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Voice

VOLUME 15 EDITION 2

THURSDAY,
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Kicking off 2024 in style

James and Charlie rang in the new year in style at the Winkler Family Resource Centre's annual New Year's Eve bash last week. For more photos, see Pg. 8.

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Outdoor rinks are open for skating in Morden-Winkler

By Lorne Stelmach

Outdoor rinks have been a little harder to come by so far this winter all over southern Manitoba, including Morden and Winkler.

The combination of a lack of snow and milder weather has made it a challenge to establish the rinks, city officials said last week.

"We were definitely fighting with the weather conditions. They were not ideal for building ice," said Shawn Dias, director of parks and urban forestry for the City of Morden, which had decided it is not able to make outdoor rinks at Morden Park and Lions Park this year.

"We've definitely been battling the conditions as well," said Jordan Driedger, director of community services for the City of Winkler. "The lack of snow and warmer weather makes making outdoor rinks quite challenging."

In Morden, residents will have use of the rinks on Lake Minnewasta as well as the one near the courthouse which is maintained by Morden Fire

and Rescue.

"Our goal usually is to try our best to get some amenities available for kids to use during the winter because we know a lot of the community utilizes the rinks," said Dias.

"It's usually about a 10-day process to build an outdoor rink on grass," he noted. "Rather than fighting against the environmental conditions we have had, we focused on the lake and put a couple outdoor rinks on the lake, so we're maintaining those now."

"The volunteers at the fire department maintain the rink at the courthouse, and I know there's been people skating on that one, so it's fantastic they were able to get it going," Dias added. "The advantage there is having boards and being able to contain the water."

"We also want to do our part in terms of water conservation within the community, and we want to make sure that we're sending that message, that we want to be good stewards."

Dias didn't think it was likely the city would establish the other rinks later this winter if conditions im-



FILE PHOTO

Outdoor rinks beside the courthouse and on Lake Minnewasta in Morden and in Emerado Park in Winkler are open.

proved, as it would likely be too late in the season.

"It would be pushing it ... and you add that additional 10 days to build and maintain it. It just might not make sense to do it this year, combined with our water shortage," said Dias, who observed that Morden is fortunate to have the lake. "We had to make sure first that the water was safe to be on, and that took a little bit longer than normal this year as well."

In Winkler, the city was still holding out hope of establishing a couple more rinks over the next few weeks.

"We're still hoping we could have a couple more before the end of the winter," said Driedger, who noted they usually do one in the south at Emerado School, one in the north at

Redhawk Park, and one in the central area at Winkler Elementary School.

"We were able to open our Emerado outdoor rink," he said last week. "That one has a concrete slab with a board system, so it doesn't rely on a snow base to get it done."

"We were hoping to have two or three other outdoor rinks, but those ones are just done using snow boards, and the lack of snow has made that challenging," Driedger explained. "We've got a couple more started, but we're hoping the conditions will be more favourable so that we can get them done yet this winter."

He knows the outdoor rinks usually get good use in the community.

"It's a popular activity in the winter. There's less to do outside otherwise."

Central Stn. looking for walkers for the 'Coldest Night of the Year'

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Central Station Community Centre is taking part in the national Coldest Night of the Year fundraiser next month, and they're looking for participants.

So far about 30 people have registered to bundle up and head out into the cold for a walk around town on Saturday, Feb. 24. Routes of 2 kilometres and 5 km are available.

The event raises funds for charities serving people experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness—three things Central Station varied programming seeks to alleviate.

Last year's inaugural event in Win-

kler drew over 200 walkers and raised a whopping \$95,170 for the community centre—\$55,000 over their goal.

Executive director Anita Wiebe says they're aiming for \$50,000 in pledges this year.

"For us, this is a fundraiser that is just a way for people to get involved," she says. "There's lots of people that aren't sure how they can help, so this is an easy way to connect with your family and friends and do that."

"We're asking for people to register as either a team captain or to join a team and register as a walker," Wiebe explains. "And then tap the shoulders of your friends and family, your networks, to raise some money for the

programming that we do here at Central Station."

The event will include a few pre- and post-walk activities.

"We're hoping to have some ways to connect with people before the walk starts," Wiebe says. "And then we'll come back here for supper to warm up and connect over food afterwards."

Beyond raising funds, the Coldest Night of the Year is about raising awareness of the plight of those in need.

"We really want to bring awareness to the marginalized and disadvantaged," Wiebe says. "Sometimes people aren't aware of what we all do or how we offer programming or who we offer it to. So this is an opportunity for more people to get a look, get a feel for the services we offer our community."

Central Station is home to the Winkler and District Food Cupboard, Central Community Homes (Winkler's affordable housing organization), and countless other programs designed to help connect people to social services and build community.

"With our new poverty reduction plan moving forward, we have three main goals: housing stability, eco-

nomics stability, and mental well-being," shares Wiebe, noting most everything Central Station does is done to help individuals and families find a place to belong and get the support they need to succeed.

With several weeks still to go until the walk, Wiebe is optimistic more participants will step up to support Central Station's efforts.

"It's still early in the game, but we are hoping to get some more teams signed up, for captains to put their name out there and say, 'Hey, I'm willing to captain a team and I'm going to set a goal for my team to raise this much money.'"

"We had a lot of friendly competition between teams and between families last year," Wiebe says. "It's really a fun way to put out some challenges ... maybe to some other schools or businesses."

"And for us, it's really just about expanding that network of support. We know we have some amazing supporters here and we're incredibly grateful for that."

If you'd like to take part in the Coldest Night of the Year or make a donation, go to cnoy.org/location/winkler.



VOICE FILE PHOTO

Walkers will set out from Central Station in Winkler on Saturday, Feb. 24 for either a 2k or 5k route around town to raise funds and awareness.

Maria and the Mennos debuts on YESTV

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A full year after spending the early months of 2023 filming *Maria and the Mennos*, cast and crew are now finally getting the chance to share their work with sitcom fans.

The show debuted on the Canadian faith-based television station YESTV earlier this month, with episodes streaming live every Wednesday.

The 13 episodes are set in Winkler and follow a Filipino-Canadian woman who moves in with her conservative Mennonite in-laws. Cross-cultural hijinks ensue as she tries to maintain her identity while adjusting to the world of pierogis, hymn sings, and rural prairie living.

Local actor Chuck Fefchak plays the role of Hank, the father who, along with wife Sarah (played by Reinfield native Erna Peters), welcomes son, Nate, and his new bride, Maria, into their home. The newlyweds are played by Steinbach's Kenton Dyck and Winnipeg actress Victoria Exconde.

Fefchak says cast and crew were treated to a special screening of the pilot episode and two others a few weeks ago. Otherwise, they're experiencing the show week-to-week like the rest of us.

He says he was inundated with calls from family and friends after the first episode aired Jan. 3.

"My phone blew up," he says.

For his part, Fefchak is pretty happy with how the finished product turned out and especially pleased to have been a part of the process.

"It's not a Hollywood show," he says. Watching the pilot, Fefchak says he can tell it was "the first three days that we were in this house. In many cases, we didn't know each other let alone our character, let alone how this whole process works. None of us were TV people. Every single one of us were stage performers.

"So if this [first episode] was our first toe dipping into the ocean, I know it's going to be really good by the time we get to episode five, episode six when not only do we know each other but we know how the process works and, most importantly, we know how the arc of our characters' development is

growing."

The show captures well the funny familial interactions we're all familiar with, with some specific Mennonite and Filipino experiences thrown in for good measure, Fefchak says.

"It's good for us to laugh at ourselves," he says. "None of us are perfect, and Hank Friesen is no exception.

"It's just the weaknesses and human foibles that we all have, and it pokes a little bit of fun and it does it with a little bit of Low German speak as well."

Maria and the Mennos was filmed over 10 weeks early last year at a local house and a number of other locations across the region. The intensive shooting schedule meant Fefchak had to book time off work from his job at Southland Honda, but it was an opportunity he simply couldn't pass up.

"I have absolutely no regrets that I took that chance," he says. "At the age I'm at, if I don't take these few opportunities that come it's not like there's another coming down the pipe. So, zero regrets. I enjoyed every day."

He'd be back for season two in a heartbeat if asked, but it's too soon to say if that will happen.

"If they decide that they've got enough support to do a second season, and they still want Hank back, I'll be there."

'A QUIRKY, FUN-LOVING SHOW'

Kenton Dyck, who plays Nate Friesen, is ready and raring for more episodes as well.

"This has been something I've always wanted to do," he says, admitting, however, it can be a little surreal to see himself on the TV screen each week.

And while season one tells a complete story, there's certainly room for more.

"It does remind me a lot of sitcoms from the '90s, both in style and the way that it works," Dyck says. "It kind of follows that first year of them living with his parents, and it does have a bit of a wrap, but it's certainly open for a season two.

"I'd love to play this character more. And I feel like the show kinds of builds as it goes—a lot of us were



SUPPLIED PHOTO

From left: Victoria Exconde, Chuck Fefchak, Kenton Dyck, and Erna Peters star in the sitcom *Maria and the Mennos*, which was shot in the area last year.

new to this early on, so we were all learning it and getting our feet underneath us. I feel like we just learned so much through the season. It was such a great experience.

"I consider it a success whether or not it gets a second season just because I had so much fun," he adds. "It was me living out my dream."

Seeing the finished product a full year after filming has been a blast so far, Dyck shares.

"It's exciting to see what we did actually from the perspective of the camera," he says. "I only ever saw very short bits and pieces from behind the monitor when I went and looked at it after a shot. And some days I wasn't

even there because they were shooting scenes my character wasn't in.

"As a whole, the way it came together, I'm pretty pleased with it. It's kind of a quirky, kind of a silly show. I would call it very fun-loving; it doesn't take itself too seriously."

Maria and the Mennos was created by Winnipeg filmmaker Paul Plett, Hazel Wallace, and Winkler's own Tina Fehr Kehler.

You can catch it on the YESTV streaming service by setting up a free account at yestv.com/streaming. Check out the program guide on that page to confirm episode air times on Wednesdays.



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Morden Library closed until Jan. 20 for renos

By Lorne Stelmach

Staff at the Morden library are looking forward to seeing the end result of renovations that have it closed for two weeks this month.

The library was closed as of last Saturday and remains shut until Jan. 20 as demolition work gets underway to prepare for new flooring and a new main desk.

The short-term closure was necessary because there would be too much disruption to be able to remain open during the renos, says branch administrator Gail Hildebrand.

"It's going to be a big mess for a little while and then we move on, and it will be better," she said. "We just wouldn't be able to have people in here safely. It's going to be very dusty work, so we're going to be wrapping all the book stacks up in plastic as well to protect them from all of the dirt and debris."

