. 4

good for them, to work on that collaboration.

"They really learned from each other," McGill said. "And I think just from having the older kids here was kind of special to have

someone dote on you when you're a little bit younger and seeing these older people come in and spend some time with you, they really enjoyed that part of it."

The Winkler Morden
Voice



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getheard

EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

The future is now (not really)

The year is 2020 and I thought I would be dead 40 years ago.

Sorry, it's not as dramatic as it sounds. When I was 12 years old, I distinctly remember how "adult" 16 sounded and how I never imagined I could possibly live that long. It seemed so far away to my pre-teen mind.

But somehow I made it to 16 and beyond. And now I stand here and it is 2020. So much about 2020 and "the future" is both amazing and disappointing.

Back to the *Future Part II* was set five years ago, for heaven's sake, and we've barely perfected the hovering skateboard. The incredible *Blade Runner* was set in 2019 and there's nary a replicant to be seen. The amazing classic *Metropolis* from 1927 was set in 2026 ... forgive me if I struggle to believe we will achieve that level of technological prowess by then.

Thankfully, we still have more than

200 years before we get to *Star Trek* era but we have already surpassed some of its technology while leaving plenty of room for more.

Frighteningly, we do not have a lot of time before we reach the era of *The Jetsons* in 2062. We still have to develop flying cars and a 1960s design aesthetic.

We live in such a weird time. A time of advanced laser weaponry while large numbers of people somehow still think the earth is flat. We live in a time of incredible advances in computer technology and yet many struggle to believe vaccines are helpful.

What an era of contradictions we live in where our very advances in communications tech like the internet and the rise of social media has contributed strongly to allowing a loud voice for idiocy. So much irony one could almost laugh if it were not so brutally disappointing and sad.

So, one wonders what the future will hold since it keeps rushing at us. What about fifty years from now in 2070?

Well, for one thing, if the population growth of the region holds steady instead of the 60,000 people we have in the Pembina Valley now there will be 1.1 million people.

Crazy, right?

It is likely Queen Elizabeth II will be celebrating her 143rd birthday since she seems like the Energizer Bunny of monarchs.

I shudder to think we will have flying cars given how most people in our region cannot even use their signal when turning right.

Hutterite colonies will only be running the smallest of nuclear fusion reactors in keeping with a more traditional way of life.

Winkler, Morden, and Stanley should be close to getting funding from the federal and provincial governments for a wastewater treatment plant by then. In the meantime, Morden's lagoon will have grown to approximately 5,000 acres and feature a lively alligator farm.

Speaking of Morden and Winkler ... even though both communities will have long since grown together, discussions of amalgamation will be avoided and still deemed impractical and "rushed." There will also be concerns about what to name such a community: Winkden? Morkler? North Haverbrook?

Due to schisms for varying reasons there will be approximately 4,327

Continued on page 7

letters

Community's generosity continues to impress: mayor

Again 2019 wraps up a year of tremendous support and generosity by the businesses and its residents in the City of Winkler.

We want to acknowledge the tremendous support we have received through donations to the city.

Some of the projects supported include the Meridian Exhibition Centre, Winkler Golf Course, Discovery Nature Sanctuary, and Winkler Arts and Culture.

The additional waste compost containers supported by local businesses, the continuation of labour of love by our horticultural society.

The many sports teams receiving support, including the Winkler Flyers, the Storm, the Hurricanes, minor ball and soccer.

Other supported organizations like the food cupboard, the Bunker, Teen Challenge and Central Station simply would cease to exist without

community support and contributions. Our weekly meal program at Central Station would not be able to be run. Never mind the hours of labour and contributions to the MCC Thrift Store, Gospel Echoes, and others.

The caring churches giving back to community through Salem Home,

Continued on page 7

All columns and letters published on our Get Heard pages are the personal opinions of the submitting writers. They are not objective news articles, nor are they necessarily the viewpoint of the Winkler Morden Voice.

letters

> Got something you want to get off your chest? How about an act of kindness to share?
Send your letters to the editor or acts of kindness to news@winklermordenvoice.ca. Please include your name, address, and phone number for confirmation purposes.

From Pg. 6

Eden Heath Care, and helping with community events and providing care to people needing social, economic and spiritual care.

The total contributions are staggering, however the direct cash contributions directly to the city this year amount to more than \$1.3 million!

For this I say thanks! You make this community the best place to live, work, and play!
Yes Winkler!

**Winkler Mayor
Martin Harder**

BE MORE ROAD SAFE

All road users, motor vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians, should at all

times be aware of their surroundings and take precautions to ensure their safety and the safety of others.

They should follow the rules of the road and use common sense. Unfortunately there have been a number of instances where I have noticed that pedestrians seem either ignorant or totally unaware of the problems associated with the long and dark Canadian winter nights.

They seem to be totally unaware that if it is dark, with poor street lighting, oncoming headlights of other vehicles, that wearing dark clothing makes it difficult for motorist to see you.

That where there is a sidewalk, this is where all pedestrians should be walking, not on the road, especially if they are covered with black head gear, black jacket, and black pants against a black pavement all with no or poor street lighting.

Where there is a street light, stand-

ing in the shadow of a tree does not make you visible.

Also, do not use a cell phone while about to cross or crossing a road. Look around you, make sure it is safe to cross the road, assume that the drivers have not seen you, and be aware of other road users.

Why not wear a light coloured jacket or one with reflective strips? You can buy a safety vest with reflective strips for less than \$30. This could be money well spent. It might save your life.

**John Jackson,
RM Stanley**

> CANTELON, FROM PG. 6

Mennonite churches in the region and Winkler's MCC will have taken over the old Wal-mart location, but it will find it a tad too small.

The biggest 2070 election issue in the city of Morden will be whether it makes sense to finally get an indoor pool.

Local farmers will have long since switched to growing pineapples to

take advantage of our ever-warming climate.

And me? Well, I will be a spry 102-year-old still submitting columns variously complaining and celebrating the mundane and fabulous about our small (but ever growing) corner of the world. So much to look forward to.

Southern Health among healthiest regions in MB.

By Lorne Stelmach

This region overall remains among the healthiest in the province, but its growing population continues to deal with concerns around chronic disease as well as some health inequities.

Those were among the key findings in the new community health assessment released last month by Southern Health-Sante Sud.

The assessment provides a picture of the health and needs of the region's communities and helps the regional health authority set out priorities.

"The data is so powerful ... this has been a lot of work. It's also the first time that we've able to kind of do this at the provincial level with the data ... as we move forward, I think this will be very helpful," said Ales Morga, manager for planning and evaluation.

"Overall, Southern Health-Sante Sud has a really healthy population, but you have to start looking at that within the region because there's different pockets ... you have to look at it community by community ... there's different stories and different things that emerge ... there's different elements in play in each of those populations," Morga added.

"That's the stage we're at right now ... and not only will this be helpful for us as a health region overall, it will also hopefully be helpful and interesting for communities to learn and understand themselves as well."

Morden and Winkler particularly are shown in the assessment to rank at least slightly better than the provincial average in a number of areas, including life expectancy.

Other data also gives this region a better mortality rate that is lower than the provincial average as well as lower rates in a number of areas ranging from lung

cancer and hypertension to heart attacks and diabetes.

"So it starts to tell a bit of an interesting story because diabetes is one of those stories for the province, for the population as a whole, where we've seen an increase in diabetes," said Morga. "And we have seen an increase over time in diabetes across the entire health region, but in this particular population, this part of the health region, there's actually lower diabetes rates in both those communities."

Other areas are likely impacted by such factors as the greater access to services in some areas such as lower than average mood and anxiety disorders. Conversely, there is also a higher rate of dementia in Winkler, where greater access to services may mean it is being diagnosed and reported more here.

In general, a key challenge highlighted in the report was that as the population grows and ages, more people are living with chronic diseases including particularly end-stage kidney disease with the region projected to experience the highest increase in the province for renal therapies by 2024.

Another main issue emphasized in the report is health inequities within the region.

Even though Southern Health-Santé Sud has one of the healthiest populations in the province, disparities still exist in different geographical areas and across different population groups, the report noted.

The data explores some of the factors affecting this inequity, such as wide income gaps across the region. It emphasizes that the underlying causes of health inequities are largely social and economic in nature, and the actions needed to reduce inequities go beyond the health care system but are vital to improving the health of all Manitobans.

Continued on page 8

Letter policy

The Voice welcomes letters from readers on local and regional issues and concerns.

Please keep your letters short (excessively long letters are unlikely to be published), on-topic, and respectful.

The Voice reserves the right to edit, condense, or reject any submission.

Please include your full name, address, and phone number for verification purposes. Your name and city will be published with your letter. We do not print anonymous letters.

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Morden has a road map for the future: mayor

By Lorne Stelmach

Brandon Burley looks forward to getting into his second full year as the mayor of Morden.

