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Heroes and princesses mark Family Literacy Day



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Kids not only came in their favourite costumes but also had a chance to select some fun hats and masks for the photo booth at the annual Morden Parent and Child Resource Centre Family Literacy Day Carnival last Friday. See Pg. 11 for more photos.

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Bubble Guppies drop by for a special birthday party

By Lorne Stelmach

Oscar Neufeld had the birthday party of a lifetime Friday, even if he only was turning five.

The young Mordenite had a bash to remember as a result of his mother Holly winning a contest that not only brought him VIP treatment for a live version of a favourite show, but a personal playdate as well.

Their entry was chosen from among 7,000 submitted for the Playdate of a Lifetime contest. The prize? Gil from the hit animated show *Bubble Guppies* came to Morden to help celebrate Oscar's birthday along with some of his closest friends. The kids then also got to see the live show in Winnipeg on Sunday.

"I didn't even realize what I had won at first ... I thought it was just tickets to the show," said Holly Neufeld. "I didn't realize it was this big playdate, so that was really exciting."

She added that she was grateful the show worked around their schedule to make the playdate happen close to Oscar's birthday, which was Monday.

"When we were planning for the playdate, they initially told me that they would schedule it after the tour," she said. "When they found out that it was in fact the day before his birthday ... then right away they said they would see if we can arrange your playdate ... so we can turn this into his birthday party."

"So I was really impressed with how excited they were and how much they wanted to work with me to make this a really special birthday party for him."

The Emmy award-winning *Bubble Guppies* is a television show that teaches kids about a wide range of topics—everything from dinosaurs to dentists, rock and roll to recycling, and colors to cowboys.

Artistic director and writer Patti Caplette said they welcomed an opportunity like this to make a connection with fans of the show.

"It's really exciting for everyone," she said. "It's really important for the cast and the whole creative team to be able to be one-on-one with the community that is their audience."

The playdate featured some play time and singing and dancing, so it was very much like the show

and offered a glimpse of what Caplette thinks draws families to *Bubble Guppies*.

"It's one of those kinds of shows where all the little kids, especially pre-schoolers, can relate to it ... they have great imaginations," she said. "Some of the characters are so different from each other as well, so it's really able to speak to kids of all kinds of personalities ... there's a great range of characters."

"I think it's also the fact there are so many opportunities to sing and dance in this show."

Neufeld agreed a big part of the ap-

"IT'S ONE OF THOSE KINDS OF SHOWS WHERE ALL THE LITTLE KIDS ... CAN RELATE TO IT."



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Gil from the hit animated children's television show *Bubble Guppies* was the star attraction as a lucky Morden family enjoyed a special birthday party on Friday. Holly Neufeld, seen above with son Oscar next to Gil, won the prize from among about 7,000 entries.

peal is how children like Oscar can engage with it.

"The music is a huge part of it," she suggested. "They often sing songs on the show and then they do little dance moves to it. So ever since he was two, he's been following along with all of the actions to the songs."

"They also tell jokes ... and he finds them hilarious ... he likes all of the riddles and jokes."

The live theatrical production of *Bubble Guppies* is set around a storyline where a special band member goes missing. The whole gang embarks on a musical expedition as they search every corner of their bubbly world for their friend.

"It makes a perfect translation to the stage because there's always a song

Continued on page 5

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The Color bring home three Covenant Awards

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Color won big at the 2016 Covenant Awards last week.

The Canadian Christian music awards named the Winkler-based group as the winners of the Pop Song of the Year, Recorded Song of the Year, and Video of the Year for their song "What Would I Say to You."

The group, who were in Nashville recording their upcoming album and had to miss the Jan. 26 ceremony, said they've been blown away by the response the song and its emotional video has received since their release last year.

The video highlights three true stories of local families overcoming trag-

edy to find hope in their faith.

"It was amazing just to see their desire to use a tragedy that had happened in their world to help other people," said band member James Shiels. "That song, that project has always been a bigger thing than just us. It's a song that's stretched out and touched a lot of people, especially with the video project."

"We really look at it as more than just an award for The Color as it is an award for our community, really," he added.

"It is so much more than the band winning these awards," agreed fellow member Jordan

Janzen. "The community had so much involvement and believed in the vision of this project."

Janzen explained the idea of giving

"IT IS SO MUCH MORE THAN THE BAND WINNING THESE AWARDS. THE COMMUNITY HAD SO MUCH INVOLVEMENT ..."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Color's "What Would I Say to You" was named the Pop Song, Recorded Song, and Video of the Year at the Covenant Awards Jan. 26.

families a platform to share their story came from one simple idea:

"Stories are so incredibly powerful when you're willing to open up to share them," he said. "So then it was how can we as a band allow people to share their stories, recognizing that we have this platform to speak out, to make people aware?"

The Color, which also includes Larry Abrams and Tyson Unrau alongside Janzen and Shiels, send their thanks out to everyone who shared their experiences for the video project as well as the actors and crew who helped bring it to life, including

director Kenneth Giesbrecht of Italic Productions.

This latest trio of Covenant Awards brings The Color's tally to eight over the past four years.

Looking ahead, The Color hope to release their next album this spring.

"We've been kind of secretly working on some new things for quite a while now," says Janzen. "It's been over a year of writing and recording for a new project ... we really want to take things up a level."

You can learn more about The Color, including their upcoming shows, at thecoloronline.com.

*See store for all details.

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Night of laughs for Big Bros

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Morden-Winkler's second annual Big Night Out was a big hit last week, raising \$9,000 for the mentoring agency. Canadian comedy legend Brent Butt (right) had the audience rolling in the aisles as the evening's headliner, while show opener Leland Klassen (above, left, with Big Bros. executive director Michael Penner) did double-duty as an assistant for the live auction and prize raffle. "A big part of the success of Big Night Out is thanks to all the generous sponsors," says Penner, noting many area businesses donated prizes to the auction. He also sends thanks out to everyone who attended the show for making the evening such a success.



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Nominations open for Morden Volunter of the Year

By Lorne Stelmach

The Morden Area Foundation is beginning its annual search for the Outstanding Community Volunteer of the Year Award recipient.

The foundation is seeking nominations of

Morden area residents whose volunteer efforts have demonstrated dedication, leadership and citizenship in the community.

The award was started by the Kinsmen Club of Morden in 1946 as the Meritorious Service

Award. The foundation took up the tradition after the final Kinsmen award was presented in 2002 before the club disbanded.

Executive director Lynda MacLean said they have an open mind about who might merit the honour.

"It can be anybody of any age ... some people end up thinking it should be someone who has volunteer for a long time and for many things," said MacLean, noting there are many young area residents who are really involved in the community and may be deserving of recognition.

"It can be anybody doing something for their community, whether it's just one organization they work for ... or maybe they have volunteered for a number of different ones.

"It's just somebody who loves the community ... who loves making it better," MacLean continued, encouraging people to think of those who are working quietly behind the scenes.

"You don't have to be the chairperson or the president ... it might be someone who is always in the background, who is always the volunteer getting the work done," she said. "If you even just know somebody who does good deeds in the community, that's a person that we want to hear about."

Nominations will be reviewed by a committee of former award recipients. The past few years have seen such notable Mordenites as Edith Lovatt, Wilf Warkentin, Wayne Kroetsch, and Basil Agnew honoured.

The selection will be based on a range of factors including length of service, the legacy created, impact on the community or organization and the breadth of the individual's impact.

Nominations are due in by the end of February. The nomination form is online at www.mordenfoundation.ca.



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Footprints of Hope by
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Illustrated by
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Stanley unveils \$6.6 million budget for 2017

Overall spending up two per cent

By Lorne Stelmach

The Rural Municipality of Stanley will only spend two per cent more in 2017 as part of a \$6.6 million budget.

The bottom line of the new financial plan approved by council last Thursday is that residents will almost be paying the same in municipal taxes for the year ahead.

"As far as bang for your buck, I think we're doing okay," said Reeve Morris Olafson. "You've got an RM of 9,000 people ... 400 miles of roads ... and all kinds of services and everything else involved ... and to run that on that amount of money, I think we're doing okay."

Education taxes have yet to be set, but there will be very little change in the municipal portion of the tax bill for Stanley.

On 80 acres of farmland assessed at \$450,000, the municipal taxes will go up by \$12 to \$1,178, while 80 acres valued at \$250,000 will pay \$6 more at \$654. On a residential property assessed at \$250,000, the municipal taxes will increase \$12 to \$1,133, while a property valued at \$200,000 will pay \$9 more at \$906.

These numbers are based on a mill rate that only rises slightly to 10.074 from 9.968, while revenue is boosted as a result of the total value of property assessment in the municipality increasing from about \$486 million to \$494 million. Property taxes make up almost 80 per cent of revenue for Stanley.

Olafson suggested the budget offers a reasonable increase for the municipality in maintaining spending in their key areas while almost holding the line on overall expenditures.

"If it wouldn't have been for the equipment costs for this year ... that's where it came out," he said, noting the budget includes covering the cost of two new graders as well as other maintenance equipment.

"Our equipment reserve, when we

figured it all out, we were down to very little dollars ... so we had to bring that up because we don't know what's going to happen from year to year. It's just prudent to leave that there."

He suggested the municipality is able to manage its office and operations on a fairly tight budget overall.

The largest area of spending comes under transportation, which accounts for 42 per cent of the budget and which this year actually decreases six per cent to just under \$2.8 million. Olafson noted, though, the money under that budget area for road maintenance is holding steady.

"The road work is going to stay very close to what it was," he said.

Funds going into reserve represent 15 per cent of the budget at a 14.8 per cent increase to just over \$1,020,000, while the cost of government services makes up another 14 per cent with a minor 1.5 per cent decrease to \$906,000.

Protective services, which is primarily paying for fire protection, is 10 per cent of the budget with a minor 1.6 per cent increase to \$629,000.

Other minor areas of spending see varying changes—from a 69 per cent increase for environmental development and 48 per cent more for economic development to a 47 per cent decrease for environmental health.

Olafson said some of those budget revisions such as the jump in environmental development and drop in environmental health is due to changes in how some of their expenditures are



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

RM of Stanley council approved a budget of \$6.6 million for 2017, which is about a two per cent increase over last year's spending.

being classified in the financial plan.

There are also a few new initiatives planned for the year ahead, including a new tree planting program.

"We see that there's too many that have gone away ... we want to help that come back, so we're in the process of making a program where we're going to perhaps subsidize tree rows and expedite some tree row planting," said Olafson. "If it's well received we'll probably increase that because we know the benefits of the tree rows."

Contributions to various other organizations and facilities remain relatively consistent. While the municipality is in the last year of multi-year commitments to Tabor Home and the Buhler Active Living Centre, it will now also be looking at supporting other projects, including expansions of Agassiz Medical Centre in Morden and Salem Home in Winkler.

"As an RM, we have been very good at giving to the health community,

Olafson suggested.

He also noted they hope to make progress this year on their ongoing work on the Reinland drain, which is a project that has been a "huge thorn in our side."

"It was a project which we started this last year," Olafson said. "We were going to redo it ... and we thought we were going to be good with our design work ... one huge deluge changed our mind."

The reeve said they were waiting on funding announcements for that project, with design work still to be finalized. Though the final cost remains up in the air, he said it is likely it will be an increase in the end.

Other priorities for the year ahead range from sewer and water in the highway corridor and completion of paving in Reinfeld to improving some field access roads and road signage. One big longer term project is planning for future regional wastewater treatment

Show brings beloved characters to life

From Pg. 2

coming just around the corner," noted Caplette, who nevertheless said there were some challenges in turning it into a live stage show.

"I had to figure out how I was going to keep the illusion of them afloat constantly ... we created this kind of scenic backdrop which has bubbles coming up ... there's always movement ... so we created a kind of lake situation for them

where it looks like water ... the tails continue to float," she said. "We had to do a lot of trial and error with the costuming and the movement for this show."

Neufeld said they were just so

pleased that everyone involved with the production went out of their way to make her son's birthday so special.

"I didn't think there would be this much involvement from them," she said.

> VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR, FROM PG. 4

You can also reach MacLean at 822-5614 or info@mordenfoundation.ca.

"Even if you don't have all the information on someone ... we can always

help fill in the application," she noted.

The award presentation will be held in spring.

The Winkler Morden Voice



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The Winkler Morden Voice is published Thursdays and distributed as a free publication through Canada Post to 15,000 homes by BigandColourful Printing and Publishing.

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Our editorial staff is available in Winkler at 204-332-3456, in Morden at 204-823-2655, or via e-mail at news@winklermordenvoice.ca.

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Chambers raise concerns about taxing benefits

Winkler, Morden chambers urge members to speak out

By Lorne Stelmach

The chambers of commerce in Morden and Winkler are among a growing chorus of opposition to a federal government proposal to tax employer-paid health and dental benefits.

The Manitoba Chambers of Commerce fears that along with adding hundreds or thousands of dollars to Canadians' tax bills, this proposal could cause many employers to stop offering coverage to employees.