"We will be closed again in February when the desk actually comes in,"

Hildebrand added. "This part of it right now will just be the demolition."

The branch was long overdue for a change and improvements, Hildebrand said.

"That desk was original to the building. We have been here since 1996 and we have done very little. We've painted, but that is about all we have done for upgrades.

"In that time, Morden has gone from a town of about 5,500 to a city of almost 10,000. We've also increased our staffing hours. We've increased how many books are going out, so that means more people on duty with less room up front there. It gets a little gong show in the back when there's three of us running into each other and running out of room."

The main part of the project is a new main desk area. It will have a larger footprint, so that led then to the need for new flooring.

"It was built first, and then they floored around it," noted Hildebrand. "The city is very graciously paying



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

From left: Morden Library branch administrator Gail Hildebrand with Tracy Berg and Dorothy Martens in front of the space that is set for a complete reno over the next few weeks.

for all new flooring up front as well as the electrical costs ... that is another \$16,000 that we don't have to fundraise for, so we appreciate that greatly.

"Because we are hoping to be moving out of this building in the next five to 10 years and into a new library, we decided that a new desk that could be moved along with in the future would be the best way to spend some money," she said. "And these desks will be more accessible as well. They've got a little bit of a lip on them so people can come a little closer with walkers and wheelchairs."

The project has received a \$25,000 grant which is intended for internal physical upgrades and not for programs or staffing. It also received \$1,500 from the Morden Area Foundation, and a liquor raffle fundraiser

brought in another \$1,000.

"We will be continuing to do fundraising because we're about \$6,000 shy of the actual cost," said Hildebrand. "Budgets are tight. We use our budget from the RMs and the towns and cities for things like wages, acquisitions, programs ... for extra stuff like this we've got to dig and find the money elsewhere."

Hildebrand noted users are still able to access the full range of library services over the next few weeks through the other SCRL branches.

"We're encouraging people to go check out our other branches. Our book return will be open still, so they can return anything to Morden. The only circulation we will be doing in these two weeks is if people have holds that come in," she noted.

12 Days of Christmas raises \$3,900 for Habitat for Humanity

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Habitat for Humanity Morden-Winkler chapter's annual 12 Days of Christmas fundraiser was a big success.

Organizer Christina Falk says that while they didn't quite sell out of the 200 available tickets, they did clear just under \$3,900.

"We think that's pretty great. Especially because all the prizes were donated this year, we have no expenses, so all that money goes towards this year's Winkler house build."

This year's fundraiser pivoted away

from offering daily wine prizes, as in the past, to prize packages featuring a variety of goodies donated by local businesses.

Every day a new winner was drawn and a number of other players were randomly knocked out of the running.

It all culminated with the draw for the top two prizes on Friday.

The first-place prize was a 42" television from Canadian Tire, \$100 cash from Gallery Wealth Management, and a \$25 Valley Bakery gift card.

Continued on page 5

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Winkler Community Fdn. receives \$1.1M from Thomas Sill Fdn.

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Community Foundation (WCF) is the latest local foundation to benefit from the generosity of the Thomas Sill Foundation.

Thomas Sill reps have made the rounds in recent weeks to distribute funds generated from the closure of the foundation after 35 years of philanthropy. Before the holidays, Morden's community foundation received \$1,188,000 while Altona's got \$750,000.

On Monday, the WCF announced it has received \$1,021,000 from the Thomas Sill Foundation to increase grants in the Winkler area.

"The Thomas Sill fund will have a significant impact on our community grant program," said board chair Corey Hildebrand. "Essentially it will double our annual community grants which charitable organizations apply for funding from. It is an honour to have the Thomas Sill Foundation board of directors choose us."

WCF's annual grants are drawn

from the interest of a number of endowment funds. Some of those funds are directed to specific causes—health care, sports, and specific non-profit organizations, for example—but the Community Fund is where the foundation is unrestricted in its grants for local causes and projects.

Applications for that fund each year far exceeds the available grant dollars, so the Thomas Sill Foundation gift is going to make a big difference, allowing for more recipients and potentially larger grants.

"We are grateful for the confidence they have put in us, the Winkler Community Foundation, to manage these funds and for the opportunity to distribute the annual grant dollars," Hildebrand said.

The new fund will begin granting in 2025.

Thomas Sill was a Winnipeg accountant whose firm, Sill Streuber Fiske and Company, served clients across rural Manitoba.

In his will, Sill designated funds to create the foundation, which over



SUPPLIED PHOTO

The Winkler Community Foundation board of directors includes, from left, Henry Siemens, Barb Neufeld, Scott Doell, Myra Peters (executive director), Andy Schmidt, Tena Lane, Corey Hildebrand, Stacy Wiebe, and, missing from photo, Chad Harder, Vi Enns Woelk, and Nina Manujid.

the past four decades has granted out more than \$46 million to charitable causes and community projects across Manitoba. Matching funds

from the foundation also helped to create many of the rural community foundations operating today.

Forecast centre warns of high water levels on the Red River

By Voice staff

Last Thursday, Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure's Hydrologic Forecast Centre sent out an alert of the potential for rising water levels along the Red River north of Emerson.

The centre noted the southern portion of the Red River basin in the United States received up to 80 milli-

metres of rain and snow been Dec. 24-27, which increased the water levels north of the border.

"Water levels have increased by about five feet near Emerson and are peaking," the alert noted. "Water levels continue to rise north of Emerson, bringing a three- to five-foot rise as the river approaches Winnipeg in the next three to five days."

The centre noted the rise in water

levels may lift up the ice and create open water conditions near the river

shorelines. People are advised to take precautions when in those areas.

> HABITAT FOR HUMANITY, FROM PG. 4

The second-place prize included a one-night stay at Winkler's Best Western Plus, a \$50 Flavours of Mexico gift card, and a \$30 My Boba Lab gift card.

The money goes to help Habitat get started on its latest build in Winkler, which will be home to immigrants Binwa and Idolo (last name withheld at the request of Habitat) and their children. They hope to get shovels in the ground sometime this year, but need to raise upwards of \$120,000 to make that happen.

The agency's next big fundraiser on the schedule is its annual playhouse raffle this summer, though Falk notes they'd love to do more between now and then.

"We are definitely looking for help to run more," she said. "If there are churches or other groups of people that would like to help out, we would appreciate it."

"Meal fundraisers are often a great idea and we are always open to coming to speak about Habitat at them if people are interested in that. We can also provide some helping hands for the physical work of the fundraiser if a group would like to run one but needs some extra hands."

You can donate to Habitat for Humanity online at habitat.mb.ca/chapters/winkler-morden/ or connect with them via email to info@wm.habitat.mb.ca.

Our contest winners



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

We got the chance to deliver the prizes to our Christmas Writing Contest winners last month. Winkler Gr. 3 student Jeneba R.T. (left) was our K-3 winner for her story "Santa's Little Helpers" and Gr. 6 student Ella Thiessen (right) from Plum Coulee was our Gr. 5-8 winner for her story "The Sledding Catastrophe." The girls won gift certificates to the local movie theatre. We hope you enjoy them!

The **Voice**

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OUR SISTER PUBLICATIONS



Don't pee on your stuff

I suspect I do not appreciate the creative prowess of our animal friends nearly enough. Perhaps I am not alone in this.

Take for instance the humble dog. An animal of great ingenuity, it marks its property simply by peeing on it.

Now it recognizes its property as soon as it smells it. If a neighbour borrowed its property, the dog knows immediately. If that leaf blower it hasn't seen in three years belongs to the dog it knows simply by scent and no amount of "no, really, it's mine...I bought the same brand as you" excuses will help.

This strategy is also excellent for preventing people from borrowing our stuff.

Let's say my neighbours pee on various bits of their property to mark ownership (and I'm not saying they don't)—it is HIGHLY unlikely that I would seek to borrow any of the items (purely out of respect for their ownership). Genius.

I understand that cats do this as well as various other creatures, and so on a sheer number of species basis there must be some sense (or scents) to it.

I think it is improbable that I will at some point in the future (willingly) employ this same strategy given the potential relationship ramifications. That and the fact that my wife has dozens of RFID tags that she can program which could be used for a less messy version of the same function. The only thing keeping dogs and cats from doing this is a pesky lack of opposable thumbs.



By Peter Cantelon

Speaking of the cat, they are known to have domesticated humans about 12,000 years ago simply to make their lives easier. Before that, humans were catless Neanderthals wandering around with no meaning in our lives.

The point is that we animals are intriguing in the various strategies we have developed over the millions of years we've all had to evolve.

The squirrels in my yard for example are excellent at guarding their property despite their non-threatening size. No marking required, just a constant state of violence and loud, non-stop threatening. They regularly chase every living thing from their chosen tree(s) screaming at the top of their lungs. Heck, they're not even fond of being looked at from the ground.

In many ways it's like watching miniature old men and old ladies hollering at people to "GET OFF MY LAWN" while chasing after the interlopers.

Our leopard gecko uses the same spot in her tank to go to the bathroom. She has for the past 21 years. It makes it incredibly easy to clean and keeps things sanitary for her.

Crows are known to mourn their dead and hold a grudge and elephants have their own graveyards.

It really is quite wonderful when

you start taking a deeper look at the world around us and see the techniques adopted by others for survival and to ease one's existence.

Consider the small octopus; it roams the bottom of the ocean floor and the moment a threat is perceived instantly camouflages itself to match its surroundings, becoming invisible to the predator. It can wander around on land from tide pool to tide pool shopping for groceries and head back into the sea when it is ready. Truly exceptional.

Sure, humans are nothing to sneeze at. We've done our share of impressive things no doubt despite the horrors and machinations of war (consider the Slurpee). But when you take the whole family and all our skills together you really get something incredible.

Take a moment to pause when you have a chance and consider the insane brilliance of the fact that what once was stardust is now this beautiful multitude of intelligence, creativity, and instinct. Consider in the quiet times the ramifications of the connection we have and the responsibility that comes with that.

Most importantly: don't pee on your stuff. There are better (less interesting) ways to mark your ownership.

Letter policy

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

Please keep your letters short (excessively long letters are less likely 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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Genesis House is hosting a puzzle night on Jan. 29

By Lorne Stelmach

It proved popular enough the first time around that Genesis House is putting on another puzzle night fundraiser this month.

The event returns Jan. 29 at the Morden Activity Centre with an entrance fee of \$100 for a team of four and a prize up for grabs for the winning team.

The organization's first puzzle night fundraiser last October brought in about \$2,200 for the shelter for the victims of domestic violence.

That night, 16 of the 20 teams finished their 500-piece puzzles in the allotted two hours. The winning team finished in just over 52 minutes.

Genesis House community and resource development co-ordinator Sophie Gerbrandt was thrilled with the response.