The first year for the rookie municipal leader perhaps came with more than its fair share of challenges, but he has welcomed all of it.

"It was a learning curve in the first year, acclimatizing myself to the role. It has been a really good experience," Burley said in a year-end interview.

Among other things, Burley said he learned about "being able to accommodate the many perspectives and needs of different departments and different people within the organization."

"One of the surprises in the role is how incredibly collaborative success as a city is, and success in this role really relies on a lot of people doing their jobs and really making sure that things are done the right way and

done well.

"The role has also given me a lot of patience and has taught me that is something that's good," he added, "because I can be an impatient person."

The past year presented a number of challenging issues for the city, ranging from facing staffing shortages to dealing with the controversy around Morenet and more recently the development freeze as a result of lagoon capacity.

In many cases, Burley suggested a common thread is "to ensure that the processes that are followed are correct."

"We've seen some gaps in process that we know need to be addressed to prevent things like this from happening again," he said, referring particularly to the issue of the development freeze. "We want to address that and we want to make sure that we are better positioned in the future to re-

spond to critical things like those two issues.

"There's no handbook for this ... so we needed to be working with Sustainable Development ... we are writing the handbook on this as we go," Burley added. "That collaboration, that teamwork, is what will really drive this city to success."

The City of Morden also spent much of 2019 struggling to fill the many vacant positions in its senior staff.

"We're growing the capacity to not only run the city but also to manage the backlog that has occurred because of the lack of personnel," said Burley, pointing to the city being behind with its audited financial statements for 2017 and 2018 (the former were recently approved while the latter are in the works).

"The financial situation is being remedied ... so we'll be caught up," the mayor stressed. "We have an 18 month strategy, a road map, to get us back to financial stability and to where we need to be."

"When you have backlogs of financials that are not done, that sends a mixed message," he acknowledged. "Our biggest concerns for 2019 were to get our books back in order and to increase employee morale. Those were the two things we felt most strongly would put us back on the right foot to take the next step forward."

As for what's ahead, Burley sounded a very optimistic tone.

"For us, we view it as a year of laying a foundation for growth. We want to ensure that we have the capacities to sustain growth and that we are robust enough as a city and our public utilities can accommodate the growth that we know is coming."

"We have some very exciting things coming in 2020-21 for this community, and we want to make sure we are ready to go so that our process is not

handicapped by our inability to meet those challenges."

On Burley's to-do list for the next couple of years is continuing to look at options around high speed internet, pressing for the much-needed new school, and pushing forward on the regional wastewater treatment project.

"We have to look down the road and realize the city is growing exponentially, and we need to make sure we are ready to accommodate that growth," Burley said.

He also particularly cited positive directions being taken in consultation with the Morden Community Development Corporation.

"We're working with MCDC on a new economic strategy that I'm very excited about," he said. "They've done a lot of legwork on a proposal for a singular vision to invest in and to focus towards rather than a general all growth approach ... it's a very pinpointed and dedicated vision for civic growth."

"The road map is now in place for this ... and we have a very clear direction."

Burley also noted having a much greater appreciation of the importance of immigration to the community's continued growth.

"The folks who are coming over here are driven for success, and they've added a depth of experience and a breadth to our social structure that we didn't have before," he said.

"We're going to continue to invest in that; we're going to continue to ensure that we can meet our growth targets responsibly and also that we can do it collaboratively and that we don't lose our sense of community while we do it," he concluded. "This is providing a net social benefit that far outweighs the cost, and we get the advantage of being able to really build an economy around it."



Morden Mayor Brandon Burley said he has learned a lot in his first full year in the role and the city is well-prepared to face the challenges of the year ahead.

PHOTO BY
LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

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> SOUTHERN HEALTH, FROM PG. 7

Despite these challenges, Morga said it is encouraging that Southern Health-Santé Sud is one of the healthiest regions with life expectancy that is among the highest in the province, and the region is significantly better than the provincial average on many health outcomes.

Maintaining that will continue to be a challenge with such a growing and diverse population, which came in at over 204,000—a nine per cent increase in the past five years, representing the largest percentage of growth in the province. Looking forward, it was estimated the region has the largest projected growth with an anticipated increase of 25 per cent by 2030.

"The community health assessment provides a picture of the overall health of people in the region. With this, we focussed on indicators that have proven over time to be really good for measuring population health," CEO Jane Curtis said in a statement. "The data will ensue continued conversations about health equity in our region with a focus to drill down in our data so we can understand what the data mean and how it reflects on the health of different population groups."

The complete community health assessment report is available online at southernhealth.ca.

Check out the Winkler Morden Voice online at www.winklermordenvoice.ca

Pressures of continued growth well worth it: Stanley reeve

By Lorne Stelmach

It was mostly business as usual in 2019 for the ever-growing Rural Municipality of Stanley.

Managing and keeping up with the pressures posed by strong growth is a problem Reeve Morris Olafson will gladly take any day.

"As long as we keep growing ... we're in a good place," he said.

"We're so lucky that we do have the growth. Every year, we gain in assessment ... you can keep the mill rate the same or very tight because you've had a gain throughout the year," Olafson noted. "In order to do that, though, we've got to be proactive ... if you shut that door and we stay stagnant, we would be in trouble."

In a year-end interview last month, Olafson touched on a number of projects and priorities for the municipality as well as a few highlights from the past year, which was notably marked by the significant October snow storm.

"We had numerous people involved with that ... to get our roads opened up. It didn't take us a day, it took us a week in the end," he said. "When I look at what the guys did and the hours that they spent at it ... I think it all worked so good, and I just can't say enough about the staff."

"All in all, I felt we went through the year in good fashion," Olafson said. "Our budget is in line, our spending was right on schedule, and we hadn't had

any things in there where all of sudden we had to find extra money for this and that. It was accounted for, and I commend our finance people for keeping us in line in that regard."

There is always much that goes into the day to day aspects of running a rural municipality, noted Olafson, citing the example of over 1,000 hours of drainage work.

"We put in 1.3 km of new culverts ... that's a long ways," he said. "There's 56,000 yards of gravel being put on our municipal roads to keep them in a passable condition ... the guys did as good as they could with what the weather presented."

In addition, there was almost 10 km of road rebuilds and another three kilometres of new overlay in a couple of the villages. The RM also worked on the sidewalks in Blumenfeld and other villages.

For Olafson, hands-down the RM's most significant project of the year was the completion of upgrades on the Massey water system, which included close to three dozen new hookups.

"And with that came the upgrade of the Massey system itself so that we're positioning ourselves so that we're not going to be short on being able to supply potable water," he said. "We were getting tight before; we were up to our limit on that plant, and we're up to a point where we can say we're good for the next five to 10 years, maybe even longer depend-



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The RM of Stanley is on track to meet the pressures that come with continued growth, says Reeve Morris Olafson.

ing on the number of hookups.

"It was a long time coming ... it serviced an area that had never been serviced before."

Olafson said council is now hard at work on

Continued on page 20



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Getting Down to Business

Digital Wizard Solutions meeting a growing need

David Guenther sees a growing need for the kinds of services he provides through Digital Wizard Solutions.

Well-versed in a variety of operating systems, networks, and databases, he provides services ranging from information technology support and maintenance to cloud service and data backup.

"There definitely is an increasing need. Businesses are growing all the time, and their needs are growing," said Guenther, noting he's looking to add on additional staff to help meet those needs.

Guenther brought about 15 years of experience in the industry to the creation of Digital Wizard Solutions after having previously worked in IT roles at Borderland School Division and Winkler Co-op. When the latter position ended, he had enough people express an interest in his services to strike out on his own.

"We provide corporate IT to a number of small to medium-sized businesses in the area," Guenther said. "We also do consulting for larger businesses when they're looking for an outside opinion on how to best make sure their technology is taken care of."

He noted there have been a number of local companies impacted by ransomware, so it is important to be able to have business continuity and limit the down time.

"The solutions that I provide actually make sure that, worst case scenario, you're down for a day perhaps ... depending on the level of protection you get," he said. "I actually have some servers that, if they were to get hit by ransomware, you'll be back up and running in 10 seconds."

His aim is providing "really robust protection for keeping businesses afloat, because technology is kind of the core backbone of every business these days."



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David Guenther of Digital Wizard Solutions draws from his 15 years of IT experience to service his customers.

"It's a major loss of revenue to a company when something like that happens, so to have a solution in place where, yes, it costs you a bit of money up front, but when something like that does happen you are prepared."

"We do everything from that to even just simple e-mail hosting," Guenther added.

"We do networking and computer and server monitoring," he said. "So we actually monitor hardware for clients ... if there's a problem showing up where there's maybe a hard drive that's showing a couple errors that shows it's going to fail down the road, we can be preemptive with that before it happens."