"They're looking at it because there's probably billions of dollars to be collected if they decide to do it," said Reg Braun, an insurance and financial advisor with Gallery Wealth Management who also serves on the Morden chamber board of directors.

"This is going to have a large impact on lower income earners because they're already having deductions from their paycheques they sometimes find unaffordable but are willing to pay them because of the benefits that they offer," he added. "We're thinking if we see added cost to these premiums that we're going to see a lot more people objecting to those payroll deductions."

There is a huge benefit to having group insurance because the cost is pooled amongst a larger group of people and is available to everyone,

but it may not be affordable otherwise for people to go on their own.

"For the small business owner who is offering benefits, trying to stay competitive ... adding a tax to these premiums is perhaps going to make it unaffordable for the employer to offer these benefits," Braun stressed. "It also adds a level of complexity to payroll deductions ... that a number of small businesses already find to be complex enough."

Ryan Hildebrand, president of the Winkler chamber, noted you can see the impact a similar tax put in effect in Quebec has had there.

"It affects the amount of employers who are able to offer health and dental benefits to their employees," he said.

"Certainly, with some of our smaller businesses, it's not something they see that they might afford at this point," he said, adding that "there could be

a ripple effect ... it affects the whole system."

Both chambers have sent out emails to their members outlining this issue and encouraging them to voice their thoughts on it.

"We wanted to make sure our mem-

bers know about this so that they can be informed," Hildebrand said. "We're leaving it up to our business members ... we want to give them the information ... if it's a concern they feel they want to speak out against."

Also voicing concern is the provincial chamber organization, with president and CEO Chuck Davidson stressing this move, should it make it into the federal budget, could have disastrous results.

Finance Canada has estimated that exempting employer-provided health benefits means about \$2.9 billion is lost in tax revenue. However, it is also estimated that there is \$32.2 billion in additional health care benefits for Canadians.

The tax-free status of these employee health plans increases access to preventative care and helps to save publicly-funded health care systems by addressing and preventing health care issues early, suggested Davidson.

"While the federal government should be looking at ways to get its fiscal house in order, we are concerned about the potential impact of this decision on small business owners and employees across Canada," he said.

"Employers and their employees need to make tough decisions every day, but how they pay for health and dental benefits should not be one," Davidson said. "We would implore the finance minister and the federal government to stop and think about the damage they could do to Canadian business."

"IT AFFECTS THE AMOUNT OF EMPLOYERS WHO ARE ABLE TO OFFER HEALTH AND DENTAL BENEFITS TO THEIR EMPLOYEES."

Letters

Reinland Burial Society dissolves, distributes funds

The Reinland Burial Society is inactive and has been so for a number of years. However, at the last annual general meeting it was decided that the Society should be dissolved as it had outlived its usefulness and many members were not interested in further participation.

A few suggestions were made as to

what should happen to the remaining funds after any outstanding accounts had been paid.

Recently, the remaining members of the board of directors met to discuss this issue. The decision was reached that the remaining funds be disbursed to local charities, as the majority of the funds came from lo-

cal participants.

Donations were made to: Menonite Central Committee (MCC), Eden Healthcare Foundation, Gateway Resources, and the Winkler & District Senior Centre.

Abe E. Ens, board chair,
Reinland Burial Society

The Winkler Morden Voice

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Inaugural Winkler Comic Con releases packed-full schedule

Gamer Dan Bergman and comic book artist Justin Currie are this year's special guests

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Plans for Winkler's very first celebration of all things geeky have been firmed up.

The first annual Winkler Comic Con taking place on Monday, Feb. 20 has released its guest and programming line-up.

Organizer Deb Penner announced Monday that super gamer Dan Bergman and comic book artist Justin Currie are this year's main guests.

Bergman holds the unofficial world record for his 57-hour Super Smash Bros. marathon on the Wii U. He'll be taking on challengers at the con.

"He's a pretty big name in the gaming community," says Penner, noting Bergman will be competing in the gaming room upstairs in GVC's The Zone from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Currie, meanwhile, has created artwork for Blizzard, Warhammer, Nickelodeon, and Disney and is a regular guest of comic conventions across North America.

"He is world-renowned for his work," says Penner, adding that Currie is currently promoting his newest book, *Rust and Water*, and will also be leading a panel at 3 p.m. on how to make graphic novels.

Considering this is a new event for our region, the con's organizers are thrilled at the calibre of guests they were able to secure their first time out.

"It's pretty exciting," says Penner, stressing that they hope to continue to grow the guest list in future years as the event develops a name for itself.

Guests aside, Winkler Comic Con 2017 has a full list of activities and competitions to fill your Louis Riel Day.

Comic Con Central will be Garden Valley Col-

legiate, which, starting at 9 a.m., hosts a games room upstairs in The Zone (featuring PC, console, and board games), panel discussions, a screening room showing anime until 3 p.m. and student films from 3-4 p.m., and the vendor hall in the gymnasium until 4 p.m.

"We have over 30 exhibitor and artists selling a huge array of stuff," says Penner. Vendors from all over Manitoba will have everything from fan art to figurines to pop culture collectibles up for grabs.

Also setting up displays in the hall are Winnipeg-based cosplay groups the Costume Alliance and the Star Wars-inspired River City Jedi and Mandalorian Mercs.

As for the panels, GVC art instructor Scott Bell will lead a session on drawing action poses at 11 a.m., cosplayer Dallas Hewett will discuss building armor and props at 1 p.m., and the River City Jedi will have a lightsaber battle demonstration at 2 p.m.

The high school will also feature an Introduction to Quiddich, the sport from the Harry Potter series, on the front lawn at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. (with Harry Potter collectibles

as door prizes), a gaming tournament with cash prizes on the line starting at 6 p.m. and a Cosplay Contest, also with cash prizes, at 4 p.m. for children and adults alike.

Off-site, the P.W. Enns Centennial Concert Hall will be hosting free showings of the Disney animated movie *Moana* at 4 p.m. and *Marvel's Dr. Strange* at 7 p.m.

The Winkler Arts and Culture Centre is also getting in on the action, with free admission to its Villains & Heroes comic book art exhibition from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., followed by a show reception starting at 4 p.m. The gallery will also be offering Lego building stations for kids to enjoy through the morning and afternoon.

"IT'S SOMETHING PEOPLE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR AND SO HOPEFULLY WE CAN DO IT RIGHT."



Penner says this event has generated a lot of buzz since it was first announced two months ago.

"There's been a lot of action on the Facebook page and consistent emails and phone calls to me, probably two or three a day, of people just asking questions about it," she says. "That is really unheard of, especially for a new event. Usually we just don't get that."

"It's something maybe people have been waiting for and so hopefully we can do it right."

Admission to Winkler Comic Con 2017 is \$12.50 at the door. Kids six and under get in for free.

For a full program, check out the Winkler Comic Con Facebook page or the event listing at cityofwinkler.ca.

Mixed results on speed limit proposals

By Lorne Stelmach

You can't always get what you want even when it comes to changing speed limits, as Winkler has discovered.

City council got mixed results on a number of speed zone reduction requests that went before the Manitoba Highway Traffic Board.

Approved was a reduction from 90 to 70 kph on Eastview Drive between PTH 14 and Pembina Ave. as well as an extension of the 70 kph speed zone on Pembina Ave east to Eastview Drive south.

But the board denied the city's proposal to reduce the speed limit from 50 to 30 kph on Orion Lane beginning at Redhawk Trail to the end and Southgate Drive, between Southview Drive and Willow Drive, and Stonegate Drive between the

northern and southern intersections.

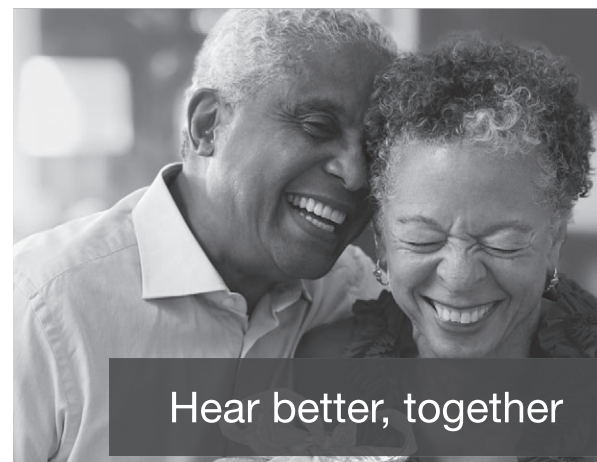
They also nixed the proposed 10 kph drop from 70 to 60 kph on 14th St. between Pembina and the south city limits.

The board noted in these cases lower speed zone signs had been posted without approval.

Meanwhile, also at their Jan. 24 meeting, Winkler councillors gave themselves a slight raise in pay for 2017.

Council approved a one per cent increase in their annual indemnities that will see the pay for a councillor increase to \$13,669, \$16,005 for the deputy mayor, and \$29,848 for the mayor.

Councillors are also paid a per diem of \$200 for a full day and \$100 for a half day when attending to city business with council approval, as well as a \$40 fee for attending other meetings as a council member.



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 **Beltone**

Snowmobilers hit the trails for Journey for Sight

Ride raises over \$8,000 for Lions Eye Bank

By Lorne Stelmach

Snowmobilers hit the trails last month for the annual Lions Club Ride for Sight fundraising project.

The Jan. 21 trek throughout the south central region involved 17 riders who raised over \$8,000 for the Journey for Sight program.

"That was about the same as what we had last year ... we're happy with that," said organizer Larry Freund.

The event is part of the ongoing efforts of Lions clubs to help those who suffer with vision disabilities through the Lions Eye Bank of Manitoba and Northwest Ontario.

The local group undertook a snowmobile ride of over 220 kilometres.

Starting off from Kopper Kettle in Morden, they journeyed north to Carman and then west to Roseisle, Notre Dame, Somerset and Swan Lake before cutting back south into the valley to La Riviere and back to the Morden-Winkler area to end the day with supper at the Outpost Grill.

"It was a full day. We got there around 6 p.m.," noted Freund, who said there were only a few hiccups along the way.

"Three snow machines blew belts ... one guy had to change a spark plug, one guy had a choke problem," he said.

The biggest challenge that day was the foggy conditions.

"It was a slow run," Freund said.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

This year's Lions Club Journey for Sight ride saw 17 snowmobilers tackle a 220 kilometre ride and raise over \$8,000 for the Lions Eye Bank of Manitoba and Northwest Ontario.

"You couldn't see very good on account of the fog. About 80 per cent of it was fog ... you couldn't see 10 feet in

front of your snow machine."

Weather conditions aside, the ride is always a fun time and it draws repeat riders year after year.

"I've done it for at least 23 years," said Freund, who noted it has helped the club in the past also support a number of other projects, such as magnifiers for the hospital and libraries. "I have people come to see me this time every year to donate."

Journey for Sight originated in Birtle in 1983 initially with one sled and rider collecting pledges for worthwhile causes.

Today it includes snowmobile riders from northern, central and southern Manitoba and now even northwest Ontario who visit various communities along their routes and collect pledges. The rides have raised over \$2 million to date.



The Journey for Sight took riders through Morden, Carman, Roseisle, Notre Dame, Somerset, and Swan Lake.

Province bracing for potential spring flooding

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The provincial government is warning Manitobans to brace for flooding.

Normal to well-above normal soil moisture and winter precipitation to date, combined with future unfavourable weather conditions, will result in the risk of moderate to major overland flooding across the province, Infrastructure Minister Blaine Pedersen announced Monday in releasing the 2017 January Conditions Report.

"We have experienced some unusual winter weather to this point that has contributed to an expanded risk of overland flooding in Manitoba," Pedersen said.

"At this time, we need to be aware of the potential for flooding with the understanding that we have a couple more months of winter weather and the uncertainty of the spring melt rate," he said, adding the Manitoba Hydrologic Forecast Centre will continue to assess the data and refine future flood outlooks.

The January report says potential for overland flooding is estimated as moderate to major in most areas of the province. It notes this could change depending on weather conditions between now and the spring melt, with February and March flood outlooks further defining the flood potential.

The province's practice is to plan and prepare for unfavourable weather conditions and the scenario of highest flood risk, the minister said.

At this time, with future unfavourable weather conditions, the Red, Souris, Pembina, Lower Assiniboine and Roseau rivers and the southwest region of the province are currently at risk for major flooding; the Upper Assiniboine River, eastern region, Winnipeg River, northern Manitoba and The Pas regions including the Saskatchewan, Carrot and Swan rivers are currently at risk for moderate to major flooding; and the Interlake region and the Fisher River are currently at risk for moderate flooding.

Flood forecasters look at six factors when assessing long-term prospects for spring floods, Pedersen explained, including soil moisture at freeze-up and other factors yet to be determined such as winter snow, spring rain, how fast the snow melts, the depth of frost, and river and lake levels prior to spring run-off.