"We weren't sure how it would be received, but it was wildly popular, and at the event people were already asking when are you doing this

again," she said, noting the event was so successful they actually had a wait list once the team spots filled up.

This time around the evening actually takes place on National Puzzle Day.

"We're having 20 teams again because that's what the space allows for ... but it feels like a good amount of people," Gerbrandt said, noting a puzzle night is a fun activity that is accessible to all ages. "One thing that I noticed about our October event was that it was multi-generational. I think our youngest participant was 12 years old and the oldest was in her 90s ... so it was really neat to see families coming out.

"It's a good way to socialize with friends and in a maybe more low key way," she added. "And I think we just have a lot of closet puzzlers in the area. I know a few folks who were at our puzzle event who have actually gone all the way to Winnipeg for puzzle competitions, so it's fun to offer this idea locally.

"I think there's the added benefit



VOICE FILE PHOTO

The first Genesis House puzzle night fundraiser was such a success last fall that the shelter is putting on another one in Morden on Monday, Jan. 29. Space is limited, so book your team as soon as possible.

of knowing your money is going for a donation for Genesis House," Gerbrandt noted. "I'm hopeful maybe this is something we can do at least twice a year. I think it may be better in fall and winter months. And on our end too, it's relatively simple to plan,

so that's always an added bonus."

If you're interested in participating, email resource@genesis-house.ca or call or text 204-362-0082 to secure your team's spot.

IIU concludes investigation into injuries following attempted traffic stop by Winkler Police

By Voice staff

Manitoba's Independent Investigation Unit (IIU) has concluded Winkler Police Service officers were not at fault in a single vehicle accident that left a pursued suspect with a broken wrist.

The IIU released its report last week on the incident that took place in June of 2022. The release had been delayed until the suspect in question had their day in court to answer to charges connected to the incident.

On June 8, 2022, the Winkler Police Service (WPS) notified the IIU of an incident that occurred that day at 6:30 p.m., when an officer attempted to conduct a traffic stop on the operator of a dirt bike on a roadway in Winkler.

According to the notification, the operator fled and subsequently struck a concrete curb, at which time they lost control and were ejected from the bike.

The driver sustained a broken wrist as a result and was treated and released from hospital.

As a broken wrist is defined as a serious injury, the IIU was mandated to investigate to determine whether the actions of a police officer caused or in

any way contributed to the injuries sustained.

IIU investigators interviewed witnesses and reviewed police radio transmissions, scene reports and photos, witness statements, and the RCMP collision investigation report.

The suspect who was injured in the incident did not make themselves available to be interviewed, investigators report, nor give consent for the release of medical information relative to the accident.

The final report concluded the Winkler officer was not at fault, and that he had sufficient grounds to conduct a traffic stop, as the suspect was operating his dirt bike in a reckless manner.

"The decision to evade police by accelerating and failing to stop was the sole decision of AP [the affected person] who is solely responsible for the collision and aftermath," the report states. "There is no evidence to support a finding that there is any level of contribution by the [Winkler Police Service] officer to the cause of the collision."

The IIU has now closed the file on the case.

WELCOMING HARLEY SHEPHERD AS OUR
NEW PARTNER AT

MMJS

LAW OFFICES

McCulloch Mooney Johnston Selby LLP

YOUR LOCAL LAWYERS



We are thrilled to announce Harley Shepherd has become Partner at MMJS Law Offices. This expansion reflects our commitment to providing quality and prompt legal services to assist our clients to succeed and prosper.

Harley Shepherd received his Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Manitoba in 2008 and received his Bachelor of Laws in 2011. Harley was called to the Manitoba Bar on June 21, 2012. While studying at St. John's College at the University of Manitoba, Harley met his wife, Heather, a farm girl from Roland.

Harley and Heather married in 2013, welcomed their first daughter, Adelynn, in 2014, and their second daughter, Brielle, in 2016.

In 2021 Harley took a temporary position with Franz Hoepfner Wiens in Winkler and began attending the Deloraine office of that firm. Harley began a permanent position as an associate Lawyer with MMJS on January 1, 2022 and Franz Hoepfner Wiens sold the Deloraine Office to MMJS at the same time. In April, 2022 MMJS purchased the law practice of Michael Waldron in Boissevain and Harley has attended that office since that time. Harley works primarily out of our Carman location aside from Deloraine and Boissevain on Wednesdays.

Harley feels blessed to be able to practice law in rural communities across southern Manitoba.

Outside the office, Harley is the Sergeant-at-Arms for Carman Branch #18 of the Royal Canadian Legion. Harley and his family continue to enjoy living in Carman.

Congratulations Harley!



Ring in 2024 at the WFRC

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

A number of local families rung in the new year with the Winkler Family Resource Centre last week. The early childhood education centre hosted its annual family bash at the Emmanuel Mennonite Church Dec. 31, offering fun and games for the kids and mocktails for the adults. The evening culminated with a countdown and balloon drop at 7 p.m., giving parents the chance to get the kids home and to bed before marking the actual New Year a few hours later.



Back 40, WA+C hosting coffeehouse Jan. 19

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Back 40 Folk Festival is teaming up with Winkler Arts and Culture for an Inspirations coffeehouse next week.

Local musicians will be performing the songs of the late Gordon Lightfoot and John Prine at the Park St. gallery on Friday, Jan. 19 starting at 7 p.m.

Admission is free.

The festival's coffeehouse nights are a great way to bring music-lovers together and give local musicians the chance to perform, says organizer Bill Dowling.

"We've done Leonard Cohen, Gord Downie, Tom Petty ... it always draws a nice crowd and it's a nice way to gather local musicians around a

theme," he says.

Prine and Lightfoot, who both passed away in recent years, were good friends with similar styles, so it seemed a good match to honour them both this time around, Dowling said.

Musicians who have signed up to perform that night include Dowling, Steven Dueck, Jenessa Kehler, and Karl Redding, to name a few.

"We see it as part of our mandate to just try to encourage people to play," Dowling says. "A lot of us, like myself and Steve Dueck and Scott Bell, we all got used to getting out there and playing because of the Back 40 way back in the day. They ran coffeehouses and that sort of thing, and that's how we got started, in those kinds of venues. So we're trying to carry on that whole tradition and keep it going."

Along those lines, the Back 40 also has a concert scheduled for the P.W. Enns Centennial Concert Hall on Friday, Feb. 23 featuring singer-songwriters from across the region. Ticket information will be available soon on the concert hall's website.

Funds from that show will go to support the 2024 festival, which takes place in Morden Park on Sunday, June 2.

Dowling says they're just getting started on planning for the festival.

"We're looking forward to it," he says, noting last year's event, which focused very much on local talent, was very well-received. "So we're thinking we might continue moving in that direction, but we're still talking about what we're doing."

You can stay on top of Back 40 announcements online at back40folkfest.com.



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Wastewater, water plant expansion, and arena upgrades on tap for 2024: Siemens

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The past 12 months have been busy ones in Winkler, and Mayor Henry Siemens expects 2024 will be no different.

In a year-end interview with the Voice, Siemens reflected on some of the highlights of 2023 and shared his expectations for the months ahead.

"We got lots of things done in 2023," he said. "When we look at capital projects, there's our Lions Park tennis court refurbishment, getting a new heater into the pool, the new speed slide in at the pool, and the Winkler Whips did an amazing upgrade on Diamond 5, which is now called Arctic Field."

Other highlights included the extension of Park St. north of PTH 14, the refurbishment of the George St. water reservoir, and the continued growth of the Winkler Fire Department, which trained nine new recruits.

The year also brought good news by way of funding commitments from both the provincial and federal governments for planned renovations to the aging Winkler Centennial Arena.

"IT'S BY FAR AND AWAY BY A FACTOR OF TWO THE BIGGEST PROJECT THAT THE CITY OF WINKLER HAS EVER UNDERTAKEN."

"We now have about \$11 million in funding for that project. It's exciting," Siemens said. "We're trying to plan it out right now and we're finding that, as with any other reno that anybody has ever done, there's some surprises and there's some things under the hood that we have to deal with. We're trying to get our plan together in that regard."

Though work is being done on the reno plans in the hopes the project can begin in spring, Siemens noted city staff's immediate focus is very much on two other vital infrastructure undertakings: the new wastewater treatment project and an expansion at the existing Winkler water treatment plant. Should the tenders on these two projects come in significantly higher than expected, the arena renos may have to take a backseat for a time.

"With those two, there's been a whole bunch of hurry up and wait," the mayor shared. "Both projects are approved and supported by both council and the governments of Canada and Manitoba."

The expectation was that the wastewater project would go to tender last fall, but design delays have pushed that deadline back.

"We're literally, at this point in time, at the finish line. We anticipate the tender documents will be released sometime in January, so we are very, very close," Siemens said.

The approximately \$55 million project will create wastewater capacity for a population of 25,000 (for context, the 2021 census put the Winkler's population at 13,745).

"It's by far and away by a factor of



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Winkler Mayor Henry Siemens is proud of what the city was able to accomplish over the past year, and he's eager to get to work on several more big projects in 2024.

two the biggest project that the City of Winkler has ever undertaken," Siemens said.

The water treatment plant expansion, currently estimated to cost upwards of \$14 million, will also increase capacity to 25,000 residents.

That project will see a second storage tank added to the building, which will be expanded into the area currently home to the Winkler Dog Park (which will be moved to a new location still to be determined).

"What that will mean is there will be a second stream inside that will be able to treat more water," Siemens explained. "And we're also going to work very hard there to make sure that we're able to recover more of our water from the aquifer."

Winkler's treatment process already allows the city to draw a high amount of brackish water from the aquifer (it

has an efficiency rate of about 75 per cent), but the expansion will increase it so even less rejected water needs to be sent to the lagoon.

"Our hope is to be able to get that into the 90 per cent range," Siemens said, "which will also help our wastewater [levels]."

The plan is for the water expansion plans to go to tender not too long after the wastewater project.

"We hope that the trailing tender on that will only be a matter of months," Siemens said, noting that project also has funding from upper levels of government as well as the RM of Stanley.

These projects will ensure unimpeded growth in Winkler for at least a decade.

"At our current rate of growth, it'll be less than 20 years," Siemens esti-

Continued on page 10

Morden city council welcomes new youth rep.

By Lorne Stelmach

Morden city council has another new face at the table for its meetings.

Jaxon Forster recently came on board as the new youth council representative, and the Grade 11 student is interested to see where he can go with this opportunity.

"I think it's a very interesting idea, and I think it's a great opportunity to learn about what goes on in the decision making for a smaller city like Morden," Forster said after sitting in on his first meeting Dec. 27.