You can find Digital Wizard Solutions online at wizardit.ca

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Filipino community celebrates

Roughly 370 members of the local Filipino community gathered at the Access Event Centre last month to celebrate the holidays.

The Morden Pinoys Christmas Party and Annual Festivities 2019 featured potluck food, prizes, games, dance performances, and the musical talents of Rance Laus and Roge Trangcoso, Ferdinand Fave, Keira Cosio, the Caasi Brothers Band with Raymund Ona, the 4PM Band, and the JeroJorgeLouie Band.

"With all the volunteers and attendees that cooperated, it was a celebration with our family in our newfound home," said attendee Pam Versoza.

"It was a celebration of giving, meeting new friends, building wonderful memories and tradition in the community," she said. "Most of all, it was a celebration of remembering the greatest gift that we received and that is the birth of our saviour Lord Jesus Christ."



SUBMITTED PHOTOS BY ALDRICK LAGMAY PHOTOGRAPHY

Miami arena project gets \$10K financial boost

By Lorne Stelmach

Improvements to the Lloyd Orchard Community Arena in Miami got a financial boost from the Access Credit Union last month.

Representatives presented a \$10,000

donation that will assist with significant renovations at the facility.

"We are going to be combining smaller dressing rooms, making bigger dressing rooms that are more able to facilitate some of the bigger groups

who are coming," explained president Brian Weir.

He noted the arena is hosting more events than ever, including not only tournaments but also hockey schools and coaching clinics, so there was a

need to improve their facilities.

"This will go a long way to providing a better venue for them at the same time improving the facility for our community," he said. "It's very

Continued on page 18

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senior living

Deciding on a Senior Home Care Provider

Some people eagerly plan for and transition to 55+ communities while others vigorously resist even considering such a move.

Myths and misperceptions about “retirement communities” persist, despite the increasing popularity of such residence options for people 55 years and older. Let’s look at some of the positives and negatives to living in senior condo communities.

The big myths of 55+ living

These are five common myths about 55+ communities:

- My own home is the best place for me - Many seniors (and their children) believe that the parents retain their freedom and independence when remaining in a long-time home.
- I stay connected with my friends and activities when living in my current home - People often think that their activities and close connections will be sacrificed if they move to a senior community.
- It costs me less to stay in my home - This may or may not be true depending on the current expenses of taxes, mortgage, utilities, upkeep, and the financial footing of a particular senior community.
- My children will help when I need them to - This may or may not be a realistic expectation.

• Senior communities are full of old, sick, and dying people - This is often a major concern for seniors.

Benefits of 55+ living

Sometimes it is the children of retirees who object to their parents moving to a 55+ community. Senior condominium living can offer some pretty wonderful benefits for both seniors and their families.

- Safer living - The family home may no longer be safe for its senior resident(s). There is yard work to be done, maintenance and other chores to keep up with, and some homes cannot be easily adapted to accommodate changing physical needs and limitations.
- Senior condominium living is designed to provide a physically safe living environment for its residents.
- Maintenance is taken care of by the community’s staff.
- Living in a 55+ community offers additional protection against those who prey on elderly people who are known to be living alone.
- Senior-based condominiums are often designed with emergency response systems that can be activated by their residents when needed.
- Staying connected, active, making new friends - Many seniors find their circle of friends diminishes with each season. A spouse dies, a neighbor moves,

children live far away. It is easy to become isolated.

• Loneliness is often one of the bigger dangers of living alone as a senior. 55+ communities can help nurture current and new friendships and activities.

• Many senior communities offer physical and cultural activity enrichment programs to help their residents remain engaged in the healthy interaction of daily living.

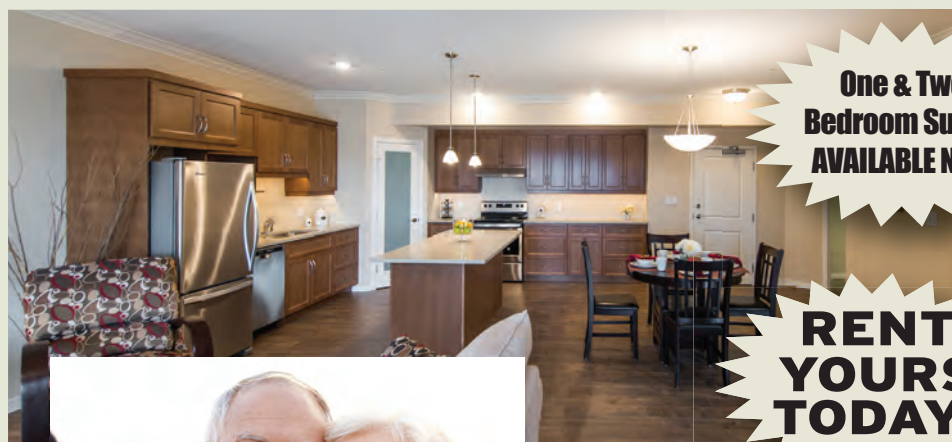
• Healthier living - It isn’t always possible for children to take care of a parent’s health challenges, increasingly limited mobility, ensuring that the parent is eating properly and taking medicines on time.

Many residents in 55+ communities find their sense of independence and well-being increases. Adult children experience a tremendous sense of relief that a parent or parents are living in a safe and healthy environment where they can be looked after on a regular basis.

Condo living isn’t for every senior but it can be a wonderful alternative to living alone. The supportive network of activities, friendships, and care (as needed) can bring a new quality of life in one’s senior years. Many seniors wonder why they didn’t make the move sooner!

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senior living

Top Reasons To Consider Bus Tours

Those who avoid the idea of bus tours out of fear of traveling with a host of strangers, being restricted to a set schedule and having a lack of accommodations, need to rethink the prospect. There is more than meets the eye when bus tours are on tap.

Advantages Of Traditional Bus Tours

Whether they're two-day, 5-day or 10-day bus tours, these excursions tend to deliver on the benefits. Some of the advantages of going this route to see specific destinations rather than trying to drive it alone or using a plane or train include:

- Scenery. From Los Angeles and Los Vegas to America's heartland and beyond, bus tours deliver on the scenery. Buses do not always stick to the main roads, which means passengers can see a great deal more than travelers using other means of transportation.

- Stops. Most companies that run bus tours know the biggest stops tourists want to see. They make sure to include them in the trip. This means passengers do not have to miss out on some of the best sights.

- Knowledge. In many cases, bus drivers are skilled not only behind the wheel, but also in explaining some of the attractions on the trip. This adds a level of interest to the journey.

- Pricing. Bus tours tend to be rather affordable. In some cases, the tickets even include hotel lodging and some tourist destinations, as well. It is hard to beat the overall prices offered by bus tours.

- Facilities. Many buses used for long-trek tours include bathroom facilities. This makes the drive a whole lot more comfortable for passengers.

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Female Hawks optimistic in new year

PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Pembina Valley Hawks goalie Tria Enns gets a blocker on a shot in the second period against the Yellowhead Chiefs Friday night in Morden. The Chiefs got the win 4-2.

By Lorne Stelmach

It's been a challenging season for the female Pembina Valley Hawks, but there is optimism going into the stretch run of the second half.

Having won only three of their first 13 games, the Hawks strung together three straight victories at the end of the year, and coach Shanley Siemens said even two losses this past weekend—one by shootout and the other in overtime—are encouraging as well for the team.

"It was very good to end the year with those three wins ... it was nice to get those and build that confidence in the girls," Siemens said.

"We want to keep building off each game ... even this past weekend, even though we didn't get a win ... it shows we can play with any team in this league," she said.

"You take that thought into the games we have left and then heading into the playoffs," she continued. "We've kept every game tight, and it's always been close ... some games, the bounces don't go our way, but we've been able to play with every team in the league and keep games close."

Before the Christmas break, the Hawks narrowly

defeated the Westman Wildcats 1-0 and Central Plains Capitals 3-2 before besting the Eastman Selects 4-3 in a shootout.

The new year then began with a 4-2 loss to the Yellowhead Chiefs Friday followed by a 4-3 shootout defeat by Eastman Saturday and a 5-4 overtime loss against the Winnipeg Avros Sunday.

Tessa Odell scored both Hawks' goals in the third period against Yellowhead, which led 1-0 after one and then sealed the deal with three more in the final frame.

Tria Enns stopped 32 of the 36 shots by the Chiefs while the Hawks were mostly stymied on their 52 shots.

Pembina Valley trailed 3-2 against Eastman before scoring in the third to force overtime, but they lost the shootout 2-1. Quinn McLaren scored two while Anika Braun contributed one and Enns stopped 37 of 41 shots. The Hawks fired 37 the other way.

Pembina Valley fell behind 2-0 after one against Winnipeg but answered with three in the second to have the game tied 4-4 after two periods before eventually falling in overtime.