The Manitoba government is preparing for potential flooding by working with municipal emergency management teams to review existing emergency response plans and sharing information through conference calls and flood information seminars.

The first full flood outlook is expected at the end of February.



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Over 120 kids turned out and entered prize draws and enjoyed a variety of games and activities Friday at the Morden Parent and Child Resource Centre Family Literacy Day Carnival at Minnewasta School. The face painting (right) was among the most popular stations at the carnival, while the storytellers included Maple Leaf School principal Mike Keith (above).



Night Out, Lunch & Learn marking Women's Day

Chief Francine Meeches as speaker, Sarasvati Productions monologues on the line-up

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Genesis House is marking International Women's Day next month with two wildly different events.

First up, on March 2, the women's shelter hosts an evening of fun and inspiration at the Manitou Opera House.

The theme, says Genesis House executive director Ang Braun, is "Starting Over," which dovetails nicely with the international theme this year of "Be Bold for Change."

"I think it will resonate with a lot of people," she says, noting the goal of this event is to entertain while also getting people thinking about issues related to women's rights and domestic violence and how we can each be leaders of change.

The evening will include Chief Francine Meeches of the Swan Lake First Nation as keynote speaker. Meeches has been at the forefront of the murdered and missing women debate in Canada for years and also serves on the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs' First Nation's women's committee.

"Our agency has had partnerships with Swan Lake for the last number of years, putting together programs for the community that will meet the specific needs that they have," Braun notes. "Francine has been so supportive of our work that when we started talking about ... a keynote speaker,

she came to the top of our mind."

Also on the schedule are four monologues by the Winnipeg theatrical group Sarasvati Productions.

"The monologues, they are always interesting because they are really, really good at making sure that we get a taste of something more serious, something to make you think, and then a taste of something funny," Braun says.

The evening will also include a rain-bow auction and dessert. Audience members are also urged to wear their "fanciest, craziest, or most creative hat" to show their support for women's issues.

"The idea with the hats is just to create some fun," Braun says. "We'll have

a panel of judges and there will be a prize for the hat that's the most creative."

Tickets are available for \$15 each until Feb. 28 by calling 204-325-9957. The show gets underway at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 2.

LUNCH & LEARN LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

Genesis House is also hosting its annual lunch and learn facilitated by Wendy Loewen from the Achieve Training Centre on Wednesday, March 8.

"The topic is managing personality types," explains Braun, adding that this leadership workshop is open to

all community members. "I think this is really relevant to everyone—in our lives we all have people that maybe rub us the wrong way. But, ultimately, in our workplaces or wherever we are, we have to find a way to make that relationship work."

Participants will learn how to tailor communication to best fit different personalities, understand effective means of motivation, and structure the work environment to optimize diverse personalities in the workplace.

The workshop runs from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Quality Inn in Winkler. Tickets are \$35, which includes lunch.

Reserve your seat by Feb. 22 by calling 204-325-9957.

Province looking to cut through the red tape

The province is launching an online consultation asking Manitobans to share their ideas to reduce red tape and unnecessary regulatory requirements, Finance Minister Cameron Friesen announced Friday at the conclusion of Red Tape Awareness Week.

"We are asking businesses, not-for-profit groups, municipalities and citizens from across the province to help us in the next phase of our red tape reduction strategy by identifying red tape irritants, and unnecessary rules,

policies and forms that create a burden when conducting business or delivering services," he said.

Recommendations from the online consultation will be a valuable part of the Red Tape Reduction Taskforce's work to remove red tape that restricts economic growth and limits the quality of services available to Manitobans, Friesen noted.

In its first phase, the taskforce is focusing on four specific industries: agriculture and food processing, trans-

portation, land development and non-profit sectors.

"Reducing red tape is part of our government's plan to energize our economy and unleash our potential," Friesen said. "We are committed to making Manitoba the most improved province for regulatory accountability by 2020."

Online submissions can be made at www.gov.mb.ca/reduceredtape until Feb. 20.

arts&culture

Nordic music, folktales captivate in Manitou

Submitted by the Manitou Regional Library

It was standing-room only at the Manitou Regional Library on Jan. 20, as local musician, instrument maker and artist John Rauðúlfr (Lovell), entertained the crowd with an evening of traditional Nordic music and folklore.

Rauðúlfr played some musical compositions using a trio of traditional folk instruments that he built himself from scratch, and talked about the history of each one and how he came to build them.

First up was a Kantele, a stringed instrument from Finland that is also found in other Baltic countries under different names, explained Rauðúlfr, who also showed slides of his recent five month trip across Northern Europe, where he drew inspiration for his music and instruments.

He also played a Tagelharpa, a Scandinavian medieval bowed instrument that possibly dates from the Viking age.

"It's like a very primitive version of a violin," explained Rauðúlfr.

But Rauðúlfr's favourite instrument was the Kravik Lyre, a replica of a seven-stringed lyre found in Kravik, Norway, also believed to be from the Viking era.

"Of all the instruments I have made this is the one I am most proud of because I made it to an authentic design in Norway last summer out of locally sourced wood," he said.

Rauðúlfr grew up in Manitou and as a teenager became interested in Icelandic culture.

"I always had an interest in the Vikings, from the stuff I would watch, and the music I would listen to," he said. "But it was during a visit to Iceland when I was 17 that I really fell

in love with the Nordic world and its history and folklore."

Rauðúlfr dove further into the culture and language in university, taking lessons in Icelandic and the Old Norse language. He became particularly interested in the ancient music of these nations, as well as the instruments they used to play it.

"These instruments aren't easy to find, and the information for them is scarce, so I decided to build my own," said Rauðúlfr, who has always enjoyed woodworking.

The first instrument that he built was the Tagelharpa.

"A musical group known as Wardruna, who is one of my main inspirations musically, use the instrument," Rauðúlfr explained, adding that the band's music is featured in the TV show *Vikings*. "I did some research and dug up videos and information about the instrument. The primal, haunting tones it creates really resonated with me, and I opted to build one of my own, which through trial and error, turned out to be a success."

EUROPEAN TRAVELS INSPIRE ART AND MUSIC

Rauðúlfr's travels last summer took him to Austria, Germany, Estonia, Norway, the Czech Republic, and England, and he explained how the trip gave him new inspiration as an artist and musician.

"Spending five months travelling, never really knowing where I was going to end up next, where I would sleep tonight gave me a sense of freedom," he said. "I lived with families from the Austrian alps to the forests of Estonia to the Fjords of Norway, and that was a great experience. Being in the lands that these instruments and sounds are from, dating

"THESE INSTRUMENTS AREN'T EASY TO FIND, AND THE INFORMATION FOR THEM IS SCARCE, SO I DECIDED TO BUILD MY OWN."



SUBMITTED PHOTOS
John Rauðúlfr entertained a standing-room only crowd at the Manitou Library last month with an evening of traditional Nordic music and folklore.



back hundreds or even thousands of years, was an unexplainable feeling.

"I felt a powerful spiritual connection imagining the folklore and legends of these places. I have taken these powerful feelings back with me, and I haven't been the same since."

Rauðúlfr, who also plays guitar and various other instruments, is currently working on a one-man musical

project called *Draumstafir*, more information on which can be found on its Facebook page.

He also makes and sells customized medieval Nordic instruments, as well as artisanal items such as Nordic rune sets, staves, and drinking horns. Rauðúlfr can be reached at johnulfr@gmail.com.

PJs and storytelling

The Winkler (right) and Morden (below) branches of the South Central Regional Library hosted their annual Family Literacy Day parties last week, inviting kids to come in their comfiest PJs to enjoy an evening of storytelling from guest readers. Similar parties were also held at the Miami and Altona branches last week, as well as at the Manitou Regional Library.

PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE



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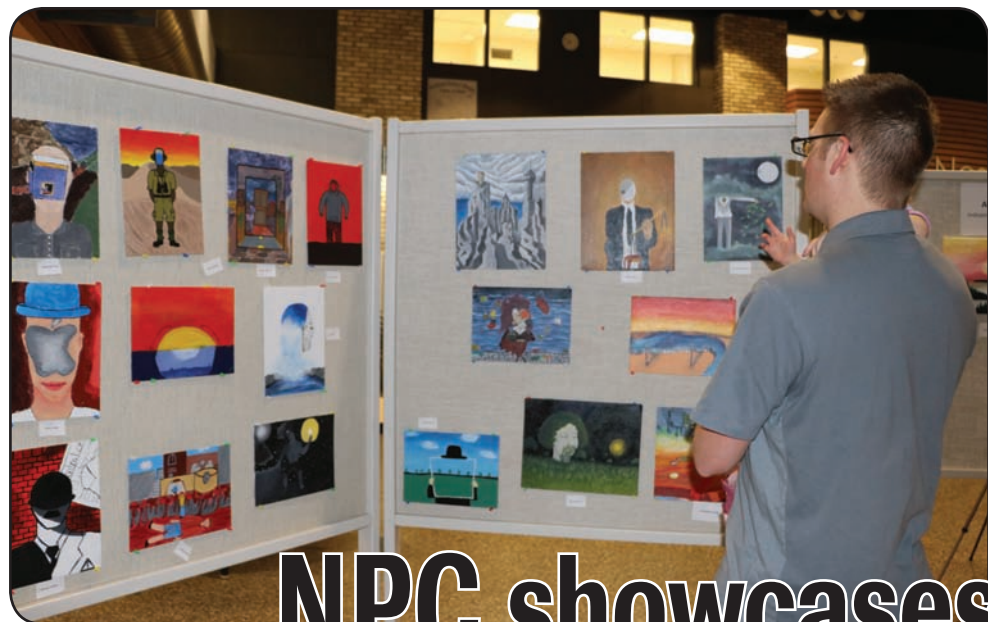
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NPC showcases student art



Northlands Parkways Collegiate in Winkler invited the community to check out the work of its semester one art students last week. The show featured pieces from hundreds of Gr. 9-12 students using a variety of mediums and depicting themes ranging from Remembrance Day to Star Wars.

PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE



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SUBMITTED PHOTO

A dedicated team of volunteers served up hundreds of pickerel meals at the Pembina Threshermen's Museum's first Fish Fry of 2017 last Friday. To mark Canada's 150th birthday, the dining hall and the volunteers themselves were decked out in our Canadian colours of red and white. If you missed out, check out the future Fish Fry dinners on Feb. 24, March 31, or April 28. Funds go to help the heritage museum pay for the costs of upkeep to its buildings and grounds.

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Redskins, Royals fall short in SEMHL action

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The local teams both posted losses in South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League action last week.

First up, the Morden Redskins fell to the Carman Beavers in front of a hometown crowd Saturday night.

Carman bookended period one with goals while Morden's Nick Doyle got the Redskins on the board with one midway through.

Doyle did it again just 30 seconds into the middle frame, only to have Carman pull ahead by two more by period's end.

The Beavers piled on with three more goals in the final period to make it 7-2 heading into the last few minutes. There, with a little over four minutes to go, Doyle scored his third goal of the night.

In net for the loss for Morden was Reed Peters, who made 36 saves as Carman outshot Morden 43-36.

The Winkler Royals, meanwhile, were defeated by both the Warren Mercs and the Portage Islanders.

Travelling to play the Mercs on Friday, Winkler battled to a 2-2 tie after 20 minutes, with Cody Friesen drawing first blood and Ryan Wiebe tying things up with just a second to go before the buzzer.

Period two saw Friesen score one more alongside Craig Cornelsen and Mark Hildebrand, but those proved to be the last goals Winkler would get this game.

Warren, meanwhile, scored two in the final few minutes of the period and then ran roughshod over Winkler in the third with four unanswered goals, including an empty-netter in the final minute, for an 8-5 victory.

Matt Krahn manned the Royals' net this game, making 37 saves as Winkler outshot Warren 47-44.

On Sunday the Royals welcomed Portage to town for what ended up

being a 7-0 loss for the home team.

Winkler sent 28 shots the Islanders' way, but were stonewalled by Portage netminder Mitch Wiebe. Krahn, once again guarding Winkler's net, faced 60 shots on goal, making 53 saves.

Winkler currently sits in fifth place in the SEMHL standings with a re-

cord of 7-11 and 14 points. That puts them a point ahead of both Altona (6-10-1) and Morden (6-11-1), who are in sixth and seventh place, respectively.

Coming up this weekend, Winkler and Morden face-off at the Access Event Centre on Saturday at 8 p.m.



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT

The Morden Redskins' Graham Leiding slides the puck between the legs of Carman's Nathan Karlowisky in an effort to get a shot on net in Saturday's home game, which Morden lost 7-3.