"I do think politics is very interesting ... not sure that I'm going to go into politics, but who knows? I think it's a good window into even just a lit-

tle bit of what it might be like."

Forster thinks it is a good thing for council to be getting a youth perspective.

"I think it's good to have somebody who can communicate with both sides," he said. "Hopefully I can get broad enough opinions and then condense it all into kind of a general voice and kind of show what youth are thinking and bring that to light."

He also hopes he can perhaps play a role in getting other youth interested in civic affairs.

"I think another thing is to figure out a way to maybe make them concerned ... think about how this maybe might affect you," he said.

Mayor Nancy Penner agreed the

youth council representative can play a vital role.

"Youth are a big part of our community, so to have a youth perspective on council is very important," she said. "I think Jaxon's involvement with this council is going to be positive, and he is so full of energy, and he is involved in the community. He is a well rounded student, and we are very fortunate to have him as student rep on council. He's going to be a good addition to council."

Morden city council's new youth rep. is Gr. 11 student Jaxon Forster.

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE



Morden's new mayor looking forward to a busy 2024 and beyond

By Lorne Stelmach

After having stepped down from city council to run for mayor, Nancy Penner has returned in her new role.

She looked forward to getting down to business as mayor, although she noted how much one can miss while being out of the loop for even such a short time.

"It was a change of direction for me ... stepping away from council for two months then coming back and being sworn in as mayor," Penner said in a year-end interview.

"It is an opportunity I am very much looking forward to," she said, adding how much she had to quickly catch up on now. "My email came up with 113 emails, so I wasn't sure how long that would take me to sift through, but it's exciting to start. It's a job I'm very much looking forward to now."

Penner reflected on some of the key issues and developments from the past 12 months as well as what now lays ahead for council.

"It was a busy year for the city," said Penner, citing such challenges as those posed by having two main bridges that had to be replaced as a result of flood damage.

Another key priority was to make progress on the expansion of the Mor-

den industrial park. Following the purchase of the land, the city has been working on site design and the subdivision of lots, and it then needs to work on the infrastructure.

"It's still in the works. I'm not sure that it will be open for business this year, but as we go forward, I think we will see towards the end of 2024 it should be ready for development," she said. "That's a big move forward for Morden, not only for existing employers or industry to expand but also for new industry."

Penner also cited the importance of the addition of new day care spaces with the new facility in the works in the northwest corner of the city as well as the new École Discovery Trails, which will also have additional day care spaces.

"It will benefit both the school and the community going forward in terms of the recreation and event opportunities," she noted.

The biggest issues still facing the city of course are the waste water treatment project and getting a more secure potable water supply.

Penner recalled five years ago when she first joined council that they thought they were looking at about

a \$24 million project. The price tag is now closer to \$100 million overall.

"That's going to be a huge elephant in the room that we're going to have to deal with going forward," she said.

"We have to move forward with it or the economy here in southern Manitoba is going to come to an abrupt standstill, not just for Morden but for the larger area," Penner said. "We're reaching capacity, so we have to be extremely careful."

And with the importance of these kinds of projects, she added, it is good to have former mayor Brandon Burtle now serving as a regional liaison for the provincial government.

"The province has our ear, and with the new provincial cabinet office being located somewhere in the Pembina Valley, they are definitely going to hear our voice even louder," she suggested. "With the economic growth in the Pembina Valley ... they know the dollars they are losing if they don't address the need to facilitate growth in this area."

Another project Penner looks forward to seeing come to fruition is what will happen with the city's purchase of the former land titles building. The city is putting out a request for proposals, and she stressed they are looking for someone with an idea that will be of the most benefit for the downtown.

"There will be very specific guidelines with what the city would like to see done with that building ... and



Morden Mayor Nancy Penner is eager to get to work on plans for 2024 and beyond.

they will have restrictions as far as what they can do with the building," she said. "It's a prime location right in the heart of the city, so it would be a great building to develop and have some great retail there."

First order of business for the new council is starting off the new year with a strategic planning session.

"Once we deal with some of the big ticket items coming out of 2023 ... moving forward, we can springboard off those successes as we move into 2024," said Penner.

"We had a strong council, and I'm looking forward to building an even stronger council with the addition of two strong councillors coming on to the team."

"MOVING FORWARD, WE CAN SPRINGBOARD OFF [2023'S] SUCCESSES AS WE MOVE INTO 2024."

> SIEMENS, FROM PG. 10

mated as to how long it will be before the city hits 25,000 residents. "In all likelihood, it will be in that 12 to 15-year range."

Even as these two big water/wastewater projects are preparing to cross the finish line, city staff are already preparing for what's next.

"Already we're looking at what will the next phase look like," Siemens said, "and our staff are already working on that and planning into the future."

"And we know that nothing can be done independently of others anymore, so as we have these conversations, we're having really good conversations with our neighbours, Stanley and Morden, about what does it look like when we look at the larger Pembina Valley? How can we solve some of these challenges together?"

"It's probably one of the highlights of the past year for me has been how hard each one of the municipal

leaders in the Pembina Valley has worked at building relationships over this last year, and understanding how similar each one of us are in terms of the challenges ... if we can find ways to work together, we'll be able to move significantly further.

"We're in a rapidly growing, highly desirable area because we have good jobs, we have a good quality of life, there's a general affordability to the area," Siemens said, acknowledging, however, the challenging affordable housing situation Winkler is currently in.

"One of our big challenges right now is housing. We're not able to keep up with housing," he said. "We're in the process of launching a housing task force ... we're going to get a group of people together, anyone who touches housing in any way, and we're going to have a conversation to find out what is needed, what questions do we have, and how can we answer those questions."

"As a city, what can we do to support growth? Are there roadblocks that we can remove? Are there enhancements that we can offer to make it more desirable to build?"

Siemens also expects headway will be made in the year ahead on a made-in-Winkler public transportation plan.

"We've reached out to talk to the entire community ... and we learned there is a desire for a transportation solution in the community that will likely look like a subsidized ride program," he said, noting he expects to see a concrete plan from city staff early in 2024. "The hope is that we'll be able to put something forward to start sometime in 2024, no later than 2025. Council is committed to doing something."

Siemens said staff have also been working on the community's asset management plan, which creates a clear road map of every asset Winkler has, its expected lifespan, and

projected upkeep and replacement costs. It's very helpful in aiding council in its financial planning, Siemens said.

"In everything that we're doing, we're working hard to create a sustainable community. And part of that, creating a sustainable community, is making sure that we have a plan to look after what we have. A plan to build what we're building today while also putting something away so that tomorrow, when something comes up, we're able to deal that as well."

As we move into a new year, the mayor has a clear message for Winklerites.

"If there's one thing I want to reiterate is how blessed we are in our community to have a generous, hardworking community who is consistently prepared to step into the challenges that are there and find creative solutions to solving them."

get informed

Reeve expects big things in year ahead for Stanley

By Lorne Stelmach

Reeve Ike Friesen sees the past year as one of growth for the RM of Stanley.

After having come through not only the pandemic but then a drought followed by flooding, he is optimistic there will be further progress for the community in the year ahead.

"It's been a remarkably and thankfully more uneventful year compared to the last couple of previous years," Friesen said in a year-end interview.

Friesen highlighted a few projects and initiatives from 2023, but none are perhaps more significant than having made progress towards a wastewater treatment project with Winkler as well as the construction of the Stanley corridor reservoir project.

The \$6.4 million reservoir near the Boundary Trails Health Centre was cost shared by the municipality and the province and is nearly complete, noted Friesen.

"This will provide a stable source of potable water for the future development in the corridor and a constant supply for the expansion at Boundary Trails Health Centre as well," he said, adding it will also help with water

supply for the northwest area of the municipality. "It will relieve some of the water needs in that area as well."

Friesen also heralded the completion of the pathway linking Schanzenfeld to Winkler as well as improvements to Stanley Park.

"We actually had in excess of 20,000 visitors come through the park," said Friesen, who noted the work included 12 new solar lights and completion of a bridge that is ready to be installed as well as new signage and relocation of a shelter near the RV camp sites.

"In Stanley Park, we've done quite a few upgrades there. It's a big draw for both visitors and local people in the area," he continued. "We've been putting a little more priority on it. We know it's a gem in the municipality. It's a beautiful park, well treed and taken care of ... and people really seem to enjoy it. It's open in the win-

ter time now. We clear the parking lot so that people can use it."

Important as well was flood protection projects for the villages of Schanzenfeld and Hochfeld, where there were flood-prone areas.

"Hopefully, going forward, those won't be bad areas for flooding anymore," the reeve said.

Of course, there is all of the usual work such as road upgrades: 40 km of road got dustproofed, and another 5.6 km of dirt roads were upgraded with shale and sand mix, while there was 77,000 tons of road gravel applied.

There were also 3.5 km of new limestone pathways along with 952 metres of new culverts including 24 new private driveways. As well, 3.5 miles of new shelterbelts were planted.

Friesen also celebrated the development of the new Reinfeld park. The RM bought 15 acres of land for the project, and the first phase included a new outdoor ice rink with a warming shack as well as a parking lot.

"We're really excited about it. It's a beautiful park space for the community," the reeve said, adding that phase two is to include a new picnic shelter, soccer pitch and baseball diamond. "That has been well supported by Reinfeld and the greater community. We really appreciate the support that's been coming in, and that's all really being done by the Reinfeld recreation group."

Another priority now is a Reinfeld community pathway to be developed along the south dike.

"The dike has already been built up to mitigate any future excess runoff," said Friesen, who added the RM is also applying for grants for pathway projects in Blumenfeld and Hochfeld.

"And we are hopeful the long awaited Stanley community path connecting Winkler to Morden will finally be tendered and constructed," he said. "I think the logistics have been worked out."

Friesen was also encouraged by the level of new development in the mu-



FILE PHOTO

Stanley Reeve Ike Friesen says 2023 was full of vital infrastructure projects, some of which will continue into 2024.

municipality. As of October, the number of development permits in the municipality had increased, although total value particularly with residential had decreased. The numbers received a big boost from the ongoing BTHC expansion.

And he also highlighted having new chief administrative officer Terry Penner take over from Dale Toews as of mid-November.

"He's fitting in very well ... he's a good asset to the RM."

Friesen went on to emphasize the importance of regional collaboration moving forward.

"We look forward to working with the newly elected mayor and council members in Morden as well," he said. "Communications have been good with both Winkler and Morden. Regionally, I feel we really work together well."

He concluded by expressing gratitude for all of the staff serving the municipality.