Alyssa Matthews-Johnston had two for the

Hawks with other goals coming in from Abbey Bourdeaud'hui and McLaren. Shots were 31-20 for Winnipeg, with Enns making 26 saves.

The Hawks are at 6-11-2 for 14 points, which has them six ahead of Central Plains and eight up on Interlake, but they still trail Westman, Yellowhead, and Winnipeg Ice at 24, Eastman at 25, and the Avros at 37.

The ladies head west this weekend to face Westman in Hartney Saturday and Yellowhead in Shoal Lake Sunday afternoon.

This weekend and beyond, Siemens said she will be looking for the team to continue to focus on the details.

"A big thing that we talk about is using our speed ... and it's playing with aggressiveness and consistency, playing consistent and winning the battles ... that's what we want to see from them each game.

"I think it's just all of those little things that we always talk about and have been building on through the season," she concluded. "It's starting to take shape, and we're seeing the girls doing that more game in and game out, and we need to keep that up now building up towards the playoffs."

Winkler Flyers undefeated on northern road trip

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Flyers made a clean sweep of their northern road trip over the weekend.

First up, the MJHL team picked up their third win in a row by downing the Swan Valley Stampede 3-1 on Friday night.

The close match saw the Stampede take a 1-0 lead in the first minutes, but Winkler's Eric Fawkes closed the gap with less than three minutes to go in the period.

After a scoreless middle frame, it was all Winkler in period three as goals came in from Nathan Poolman and Griffin Leonard for the win.

Dorin Luding made 34 saves overall as Winkler outshot Swan Valley 37-35, 18-9 in the third period alone.

The Orange and Black followed up that victory with two more against the OCN Blizzard Saturday and Sunday.

The Flyers came from behind to score six unanswered goals in Saturday's 6-2 win.

OCN scored the opening frame's only goal in the final minute and then doubled their lead to 2-0 in the opening minute of the second period.

That was all she wrote for the home team, though, while Winkler's offensive lines came to life.

Drake Burgin scored first for Winkler less than a minute after OCN's final goal. Carson Pawlencuk then tied the game with a successful rebound shot with 6:30 left to go in the period.

The third period sealed the deal for Winkler, with goals coming in from Grady Lane, Sullivan Shortreed, Bryce Krauter, and Ian Tookenay.

Dylan Meilun earned the win in goal as the Flyers outshot OCN 48-11 overall.

On Sunday, goals from Jayden McCarthy and Pawlencuk gave Winkler a 2-0 lead after just 20 minutes.

Both teams went on to score three in the second—Poolman scoring two for Winkler while Shortreed got one—to make it 5-3. That score held through a scoreless third period, giving Winkler the win.

Luding made 25 saves in net as Winkler won the shot battle 40-28.

At press time on Monday, the Flyers had moved into third place in the MJHL standings with a record of 24-10-2-2 for 52 points. They trailed the Portage Terriers in second place by just one point and the Pistons in first place by seven.

The team hosted the Winnipeg Blues on Tuesday. Results were not available at press time.

This weekend the Flyers travel to

play Virden Friday and then host OCN on Sunday.

TURNING WEAKNESSES INTO STRENGTHS

As the Flyers enters the final couple of months of the regular season, head coach Kelvin Cech is pleased overall with where the team is at.

"Everyone's healthy and we're clicking along and really eager to get going," he said last week.

Cech said he didn't go into the season—his first as a head coach—with any firm expectations beyond taking it one game at a time.

"I haven't really looked at the standings too much ... that's just not really my style," he said. "It's a brand new team and there's lots of new players and we generally try to take a shorter-term approach to everything."

Still, consistent on-ice training and

off-ice team building have been paying off in spades.

"I'm happy with the way the guys have really embraced a new direction," Cech said. "Just being a first-time head coach, I'm really happy with how eager these guys are to learn and to contribute to the direction the team wants to go in. Our team culture is awesome ... it's a great group to be around."

"Lots of people say they're surprised by where we're at and how well we're doing but [general manager] Jeff [Jeanson] and I both say, well, we're not surprised," he added. "The potential's huge and we're going to do our best to reach that potential in the second half of the season."

"We'll take whatever weaknesses we have and turn them into strengths," Cech said, listing the team's youthful inexperience as perhaps its greatest challenge heading into the home stretch.

"We're still a young team. We've got a young defense core that's very skilled and they're ready for any challenge," he said. "They know it's going to be tough playing against some bigger and stronger teams, but that just means we have to be smarter and move the puck faster."

Cech is also excited for several upcoming home game stretches.

"We purposely tried to book a lot of our away games in the first half of the season," he explained.

Now, when the pressure is on as the season winds down, having home ice advantage could make a big difference in the team's final spot in the standings.

"The vibe in our arena and to play in front of our fans in Winkler, it's so special and the guys all love it," Cech said. "Winkler's got the loudest fans in the league ... we absolutely feed off of it."

Hawks aiming for top three finish

By Lorne Stelmach

Closing out the old year and ushering in the new with three wins in a row had the staff of the male Pembina Valley Hawks liking their position heading into the second half of the season.

They have been holding down fourth place for some time and were just one point shy of third going into their game Wednesday against the first place Winnipeg Wild.

They have gotten there by not only producing offensively but working to clamp down defensively as well.

"We're happy with where we're at, but at the same time we're looking to secure one of those top three seeds," said co-coach Jeff Andrews. "We think by doing that it will put us in a real good spot come playoff time."

"We're going to focus on just being as defensively sound as we can be. There's a direct correlation between the top teams in the league and their goals against and where they sit in the standings," he added. "We got off on the right foot here with our two games this weekend by giving up only two goals, so we're really happy with that."

The Hawks began their current streak with a convincing 8-1 win Dec. 21 over Interlake. They then handed Brandon a 6-1 loss Friday before edging Eastman 3-1 on Saturday.

Derek Wiebe had a natural hat trick as part of a four goal second period that propelled Pembina Valley to the victory over Interlake.

Trent Penner also contributed a hat trick, with other goals coming from Michael Hlady and Daniel Isaak, while the Hawks clicked for three power play goals and outshot the Lightning 42-32. Reid Dyck earned the win with 30 saves.

In Morden on Friday, the Hawks fired home six unanswered goals after giving up the opener to Brandon early in the second period.

Scoring for Pembina Valley were Penner, Caelan Russell, William Irvine, Andrew Boucher, Justin Keck, and Roux Bazin. Shots were 34-33 for the Hawks, with Dyck making 32 saves.

The Hawks finished strong again Saturday as they spotted the Selects a second period goal before getting three unanswered markers in the second half of the third period.

Scoring was Hlady, Keck, and Irvine, while Brock Moroz made 28 saves as the Hawks outshot their opponents 48-29.

Pembina Valley's record improved

to 21-5-4-0 for 46 points, which left them trailing the Winnipeg Thrashers at 47, Yellowhead Chiefs at 53 and the Wild at 58. Chasing the Hawks are Southwest Cougars at 41 and Winnipeg Bruins at 40.

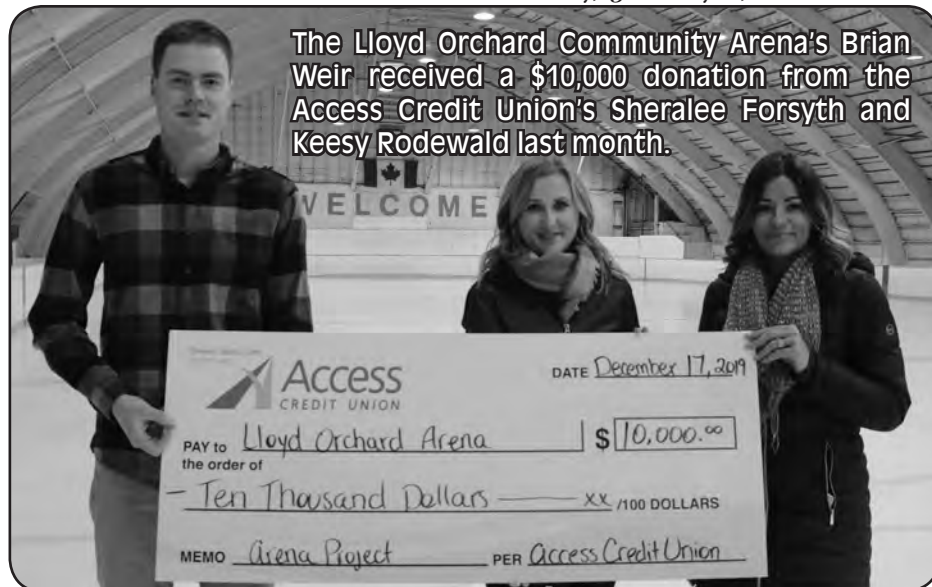
As the Hawks head into the city Saturday to face the Bruins before hosting Yellowhead here Sunday afternoon, Andrews said their emphasis will be on building consistency.