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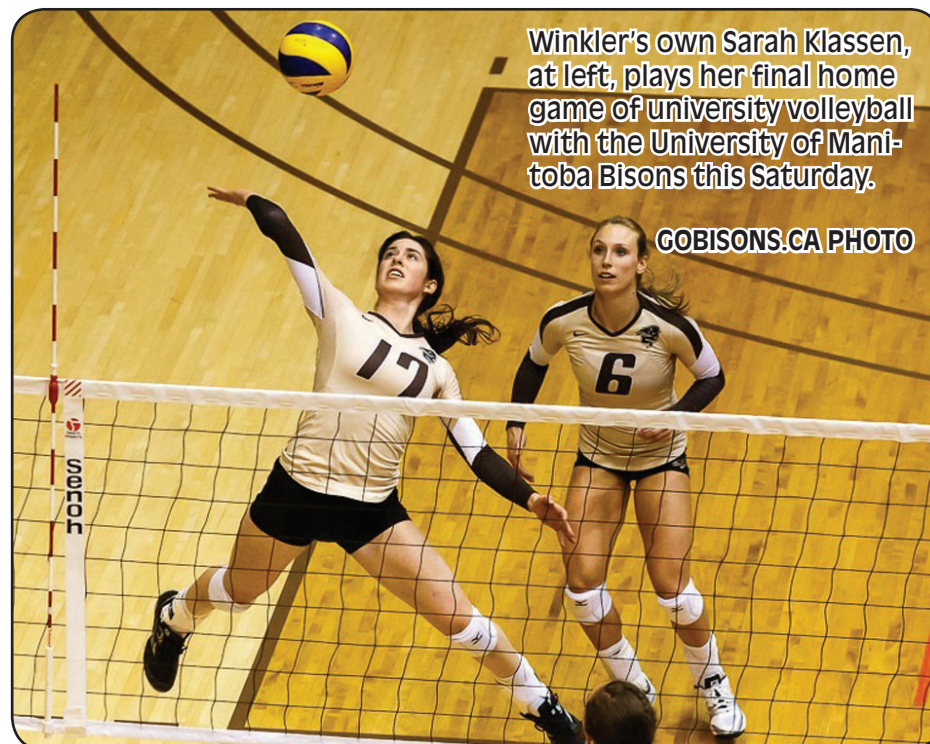
What's more, if you decide you'd

like to own your own house, you can use your RRSP savings as a down payment on a first home. This program, called Home Buyers' Plan (HBP), is very popular — since 1992, more than two million Canadians have become homeowners using the money they had saved in a registered retirement savings plan.

When you make an annual contribution to an RRSP, you are building a better future for yourself. So, be sure not to waste any more time!



Think of RRSPs as a kind of adult piggy bank.



Winkler's own Sarah Klassen, at left, plays her final home game of university volleyball with the University of Manitoba Bisons this Saturday.

GOBISONS.CA PHOTO

Klassen gearing up for final university home game

GVC alum to be honoured as Bisons take on Wolfpack

By Lorne Stelmach

A Winkler student who went on to excel at university on the volleyball court is being honoured this weekend.

The University of Manitoba is recognizing Sarah Klassen Saturday on the occasion of her final home game with the Bisons.

Klassen is wrapping up her fifth and last year with the team and there will be a presentation and short ceremony in her honour before the match at 4:30 p.m. at the Investors Group Athletic Centre.

The occasion is somewhat bittersweet for the 2012 Garden Valley Collegiate graduate, who says she will miss the sport and being part of the team, but added it has been "absolutely thrilling" and a privilege to have had the opportunity to play.

"It's been so rewarding ... I wouldn't change it for anything," said Klassen, who is taking a double major in marketing and human resource management in the Asper School of Business.

The highlight of her university athletic career, she says, is unquestionably having been a part of winning the Canadian university national championship in 2014.

So far this year, playing in the Canada West conference, which is gener-

ally acknowledged to be the toughest in Canadian university volleyball, Klassen has been sixth in blocks per set and is 11th in hitting percentage for the entire conference.

It's been quite a journey from her rookie year with the team, when she saw very little court time, to being team captain this and last season.

"I think being a captain of a sport team at this level has been a really big learning experience, and it's taught me some really valuable life lessons that I can take with me," Klassen said.

Her leadership has been especially important this season, as the Bisons' head coach, Ken Bentley, has been on sabbatical, necessitating an adjustment to a new coach.

Klassen said university volleyball has been challenging in many ways, both emotionally and physically.

Student athletes spend hours each week training, practising, and competing, all in addition to their regular studies, so it has required a lot of passion and dedication.

"It's quite time consuming and really physically challenging ... pretty hard on the body," Klassen said. "I think I'd tell younger players and players that come on to the team, if you don't love it, then you shouldn't do it ... but if you love it, it's going to be incredible."

"I love the sport of volleyball ... so I loved all the hardships that go along with it and all that you learn as well."

If you'd like to cheer Klassen on in her final home match, game information is available at gobisons.ca.

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Pembina Valley Hawks best Capitals, Cougars

By Lorne Stelmach

It was a strong rebound weekend for the male Pembina Valley Hawks as they continued a five game home stand.

The memories of a pair of losses the previous week were erased with a 6-5 shootout win Saturday over the Central Plains Capitals and a 7-2 victory against the Southwest Cougars Sunday in Morden.

"We had a few powerplay goals that kind of got the confidence level up too. It's nice when you score a few," said coach Rylan Price.

"I thought we had a hard fought game against Central Plains ... much like the game we had a couple weeks ago against them," he added. "For some reason, we happen to clash with each other, and we generally produce some pretty good games when we play Central.

"Against Southwest ... we got control of the game early and held momentum and held control for the rest of

the game. It was a full 60 minute effort."

The Hawks came back Saturday with a pair of third period goals after falling behind 5-3 after 40 minutes.

League-leading goal scorer Elijah Carels not only potted a hat trick but connected for two of the three Hawks' powerplay goals as well as a short-handed marker.

Everett Bestland and Cade Kowalski scored in the third to force overtime, which solved nothing and led to the shootout. After Carels connected in the third round to extend it, Kolton Shindle scored in the fourth to decide it.

It was a big night for the special teams all around, as the Capitals also picked up three powerplay goals as well as a shorthanded marker. Aaron Brunn got the win in goal with 25 saves as the shots were 30-28 in favour of Central Plains.

The Hawks grabbed period leads of 2-0 and 4-0 Sunday against Southwest while Brunn stopped 28 of 30 shots for



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The Pembina Valley Hawks downed the visiting Southwest Cougars 7-2 in Morden on Sunday.

another victory in net.

Kowalski and Shindle each had a pair of goals to pace the Pembina Valley attack while Carels collected another powerplay goal to boost his total to 36 for the season. Garrett Szeremley and Caleb Unrau also scored for the Hawks, who outshot the Cougars 34-30.

The pair of wins lifted the Hawks back up into fifth place with a record of 23-13-0-1 for 47 points.

The pack of teams in the middle

of the standings remains tight, with the Hawks positioned to finish anywhere from third to seventh place. Just ahead of them are Brandon at 48 points and the Winnipeg Thrashers at 49, while behind them are Central Plains at 47 and Eastman at 45.

Pembina Valley has seven regular season games remaining. This weekend, the eighth place Kenora Thistles come to Morden for pair of games Friday and Saturday.

Wins bump Winkler Flyers into second place

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Flyers moved into the Manitoba Junior Hockey League's second place after wins over Swan Valley and Neepawa this past week.

After dropping a 4-2 decision to the first place Steinbach Pistons on Jan. 24 (with Matt Christian and Will Blake doing the honours in scoring for Winkler and goalie Cole Weaver slapping away 18 shots on net), Winkler went on to trounce the Stampeders Friday night.

Swan Valley scored one unanswered goal in the opening period. That proved to their last successful shot on net, while Winkler's Matt Christian scored two and Collyn Bates, Brody Moffatt, and Tanner Lewis made it a 5-1 win.

Weaver was back in the Flyers' goal, slapping away 20 shots as Winkler outshot Swan Valley 34-21. Winkler went 0-for-7 on the power-play and 8-for-8 on the penalty-kill.

Things didn't go as well for the Flyers in game two of their three game northern road trip.

Saturday night's game was in OCN against the Blizzard, who scored two goals—one in both the second and third periods—and managed to shut Winkler out entirely, despite the fact the Flyers had the edge on shots 35-26.

The boys shook off the loss to go on to defeat the Natives in Neepawa 4-3 the next night.

Neepawa scored first, nearly four minutes into the game. Winkler answered with goals from Braden Billaney and Tyler Lindstrom at 5:19 and 6:33.

A late Neepawa goal saw the game head into the second period tied at two. Christian and Lewis doubled their team's scored with the only goals of the second period.

Neepawa got one more past Troy Martyniuk in Winkler's net but just couldn't catch up. Martyniuk made 20 saves in all.

With that, Winkler's record is at 33-12-1 for 68 points, putting them 11 points behind the first place Pistons and three up on the Steelers.

This week, Winkler hosted the Steelers on Tuesday. Results were not available at press time.

Coming up this weekend, the Flyers host Swan Valley on Friday and Dauphin on Saturday. Puck drops for both games at 7:30 p.m.



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Frostbite Mechanical also offers emergency service any time, day and night, and Elias noted their trucks go out as far east as Emerson, north to Sanford, and west to Pilot Mound and Killarney.

"We cover much of southern Manitoba ... we do work for a lot of school divisions," he said, concluding



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ing that their approach to every job is the same no matter how big or small it is.

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PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Hundreds of wrestlers from across southern Manitoba were in Winkler Saturday for Garden Valley Collegiate's first wrestling tournament, which they hosted in partnership with the Morden Wrestling Club.



Local wrestlers had a solid showing at the first wrestling tournament hosted jointly by the Garden Valley Collegiate wrestling team and the Morden Wrestling Club on Saturday. GVC wrestlers Dallas Fehr and Thomas Froese each came in first in their weight classes, while Sawyer Schmidt clinched third. From Morden, Carson Friesen got first place in his division, while second place honours went to Calvin

Unrau, Justin Morgan, Samuel Dyck, Max Whitten, and Locucan Rempel. Coming in third was Noah Jacobs, Justus Wyton, Jackson Unrau (in the elementary/junior high 58 kg. class), Lucas Thiessen, and Jackson Unrau (in the high school 60 kg. class). With the success of this event, organizers hope to host more wrestling tournaments in the region in the future.

Hawks drop games to Wildcats, Caps

By Lorne Stelmach

It's an inopportune time for the female Pembina Valley Hawks to be on a losing streak. A pair of tough losses on the weekend made it three defeats in a row for the Hawks, and it left them in a dead-heat battle for position in the standings with just two regular season games left to go. A 3-1 loss to Westman Saturday left the Wildcats in control for first place at 41 points and with five games remaining to build on their impressive 20-2-1 record. That loss was followed by a 2-1 defeat at the hands of the Central Plains Capitals Sunday afternoon. The Hawks slipped to 18-6-2 for 38 points, which had them tied with the 19-7-0 Winnipeg Avros and 19-8-0 Yellowhead Chiefs with two games and one game left, respectively. Kelly-Rae Zdan had the lone Hawks goal Saturday as they fell

behind 2-1 after one period, with Wildcats star Ashton Bell scoring once and assisting on the other two Westman goals. Her incredible season, which includes a four goal performance against the Hawks in December, has Bell at 30 goals and 45 points in just 19 games. Kadynce Romijn made 30 saves in goal for the Hawks, who were out-shot 33 to 19. Mackenzie Hutchinson was the only one to score for the Hawks Sunday in the second period after Central Plains took a 2-0 lead in the first. Romijn made 15 saves this time, while the Hawks were mostly stymied by Ella Wiebe, with the Capitals' goalie stopping 32 out of 33 shots. The ladies head west this week for a tournament in Alberta and then return home to prepare for a season-ending road trip north to Thompson Feb. 10-11 to face the sixth place Norman Wild.