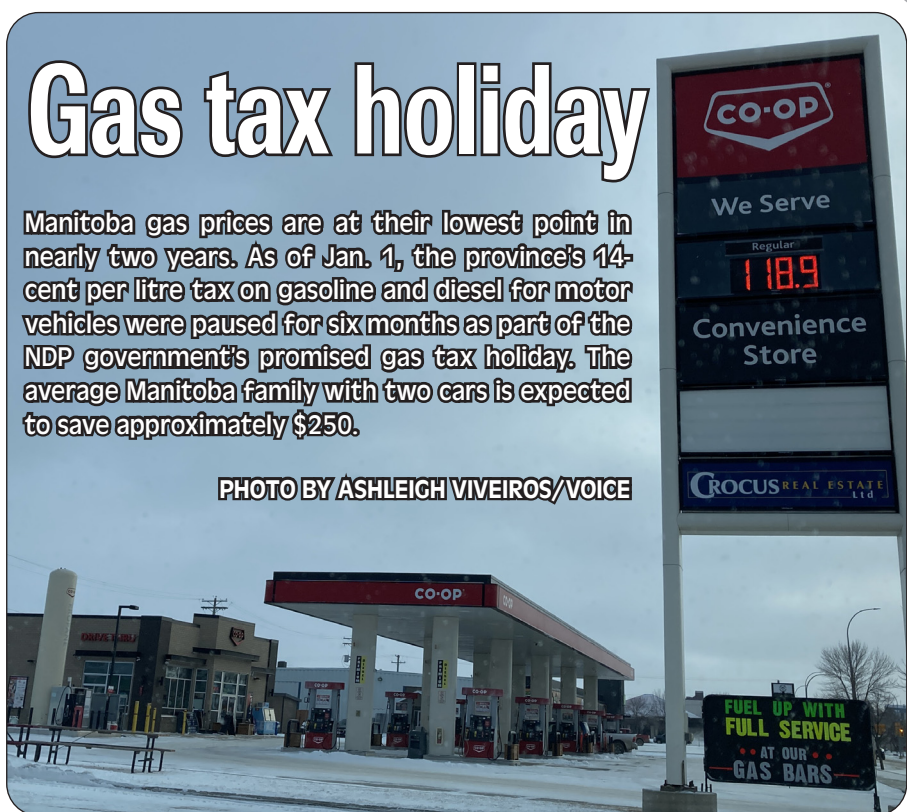
"They do take great pride in the work that they do, and it shows ... neighbours helping each other out and coming together is what community is all about," said Friesen.

"NEIGHBOURS HELPING EACH OTHER OUT AND COMING TOGETHER IS WHAT COMMUNITY IS ALL ABOUT."

Gas tax holiday

Manitoba gas prices are at their lowest point in nearly two years. As of Jan. 1, the province's 14-cent per litre tax on gasoline and diesel for motor vehicles were paused for six months as part of the NDP government's promised gas tax holiday. The average Manitoba family with two cars is expected to save approximately \$250.

PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE



Check out the Voice online at www.winklormordenvoice.ca or altonavoice.ca

sports & recreation

Hawks split pair of games with Bruins, fall to Selects

By Lorne Stelmach

The male U18 Pembina Valley Hawks were on both ends of a pair of shootout losses this past weekend.

Friday saw the Hawks fall 4-3 to the Eastman Selects in the overtime skills session, but Pembina Valley then pulled out a 5-4 victory Saturday over the Winnipeg Bruins.

That followed a 3-1 loss to the Bruins last Wednesday in Morden, which leaves the Hawks in seventh place at 10-12-3-4 for 27 points. They are one point ahead of Eastman and six behind the Winnipeg Thrashers.

The Hawks may have deserved a better fate against the Bruins Jan. 3 as they outshot Winnipeg 41-32 but could not manage anything more than an early third-period goal which drew them to within 2-1.

Kam Thomas was the lone scorer for Pembina Valley while Bryson Yaschyshyn took the loss in net with 29 saves.

Haiden Friesen scored his second of the game with just under a minute remaining to send the Eastman game to overtime, but the Selects won the shootout 2-0.

Ryder Wolfe scored the other goal for the Hawks, who got 40 saves from Ryler Gates as Pembina Valley was outshot 43-36.

On Saturday, it was the Bruins who



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Hawks goalie Bryson Yaschyshyn fights to stay in position as Winnipeg's Tyler Free tries to get a shot on net. The Bruins won it 3-1 but the Hawks got their revenge Saturday night with 5-4 victory

scored with 20 seconds remaining to send the game to overtime, but the Hawks this time got the only shootout goal from Acoyen Fehr.

Pembina Valley got a pair of goals from Adrien McIntosh and singles

from Friesen and Sam Delaquis en route to victory. Bryson Yaschyshyn made 35 saves in net as Winnipeg held a 39-31 edge in shots on goal.

The Hawks have only one game this week with a visit to Teulon Satur-

day for a matchup with the Interlake Lightning. Their next home game is against the Winnipeg Thrashers in Morden Jan. 17.

Winkler Flyers start 2024 with three wins in a row

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Flyers knocked off three straight wins to start January on the right note last week.

A 5-0 blanking of the Winnipeg Freeze Wednesday was followed by wins of 7-3 and 5-4 against the Niverville Nighthawks over the weekend.

Winkler's Malachi Klassen got the shutout in net against Winnipeg, making 19 saves.

His teammates fired 45 the other way, with shots from Trent Penner, Tanner George, Mike Svenson, Isaiah Peters, and Dalton Andrew all find-

ing their mark.

Game one of the home-and-away with Niverville saw the visiting Nighthawks take a 2-1 lead after 20 minutes. Winkler's goal came courtesy of Nich McKee.

The Flyers made up for the slow start with four goals in the second (singles from Penner and Jakob Jones and two from Andrew), allowing the Nighthawks just one more in response.

Two more goals from Andrew and Jones sealed the deal in the third.

The Flyers outshot the Nighthawks 39-32 this game. Klassen made 22

saves in net.

The next night in Niverville saw the Flyers down 4-1 after two periods (Zach Nichols scored for them in the first), but they managed to tie it up with three goals in the third from Nicolas, Blake Matheson, and Jayce Legaarden. Legaarden then got the winning goal three minutes into overtime.

Liam Ernst was in net this game for Winkler and he made 22 saves in regulation off 26 shots and stopped the lone shot on goal in overtime. The Flyers sent 32 shots on net the other

way.

With that, Winkler has a good hold on the third place in the MGEU East Division with a record of 23-5-2-2 and 50 points. They trail the Portage Terriers in second place by just one point and the Steinbach Pistons in first place by four. Well behind them in fourth place with 42 points are the Niverville Nighthawks.

This week the Flyers play in Selkirk Tuesday night and in Neepawa on Saturday. Their next home game is against the Winnipeg Freeze Jan. 17.

Continued on page 13



Altona's Team Campbell wins U18 championship

Altona's Team Campbell won the U18 provincial curling championship in Selkirk over the weekend. Skip Rylan Campbell, third Logan Zacharias, second Nick Senff, and lead Rylan Graham beat out Morden's Team Sugden in the final 11-1. The team is coached by Sheldon Zacharias. Both teams have qualified to represent Manitoba at the 2024 Canadian U18 Championships in Ottawa next month. Left: Team Campbell with their trophy. Below: Team Sugden includes Nash Sugden, Tyler Fehr, Tanner Treichel, Ryan Thiessen, and coach Gord Titchkosky. Left, bottom: Campbell in action.

PHOTOS BY BRETT MITCHELL/VOICE



Female Hawks looking to get back in the win column

By Lorne Stelmach

Gaining a point for a shootout loss this past weekend offered a small bit of consolation for the female U18 Pembina Valley Hawks.

They battled hard with the Eastman Selects Sunday afternoon in Morden, but they came up just short in falling 2-1 with the Selects connecting for the lone shootout goal.

Emma Durand scored the lone goal for the Hawks to even the game at 1-1

> FLYERS, FROM PG. 12

In other Flyers news, the team last week announced a three-team trade that will bring defenseman Will Brophy (2004) to Winkler.

The AJHL's Spruce Grove Saints receive forward Dylan Ruptash (2004) and the SJHL's Yorkton Terriers receive player development fees from Winkler and Spruce Grove in the

in the second period, while Kasia Rakowski made 41 saves with Pembina Valley outshot 42-35 overall.

It leaves the Hawks in seventh place at 5-11-3 for 13 points, which has them tied with Interlake, although the Lightning have two games in hand and one more victory. There is an 11-point differential then to fifth place Eastman, while Central Plains sits in the cellar in eighth place at six points.

The Hawks will try to get back into the win column with a busier week

trade.

"Will is a long-ranged defenseman offensive skillset to transport pucks," says Flyers head coach and general manager Justin Falk. "His ability to take time and space away defending will complement our back end going into the second half."

ahead that started with hosting Central Plains in Morden Wednesday. This weekend then has them hosting

Westman Saturday afternoon in Carman and welcoming Interlake to Morden Sunday.

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We have a new opportunity to highlight:

Web Coordinator

Public Affairs/Marketing

Full time, term (asap to June 30, 2025)

Competition # 93-23/24

Brandon, Manitoba

Salary: \$58,191 to \$67,823 annually (\$30.87 to \$35.98 hourly)

For full position details or to view all career opportunities visit:
www.assiniboine.net/careers.

Assiniboine Community College is committed to reconciliation and ensuring that its policies, practices, and systems are free of barriers. Assiniboine values diversity and promotes full participation to ensure dignity, respect, and equal access for all employees.

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

If you are interested in this career opportunity, please email your resume and cover letter with reference to:

careers@assiniboine.net

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



CAREERS



MAINTENANCE MECHANIC/MILLWRIGHT

Bunge Altona has an opening for a Maintenance Mechanic/Millwright. Work involves process equipment installation, maintenance and repair, lubrication, steel fabrication and welding.

Preference will be given to those candidates holding a valid provincial Millwright or Industrial Mechanic ticket. Candidates who do not hold a valid ticket will be expected to enrol in the apprenticeship program to obtain their ticket as soon as possible. Overtime and on-call duties are required. The successful applicant will possess excellent written and verbal communication skills, trouble shooting skills, and be a team player.

The following would be considered an asset for this position:

- Experience in grain handling, processing, or manufacturing facility
- Experience in industrial equipment maintenance and repair
- Ability to read blueprints and technical documents
- Pressure or structural welding tickets and related experience

This is a regular full time position providing an excellent wage and benefits package. Bunge is committed to providing a safe, healthy, and rewarding workplace for all employees.

Starting Wages:

- Mechanic \$32.70/hour
- Red Seal Millwright: \$38.08/hour

A job description for this position can be found online on the Bunge website: <https://obs.bunge.com/>. enter "Altona" in the field "Search by Location". Click on "Maintenance Mechanic/Millwright" to read the description. Applications should be made online with an attached resume.

Bunge Canada is an equal opportunity employer.