"If we're going to be successful this year, we're going to need to start giving those teams at the top of the standings hard games when we play them, and when we play a team we should beat, we need to bring a consistent effort and make sure we're securing the

points that we need," he said. He will also be looking for their special teams to continue to make a difference.

"Our special teams have been good, and especially our power play has been really strong, so that gives us an opportunity to separate in games," said Andrews. "We need to tweak our penalty kill a bit, it's just not quite where we need it to be."

"WE'RE GOING TO FOCUS ON JUST BEING AS DEFENSIVELY SOUND AS WE CAN BE."



The Lloyd Orchard Community Arena's Brian Weir received a \$10,000 donation from the Access Credit Union's Sheralee Forsyth and Keesy Rodewald last month.

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

> ACU DONATION, FROM PG. 11

much appreciated having the support of Access behind us. It's helping us to make our improvements to better serve the Miami community and surrounding area, offering a better venue for all."

Weir noted they have thus far raised about \$75,000 of the project's \$150,000 target.

"It's pretty exciting to get to a number that we thought would take longer to get to, and this donation has been part of that," he said. "We were really thrilled ... it's actually kind of put us to the point where we may actually be able to start in the off season here."

He couldn't say what might be next on their list but had no doubt there would continue to be a need for further improvements.

"It's an old building, so there's always something to do, and this is a big one."

Keesy Rodewald, community co-ordinator for Access Credit Union, said they were very pleased to help out.

"They had a big project that they put forward this year, a lot of fundraising success throughout the year. We're happy to be a part of this community initiative, and we wish them success in their future fundraising efforts."

Redskins, Royals start off 2020 with wins

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler and Morden South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League teams both started off 2020 on the right skate last weekend.

The Morden Redskins returned after the holiday break with a 3-1 win over the Portage Terriers on Saturday.

Cole Penner and Tyler Peers gave Morden a 2-0 lead in the second period. Mike Rey then followed up the Islanders' only goal of the night with one of his own a minute later.

Reed Peters got the win in net, making 30 saves as the Islanders outshot the Redskins 31-18.

The Winkler Royals also kicked off the new year with a win, doubling up on the Carman Beavers 12-6 on Friday.

Remi Laurencelle and Marlin Froese both had four-goal nights, while Michael St Croix contributed two and Austin Wiebe and Brandon Friesen each added singles to the tally.

In net, Travis Klassen made 34 saves off 40 shots. Winkler outshot Carman 55-40.

The Royals found themselves on the other side of things two nights later when the Altona Maroons came to town.

Laurencelle and Froese got Winkler on the board in the second period, but it wasn't enough—Altona took the game 4-2.

Splitting time in net was Devon

Wiebe (19 saves, two goals in 29 minutes) and Klassen (seven saves, two goals in 20 minutes). Winkler fired 34 shots on net the other way.

With that, Winkler is in fifth place in the league with a record of 4-7-2 for 10 points, putting them three points behind the fourth-place Notre Dame Hawks.

Morden, meanwhile, is in seventh and last place with a 3-9-1 record and seven points.

Coming up this week, the Redskins host Warren Thursday and Altona on Saturday while the Royals travel to play in Portage Friday night.

Canucks pull one over on Twisters

By Lorne Stelmach

The St. James Canucks are the one MMJHL team that has had Pembina Valley's number so far this season.

The Canucks edged the Twisters 4-3 Sunday to pick up their third win over Pembina Valley, which a few days earlier on Friday had kicked off the new year with a 3-0 blanking of the Fort Garry Fort Rouge Twins.

A third period powerplay marker was the winner for St. James, which bolted out to a 3-0 first period lead

but then saw Pembina Valley answer back with three in the second including two on the man advantage.

Sven Schefer, Travis Penner, and T.J. Matuszewski scored for the Twisters while Luke Zacharias made 27 saves in net as Pembina Valley got the edge in shots 36-31.

On Friday, Zacharias earned the shutout on 36 saves, while Elijah Carels took care of all the scoring with a hat trick that included an empty-netter. He now has a league best 24 on the season so far and is leading the

scoring race with 49 points through 26 games.

Pembina Valley continues to hold down first place at 21-3-2 for 44 points. They are ahead of the St. Vital Victorias by seven and St. James by 10 points.

The Twisters visited St. Boniface to take on the Riels Wednesday, will host the Transcona Railer Express Friday, and then are in St. Vital Sunday night.

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A rockin' New Year's Eve party

The Winkler Family Resource Centre ushered in 2020 in style last week. Forty-seven families attended their dance at The Bunker New Year's Eve, which included an early evening "midnight" countdown for the kiddies. "The dance was fantastic," said organizer Cathy Savage. "Thank you all the local business who helped make this evening a success and thank you to the families who came out to dance the night away." WFRC's drop-in play sessions started up again this week. Its next semester of free early-childhood education programs begins next week.

SUBMITTED PHOTO



Agriculture

Deerboine Colony wins Pork Quality Competition

By Harry Siemens

Out of a record 42 best of the best hog carcasses entered in the Pork Quality Competition at the Brandon Hog & Livestock Show last month, the Brandon area Deerboine Colony walked away with the grand champion trophy and \$5,000 cash prize.

The second and third place honours went to the Barrickman and Aspenheim colonies, respectively. The pork from the winner's circle was donated to Samaritan House in Brandon.

In his ruling, competition judge Dr. Bob McKay expressed how the pork quality had improved since the last competition in Brandon two years ago.

Still, Deerboine Colony hog boss Michael Wurtz said they were not doing anything differently other than continuing to do the best they can.

"The pigs are doing what they've always done," he said, noting they have been aiming for heavier pigs but "it's the same program, the same genetics, and the same grains that we raise ourselves."

"We have an 800 sow setup, but we don't quite finish everything. About two-thirds of our production goes to Maple Leaf, and the rest we sell as we can."

Wurtz said they did not expect to win first prize.

"We try and participate and have fun. We've done fairly well in the past, were in some of the top 10 lists. But this, it was a good feeling, too," he said. "But don't put a lot of sweat into the picking of the right hog, just whatever we feel looks good."

As always, colour, marbling, and texture are the three significant factors that influence the desirability of pork.

Judge McKay mentioned from the podium this year that things have changed as far as the meat quality goes.

"Our colour score is dropped from a Minolta score over near 52, which is borderline pale, soft, and exudative (PSE) down to 47, which is in the sweet spot for colour in this country. Our marbling is increased, which is an excellent thing," he said. "Even though producers get paid for colour and marbling, we export our pork, and if the people that buy it don't

like the colour and don't like the marbling, we don't have an industry."

"The other thing that's good is our fat depth has gone up a bit. Our loin depth just dipped a little bit, but it's not that bad. And we're hitting the sweet spot for the index. Our indexes are actually going up. So what the producers are getting paid is actually a little increased. So it's a good step in the right direction."

McKay said the industry still has more work to do, but the beauty of this carcass show is the evaluations give producers an idea of where their pork fits.

"I think maybe people paid attention to what I said in 2017 when I said, 'Take a look at the sheets. The people that finished ahead of you, find out where they got their breeding stock from and go and get breeding stock from those people.' And hopefully that's what they're doing."

As he said in 2017, when it comes to the consumer, there is a difference between them tasting and looking.

"We did a study years ago where we



Deerborne Colony near Brandon won the Pork Quality Competition at the Brandon Hog & Livestock Show last month.

looked at the meat, and we put it in the display case. And people shied away from marbling, they shied away from the darker pork," said McKay. "They went to lighter pork cause they thought it was from a younger animal, darker pork was from an older animal, and they didn't want the fat from the marbling. But when we had these people evaluate the meat by

cooking it and eating it, they all liked the darker pork; they all loved the marbled pork. And that's what we've got to look at.

"You know, we're so conditioned that we don't want to eat fat that we cut our throats, in a way, because we're not eating the proper meat and we're not looking at what we're supposed to be buying."



By Harry Siemens

2019 was undoubtedly a year with many and extended mixed blessings.

Having attended various producer meetings and conventions in the last three months (dairy, pigs, and more) and accurately keeping informed via the president of the Manitoba Beef Producers, everyone is expressing challenges having to do with the weather and trade. In the case of cattle, producers feed and regulation changes to the Crown land leases were big challenges.

Throw in two elections into that mix, provincially and federally, and writing and talking about farming became even more exciting.

I'm not going to rehash what has or hasn't happened because we need to focus on our plans for next year.

In 1986, with my career at a crossroads, I developed a motto that I used in every speech I gave, includ-

Pick a road and stay the course

ing many communication seminars from 1986 through 2007. It goes like this: A positive mental attitude, to encourage and serve others, will motivate me to do my best.

More recently, I added to this mix: to inspire others.