Manitoba Hockey Standings

MANITOBA JUNIOR HOCKEY LEAGUE							GP	W	L	OTL	PTS	GF	GA	Central Plains	38	22	13	2	47	154	134
Steinbach Pistons	46	39	6	1	79	201	89	Eastman	37	21	13	2	45	131	102						
Winkler Flyers	47	33	12	2	68	170	113	Kenora	38	14	20	0	32	107	168						
Selkirk Steelers	48	31	14	3	65	168	144	Southwest	36	14	19	2	31	103	145						
OCN Blizzard	48	30	15	3	63	154	127	Parkland	36	12	20	1	28	116	171						
Portage Terriers	46	29	15	2	60	195	150	Interlake	37	9	25	0	21	99	180						
Winnipeg Blues	47	23	19	5	51	165	158	Norman	38	6	31	0	13	97	246						
Virde Oil Capitals	48	20	21	7	47	130	157	AAA BANTAM HOCKEY LEAGUE							GP	W	L	OTL	PTS	GF	GA
Swan Valley Stampers	45	15	27	3	33	124	180	Yellowhead Chiefs	27	21	3	1	45	141	54						
Dauphin Kings	46	13	28	5	31	108	167	Pembina Valley PV Hawks	28	20	6	1	42	175	75						
Neepawa Natives	44	12	27	5	29	116	176	Brandon Wheat Kings	27	18	7	0	38	136	77						
Waywayseacappo Wolverines	45	10	31	4	24	135	205	Southwest Cougars	29	16	9	2	36	143	103						
MANITOBA MAJOR JUNIOR							Central Plains Capitals	30	12	17	0	25	105	156							
HOCKEY LEAGUE							Parkland Rangers	28	6	21	0	13	64	170							
Stonewall Jets	33	24	9	0	48	155	99	Norman Wolves	31	1	30	0	2	34	283						
Charleswood Hawks	34	21	8	5	47	107	86	MANITOBA FEMALE MIDGET AAA HOCKEY LEAGUE							GP	W	L	T	OTW	OTL	Pts
Pembina Valley Twisters	33	20	9	4	44	136	102	Westman Wildcats	23	18	2	-	2	1	41						
St. James Canucks	34	21	12	1	43	133	118	Winnipeg Avros	26	15	7	-	4	-	38						
St. Vital Victorias	35	18	12	5	41	140	139	Yellowhead Chiefs	27	18	8	-	1	-	38						
Raiders Jr. Hockey Club	34	18	13	3	39	143	100	PV Hawks	26	17	6	-	1	2	38						
Ft.Garry/Ft.Rouge Twins	35	15	16	4	34	129	142	Eastman Selects	24	8	10	-	2	4	24						
St. Boniface Riels	35	14	16	5	33	123	139	Norman Wild	26	7	16	-	2	1	19						
Transcona Railer Express	36	16	19	1	33	120	140	Central Plains	23	5	15	-	-	3	13						
River East Royal Knights	35	5	30	0	10	89	210	Interlake Lightning	25	-	22	-	1	2	4						
SOUTH EASTERN MANITOBA HOCKEY LEAGUE							HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY							GP	W	L	OTL	PTS	GF	GA	
Notre Dame	18	14	2	1	30	75	48	Morden Thunder	20	18	1	0	37	108	42						
Carman	18	13	3	0	28	99	53	Carman Cougars	19	17	2	0	34	102	40						
Portage	19	12	4	1	27	95	59	Morris Mavericks	18	11	6	1	23	89	69						
Warren	17	9	5	3	21	83	69	Northlands Parkway Collegiate													
Winkler	18	7	11	0	14	53	76	Nighthawks (Winkler)	19	11	7	0	23	88	58						
Altona	17	6	10	1	13	62	87	W.C. Miller Aces (Altona)	20	11	9	0	22	97	84						
Morden	18	6	11	1	13	58	89	Portage Collegiate Institute Trojans	19	8	10	0	17	56	54						
Stonewall	17	4	13	0	8	67	111	Cartwright/Hellie McClung/Pilot Mound Tigers	20	5	13	2	12	73	105						
MANITOBA AAA MIDGET HOCKEY LEAGUE							Prairie Mountain Mustangs	18	5	13	0	10	71	103							
Wild	36	28	5	0	59	190	67	Garden Valley Collegiate Zodiacs (Winkler)	19	0	19	0	0	23	152						
Yellowhead	37	25	4	2	58	168	99	STATS AS OF TUESDAY, JANUARY 31													
Thrashers	36	23	10	1	49	166	90														

STATS AS OF TUESDAY, JANUARY 31

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Zodiacs down Thunder

In their final league games before exam week, the GVC Zodiacs came out on top over the Morden Thunder in high school varsity basketball.

The GVC girls downed Morden 65-30 on Jan. 24, while the boys won their match 84-25.

GVC's female team also clinched first place at the St. Mary's tournament in Winnipeg over the weekend. Gina Giesbrecht and Laney Harder were named all-stars, while Talia Peters was tournament MVP.

In the SCAC, meanwhile, the NPC fell to the Royals 70-73 on Jan. 25, while the girls won their match 37-29.

Zone 4 hockey action saw NPC and the Thunder post wins.

The Nighthawks downed the Zodiacs 7-0 on Jan. 25 but then fell to the Mavericks 6-1 and the Cougars 7-3

later in the weekend.

Morden, meanwhile, bested the Mustangs 4-3 and the Zodiacs 5-3. GVC also went on to lose to the Mustangs 11-1 on Sunday.

As of press time, Morden was at the top of the pack with an 18-1-0-1 record and 37 points. NPC, at 23 points, is in fourth place and the Zodiacs, winless in 19 games, are in last place.

The Northlands Parkway Collegiate boys varsity basketball team fell to the visiting Royals 73-70 last week, while the NPC girls won their match 37-29.

PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE



Twisters stymied by Stonewall Jets

By Lorne Stelmach

A heroic goaltending performance handed the Pembina Valley Twisters a third straight defeat this weekend.

Stonewall goaltender Hunter Plozay stopped 46 of 50 shots fired by Pembina Valley to backstop the Jets to a 6-4 victory Saturday in Morris.

As a result, the Twisters slipped to 20-9-4 for 44 points and third place in the Manitoba Major Junior Hockey League standings.

They trailed 2-1 after one period and 4-3 after two periods, with their chances at a comeback fading after that deficit fell to 6-3 by midway through the third.

Fraser Mirrlees scored a pair of goals to boost his team-leading totals to 20 goals and 45 points with the other Twisters' markers coming from Brendan Keck and Bryce Dusik.

Matt Kohlman started in goal for Pembina Valley and then was pulled early in the second after allowing three goals on 14 Stonewall shots.

Morgan Wall fared only slightly better in net, stopping 13 of 16 shots.

With that, Pembina Valley trails Stonewall in first at 48 points and Charleswood in second at 47. Nipping at their heels in fourth are St. James at 43 points.

The Twisters host the Raiders Saturday and Transcona next Tuesday.



Winkler curlers on top

Two teams from the Winkler Junior Curling Club won big at the Altona Junior Bonspiel last Saturday. Winning the Advanced Group was Team Janea Zacharias (at right, from left: Carley Penner, Janae Zacharias, Katelyn Wall, and Kacie Hiebert). Winning the Beginner Group was Team Landon Krahn (above, from left: Landon Krahn, Luke Trinke, Jace Zacharias, and Jared Bueckert).

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Third man charged in copper wire thefts

A third man is facing charges in connection with a break-in and attempted copper wire theft that occurred in Winkler last month.

In the early morning hours of Jan. 21, Winkler police arrested a 29-year-old woman and a 24-year-old man, both from Reinfeld, inside a local business and in the process of handling large quantities of copper wire.

Both were charged with break, enter and theft, among other infractions.

In the days following this incident, Winkler and Morden police continued to investigate the location of copper wire previously stolen from the same victim.

This investigation led to the arrest of a 48-year-old man from Reinfeld on Jan. 26.

The man, whose name has not been released, is facing a charge of possessing property obtained by crime. He was released and will appear in Morden Court on Feb. 28.

Other items of interest in the weekly Morden and Winkler police reports include:

- Jan. 24: Two Winkler women are facing drug charges after being arrested in Morden.

Morden police pulled the women over after observing their vehicle being operated in a suspicious manner.

Officers spoke with the occupants of the vehicle and through a subsequent investigation they were detained for a drug investigation.

Police located several baggies containing a crystal substance believed

to be methamphetamine.

The 36-year-old driver and 36-year-old passenger of the vehicle were arrested and now face charges of possession of a controlled substance.

- Jan. 24: At approximately 6:03 p.m., officers were called to investigate loud screaming coming from a suite in an apartment on 2nd St. in Winkler.

Officers found a highly intoxicated 49-year-old female causing the disturbance.

Police attempted unsuccessfully to engage in conversation with the female, who was very uncooperative and continuously yelled at officers.

As a result of the noise being caused by the female, she was placed under arrest for breaching the peace. She was held in custody until sober, at which time she was released without charges.

- Jan. 27: Around 10:30 p.m. this day Morden police were alerted to some suspicious activity at the Morden Collegiate bus loop area.

Officers attended and observed sev-

eral vehicles that were parked there had been damaged.

Police continue to investigate. Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to call them at 204-822-4900 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

- Jan. 28: At approximately 11:05 p.m., officers attended an address on Main Street St. in Winkler after receiving a report of a possible dispute between a mother and son.

Police discovered that a 17-year-old male had been arguing with his mother and had thrown a phone charging cord at her, striking her in the face.

The male youth was arrested for the assault as well as for breaching a probation order. He will appear in court in March.

- Jan. 28: While on a call at a residence in Morden, members of the Morden Police Service came in contact with a youth who was showing signs of intoxication. Officers could also detect an odor of burnt marijuana around him.

Police located approximately 71 prescription pills that are known to be sold in Morden. The accused was arrested and police located a substance believed to be "shatter," a street name for a potent form of cannabis resin.

After taking the youth into custody, police obtained a search warrant for the residence and seized the drugs and paraphernalia.

The 17-year-old is now facing possession and drug trafficking charges.

- Jan. 29: At approximately 7:10 p.m., Winkler police conducted a traffic stop on the east side of the Southland Mall.

While speaking with the driver, police observed evidence of marijuana possession inside the vehicle.

The driver was placed under arrest and a subsequent search of the vehicle resulted in the seizure of a quantity of marijuana and the marijuana extract known as shatter.

The 18-year-old male faces drug possession charges and two counts of breach of probation.

Access CU supporting STARS

Proceeds from annual golf tournament earmarked for the air ambulance

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The 2017 golf season is still a ways away yet, but Access Credit Union is wasting no time in announcing the recipient of this year's ACU Charity Golf Tournament.

Access announced last week that STARS (Shock Trauma Air Rescue Service) will receive the funds raised at their fifth annual charity tournament, which is slated to take place at the Minnewasta Golf & Country Club in Morden on Sept. 14.

STARS is a charitable, non-profit air ambulance dedicated to providing safe, rapid, and highly specialized transportation for the critically ill and injured. Patients are not charged for the cost of their trans-

port from local hospitals to larger urban medical facilities.

In 2016, STARS flew 609 missions in Manitoba, including 133 missions in ACU's service area.

"We are proud to support STARS through our annual golf tournament," said Access Credit Union president and CEO Larry Davey. "Access seeks to invest in organizations for the betterment of our members and our communities. With STARS covering Access's entire footprint, we see this as a win-win for Southern Manitoba."

Since its start in 2013, the tournament has raised over \$61,000 for charities such as A Port in the Storm and Katie's Cottage.

STARS is grateful to be added to

that list, says Els Fenton, executive director of the Manitoba STARS Foundation.

"Thank you to Access Credit Union for their very generous supports of STARS," she said. "Proceeds from the charity golf tournament will directly contribute toward life-saving emergency care and rapid transportation for critically ill and injured Manitobans."

Leading up to the tournament, Access will be promoting local stories of those impacted by STARS and partnering with the agency to bring the identifiable 'blue suits' of STARS staff to local events and conferences.

They will also be accepting donations to STARS at each of their 17 branches. Tax receipts will be issued for donations of any denomination.

Registration for the tournament will open this spring.

YWCA puts call out for nominations

An annual program to honour Manitoba women for their outstanding achievements is calling for nominations for its 2017 awards.

The annual YMCA-YWCA Winnipeg Women of Distinction Awards will again celebrate Manitoba women who have made exemplary contributions towards the enrichment of others and their communities, and one of the categories is aimed at hon-

Continued on page 22

Agriculture

KAP delegates get down to work at AGM

By Harry Siemens

Participation was high, engagement even higher at the annual meeting of the Keystone Agricultural Producers in Winnipeg last week.

"Things have changed. With the ability we now have to communicate via social media you wonder sometimes why you are attending these meetings," says Dan Mazier who was acclaimed as KAP's president for his third one-year term. "You can't beat sitting down face-to-face, especially when it comes to debating complicated questions like a carbon tax, other taxation, host of other topics on resolutions passed, surface water, drainage, things where people have a different opinion."

Mazier says to see the delegate body from all across the province engaged is what the organization is all about.

Among the 17 resolutions passed at the meeting was one put forward by Manitoba's young farmers that called for both levels of government to re-invest carbon taxes they collect back into primary agriculture.

The producers stressed that they want to be part of the climate change solution, and therefore need new programming that can help the agriculture industry do this. They anticipate the industry will garner public trust with these efforts.

Another resolution included working with Manitoba commodity groups and others to attract investment to establish a world-class soybean-processing plant in Manitoba.

Feedback on that last one from the delegates was positive, says Mazier.

"There was a resolution passed at our advisory council in Brandon to work closely with Brandon Chamber of Commerce looking at the how to attract a world-class plant based on an earlier study, which was good for that time, but things keep changing," he says. "Number one, the government changed and wants to see development in the livestock industry, a key signal we didn't have when the study was done the first time. The other factor: the explosion in the soybean industry and especially projected acres for 2017 and beyond."

Mazier says the expansion of the soybean acres is going to the west of the traditional areas pushed by bet-

ter varieties.

"The whole concept of this lets us look at this with a different lens. How do we go about attracting the investment required to bring a soybean plant into Manitoba, which I see as a provincial project, and impact our entire agricultural industry in the province regarding the size of the plant they are talking about," says Mazier, who grows soybeans in the Red River Valley.