CAREERS



Wide Open Welding is seeking a qualified structural steel erector.

- Must be able to read and interpret erecting drawings.
- Perform basic layout for column and beam placement in the field.
- Rigging and crane signal knowledge a must.
- Use of basic site surveying equipment an asset.
- Familiar with erecting tools and their use.
- Welding tickets (CWB) are an asset, basic welding experience acceptable.
- Clean driving record.
- Telehandler and aerial work equipment tickets an asset.

Due to attrition this position will lead to a site foreman/superintendent position for the right applicant. Located in Pemberton BC. Please forward your resume to contactus@wideopenwelding.com

PUBLIC NOTICE



UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PLANNING ACT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the date and at the time and location shown below, a PUBLIC HEARING will be held to receive representations from any person(s) who wish to make them in respect to the following matter:

THE TOWN OF ALTONA ZONING BY-LAW 1818/2023 Being an AMENDMENT to the TOWN OF ALTONA ZONING BY-LAW 1792/2021, AS AMENDED

HEARING LOCATION: ALTONA CIVIC OFFICE
111 CENTRE AVENUE EAST, ALTONA, MB
DATE & TIME: January 23rd, 2024 at 6:00 PM

GENERAL INTENT:
To serve as a general house-keeping amendment. The amendment will update the accessory/secondary building & structure tables, use specific standards for multiple family dwellings, sign regulations and driveway widths.

AREA: TOWN OF ALTONA

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
Tanya Waddell, General Manager
RPGA PLANNING DISTRICT
Box 270, Altona MB R0G 0B0
Phone: (204) 324-5357
manager@rpgamb.ca

A copy of the above proposal and supporting material may be inspected at the location noted above during normal office hours, Monday to Friday. Copies may be made and extracts taken there from, upon request.

SCRAP METAL

Buyer for all farm-yard scrap, machinery and autos. No item too large! Best prices paid, cash in hand. Phone Alf at 204-461-1649.

FOR RENT

Mature person, 1 bdrm. basement suite on 80 acres. Livestock welcome. Clean, quiet, smoke free home. \$850, internet & satellite included. No indoor pets. Teulon, MB. 204-479-0294.

APARTMENT FOR RENT

Main floor 1 bdrm. apt., 151 Caron St., St. Jean. Modern apartment, hardwood floors, laundry, sauna, garage, satellite TV. All utilities included. \$925/mo. Phone 204-712-6433.

WANTED

Gold, Silver & Platinum!!



Cash Paid For Coins, Coin Collections, Bullion, 999 bars, Ingots, Rounds, Jewelry, Watches, Nuggets, Scrap, Gold Dust, Sterling Silver, Sterling Silverware plus anything Gold, Silver or Platinum.

Also purchasing Old Money, Royal Canadian Mint Coins, Franklin Mint, Coin Sets, etc. **Wanted:** USA, Canada and World Coin Collections, coin sets & old money. Buying Entire Collections!

Todd The Coin Guy
250-864-3521

WANTED

Firearms wanted. Looking for all unwanted firearms. Fully licensed for both non-restricted and restricted. Anywhere from individual items to estates. Cash buyer, paying top dollar. Please call or text Adam at 204-795-2850.

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12 Patterson Dr., Stonewall, MB
Online Timed Auctions @ iCollector.com

Estate & Moving
Featuring Coins
Wed., January 17 @ 7:00PM

Poole's Antiques in Gunton, MB
Featuring Signs, Furniture, Various Antiques - 450 Items
Thurs., January 18 @ 6:30PM

Estate & Moving
Featuring Farm-Tiques
Wed., January 24 @ 7:00PM
204-467-1858

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER of the ESTATE of NEIL ALEXANDER JOHNSON, late of the City of Morden, in Manitoba, deceased.

All claims against the above Estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be filed with the undersigned at 309 Stephen Street, Morden, Manitoba, R6M 1V1 within thirty (30) days of the date of this publication. DATED at the City of Morden, in Manitoba this 4th day of January, 2024.

MCCULLOCH MOONEY JOHNSTON SELBY LLP
ATTENTION: JULIE TOEWS

Solicitors for the Estate of Neil Alexander Johnson

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FARMLAND TENDER

FARM LAND FOR SALE BY TENDER

Sealed, written tenders for farmland in the **RM of Pembina** described below will be received by: **Franz Hoepfner Wiens Law Office** Box 99, 1 - 880 J 15th Street Winkler, MB R6W 4A4

LAND:

SW ¼ 11-1-7 WPM (160 acres) – Title Number: 1912661/4
W ½ 8-1-7 WPM (320 acres) – Title Number: 1730053/4

** Please see fhwlaw.ca/tenders for sketch of land location

BUILDINGS:

SW ¼ of 8-1-7 WPM contains grain storage with a total capacity of 26,200 bushels. There are eight flat bottom corrugated steel bins:

- 1 – 8000 bushels
- 4 – 3200 bushels
- 3 – 1800 bushels

** Please see fhwlaw.ca/tenders for photos of the bins

NOTES:

Tenders may be submitted for the SW ¼ of 11-1-7 alone, for the W ½ of 8-1-7 alone or for both parcels of land. For the purposes of this tender process the W ½ of 8-1-7 will not be split.

Arable number of acres on each parcel may be less than the number of acres listed on the Title.

CONDITIONS OF TENDER:

1. Tenders must be received on or before 5:00 PM on January 25, 2024.
2. Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.
3. Possession is March 1, 2024.
4. Tender must be accompanied by a refundable deposit of \$20,000.00 (cheque made payable to Franz Hoepfner Wiens Law Office).

TERMS OF SALE:

1. The successful bidder(s) shall enter a formal agreement covering terms and conditions of sale.
2. Possession is not authorized until acceptable arrangements for full payment are made following acceptance of tender.
3. If the balance of the accepted tender is not paid on the Due Date, the deposit paid may be forfeited as liquidated damages.
4. Successful bidder will be responsible for real property taxes commencing January 1, 2024.
5. The purchaser is responsible for GST or shall self-assess for GST.

For further information contact Franz Hoepfner Wiens Law Office at 204-325-4615.

PUBLIC NOTICE



**UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PLANNING ACT
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

On the date and at the time and location shown below, a PUBLIC HEARING will be held to receive representations from any person(s) who wish to make them in respect to the following matter:

THE MUNICIPALITY OF RHINELAND BY-LAW 2023-10
Being an AMENDMENT to the MUNICIPALITY OF RHINELAND ZONING BY-LAW 2021-06, AS AMENDED

HEARING LOCATION: RHINELAND COUNCIL CHAMBERS
109-3rd Avenue NE, Altona, MB
DATE & TIME: January 24th, 2024 at 9:00 AM

GENERAL INTENT: To serve as a general house-keeping amendment. The amendment will update the accessory/secondary building & structure tables and use specific standards for multiple family dwellings

AREA: Municipality of Rhineland

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Tanya Waddell, General Manager
RPGA PLANNING DISTRICT
Box 270, Altona MB RoG oBo Phone: (204) 324-5357
manager@rpgamb.ca

A copy of the above proposal and supporting material may be inspected at the location noted above during normal office hours, Monday to Friday. Copies may be made and extracts taken there from, upon request.

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New Idea 4845 Rnd baler

NH 273 Hayline Sq Baler

Heston 1160 Haybine 14'

Online Closes Jan 25, 2024

Bradley Meyers,
Auctioneer

text 204-476-6262

www.meyersauctions.com

BRED COW SALE



FARMERS AND RANCHERS

Plan to attend the Bred Cow sale

Saturday, January 20, 2024
at 1:00 p.m.
Ashern Auction Mart

Open consignment bred cow and heifer sale
250 cows are expected, including

125 cows for 3Bar Cattle
50 cows for Danilo Krahn

More consignors are welcome

For further information contact:
Ashern Auction Mart – 204-768-2360
Kirk – 204-768-0019
Licence #1128

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> GAMES

LAND TENDER

TENDER FOR SALE OF LAND

Sealed tenders clearly marked with the words "Land Tender – Friesen/SandercocK" will be received by **Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP (Attention: Scott Hoepfner)** until **January 17, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.** for the purchase of the following land, with the potential for possible development:

Lot 2 in SE ¼ 18-3-5 WPM, near the North-West corner of the City of Morden (close to the Discovery Trails School currently under construction) being approximately 28.5 acres, and being legally described as follows:
LOT 2 PLAN 72414 MLTO IN SE 1/4 18-3-5 WPM

Terms and conditions of sale:

- Each tender must be sealed and in writing, accompanied by deposit paid by bank draft, certified cheque or solicitor's trust cheque in the amount of 10% of the offered price payable to Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP, IN TRUST. Deposits accompanying unaccepted bids will be returned.
- All tenders must be received by the deadline of January 17, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. and include the full name, address, phone number and email of the purchaser.
- Only tenders for the entire portion of land will be considered and shouldn't be subject to any conditions precedent.
- On acceptance of the tender, the deposit will be applied to the purchase price and the balance remaining will become due and payable on the closing date. The closing date shall be 30 days after the successful bid is determined. If the balance of the accepted tender is not paid by the closing date, the deposit paid will be forfeited as liquidated damages and not as a penalty.
- Interested purchasers must rely on their own inspection and knowledge of the land. The land is sold on an "as is" basis. The vendor makes no representations or warranties with regard to the condition, value, land quality, environmental condition, suitable use, size, or zoning of the land.
- The land has not been listed for sale with any agent and no sales commissions will be paid to any agent representing any tenderer.
- The highest, or any tender, need not be accepted.
- No submitted tender may be varied or withdrawn prior to the notification of acceptance or rejection.
- The successful bidder will be required, following acceptance, to sign a purchase agreement based on the accepted tender terms and will sign the standard Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP agreement of purchase and sale for agricultural property within seven days of being advised that he or she is the successful bidder.
- Property taxes will be paid to December 31, 2023. Property taxes for 2024 will be solely the responsibility of the purchaser. All other taxes including GST and Land Transfer Tax shall be the responsibility of the purchaser. Each of the vendor and purchaser shall be responsible for their own legal fees to complete the sale.