With elections, impeachments, political shortcomings, and many who want to destroy production agriculture as we know it today, believe you me, we need direction in many cases, encouragement, and inspiration.

When my wife Judith passed on to Glory on May 18, 2018, I hit another crossroads.

What comes to mind is Alice in *Alice in Wonderland* coming to a crossroads, and she asks Cat, "Which way must I turn?"

Cat asks, "Where do you want to go?"

Alice says, "I don't know."

"Well," said Cat. "Then it doesn't matter."

Two days after the funeral, I de-

cided to get back to work, which then gave me reason and purpose because I knew I must travel on.

It was a great decision, because, 19 months later, I'm still travelling on that same path—only almost two

Continued on page 20

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The Funnies

PLANET GARRY By: Harrison Doell
Inspired By: Bill Watterson



> SIEMENS SAYS, FROM PG. 19

years older. Things aren't without pain, heartache, and tears, but life is most certainly worth living.

I'm sharing this because farmers everywhere are facing some challenges, some that may even seem impossible. I urge you to seek a friend's help, share with your spouse, talk to people who are there to listen, and in some cases, offer advice.

I wrote this on Saturday morning and several things happened. On Friday morning, my choir colleague Ernie stopped by to visit, listen, and share. What a blessing and oh, so timely. Sometimes that is all it takes, a word of encouragement.

Next, a tweet crossed my desk, "Hard time of year for a lot of folks. We can all help prevent suicide. Here is the Suicide Hotline" with numbers attached asking for retweets. I retweeted and added my telephone number to the list. Most people may think, oh, that is a silly thing to do. Well, several retweeted my tweet, and I'm prepared to take a call.

Farmers make up less than two per cent of the total population, and I liked what David Wiens, a dairy farmer from Grunthal and chair of

the Dairy Farmers of Manitoba, said about one of the concerns he has as part of the farming sector:

"Because when you have a whole new generation of people that are, that get their information from where they do, most often from friends or the internet, they are the future decision-makers in the country," he said. "We have to show how we benefit the environment, that our carbon footprint isn't what some would put it out to be. We must explain that to people, so they understand that the dairy industry, even, and we need to work with other livestock groups too, where we are contributing to the benefit of the environment."

Yes, all kinds of issues, but if we don't know where we stand, and what makes us tick, then the so-called negative things happening in some cases to us, around us, and whether far or near, make us go off the deep end.

I'm telling you, I may not have all the answers, but I will first off listen, care, and help where I can. In the truest sense of the season, I wish you a belated merry Christmas, a great 2020, and may the Christ who sustains me year-round do the same for you.

> MAYOR HARDER, FROM PG. 5

One weak area for the city, though, is entry-level housing for single-income or lower income families, something Harder says is very much on council's radar.

"That is a challenge for our community to be able to provide opportunities and that balance," he says. "There is a vision that is in place ... that will address that issue. ... We're working on it and hopefully there will be stuff happening in 2020."

The year ahead will also see continued study on expanding Winkler's water supply options, the creation of a secondary development plan designed to provide a more finely-tuned road map for growth, and, with any luck, headway on the wastewater treatment plant the entire region so badly needs.

"Obviously we are waiting with bated breath to get our wastewater treatment facility announced so that we can start working on that one," Harder says.

"We're not building it for the people that are here now," he points out. "That is entirely because of anticipated future growth. That is being planned for 25,000 people, not the 14,000 that are here today. So basically doubling the size of the city of Winkler within 10, 15 years."

Winkler isn't on a crisis edge right now when it comes to wastewater

capacity limiting development, but that time will come if this project continues to be put off for lack of federal and provincial funding commitments.

"We will hit a wall eventually, there's no question about it. It's an issue that's coming," Harder says, stressing that in the meantime the city has been working hard to improve things it can control, like drainage and water treatment waste, to ease the burden on the system.

"It is an issue that's coming but I go back to the importance of solidifying the bones," he says, "because that is a perfect example of why we're not in a crisis yet."

Now a little over a year into his fourth and—he maintains—final term in office, Harder is pleased with what he's been able to accomplish thus far and is eager to close out his time as mayor on a high note by bringing a few more projects across the finish line.

"I look at my history as to where things were at when I first came to where things are at today and, honestly, I myself can't even recognize the city," he says. "I will complete this term with pride ... I have said before that this will be my last term and I'm still holding steady on that. When it's over, I'd love to be able to say job well done."

> REEVE OLAFSON, FROM PG. 9

the budget for 2020.

"We have several new projects that are in the planning stages ... we know we're going to have to spend extra money on certain things," he said. "But we also have to remember that the year was a little more difficult for the ag community ... it was just a trying year, and it shows up in your expense side ... and we know with our own municipal repairs, they are higher than normal."

The ongoing challenge is to manage the continued pressure for more development.

"We have so many requests for new subdivisions, farm yard splits, making new lots here and there ... we needed another person in here just to handle all that," Olafson said. "It's a continuous thing ... our housing starts, it's very steady; we always have something going forward ... we're open for business and we want to have that conversation, but we also have to just make sure that it all works and is done properly."

"We want to finish off the paving program as well," he added. "We're going to bring that forward to a couple other village settings."

The most significant project looming

on the horizon continues to be the regional wastewater treatment plant.

"We have ongoing work with the entire sewer project ... looking down the road, 15 to 20 years, we're looking far ahead on this. We need to part of that whole system," said Olafson.

"We're not here for a band-aid thing for one year ... our job is to look five, 10, 20 years ahead; that's our plan," he stressed, adding the continued growth and development of the region is dependent on this project, though it can't happen without provincial and federal support. "We can't handle the big dollar. If this was all our cost, it could never, ever come to fruition."

Aside from that, Olafson said council will continue to work closely with the communities that call Stanley home.

"As the communities grow, their needs grow ... there's more need for recreation, there's need for more services ... as the populations grow, the needs grow," he said. "We're learning we need to listen to the people and say okay, what do you really want or need? What are your expectations, though with every expectation comes a cost."

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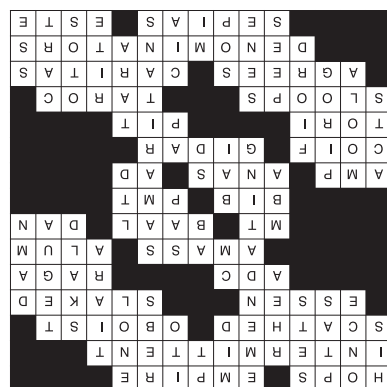
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Ray Wiebe
1958 - 2018

A year has gone by since you left us to be in heaven with our Lord and Savior!

We still feel you close by; guiding us and keeping us strong and able to face the next day with faith and courage.

We miss you so much and wish you could be here but we know you are having a great time dancing in heaven with mom while you're smiling down at us!

Merry Christmas, Ray.

-Love your "Love" and family

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PUBLIC NOTICE



RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF STANLEY ANNUAL PUBLIC NOTICE

Additions to the Voters List and/or Personal Security Protection Requests

In accordance with Section 36 of *The Municipal Councils and School Boards Election Act* (MCSBEA), the Rural Municipality of Stanley Voters List is open for changes or revisions.

- Any person who is eligible to vote in municipal elections in the Local Authority of Rural Municipality of Stanley can have his or her name added to the Voters List or have any information about the voter on the Voters List corrected.
- Any person can request to have his or her name and address obscured from the Voters List.

A person whose name has been obscured will receive a Personal Security Certificate and identification number. In a civic election, that person may only vote by Sealed Envelope Ballot and cannot vote in person at the regular or advance voting places.

To implement the above, a written request must be submitted to the RM of Stanley, in person, by phone, fax or mail to:

Dale Toews, Chief Administrative Officer
Box 1600, Winkler, MB R6W 4B5
Phone: (204) 325-4101
Fax: (204) 325-4008

The next General Municipal Election takes place on October 26, 2022.