When forward-thinkers talk about a processing plant, it's not like the smaller cold-press ones now in operation, but one with the potential to make biodiesel and feed to potentially supply the expanding livestock industry.

"Wherever that is happening that is where the plant is going to go," Mazier says. "When we look back, we grew up on mixed farms, kind of a no-brainer that we just grew our own feed for our own livestock."

"The model now is we're importing the majority of our soybean meal from the United States. With all the talk going on in the U.S. right now and Manitoba can get it back together and start attracting investments, for our own processing plants and for our livestock industry, the timing will be pretty good, I honestly think."

Mazier says it is a shift away from the traditional thinking where multiple communities each try to lure this investment—this will need to be a regional approach, if not a provincial one.

It is a huge plant—an estimated \$100 million investment—which makes for a huge nut to crack, but Mazier is confident ownership will give producers a bit of control.

"If you have some skin in the game, maybe it provides some checks and balances put into these plants that should provide some opportunity for Manitobans to invest in it," he says.

In another resolution, delegates called on KAP to investigate whether the Canadian Grain Commission should use its \$100 million surpluses of user fees paid by farmers to develop an insurance program similar to Ontario's to protect farmers selling grain.

KAP has been calling for years for a program to replace the CGC's current bonding system, which the industry finds inadequate.

"It is producer money, sitting right there and there might be an opportunity there to start something," says Mazier. "It doesn't say let's do it this way but at least have a discussion with CGC and industry groups see where it goes. The CGC has a new chief commission, Patti Miller, maybe there is a new appetite to look at some farmer-driven changes including a different government."



By Harry Siemens

Speaking at the Prairie Livestock Expo 2016 in December in Winnipeg, Dr. Tracy Gilson, the operations manager of the University of Manitoba's Glenlea Research Station, says discoveries made through research are driving the success of agriculture in feeding growing numbers of people while using fewer inputs.

Wow, that is quite a statement.

Gilson says the primary goal of the agricultural research is to help farmers improve their efficiency and productivity. Agriculture would not exist without the discoveries.

I totally agree with her.

"Some of the discoveries happened on farms, but a majority of those discoveries happened on research facilities just like the one we have here in Manitoba and others situated across Canada," she says. "Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada first started with their research facilities. Under a controlled environment, they were able to find techniques, technologies that would help the producers, once

adopted, improve their bottom line."

I have toured research stations 1,000-fold, I think, around the world, and while bored sometimes, never disappointed at the advanced work research scientists show me and tell me about.

Gilson says whether talking about livestock research specifically or about the productivity of the animal giving more output with fewer inputs, there needs to be research behind how farmers feed and house their animals. Another is the feed efficiency, the utilization of by-products.

"When we do research for our livestock industry we're really thinking about making them more resilient to everything from market trends to changes in how livestock are raised and this helps them with their bottom line," she says.

Gilson says looking to produce more food and finding ways to be more productive in doing that is certainly a vital topic of conversation now.

More specifically, also speaking at

the same conference in Winnipeg, Dr. Laurie Connor, the head of the University of Manitoba's Department of Animal Science, says research conducted on behalf of Swine Innovation Porc indicates improvements in the design of slatted concrete flooring will improve the comfort and longevity of group-housed gestating sows.

To ease manure management most gestating sows in Canada are housed on slatted or partially slatted concrete floors.

Remember when the sow and her piglets resided in the barn only feet from the house, laying in straw mixed with manure depending on how often you took the time to clean the pen?

As part of research conducted on behalf of Swine Innovation Porc, researchers are working to improve the comfort of these sows and reduce lameness by optimizing the slat and gap widths.

Continued on page 22

Research vital to feeding the world

Manitoba working on easing building codes

By Harry Siemens

For some time now, the hog industry in Manitoba has worked extremely hard to undo the damage caused by the ban on hog expansion by former premier Gary Doer.

While not so noticeable when the hog industry languished in downright depressing times, when things finally began to turn around the industry still couldn't expand even by one pig.

Now, Manitoba Ag Minister Ralph Eichler says announcements on the province's plans to streamline the process for the approval of permits to construct new hog barns in Manitoba will happen soon.

In April 2015, to facilitate the construction of new swine production capacity in the province to address a shortfall of pigs for processing, the government introduced the Pig Production Special Pilot Project Evaluation Protocol, a program designed to allow new hog barn construction based on 11 new conditions above and beyond existing requirements. However, a key stumbling block has been the complicated approval process, which requires upwards of a year to complete.

Eichler told reporters at Ag Days in Brandon that the government is working to address that situation via its Red Tape Reduction Strategy.

"One thing you have to learn about any process is you've got to make sure you maintain the public trust so, if you're not going to be coming with us, you're going to be part of the problem," he said. "When you look at any process, let's make sure we get it right."

"Of course we've been working with the Manitoba producers, the municipalities, talking to the investors to ensure that we do get it right. We have done a lot to date, but we have not announced, not yet. But stay tuned. Very soon you'll see some major changes happening on that front."

Manitoba Pork, for one, would like to see the time it takes for the approval of new construction permits cut at least by half.

Estimates show up to 1.2 million additional feeder pigs per year are currently needed to bring the province's processing plants up to full capacity, which would require something in the neighborhood of 100 new barns.

Premier Brian Pallister says the onerous regulatory burden placed on agriculture is obstructing the ability to create economic opportunity and jobs.

"We know that the industry has the capacity to produce more, the processing industry has the additional unused capacity, and has had for some time," he says. "We know that the product is marketable and wanted. We know that these opportunities have been undiscovered for a long time and not solely because of regulatory constraints but that is one aspect that we need to have a look at."

He says Manitoba has perhaps the most onerous regulatory burden on any hog producers in the country.

"One of our principal points of initial focus with our red tape exercise is the value added ag sector," says Pallister. "We really think that there's potential for us to grow our economy in this area. It's an area where we have not only some strong competitive advantages but we have just tremen-

dous producers with capabilities that are second to none."

He says as a farm boy himself, he's pretty excited about the potential that we can discover by looking at opportunities not just inside the city of Winnipeg.

As agriculture is a key economic driver in Manitoba, if it's a good year in farming, it's a good year for everybody in the province, Pallister says.

Morden hosting Direct Farm Marketing Conf.

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Morden will host the Direct Farm Marketing Conference 2017 next month.

The Prairie Fruit Growers Association and Direct Farm Manitoba announced Monday that the annual conference will be held at the Access Event Centre March 10-11.

"We are so pumped to offer the 2017 edition of the Manitoba Direct Farm Marketing Conference. Between the agenda we have prepared and the venue in Morden, the conference will not disappoint," says Angie Cormier, executive director of the growers as-

sociation. "The conference continues to draw interest and to work with the likes of Direct Farm Manitoba, I believe we have a conference that meets the needs of what our producers and processors in Manitoba are seeking."

The event will give producers an opportunity to learn about marketing, production, maximizing profits, and utilizing new technology within the direct-marketing farming sector of Manitoba.

This year's keynote speaker is Mark Evans of Evans Consulting out of Toronto, who will speak to the importance of sharing your company's story to set it apart from the pack.

Other speakers include Manitoba Agriculture specialists talking about the development and processing of food products in Manitoba, Susie Erjavec Parker of Sparker Agencies discussing the use of social media, Laura Telford on growing organic, and Sue Clayton of Agriculture in the Classroom Manitoba on the topic of social license.

To learn more about the 2017 Direct Farm Marketing Conference and view the complete itinerary, visit www.directfarmmarketing.com.

To register online, visit the Prairie Fruit Growers Association at www.pfga.com.

> SIEMENS SAYS, FROM PG. 21

Connor says after reproduction, lameness is the second highest cause for culling sows.

"We determined basically that the ease with which the sow moves, or her gait, is least affected by flooring which has a slat width of four inches and a gap width of three-quarter inches. Both of those are just slightly

below the actual industry standard at the moment," he says. "Our focus is looking at the behavior of the animal in pens now that are outfitted with two floorings, the standard as well as this slightly smaller slat and gap combination, looking at their postures at the beginning of gestation when they first go in there and

after they've been in there for 10 weeks before they come out to farrowing."

Research from sea to shining sea helping to increase quality, quantity, and efficiency, whether grain, special crops, or livestock, but cutting inputs is always a good thing as we feed the billions around the world.

> YMCA, FROM PG. 20

ouring a young woman from rural Manitoba.

The Prairie Award of Promise is for young women who are enrolled in a school outside of Winnipeg.

In the past, the honour has gone to recipients in the south central region such as Jessica Froese of Win-

kler, who was honored last year for her work that included travelling twice to Nicaragua to perform spiritual outreach and support for underprivileged children.

The YMCA-YWCA award recipient receives a \$2,000 scholarship on behalf of the program's sponsors.

Nominations for the YMCA-YWCA of Winnipeg Women of Distinction Awards are due in by Feb. 20

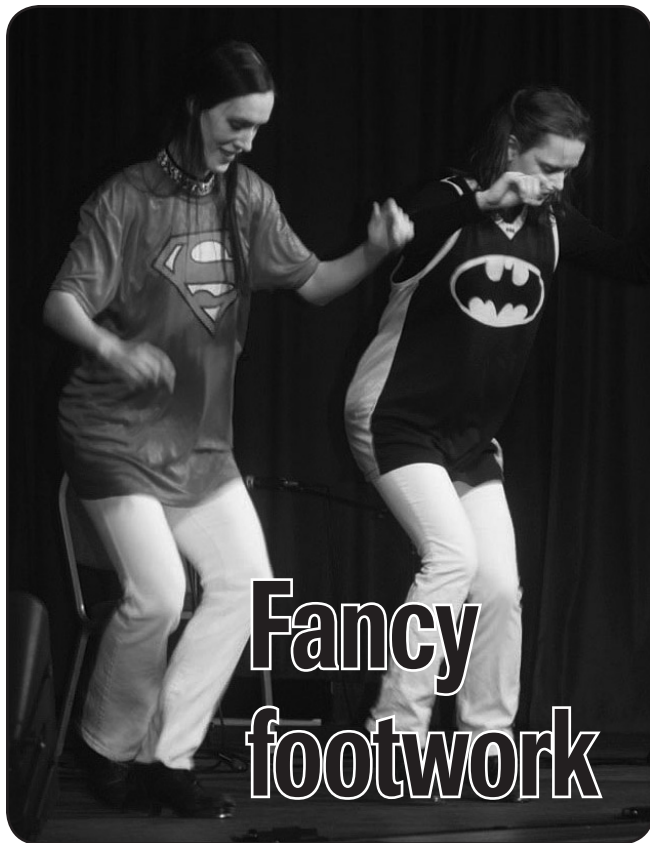
Nomination forms can be downloaded from ywinnipeg.ca/wod. The 41st annual awards gala will take place on May 3.

The Winkler Morden
Voice

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Siblings Julie, Kerry, and Tom Fitzgerald performed Jan. 26 at the Access Event Centre as part of the family group Everything Fitz. The show, which was part of the Southern Manitoba Concert series, entertained a sold-out crowd

with traditional tunes performed by these talented musicians, who include grand master fiddle champions. Left: Julie and Kerry also tried to outduel each other with some of their 'heroic' step dancing moves. Next up for the SMC series is the Manitoba Theatre Centre production of Last Train To Nibroc Feb. 24 at P.W. Enns Concert Hall in Winkler.

PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

take a break

> GAMES

SUDOKU

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

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

Sudoku Answer

E	R	E	S	S	S	I		
O	T	C	T	N	T	L	O	E
A	U	R	A	F	A	E	M	E
O	N	E	D	I	B	O	S	I
D	E	I	P	A	N	D	S	C
I	L	A	P	L	E	H	A	O
S	S	I	A	B	I	A	P	R
E	S	H	A	R	E	S	H	O
N	S	T	S	D	P	E	S	E
I	P	S	I	H	T	G	N	A
N	G	L	H	A	V	F	O	G
N	E	L	A	V	L	O	O	T
C	E	N	E	L	O	E	R	E
S	A	L	M	S	P	S	A	B

Crossword Answer



CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

1. Baseball team
5. Hymns
11. Actor Jared
12. Fragrance
16. ___ Von Bismarck, Iron Chancellor
17. Nordic God
18. Weighed down
19. Coppola's mob epic
24. Nanogram
25. Famed street artist
26. Identifier
27. 23rd letter of the Greek alphabet
28. In addition
29. Micturated
30. Shock
31. Accept
33. Allotment
34. Eras
38. Emerges
39. Cape Verde capital
40. ___, United Arab Emirates capital
43. Small amount
44. Back of the foot
45. Pakrit language
49. Home of "60 Minutes"
50. Condemn
51. Ailed
53. Elevated railroad
54. Rebelliousness
56. Ancient Greek city
58. Clothing company (abbr.)
59. Member of the cabbage family
60. Softens or smooths
63. Mass of coagulated liquid
64. Problems
65. Irish Republic

CLUES DOWN

1. Dress
2. Deadly
3. Says aloud
4. PT Anderson film "___ Nights"

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			

5. Teacher (abbr.)
6. Anesthetized
7. Anno Domini (in the year of Our Lord)
8. ___ and behold
9. French young women (abbr.)
10. Scorch
13. Notre Dame
14. Express disapproval
15. Cars need these
20. Not off
21. Unit of mass
22. You
23. Concealed
27. Parent-teacher organizations
29. Approximately 3.14159
30. Chinese conception of poetry
31. Satisfaction
32. College degree
33. Formerly Ceylon: ___ Lanka
34. Effeminate

35. Something to solve
36. Horses like these
37. Intelligence organization
38. Blood type
40. Exhibition
41. Poisonous plant
42. Aluminum
44. Possesses
45. Penetrate with a sharp instrument
46. Ring-shaped objects
47. Speaks at church
48. Form in the mind
50. Selectors
51. Probability of default
52. 2001 Spielberg film
54. Where to get a sandwich
55. Newts
57. Modus operandi
61. Exists
62. Politico-economic union

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NOTICES

The Rural Municipality of Stanley Invites applications for a Career Opportunity Position **Assistant Utility Operator**

This is an exciting new position which will assist in the daily operational aspects of the municipal utilities department.