Please send sealed Tenders to purchase the land to:
Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP
3-175 Roblin Blvd. East, Winkler, MB R6W 0H2
Attention: Scott Hoepfner

For further information contact Scott Hoepfner at 204-934-2355 or sjh@tdslaw.com

4	9	5	7	3	8	2	6	1
7	6	3	4	2	1	8	5	9
8	1	2	9	5	6	3	4	7
9	5	7	1	8	4	6	3	2
6	3	8	2	7	9	5	1	4
2	4	1	5	6	3	9	7	8
3	7	6	8	1	2	4	9	5
1	2	4	3	9	5	7	8	6
5	8	6	9	4	7	1	2	3

Sudoku Answer

H	S	S	S	E	H	E	S	H	E	H	E	H
E	D	G	T	L	O	O	S	E	N	E	K	V
N	I	N	S	I	L	I	N	O	I	R	E	P
V	C	I	T	I	S	E	D	O	N	V	E	S
S	V	L	O	R	S	E	L	V	H	V	E	S
V	D	I	M	E	M	C	S	I	N	O	E	S
S	E	R	I	L	S	E	R	I	S	N	O	E
B	V	G	V	D	V	R	E	M	V	E	C	E
I	A	S	T	R	I	B	W	S	I	G	V	E
N	O	N	V	R	H	V	V	O	T	C	O	E
S	N	O	I	T	V	L	S	E	O	T	O	C
S	I	W	V	I	M	R	O	M	V	N	E	S
S	T	R	E	B	O	V	R	O	N	T	V	L
V	S	V	N	V	E	V	V	E	E	Z	S	E
O	P	M	O	V	C	E	D	C	A	V	M	B

Crossword Answer

SUDOKU

		1		9		8		
9					4			
5				8		7	3	
	7	6		5		4		
					8			
2			4				5	
				5	2			
				2	3	9	7	
1	9			3				

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!



CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

- Defensive nuclear weapon
- Moved back and forth
- One-time coach of the Cowboys
- Last letter
- Cause to become less intense
- Genus of tree bugs
- Body art
- Romance novelist
- Be filled with love for
- City
- Make vivid
- Horses
- Mauna __, Hawaiian volcano
- Atomic #18
- Shortly
- A type of prejudice
- Whirls
- Six
- Old world, new
- __ Hess, oil company
- Talk
- Not off
- Begets
- Cars need them
- Computing architecture (abbr.)
- Of I
- Journalist, activist Wells
- Takes apart
- Lists
- Positively charged electrode
- Hard, colorless compound
- Inflammation of the peritoneum
- Trent Reznor's band
- Simply dry fruit
- "Ivanhoe" author
- Google certification
- French commune
- Medieval circuit courts

CLUES DOWN

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14			15					16				
17			18					19				
20			21			22						
23				24	25					26	27	
28				29				30				
31	32				33	34	35	36			37	
38				39	40					41		
42				43				44	45			
46		47	48			49		50				
51				52	53	54			55		56	57
58								59				
60	61					62	63				64	
65						66					67	
68						69					70	

- Indigenous people of Mexico
- Dietary supplement
- Having a particular sheen or luster
- Views
- Academic Bill of Rights
- Automobile
- When you anticipate arriving
- Beef or chicken intestine
- Conspiracy
- Blood disorder
- Long-time NBAer Shawn
- Time zone
- US, Latin America, Canada belong to
- Upton Sinclair novel
- What a cow does
- Cavalry-sword
- Ancient Greek war galley
- Stars
- Rebukes
- Billion year periods
- Some are in a bottle
- Tears down
- Lethal dose
- Humorists
- Midwestern US state (abbr.)
- Frameworks
- Rocker Billy
- More thin
- Dog
- Habitual repetitions
- State of fuss
- Uneasy
- Chemical compounds
- More cognizant of reality
- A place to build
- Exclamation that denotes disgust
- Supplement with difficulty
- Very slick
- Hill or rocky peak

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The *Winkler Morden* Voice

BIRTHDAY



If you know this octogenarian (January 12), come celebrate with us on Saturday, January 13 from 2:00-5:00 p.m. at Reinfeld Community Center. Come & Go Tea.

Remember Your Loved Ones with an Announcement in the

The Winkler Morden
Voice

Call 204-467-5836 or
ads@winklermordenvoice.ca

OBITUARY



Bernard G. Wiebe

Bernard G Wiebe passed away on December 28, 2023. Born to Johann H and Maria Wiebe on March 6, 1925, he was the youngest of 13 and reached 98 years of age. Having attended the Ait Bergthal School as a young boy, he enjoyed his life in the Altona area. At the age of 14, he lost his father and he and his two older brothers helped manage the farm just outside of town. During the war, he was a Conscientious Objector, which took him to Stead near Pine Falls, where he worked on the farm and hauling pulpwood to the river. These early days forged his life's path, accepting what came his way and his tireless work ethic was a known characteristic.

Bernard then met Annie Janzen on a trip to Winnipeg Beach with a youth group. After their engagement in 1946, they were married in 1947...the same year he was baptized upon his confession of faith. They started their family of four boys in 1950. They enjoyed

nearly 69 years of marriage before Annie passed away in 2016.

Bernard's life included several occupations. From owning his own Minneapolis Moline dealership from 1960 until 1976, to managing the grain elevators or serving at the local Esso station before committing to farming full time.

In addition to his strong work ethic, Bernard and Annie always made time for recreation. Their travels included locations from Hawaii to the Maritimes and many locations in between, often including the golf clubs. Family and friends were always important to the Wiebes, enjoying lively games of canasta, puzzling, Sudoku or a variety of other card games. Hobbies included woodworking, making footstools, birdhouses and wooden puzzle games, many of which are sprinkled around to his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He had so many interests and tried his hand at many of them...enjoying the trials and tribulations as he did so. He was a master at researching genealogy. Whenever he met someone, including his home care aides, he'd be researching their family history and that would be a topic of conversation and his ability to make a connection and help others feel comfortable chatting was second to none.

Survived by four sons, Norman (Ollie), Allan (Alice), Terrence and Warren (Shawn). Additionally, five grandchildren: Darlene (Dan Lafave), David (Barb), Cameron (April), Jaime (Mark), and Julie (Matt). Eight great-grandchildren: Zachary, Austin, Gracen, Sawyer, Kaden, Chase, Ellie and Max.

To summarize his nearly 99 years of life would be impossible without using words like selfless, caring, joyful, proud, humble, and thoughtful. His impact on each of his family and friends was and will forever be timeless.

Funeral Service was held on January 5, 2024 at the Altona Bergthaler Church. Interment followed at the Altona Cemetery.

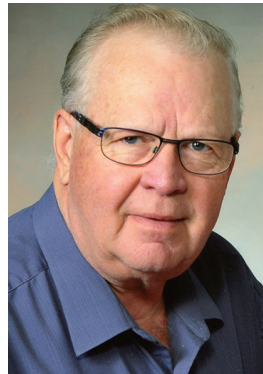
Donations in memory of Bernard may be made to Altona and District Palliative Care.

Wiebe Funeral Home Altona
In care of arrangements
www.wiebefhaltona.com

Your memory will live forever Engraved within our hearts

OBITUARY

Corneil Hiebert



Corneil Hiebert of Altona passed away suddenly at his home on the evening of January 3rd, 2024, at the age of 75. He was born on August 27th, 1948 to George A and Sarah Hiebert of Hochfeld, MB. He was the 12th of 13 children.

Left to mourn his passing are his beloved wife Anne, of 55 years. Daughter Jocelyn and Randy Giesbrecht with their children and grandchildren Will and Mackenzie and Brooklyn Giesbrecht; Zach and Amanda and Eloise Giesbrecht; Matthew and Althea and Allan Giesbrecht; Caleb and Kara Giesbrecht. Daughter Rhonda and Doug Buhler with their children Colton Buhler; Kendra and Micah Martin; Danita and Wyatt Randall. Also survived by three brothers and two sisters and numerous extended family.

He was predeceased by his parents, five brothers and two sisters.

Funeral service was held on Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at the Altona EMM Church. Interment followed at the Altona Cemetery.

Wiebe Funeral Home Altona
In care of arrangements
www.wiebefhaltona.com

REGISTRATION



Western School Division

Kindergarten Registration for September 2024

In order for the schools to prepare for the 2024-2025 school year, it is important that parents register their children for Kindergarten from January 22 to January 26, 2024. Additional information is available at www.westernsd.mb.ca

Registrations may be completed and submitted electronically, or a registration package can be picked up at the school and returned between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. from January 22 to January 26, 2024. Children born in 2019 or earlier are eligible to enrol. All parents shall include a copy of a document to identify their child's birth date, such as a birth certificate, with the registration.

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

Catchment areas are:

Minnewasta School

1 Academy Drive, Mr. Geoff Sutton, Principal, 204-822-4580

- English program only. All rural. Within the city, all areas south of South Railway St. as well as the area south of Hwy 3 and west of Mountain St.

Maple Leaf Elementary School

225 12th Street, Ms. Cindy Dick, Principal, 204-822-4458

- English program only. Within the city, the area north of North Railway St. and east of Mountain St.

École Discovery Trails

1079 Parkhill Drive, Mr. Samuel Jerema, Principal, 204-822-4448

- All French Immersion. English program students residing north of Hwy 3 and west of Mountain St.

Kindergarten Information Session

Western School Division will be holding a Kindergarten Parent Information session on January 18, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at Maple Leaf 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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Counselling services
Call anytime.
Phone Dorothy Hill
204-712-0250

OBITUARY



**Maria Klassen (nee Penner)
1926 - 2024**

On Wednesday morning of January 3, 2024 at Salem Home, Maria Klassen, age 97 of Winkler, MB formerly of Gnadenthal went to be with her Lord and Saviour.

She will be missed by her two daughters, Helen (Edmer) Loewen of Winnipeg, Nettie (Ray) Hildebrand of Manitou and one son, John (Anne) Klassen of Gnadenthal; nine grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren. She is also survived by one sister, Tina Pulver of Winnipeg, MB and one brother, Peter Penner of Winkler, MB.

She was predeceased by her husband, Abram in 2016 and by her parents, five sisters and two brothers.

Mom was born March 8, 1926 to Abram and Helena Penner of Neuland, Ukraine. On September 19, 1943 Mom married the love of her life, Abram Klassen, and they spent 72 plus wonderful years together. Mom received Christ as her personal Saviour and was baptized on June 16, 1944. In 1948 the family immigrated to Canada. They settled in Gnadenthal and started working and farming together and raising a family. They attended the Gnadenthal church and Mom also enjoyed the ladies fellowship in the village. In 1985 they retired and moved to Winkler. Mom never slowed down, she kept herself busy with volunteering at MCC and at church. She enjoyed the friendships she made and enjoyed helping others. Whenever Grandma came back to help on the farm, the grandkids had her attention. She loved them, she had food and snacks: a good time was had by all. In their retirement, Mom and Dad enjoyed gardening. They spent many hours outside gardening and visiting with neighbours and friends. We all enjoyed Mom's calm spirit and caring heart. We thank the Lord for the 97 years that she could share her life with those she loved and knew. We will always cherish the things she taught us and the love she showed us.

Memorial service was held at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at Wiebe Funeral Chapel, Morden with a private family interment at Westridge Memorial Gardens.