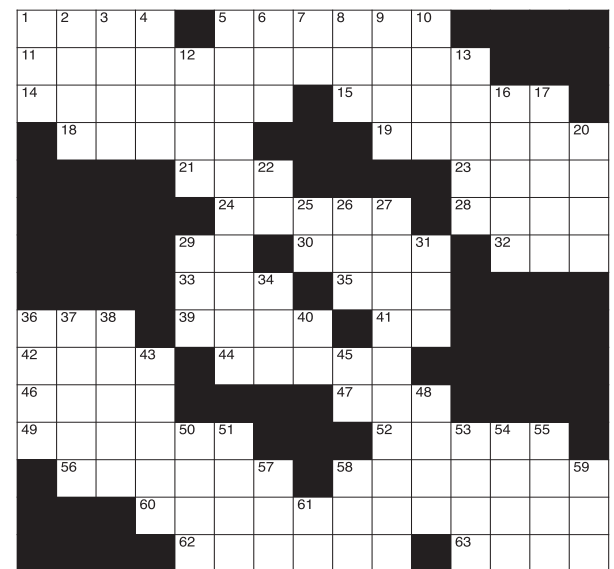
CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

- Beer ingredient
- Popular FOX TV show
- Recurring from time to time
- Criticized severely
- Musician
- German urban center
- Quenched
- Human gene
- Indian music
- Accumulate
- One who graduated
- Atomic #109
- Semitic fertility god
- Sportscaster Patrick
- Child's dining accessory
- Payment (abbr.)
- Guitarist's tool
- Dabbling ducks
- Commercial
- Style someone's hair
- Biu-Mandara language
- Actress Spelling
- Large hole in the ground
- One-masted sailboats
- Tropical Asian plant
- Concurs
- Latin term for charity
- The number below the line in a fraction
- Reddish browns
- This (Spanish)

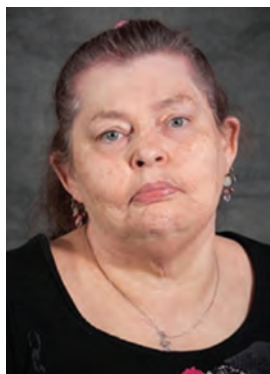
CLUES DOWN

- Belong to he
- One time only
- Parent-teacher groups
- Puts in place
- Editing
- In the course of
- Helps injured people (abbr.)
- OJ trial judge
- Resist authority (slang)
- Formerly alkenols
- "Cheers" actress Perlman
- Jewelled headdress
- Viking Age poet
- Vanuatu island
- Wish harm upon
- Unit of length
- Blood type
- Drain
- Do-gooders
- Advanced degree
- Business designation
- Chinese-American actress Ling
- Performs on stage



- Slang for money
- Large Russian pie
- The Mount Rushmore State
- Narrow inlet
- News organization (abbr.)
- Scarlett's home
- Micturates
- Monetary unit
- Any customary observance or practice
- Sons of Poseidon
- Facilitates grocery shopping
- Standard operating procedure
- Former OSS
- Midway between south and southeast
- The Wolverine State

OBITUARY



Marie Claire Jeannine Proulx 1952 - 2019

It is with much sadness that we announce the passing of Jeannine on Friday, December 27, 2019 at the Boundary Trails Health Centre.

She was predeceased by her parents, Auguste in 1982 and Angele Proulx in 1989; one brother, Leon Proulx in 1966 and one sister, Marie Westlake in 2016. She is survived by two brothers, Rene Proulx of Winnipeg, Norm (Deirdre) Proulx of Moncton, NB; and one sister, Celine (Les) Titchkosky of Morden, MB.; one brother-in-law, Gary Westlake of Winnipeg; and many nieces and nephews.

Jeannine was born on January 5, 1952 in St. Pierre, MB. She lived with Mom until May of 1989 when Mom was debilitated by terminal cancer. She then lived with Les and Celine for three months. In July 1989 she moved to Tower Drive Group home in Winkler. Adjusting to the group home was difficult for Jeannine so after a few months she moved to a foster home in Winkler. There she became quite lonely so in April 1, 2000 she moved into the Tabor Home apartments with supports from Home Care, a special support worker, Lynn McKinnon, and from her sister Celine. She thoroughly enjoyed her newfound freedom and independence. As she aged and began losing some physical skills, she again became more depressed and lonely even with the company of her cat, Minouche. In January of 2012 she moved into 7th Street Gateway group home. This also was a major adjustment for her, especially because of the separation anxiety and grief from being separated from her cat Minouche. With support from Celine and the loving and caring staff at the home, she eventually adjusted and became much more content. Jeannine adopted Gateway staff as her loving family. She lived there till her admission to Boundary Trails Health Centre on July 21, 2019 due to Multiple Myeloma. She had hoped to return home for a while in the fall, but this was not meant to be with the bone fractures, surgeries and complications.

Jeannine attended school in St. Pierre and Ste. Agathe till age 16. From 1960-70 she attended Kindale School in Steinbach where she learned to speak English and where she graduated at age 18. This was a highlight in her life.

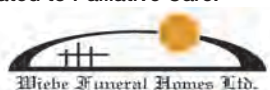
She worked at the St. Malo Atelier for a number of years sewing pockets for coats. From about 1977 to 1987 she stayed home with Mom. Together they babysat for working parents. She always loved kids, and this was a perfect fit for her. From 1989 to 2010 (21 years) she worked at Valley Rehab (now known as Gateway Resources) mostly in the paper recycling department. She retired in November 2010 with a retirement celebration at Valley Rehab. Jeannine's interests included any family gatherings, going to movies or concerts, going on trips with family, sewing, coloring, music and singing, playing Uno, cooking and baking, caring for her cats, holding babies and seeing children, going on drives around town or countryside, shopping, and joking around. She maintained that great sense of humor even in hospital.

Memorial service was held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 4, 2020 at the Zion Lutheran Evangelical Church in Morden with interment at the St. Pierre-Jolys Cemetery.

Family wishes to thank Gateway Resources and all the wonderful staff who so lovingly cared for Jeannine in the 7th Street home and twice a day in hospital. We also give thanks to Dr. Humniski and Dr. Woelk for their dedication and understanding; to all the hospital staff who professionally attended to her physical needs as well as her emotional wellbeing; to the Palliative Care staff and volunteers who provided such an essential part of the journey; to Pastor Alex Klages and Stephen Siemens for their constancy in meeting Jeannine's spiritual needs. Thank you to all the family and friends who visited Jeannine in hospital and signed her guest book with words of encouragement and who lent a shoulder to cry on. Finally, a special thank you to Bonnie Gerbrandt, Palliative Care volunteer, who was present when Jeannine took her last peaceful breath as Bonnie finished reading Psalm 23.

Donations may be made in Jeannine's memory to Zion Lutheran Church, Gateway Resources or Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation, designated to Palliative Care.

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



PUBLIC NOTICE



Western School Division

Kindergarten Registration for September 2020

In order for the schools to better prepare for the 2020-2021 school year parents are requested to register their children for Kindergarten by coming to the appropriate school office from **January 24 to January 31, 2020**, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Children born in 2015 or earlier are eligible to enrol. All parents are asked to bring a copy of their child's birth certificate when registering.

Please enrol in the school within whose catchment area your residence is located.
For Kindergarten program and registration information, call the schools directly.

Catchment areas are:

Minnewasta School, 1 Academy Drive, Mr. Geoff Sutton, Principal, 204-822-4580
• Area south of North Railway; area west of Mountain St.; and all rural students.

Maple Leaf School, 225-12th Street, Mr. Mike Keith, Principal, 204-822-4458
• Area north of South Railway St.; area east of Mountain St.; and all early years (K-4) French Immersion students.

OPEN HOUSE

Western School Division will be holding a Kindergarten Parent Information session on **January 23, 2020 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** at **Maple Leaf Elementary School**. We look forward to seeing all the new Kindergarten parents on this evening.

More detailed information is available online at www.westernsd.mb.ca, at the schools, or at Western School Division Office, 204-822-4448.

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Announcements

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OBITUARY



Frank Suderman 1924 - 2019

Frank Suderman of Winkler, Manitoba died peacefully on Monday, December 30, 2019 at the age of 95.

Frank was born on August 3, 1924 in the village of Reinland, MB. He was the oldest child of Franz J. Suderman and Katharina Peters. Frank was baptized in 1946 in the Sommerfelder Church in Reinland and he and Helen Wiebe were married on September 29, 1946 in the Sommerfelder Church in Winkler.

Frank and Helen purchased a farm south of Winkler in 1956 and farming remained his passion and interest throughout life. He was a mentor and farming partner with sons-in-law, Nick Heide and Hans Werner in the Winkler area and with son-in-law, Cornie Fehr in the Neepawa area. Frank was active in community organizations,

serving as a 4H leader and on the Board of Mennonite Collegiate when his children were growing up. He also served on the Boards of the Co-op, Red River Mutual Insurance and Salem Home for many years. When his responsibilities on the farm slowed down, Frank and Helen moved to Winkler and they were able to travel, including visits to Europe, South America and the Holy Land. They also spent winters in Arizona for many years where they made many friends. When they were in Arizona, needlepoint and showing family around the Mesa area held a greater interest for him than golfing. In retirement, Frank and Helen moved to Crocus Village where they were able to live actively and independently until two months before his death. Frank was deeply committed to his family and the loss of their son, Bruce in a motor vehicle accident was difficult and painful, but he was able to fulfil his dream of farming together with family by working with his daughters' families. He continued to have an active interest in the farm and in the lives of his children and grandchildren right up until his death. Frank was a generous and considerate person who sought to live out his faith every day.