Duties would include:

- Assisting in daily operations of water treatment plant, various water stations and reservoirs
- Involvement in construction and maintenance of water/wastewater networks and systems
- Assist in collection of information pertaining to information management and mapping systems
- Installation and maintenance of water meters and associated components
- Assist the public works department in a variety of duties
- Working together with various agencies and contractors to ensure the safe operation of all utility systems within the municipality
- Some weekend and call-out hours will be required

This individual will have:

- Valid Class 5 Manitoba driver's license.
- Grade 12/GED 12
- Completed or willing to complete the required water treatment/distribution and wastewater treatment/collection certifications
- Willingness and desire to work towards advancement of water and wastewater system accreditation and continuing education units required by provincial regulation and the municipality
- Proven aptitude for diligence and safety in performance of work duties
- Demonstrated analytical skills and creativity in problem solving
- High degree of professional judgment, organizational and time management skills
- Appreciation for the significance and importance of ensuring safety and viability of utility systems
- Strong public relations and interpersonal skills with the ability to communicate with tact and diplomacy both verbally and in writing
- Strong aptitude for public service
- Experience and/or training in plumbing/electrical would be considered an asset.

Interested applicants should forward their resume and cover letter to the undersigned.

The RM of Stanley offers a competitive compensation and health benefits package and pension plan.

Please note that only those applicants selected for interviews will be contacted.

Ken Thiessen
Public Works Supervisor
RM of Stanley
Box 1600 - Winkler MB R6W 4B5

Phone: (204) 325-4101
publicworks@rmofstanley.ca
www.rmofstanley.ca

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1 bedroom suite for rent. Utilities included. Available immediately Call Mike at 204-822-6228 for details.

LAND FOR RENT

Agricultural Crown Lands are presently available for rent for cropping. These lands are situated in the Rural Municipalities of: Bifrost-Riverton, City of Winnipeg, Ellice-Archie, Lakeshore, North Norfolk, Montcalm, Morris, Prairie View, Ritchot, Springfield, St. Andrews. Closing date for cropping tenders is 10:00 a.m. on February 17, 2017 at 308-25 Tupper Street North, Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, R1N 3K1. Please contact your nearest Manitoba Agriculture Crown Lands District Office for more information or call Crown Lands and Property Agency at 1-866-210-9589. A listing of Manitoba Agriculture Crown Lands District Offices can be found online at: www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/land/crown-land/agricultural-crown-lands-district-offices.html. A complete listing of agricultural crown lands available for rent can be found online at: http://www.clpamb.ca/leases_and_permits/lpproperties.aspx or at any Manitoba Agriculture, RM, or First Nation Band Office.

WORK WANTED

Available to do renos, repairs, maintenance, painting, siding, roofs, fix-ups. Residential or commercial. Call Bill at 204-362-2645 or leave a message at 204-822-3582.

Do-it-yourself project gone bad? Need help to start or finish? I can help. Call 204-362-2645 or leave a message at 204-822-3582.

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Medical Transcription! In-demand career! Employers have work-at-home positions available. Get online training you need from an employer-trusted program. Visit: CareerStep.ca/MT or 1-855-768-3362 to start training for your work-at-home career today!

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Are you suffering from joint or arthritic pain? If so, you owe it to yourself to try elk velvet antler capsules. Hundreds have found relief. Benefits humans and pets. EVA is composed of proteins, amino acids, minerals, lipids and water. Key compounds that work to stimulate red blood cell production & cartilage cell regeneration & development. Stonewall Elk Products Ltd., 204-467-8428 or e-mail stonewaldek@hotmail.com

Canada Benefit Group - Attention Manitoba residents: Do you or someone you know suffer from a disability? Get up to \$40,000 from the Canadian Government. Toll-free 1-888-511-2250 or www.canadabenefit.ca/free-assessment

UPCOMING EVENTS

Whitewood Birthday Bash 2017: June 30, July 1 & 2, 2017. Canada's 150th & Whitewood's 125th. Get on our contact list: Email us at whitewood-birthdaybash2017@gmail.com

COMING EVENTS

SOUP & DESSERT LUNCH Fri., Feb. 10

Zion Lutheran Church
144 7th St., Morden, MB
11:30 am - 1:00 pm
\$7.00 per person
Proceeds to missions

NATURAL PRODUCTS

Aura Cacia Pure Essential Oils



20% OFF
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372 Stephen St.
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COMING EVENTS

Thousand Oaks Ministries Inc.
GOSPEL MUSIC NIGHT
Sat., Feb. 4, 2017
7:30 pm at the
P.W. Enns Centennial
Concert Hall Winkler, MB
Featuring:
Instruments of Grace
(Steinbach, MB) *Boundless Love*
(Grunthal, MB)
Everyone Welcome! Free Will Offering
1000 Oaks Info Line (204) 822-1253
www.ThousandOaksInc.org

COMING EVENTS

SOUP & PIE FUNDRAISER

for Valley Mennonite Academy
Fri., Feb. 10
5:00 - 7:00 PM

Winkler Mennonite Church
Admission by Donation
Nordic Ware Cookie Sheets and Baking Pans will also be available for purchase

McSherry Auction

Estate & Moving Sale

Yard * Recreation * Tools
* Antiques * Crocks *
Household *

Saturday, Feb 11, 10:00 AM

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McSherry Auction

Annual Spring Gun Auction

Saturday, March 25th, 9:30 AM

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TENDER



The SWAMP Waste Authority is issuing this Request for Tenders for the following Project:

PROJECT NO.: jdb059A
PROJECT NAME: Phase 5 Cell Expansion

The following is a brief description of the Work required for the Project:

Stripping and Stockpiling of Topsoil, Excavation and Embankment Construction, Recompacted Clay Liner Construction, and Leachate Drainage System.

Details of the scope of Work required for the Project are set out in the Project Specifications.

The Work Sites are located at: NW ¼ SEC 36-3-4W

Submission Deadline:

Date: Tuesday, February 14th, 2017

Time: Before 11:00 a.m. prevailing Manitoba time

Venue: Rural Municipality of Stanley Head Office.

Documents are available on MERX
(under: Agencies, Crown and Private Corporations)

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Voice

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NOTICES

CITY OF WINKLER - NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING UNDER THE PLANNING ACT

The Council of the City of Winkler, under the authority of The Planning Act, will hold a Public Hearing, at the Winkler Council Chamber, 185 Main Street, Winkler, Manitoba, on Tuesday, February 28th, 2017 at 7:00 PM, at which time and place the Council will receive representations and objections from any persons who wish to make them in respect of By-Law No. 2172-17, of the City of Winkler.

The general intent of the above By-Law No. 2172-17, is to zone the land described below, Namely:

**Lot 3, Block 1, & Lots 1 to 6, Block 5,
Plan 59073 MLTO in the NW ¼ 2-3-4 WPM**

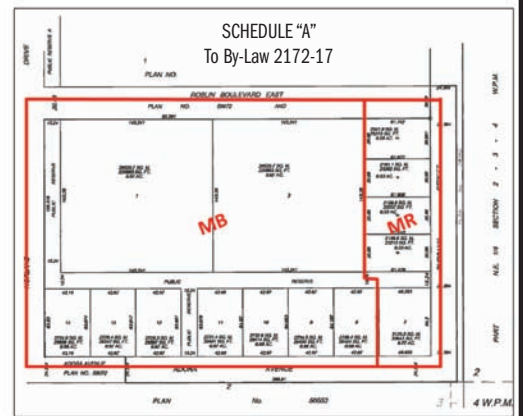
as shown outlined in a heavy solid line on the map attached hereto as Schedule "A", and forming part of this by-law, be rezoned

FROM: "CR" COMMUNITY RESERVE ZONE
TO: "MB" INDUSTRIAL BUSINESS ZONE, AND
"MR" INDUSTRIAL RESTRICTED ZONE

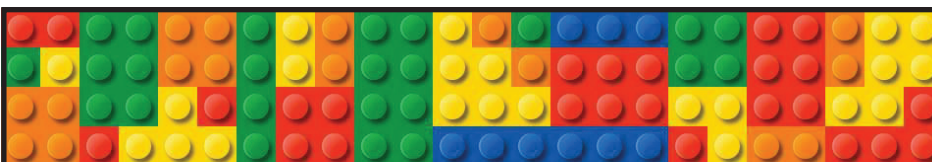


A copy of the above By-Law No. 2172-17, and supporting material may be inspected by any persons between the hours of 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday to Friday, in the City Office.

DATED at Winkler, in Manitoba, this 16th day of January, 2017.
Designated Officer
City of Winkler



PUBLIC NOTICE



WESTERN
School Division
Morden, Manitoba

*"Rooted In Caring;
Committed to Learning"*



Budget Exhibition

Morden Collegiate Gymnasium
February 22 • Time: 7:00-8:30 PM

You are invited to a casual and informative evening showcasing some of the amazing students, staff & key programs, that our \$20,000,000 budget supports. The Budget Exhibition (think tradeshow), is your chance to see how education is changing!

We hope to see you there!



COMING EVENTS



Help Support an EVENING OF ELEGANCE

Dust off those formal shoes and all your formal attire hiding in your closet. Morden Collegiate, along with Caring & Sharing, are inviting the community to donate gently used or new items. This year we are hoping for dresses and mens' shoes in particular. This is an opportunity to not only do your spring cleaning early, but also to brighten graduation for a successful graduate. Please drop off items at The Morden Alliance Church (Between Dairy Queen and Rock's Bar & Grill), where they will be displayed at an **Evening of Elegance on February 21st**. If you are a graduate, or parent, and would like to attend the event to select an outfit, it runs from 4:30-8:00 p.m., no invitation required.



If you have questions, please contact either Betty Peters at 822-6225 or Angie Boucher or Rosemary Zahn at 822-4425.

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OBITUARY



Tina Penner (nee Letkeman) 1945 - 2017

After a courageous battle against cancer, Tina Penner, aged 71 of Winkler, MB formerly of Haskett, passed away peacefully on Monday, January 23, 2017 at Boundary Trails Health Centre. Her husband, Dave, brother, Jake, and sister-in-law, Bea were by her side as she entered gloryland.

Tina will be greatly missed by her husband, David Penner; two daughters, Wanda (Kyle) Soble and Andrea (Ryan) Zimmer; two grandchildren, Dylan and Zoey; three sisters, Susie Friesen, Betty Ann (Cornie) Braun, Viola (Randy) Barkman and two brothers, Jake (Bea) Letkeman and Garry Letkeman. She will also be missed by the extended family and friends. She was predeceased by her father, Isaac E Letkeman, her mother, Susana Letkeman and her

brother, Isaac "Red" Letkeman.

Tina will be remembered for her sense of humor, appreciation for nature, and her love of desserts. She was always concerned for the wellbeing of her family and had a special glow when spending time with her grandchildren. Her favourite thing to do was go for a ride with Dave in their truck to watch the sunset while eating ice cream and listening to gospel music.

Funeral service was held on Thursday, January 26, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. at the Winkler Mennonite Church with interment at Westridge Memorial Gardens.

If friends so desire, donations may be made in Tina's memory to South Central Cancer Resource and to Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation (designated to Palliative Care). A special thanks to the caring staff and volunteers at the BTHC Palliative Care Unit. Rest in Peace Dusty.

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



OBITUARY



Josephine Mary Grant (nee Coe) 1928 - 2017

It is with sadness we announce that Jo passed away on Sunday, January 22, 2017 at the Tabor Home in Morden, Manitoba.

She was born in London, England. At the age of 12, she and her younger sister were evacuated from England to escape the aerial bombardment of England during World War II. She came to live in Winnipeg under the guardianship of the Dafoe family until her parents were able to emigrate to Canada. Jo remained in close contact with the Dafoe family throughout her life. Jo received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Manitoba in 1950. After this she worked at the Elizabeth Dafoe library at the U of M for many years and volunteered with the Age and Opportunity Bureau of Winnipeg.