We, the family, would like to thank the staff at Salem Home for their special care of Mom. They truly were part of her family who she loved and cared about. Thank you also to Wiebe Funeral Home for your kindness.

If friends so desire, donations may be made in Maria's memory to Salem Foundation Inc.

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



OBITUARY



**Kristin Dawn (Hiebert) Serger
April 23, 1984 - December 19, 2023**

Kristin Serger, age 39 years, of Altona, MB passed away on Tuesday, December 19, 2023 at her residence, after a 3 1/2 year journey with cancer.

She is survived by her husband Peter, their children Roain and Mercedes, her parents Terry and Luann Hiebert, one sister, one brother and his family, as well as her parents-in-law Michael and Hedy Serger, one sister-in-law, one brother-in-law and their families, extended family and many, many friends.

Thanks to the amazing staff at Boundary Trails Health Centre, CancerCare Manitoba, St. Boniface Hospital, Health Sciences Centre, with special thanks to Dr. Krahn, Dr. Woelk, Mark Klassen, and the cancer nurses for their compassionate support.

A victory celebration of Kristin's life was held on Friday, December 22, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. at the Altona EMM Church. A private family interment was held at the Southside Cemetery in Morden, MB.

An extended tribute with links to her social media and YouTube service can be found on the Wiebe's Funeral Home, Altona website.

Wiebe Funeral Home Altona
In care of arrangements
www.wiebefhaltona.com

OBITUARY



**Alvin Glenn Phillips
1945 - 2023**

With great sadness we announce that Alvin Phillips passed away on Sunday December 31, 2023.

He is survived by his brothers, Barry Wayne, James Dale and Vernon Rae, his sister-in-law, Sally Anne Phillips, two nephews, three nieces and several cousins. He was predeceased by his parents, James Clifford and Ruby May.

Alvin had a great sense of humor and personality and lived a good life with many friends. He was fond of the color red, and he owned a red Oldsmobile, a red motorcycle and a red boat in his early years. To the chagrin of his parents, he took flying lessons and used to buzz their house during his practice runs in the evenings. In these early years, he was known as an 'Evel Knievel'.

He joined Manitoba Hydro in July 1964 and after four years in construction he spent the rest of his career at the Morden office and retired in January 2001. He loved his work and farming and he continued to farm the home farm on a part-time basis throughout his career with Manitoba Hydro and after retirement. He loved to fly and he spent many hours with his good friend, Don Pfrimmer, flying around the country looking at crops. Alvin will be greatly missed.

A private family interment will be held at a later date at Fairview Cemetery in Roland.

Wiebe Funeral Chapel, Morden
In care of arrangements
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OBITUARY



**Katrina Dyck
1918 - 2023**

It is with love in our hearts that we announce the passing of Katrina (Tina) Dyck aged 105 years at Prairie View Lodge in Pilot Mound, MB on Sunday, December 31, 2023.

Tina is survived by her sister, Mary Dyck; sister-in-law, Margaret Froese and nieces and nephews who all treasure many memories of time spent with her.

She was predeceased by her parents, Gerhard and Katharina Froese; husband, Abe; brothers, Ike and George; brother-in-law, Jake Dyck and sister-in-law, Connie Froese.

Tina was born in a farmhouse near Hoffnungsort in 1918. In the fall of 1928, the family loaded up their possessions and livestock and walked 14 miles to their new home in Burwalde. This farm and the Burwalde School were very special to Tina. We all learned so much from her about the early days in Burwalde. In 1943, upon applying for a teacher permit, Tina received a position in a rural school north of Treherne. Despite some hardships, she discovered that she enjoyed the classroom and found that she could make a difference in the lives of young children. Tina attended Normal School and graduated in 1946. Tina was united in marriage to Abe Dyck on July 26, 1949. They moved to a farm in the 1-6 district south of Morden in May 1950. Abe and Tina lived on the farm for 31 years and Tina continued her teaching profession. In her 25 years of teaching, Tina taught in seven one-room schools. She was so special to her students. Her Diamond School pupils sent her letters on her 105th Birthday expressing what she meant to them. One quote sums up Tina's impact. "Education was so important to you and you dedicated all of your efforts to each and every child. You taught me compassion, patience, empathy and kindness. Mrs. Dyck, you inspired me to be a better person. You gave of yourself in hopes that each of your students would make the world a better place." Tina and Abe retired to the town of Morden in October 1981. She was able to take two trips to Arizona and Tina and Abe made a few trips to Alberta and Saskatchewan. After Abe's passing, Tina and her niece travelled to Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia to visit family. Tina was an avid reader and crossword puzzle enthusiast well into her last years. Many family members are recipients of the lovely, embroidered handiwork and afghans that she produced. It was important to Tina to keep connected and she penned many long newsy letters in her beautiful handwriting to family, friends and past students. Tina was also our family historian and supplemented her incredible memory with notes and photographs. She continued to reside in her home in Morden until November 2022. Many thanks to the staff at Prairie View Lodge for all the care and compassion.

A celebration of Tina's life was held at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, January 8, 2024 at Wiebe Funeral Chapel in Morden.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Tina's memory to the BTHC Foundation Box 2000 Winkler, MB R6W 1H8 or to the Canadian Wildlife Federation 350 Michael Cowpland Drive Kanata, ON K2M 2W1.

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



OBITUARY



**Victor Gerhard Schulz
1937 - 2024**

Victor Schulz, age 86 passed away peacefully on the morning of January 5, 2024 at Boundary Trails Health Centre.

He was born to Bishop David and Katherina Schulz. Victor was a passionate man in all he did. He greatly enjoyed cars, travelling, sports and music. But the most important thing in his life were his relationships. Firstly, with his Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Secondly, with his family and lastly with his many friends. Victor was a loyal and faithful employee at Palliser Furniture for 20 years. He also spent several years at Atomic Transfer and farming. In retirement he was self employed for several years.

Victor is survived by his wife, Rosella (nee Heppner); daughter, Twila Duerksen, grandchildren: David (Carrie) Duerksen, Anthony (Jenny) Duerksen, Lisa (Jason) Poettcker. He is also survived by one sister, Olga Teichroeb and one sister-in-law, Helen Schulz.

He was predeceased by his parents, six brothers, one sister and four sisters-in-law. Memorial service will be held 11:00 a.m. Saturday, January 13th, 2024 at the Winkler Bergthaler Mennonite Church, 252 6th Street, Winkler. Viewing will be from 7:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. on Friday, January 12 at Wiebe Funeral Chapel, Morden.

Donations may be made in Victor's memory to Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation designated to Palliative Care.

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





Showing some pizzazz

PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

The Pembina Pizazz, the regional synchronized skating program, hosted an open house in Morden Sunday night to showcase the individual and group skills of its skaters. Clockwise from above: the Pembina Pizazz Star 4 team; Alison Convery; the Pembina Pizazz Novice team; Hadleigh Belton. The novice team is currently raising funds to compete at the National Synchronized Skating Competition in Ontario next month.



Altona Maroons down Red River Wild 5-4

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The SEMHL's Altona Maroons and Morden Bombers both kicked off the new year right last week, defeating the Notre Dame Hawks and Red Riv-

er Wild, respectively.

Morden's battle against Notre Dame was a back and forth affair. The Bombers were up 3-1 after 20 minutes thanks to a pair from Andrew Clark and a single from Mike Rey, but

then saw that gap shrink in the second when the Hawks managed two goals to their one (courtesy of Jaden Townsend).

Period three saw two more Notre Dame goals come in to give them the lead 5-4. Townsend managed the tying goal with 27 seconds to go to force overtime.

There, Clark got the game winner 52 seconds in.

The Bombers outshot the Hawks 48-44, with Reed Peters standing tall in net with 42 saves.

The Altona/Red River game also went down to the wire.

Jonah Wasylak drew first blood for the Wild in the first, only to be drowned out by goals from Justin Augert and Robert Guimond for the Maroons.

Brendan Heppner then scored for Red River early in the second, but Augert's second of the night a minute later kept the home team in the lead 3-2.

Cole Holdnick made it 4-2 for Al-

tona midway through the third and the Maroons looked poised to take it in regulation before Wyatt Sabourin scored twice in the last 20 seconds of the game to tie it up 4-4.

After overtime solved nothing, the resulting shootout went Altona's way to give them the win 5-4.

Cole Kehler made 59 saves in net for Altona while across the ice Carter Lemay stopped 25 goals for the Wild. Red River outshot Altona 63-29.

With that, Red River takes a ding on their record to make it 9-2-0-1 for 19 points, good for third place behind Ste. Anne and Warren in the standings. Morden is in fifth at 5-6-0-2 for 12 points, the Winkler Royals are in eighth at 4-7-1-1 for 10 points and Altona is in ninth at 3-9 for six points.

This week, Winkler hosts Portage Wednesday, Altona hosts Carman Thursday, and Red River host Warren Friday while Morden is in Ile des Chenes. Morden then hosts Altona on Saturday and the Wild are in Notre Dame on Monday.



The ninth-place Altona Maroons beat the third-place Red River Wild last week.

PHOTO BY EDWARD VINGENT/ARGENAL/VOICE

January Alzheimer's Awareness Month

Join the fight for a cure



Dispelling common myths about Alzheimer's

January is National Alzheimer's Awareness Month. This campaign aims to raise awareness, fight stigma, reinforce human rights and push for policy change. To be a good ally, you must distinguish the facts about the disease from the myths. Here are five common Alzheimer's myths debunked.

1. ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE ONLY AFFECTS OLDER PEOPLE

Although age is a risk factor for Alzheimer's, there are two forms of the disease. Young-onset Alzheimer's disease is rarer and affects people from their 30s to their mid-60s. Late-onset Alzheimer's disease is more common and develops when a person is in their mid-60s and older.

2. BEING FORGETFUL IS A TELLTALE SIGN OF ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Many people have trouble with their memory as they get older. However, being forgetful doesn't necessarily mean you have Alzheimer's disease.

3. ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE IS PREVENTABLE

There's no single factor that can prevent Alzheimer's disease. However, there's growing evidence that lifestyle choices, including participating in regular activity and maintaining good heart health, may help reduce the risk.

4. YOU'LL 100% DEVELOP ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE IF YOUR PARENT HAS IT

Your chance of developing Alzheimer's is higher if you have certain genetic variants that can be

passed down from a parent. However, just because a biological parent has Alzheimer's doesn't mean their children will automatically develop it.

5. THERE'S NO TREATMENT FOR ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Although there's no cure for Alzheimer's disease, various medications and treatments can successfully help alleviate some symptoms and improve quality of life.

This Alzheimer's Awareness Month, do your research and get involved in your local community to help raise awareness of this disease.



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