Frank is survived by his wife, Helen; five sisters, Katie, Nettie, Mary (George Fehr), Sue (Dennis Driedger), Eva; one brother, Peter (Justina); and three sisters-in-law, Tina Yoder, Mary Wiebe and Susan Neufeld. He was predeceased by their son, Bruce and leaves behind three daughters, Dorothy (Nick) Heide, Hilda (Cornie) Fehr, and Diana (Hans) Werner; eight grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren, and those who called him Grandpa. We will all miss him.

Memorial service was held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, January 3, 2020 at the Winkler Bergthaler Mennonite Church with interment prior at the Winkler Cemetery.

If friends so desire, donations may be made in Frank's memory to the Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation designated to Palliative Care.

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



OBITUARY



Jacob (Jake P) Giesbrecht 1927 - 2019

On Monday, December 30, 2019 at Boundary Trails Health Centre, Jake P Giesbrecht, 92 of Winkler, MB formerly of Bergfeld went to his eternal rest.

Jacob Giesbrecht was born August 29, 1927 at the home farm in Bergfeld, MB to Peter and Susanna Giesbrecht, the 7th of 12 children. Jake was baptized by Bishop William Falk and became a member of the Rudnerweide Church at Bergfeld in his early 20's. His early education was at the Thames District School. He worked on the family farm for a number of years before he decided to continue his education at MCI in Gretna, from where he completed grade 12. Following his graduation, he left for Winnipeg where he attended CMBC for three years. After this time, he went to Normal

School fulfilling his dream of becoming a teacher. Jake taught elementary classes at many different schools, including the Milltown Hutterite Colony and an elementary school in Belize, Central America. Travel was also a part of Jake's life as we found in his many, many well labelled picture slides; going to such places as Israel and Paraguay. He taught for approximately 30 years, retiring in his mid-60's. He moved to Winkler in 1999 where he kept busy volunteering at the Post and helping Ed out on the farm.

Jake is survived by sisters, Agnes, Gert, Dora and her husband, Dave; one brother, Ed and his wife, Pauline; three sisters-in-law, Mary, Anne and Agnes as well as many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents, four brothers, three sisters, one sister-in-law and four brothers-in-law.

Funeral service was held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, January 3, 2020 at the Bergfeld Mennonite Church with interment at the Bergfeld Cemetery.

If friends so desire, donations may be made in Jake's memory to Back to the Bible or to the Roseau River Bible Camp.

Wiebe Funeral Home, Winkler
In care of arrangements
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OBITUARY



Lena Wiebe (nee Banman) 1929 - 2019

On Friday, December 20, 2019 at the Buhler Active Living Centre, Lena Wiebe aged 90 of Winkler, MB went to her eternal home.

She is survived by her husband of 71 years, Dave Wiebe and her children, Karen (Randy Rietze) of Winkler, Gladys (Rod Wall) of Winkler, Sheila (Abe Wieler) of Coaldale, AB and Cam (Sheila Wiebe) of Winkler; 12 grandchildren, Marcy (Derek Penner), Jodie Rietze, Ryan (Jen Wall), Evan (Anna Wall), Terril (Kevin Lamotte), Benj (Kim Wall), Russ (Ashley McLeod), Conner (Cassandra McLeod), Adam, Abby, Emma and Owen Wiebe and 16 great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her son, Roger in 2016.

Memorial service was held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, December 23, 2019 at the Winkler Berghaler Mennonite Church with interment prior at the Winkler Cemetery.

We the family, would like to thank the staff of Silver Lining Care, Wiebe Funeral Home, Pastor Dean, Winkler Berghaler Church, and all those who have offered their condolences, hugs, gifts of food, flowers, love and support during this time of loss.

-The Wiebe family

If friends so desire, donations may be made in Lena's memory to the Winkler Bible Camp.

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



OBITUARY



Robert Peter Kruger 1939 - 2019

Robert Peter Kruger was born October 3, 1939 in Neubergthal, Manitoba. He sadly passed away peacefully Monday, December 2, 2019 at Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg with his son by his side.

He was proud of his Mennonite heritage. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, and spending time camping or out at the farm. He had travelled the world for business and had a passion for design. His creativity and passion for reading and writing stayed with him throughout his entire life. He enjoyed an early retirement and spent the last 30 years doing the things that he wanted to do such as gardening, collecting model cars and buying and selling classic cars.

He was survived by his son, Robert Daniel Kruger; his daughter, Shannon Kathleen Wagg, his five grandchildren, Katie Wagg, Olivia Wagg, Katrina Cyr-Kruger, Kaitlyn Kruger, Aiden Kruger also his best friend and cousin, Roy Rempel who was like a brother to him. Robert Kruger will be missed by many and is resting peacefully with the angels.

Memorial reception was held at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 5, 2020 at the Neubergthal Commons Barn with interment prior at the Neubergthal Cemetery.

If friends so desire, donations may be made in Robert's memory to the Neubergthal Heritage Foundation.

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



OBITUARY



Margarete Harder (nee Harder) 1935 - 2020

On Wednesday, January 1, 2020 at Boundary Trails Health Centre, Margarete Harder, 84 of Winkler, MB went to her eternal rest.

She leaves to mourn her passing her husband, Bill Harder; daughter, Darlene and Gerry Thiessen; sons, Don and Marge Harder, Larry and Helen Harder, Steve and Carol Harder as well as 10 grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, one sister, one sister-in-law and their families. She was predeceased by her parents, John and Katharina Harder, one brother and one brother-in-law.

Funeral service was held at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, January 6, 2020 at the Winkler Berghaler Mennonite Church with interment at Westridge Memorial Gardens.

If friends so desire, donations may be made in Margarete's memory to Diabetes Canada.

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



OBITUARY



Mary Ginter (nee Friesen) 1931 - 2019

At 88 years of age and after living a full life, Mary Ginter took her last breath early Monday morning, December 23, 2019 at the Boundary Trails Health Centre. Like her first husband, Walter Hildebrand, who passed away 37 years earlier on December 21, 1982, both persons passed away during the Christmas season. Walter and Mary both had a strong faith and were comforted by this season of peace, hope, joy and love.

Mary Ginter (nee Friesen/Hildebrand) was born February 7th, 1931 in Hoffnungsort, Manitoba. Mary was a middle child born to Isaac Friesen and Ida Thiessen. Mary attended High School in Winkler and later went on to get her teaching certificate. She was a business partner with her first husband, Walter, at Walter's Electric.

After he became ill and shortly after she turned 39 years old, she took over running the business full-time. Mary was the first, or one of the first women in Winkler to run a downtown business full-time. This was a significant achievement. As a middle child, between an older sister, Katherine and younger brother, Allen; Mary learned to advocate for herself then and over the years this skill served her well. During her later adult years, she worked at Triple E until her retirement.

Throughout her life, Mary was passionate about her community and her faith. She volunteered at MCC Global Crafts, Boundary Trails Gift Shop, and spent many hours knitting scarfs, hats and mittens to send overseas. She was also very passionate about traveling, golf, curling and gardening. Her children and grandchildren are very grateful to the wonderful role model she has been in their life.

As we celebrate Mary's life, she is survived by her two daughters and her two sons, Del Weiglein and husband, Otto; Val Dyck and husband, Jack; Rob and wife, Patti; Randy and wife, Linda. Mary had nine grandchildren: Geneva Weiglein, Wyatt, Lindsay, James and Wayne Dyck, Heather Fixsen, Sheri Hatch, Shaun Hildebrand, Emily and Luke Hildebrand and seven great-grandchildren.

Mary's second husband, John Ginter, passed away just over a year ago on October 13, 2018. John has three sons, Rick and wife, Ann (who passed away in 2019); Ron and wife, Fran; Howard and wife, Linda; as well as seven grandchildren and 21 great grandchildren.

Memorial service for Mary was held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 4, 2020 at the Winkler Berghaler Mennonite Church with immediate family interment prior to the service at the Winkler Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Mary's memory to the Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation designated to the Palliative Care Program.

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



OBITUARY



Elma Bluhm (nee Dyck) 1934 - 2019

It is with sadness that we announce the sudden passing of our beloved mother, Elma on Thursday, December 26th, 2019 at Tabor Home Morden at the age of 85 years.

She leaves to mourn her passing two daughters, Beverly Enns of Morden, Diane and Robert Eidse of Winnipeg; three sons, Larry and Barbara Bluhm of Morden, Darryl and Edith Bluhm of Portage La Prairie, Leroy Bluhm of Morden; as well as 11 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. Elma was predeceased by her husband of 57 years, Edwin Donald Bluhm in 2009 and her son-in-law, Almer Enns in 2009.

The family would like to thank the staff at Tabor Home for all of the special and compassionate care shown to Elma during this past year. The family would also like to thank the staff at Wiebe Funeral Home.

If friends so desire, donations may be made in Elma's memory to Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation designated to Cancer Care.

Wiebe Funeral Chapel, Morden
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