She was predeceased by her husband, Dave in 1975 and leaves behind her son, Bill Grant of Morden, Manitoba and her daughter, Brenda Bohn of Prior Lake, Minnesota, two grandchildren that she cherished; Jaimie in St. Paul, Minnesota and Drew in Boulder, Colorado and sister, Valerie of Tsawwassen, BC.

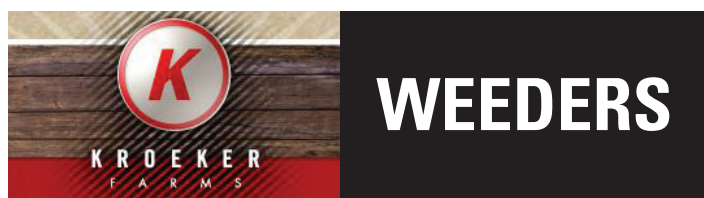
Jo passed peacefully after she received goodbye messages and blessings from each of her children and grandchildren. She will be greatly missed.

The family greatly appreciates the compassionate care she received from the staff of the Tabor Home in the last year of her life. There will not be a service. In lieu of flowers, donations in Jo's memory may be made to the Alzheimer Society of Canada (www.alzheimer.ca).

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CAREERS



Kroeker Farms Limited, a Winkler MB. based agribusiness will have part-time openings in our organic department beginning early June to mid - August to pull weeds in our organic crops, including onions, potatoes and other field crops.

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We thank all applicants for their interest.
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CAREERS

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Administration/Receptionist (\$13.50/hr; 20 hrs/wk) responsibilities include: Answering phones, welcoming guests and operating gift shop register, clerical duties, mail, filing, organizing/re-organizing files, assist colleagues, manage supplies and other related duties. Must be friendly, outgoing and good with the public.

Gift Shop Administrator (\$15/hr with commission; 20 hrs/wk) responsibilities include managing and building a growing gift shop business, maintain and grow inventory, order stock, promotion of gift shop, oversee weekend gift shop staff, manage festival gift shops, cover register and front of house. Retail experience required.

Interpretive Programmer (\$15/hr; 20 hrs/wk) responsibilities include delivering individual and group guided museum tours, manage bookings and calendar, oversee summer programming staff and manage applicable grants, oversee current programming and events and develop future programming opportunities, cover register and front of house when required. The hours for this position are flexible and will require weekend tour delivery on occasion. Candidates must be friendly, outgoing and good with the public.



Complete job descriptions are available on the CFDC website
www.discoverfossils.com. Resume's with employment references should be submitted via email to info@discoverfossils.com no later than Feb. 15.

CAREERS



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OBITUARY



Roberta Mary Cramer (nee Dyer)
1926 - 2017

Surrounded by the love of her family near and far, our sweet and beautiful mother, loving grandmother, aunt and loyal friend, Roberta Mary Cramer and her radiant soul, slipped the bonds of our world while sleeping peacefully on the morning of Tuesday, January 24, 2017. She was a most special gift to all of us for 90 years. Her recent sufferings now ended, she

returns into the eternal arms of God and the loving embraces of Bill, her husband of 55 years, her departed family – mom, Maud and dad, Sandy Dyer, siblings, Don, Betty, Gordon, Victor, Thelma and Thomas and many friends who preceded her. Surely, they are now enjoying a superb reunion with their beloved Roberta. Roberta is deeply mourned by her sons, Gregory and Garth; daughter-in-law, Kelly; her precious grandchildren, Jordan, Paige, Cloe and Francois and their moms, Michele and Mona; Cloe and Francois's partners, Kyle and Santana and Roberta's great-grandchildren, Lilly and Kolt. She is also survived by sisters, Lorraine and Norma; the grand extended Dyer clan and many nieces and nephews on the Cramer side.

Roberta was born on June 25, 1926 in Popular Point and was raised and schooled in Portage La Prairie. It was there during the war she first met her handsome 'Fly-Boy' Bill whom she married in 1949. Shortly thereafter they moved to Morden where they built happy and full lives and raised their sons. During her 66 years in Morden, Roberta created a rich and full legacy of community service. A decades long active member and 3-time President of the Royal Canadian Legion's Auxiliary, she was bestowed the rare Meritorious Medal by National Command for her devotion and life-time service to the Legion and many local charities it supports. The wife, daughter and sister of those who served Canada in war, the honouring of veterans had a special place in her heart. She organized and led Morden's annual Poppy campaign for many years and was part of the Legion's commemorative activities for Remembrance Day Services for decades. She was a steadfast member of Portage La Prairie's St. Mary's and Morden's St. Thomas Anglican Churches. Her Faith provided a home for her deep belief in God and Christ, and was the foundation for her abundant gifts of generosity, goodness and special talent to create a wide range of friendships. Born to serve, mom was a selfless community volunteer, always cheerfully willing to lead or support any task - however small. Her active involvement meant Roberta was widely known, respected and admired as someone special. She convened literally hundreds of banquets, teas and special occasions for families and organizations. A typical day would find her at 'The Hall' preparing meals or decorating the venue for an occasion - a talent for which always was in demand. If a certain touch was needed for an event, ceremony, float or occasion, mom was usually the 'go to' person. The words 'No' or 'I am too busy' were not in her vocabulary - which meant there were usually several projects on the go at any time.

She was also a half century plus member of the Rebekah Lodge, serving many roles including Noble Grand. Thrice she was Chair and 'unofficial mom' of the Corn and Apple Queen pageant, and was a regular visitor to old friends at the Tabor Home until she herself was well into her 80's. This was all rounded out with support and canvassing for various local charities. Always on the go, only recent failing health which robbed her of her mobility and eyesight would eventually and frustratingly stop Roberta.

For the decades of faithful service Roberta was honoured with Morden's Community Service Citizen of the Year Award in 2001. This citation provided at the award ceremony captures her essence - "She has simply touched the lives of so many in serving her community." Her modesty equaled her generosity; because for Roberta it was always about giving back to the community and others. She viewed it as her personal and civic duty and not deserving special mention. Through her life mom contributed to the family coffers working at a local women's wear store and Ridley Drug Store, and was Morden's Welcome Wagon Host to new residents. In her 'spare' time mom loved singing (a long time member of her church choir), enjoyed music of all kinds, and applied her creative talents to decorating, sewing and gardening. She also was an avid curler and fan who never missed watching televised curling events or Bonspiels. Like many of the 'Greatest Generation' who experienced the hardships and sacrifices of the Great Depression and World War, mom and dad loved socializing. The Cramer household was a frequent hub for gatherings with their many friends or family, with food, good cheer, laughing and singing always present. All of her pursuits, however, took a back seat to her family, and she was actively and fully invested in the lives, personal achievements and interests of her children and grandchildren of whom she was so proud. She loved being a grandma. Roberta was renowned for her generous, positive and friendliness, sunny and gentle disposition and bright and irresistible laugh - all of which revealed the special light which shone from deep within her.

Special heartfelt thanks to mom's personal 'Angels of Mercy' - nieces, Patricia Allan, Natalie Woods, Cathy Cramer (Adam and Al), and special Homestead chum Bev Coveney, who generously provided comfort and huge assistance as mom's health declined. We are immensely grateful for all you did to lighten her troubles during her twilight years! Also, huge appreciation to the 'Homestead Ladies' and staff that made her last home so welcoming. Immense thanks to Dr. Duff who defined the meaning of compassionate and respectful medical care for so many years. As well, the team of Home Care nursing staff, Marianna and Adriana, the care aides and the staff at the Boundary Trails Health Centre for their help during her occasional stays in recent years. Special gratitude to the amazing team of nursing and care staff at the Morris Hospital for their compassion, and sensitive and attentive personal care during mom's last five weeks.

Cremation has taken place. Interment, followed by a celebration and service for Roberta's rich life will take at St. Mary's Anglican Church. This event will be deferred until spring, closer to Roberta and Bill's wedding anniversary on May 11th. Details will be provided closer to this event.

Flowers graciously declined. Any donations in honour of mom can be made to Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation.

Mom's gifts of laughter, generosity and love for life enriched all of us in ways beyond measure. To know Roberta, was to love her. Good bye sweet and gentle soul. You will be greatly missed!

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OBITUARY



Eunice Anna Fehr (nee Hoeppner)
1950 - 2017

Eunice Anna Fehr, aged 66, of Winkler, Manitoba, passed away on the afternoon of Sunday, January 22nd, 2017, at Boundary Trails Health Centre after a short battle with cancer.

She was born on June 3rd, 1950, to Peter I. and Annie Hoeppner south of Morden, Manitoba. She was the 2nd of eight children. She attended Glencross School, and graduated from Morden Collegiate. Eunice married John Fehr on May 2nd, 1971, at Morden Berghaler Church. Lloyd was born in 1973 and Corey in 1974. In the spring of 1977, the family moved to the United States to spend 11 months working in Mennonite Disaster Service. After their return, Eunice devoted herself to raising the family full time. Andy was born in 1978, and Nathan in 1982. As the boys grew up and

moved out of the house, Eunice took an active role as bookkeeper in the construction company started by John. Eunice was a wonderful cook and baker, loved to travel and fish, and was a voracious reader. Her smile, friendliness, and warmth will be particularly missed.

She is survived by her husband, John; son, Lloyd and daughter-in-law, Helen and their children, Barrett and Emma, sons, Corey and Andy, son, Nathan and daughter-in-law, Lori, and their daughter, Cassidy, her mother, Annie Hoeppner and her siblings, Leonard, Edwin, Art, Grace, Joyce and Tony. She is predeceased by her father, Peter, and infant sister, Rosella.

Funeral service was held at 2:00 p.m. at the Winkler EMMC on Friday, January 27th with interment at the Glencross Mennonite Church Cemetery. Donations in Eunice's memory may be made to the Gideons International or Katie Cares Foundation.

The family wishes to thank Dr. Kurt Kauenhofen, Dr. Blaine Pohl, Dr. Cornie Woelk and the staff of the Boundary Trails palliative care unit. They would also like to express their deep appreciation for the outpouring of support and prayers from family, friends, and the community during this difficult time.

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In care of arrangements
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OBITUARY



David (M.) Klassen
1931 - 2017

Peacefully, on Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at 1:50 a.m. at the Boundary Trails Health Centre, with his son at his side, David passed away to his eternal rest; his dream of dreams. He was baptized upon confession of his faith in Jesus Christ in the spring of 1954. Two years later in 1956 on July 8, he was united in marriage to Helen (Friesen) and spent the next 60 ½ years together with her.

David grew up in Hochfeld. After marriage they spent most of their lives farming in the 1-6 district. They later retired in Winkler. Our dad was a unique man. One could say that he didn't "fit into the box". The dreams that he had for his life were a clear indication of that fact. He thought BIG in every way. He bought the first tandem gravel truck for southern Manitoba. Beyond this, he was generous,

always giving more than what was required, be it in the amount of saskatoons or shale sold, he always added a bit more. But something that we also saw, woven throughout the tapestry of his life, was a golden shining thread of obedience to God. As a youth, he could have gone wayward as he sought purpose and love. As a husband and father, he could have sought wealth and fame but he sought his family. He shared that when he heard a gravel crusher rumble and grind to a rhythm, he felt the beat of his heart. Although he spent some years crushing gravel, he chose farming as his career even if he wasn't a farmer. He claimed that the farming lifestyle was a good way and place to raise a family. He chose to love his one and only wife forever and ever stay true to her. He fought many a battle in his mind but never found victory until he turned it over to God. Now in his latter years, he patiently and sometimes impatiently expressed his desire for heaven and a new, healthy body. He couldn't find the words to express the beauty he was going to see; to play a golden harp; to have communion with Jesus and to taste that miracle wine and also to hug his mother, his deceased sisters and father. This golden thread was a gift of grace from our Creator and Saviour. With many cherished memories and blessed beyond measure to call this man our dad -The Family

David is survived by his loving wife, Helen; four children and their families: daughter, Betty and her husband, Henry Nickel; son, Dave and his wife, Anne; daughter, Trudy and her husband, Henry Wiebe; daughter, Mary and her husband, David Penner; 22 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren. He is also survived by two sisters, Elizabeth Elias and Helen Janzen. He was predeceased by his parents, Martin D. and Katherina Klassen, three sisters, one grandchild and one great-grandchild.

Funeral service was held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 21, 2017 at Winkler Reinland Mennonite Church with interment at the Hochfeld Cemetery.

If friends so desire, donations may be made in David's memory to Faith Mission.

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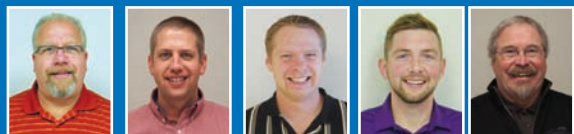


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