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A glimpse inside

Central Station's Krista Rempel in the community centre's future home under construction in Main Street Plaza. Tours have been offered in recent weeks for those who want an early peek inside. For more, see Pg. 2.

PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

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Central Stn. aiming for May opening of new building

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Central Station's new home in Main Street Plaza is coming together nicely.

The Winkler community centre has opened up the work site to public tours in recent weeks, providing supporters with a tantalizing glimpse of what's to come.

A tour last week began in the space earmarked for the Winkler and District Food Cupboard, which is not only getting a sizeable rear storage room but also a distribution area designed to look and feel more like a grocery store.

The walls will be lined with coolers and shelves and clients will be able to browse for what they truly want and need, explained tour guide Krista Rempel, Central Station's community development coordinator.

"That's going to allow for choice, which is something that we sometimes are lacking right now, especially recently when we can't always have people coming into the building," she said. "It just gives people more dignity."

The food cupboard helped put food on the table for 564 adults and 425

children in the last month, Rempel noted.

The food bank sits right beside the facility's first lobby area after walking through the main doors.

When it's done, the lobby will include a computer workstation and a few comfy chairs for people to sit and chat.

A second lobby nearby will be home to several bistro tables and chairs to allow small groups to visit. It will also do double-duty as overflow space for community meals.

"So this is going to be the main area where people come in, hang out, chat, and build relationships," says Rempel, explaining the vision for the entire building is to be a place the community can adopt as its own.

"I'm most excited about the building itself being welcoming and friendly and a space that the community feels like they are part of," she shares. "That feeling you get when you come into a space where you just know that this is home."

These gathering areas overlook the beating heart of Central Station: the massive kitchen, which will also feature a coffee bar and a few stools for seating.



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

The Winkler and District Food Cupboard will be making the move to Main Street Plaza with Central Station. They'll be getting a much larger space in which to work, including a distribution space (above) that will give food bank users the opportunity to pick out their own donated groceries like they would in a store.

"So much of what we do at Central Station is based around food, so to have that in the centre part and that's the first thing you see when you walk in is a really welcoming thing," observes Rempel.

Beside the kitchen is a dining room significantly roomier than what they're working with now at the old building, with dedicated separate space for a storage room to keep chairs and tables out of the way when not needed.

"This space alone is more than

doubling what we currently have the capacity for," Rempel says of the dining hall, explaining it will seat 240 people and can also be reconfigured to create four separate classrooms when needed.

Nearby is the childcare room, complete with its own washroom and kitchenette. Child care is a common barrier for the people Central Station serves, Rempel says, so having an on-site space for it will allow more peo-

Continued on page 3

Yeshua (Jesus) says:
"And this gospel of the
Kingdom shall be
preached in all the world
for a witness unto all
nations and then shall
the end come"
Matthew 24:14

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> CENTRAL STATION, FROM PG. 2



ple to more easily access the centre's programming.

The facility also includes plenty of office space for staff, including a private flex office that can be utilized by other social agencies who often come to Central Station to meet with clients.

More space, a better layout, and increased accessibility (everything is on one floor and wheelchair accessible) are all things Rempel is especially excited for when she looks at the new facility.

"A lot of forethought went into designing this building," she said, adding work on the project has been moving along rapidly. They're hoping to be able move in by May. "I just can-

not wait to see people walk in for the first time and we're using all the space and we have all our programs back."

Rempel hopes the new Central Station—much more visible than the old, which is hidden behind this building on nearby Industrial Dr.—will get more people through the doors.

"I still talk to people on a fairly regular basis who have never heard of us," she says. "I think part of that is our location, where you'd never go back there unless you need to. So being visible to the Main St. where pretty much everyone drives down is going to allow us to really reach more people.

"We all need community, we all need



Entering into the building through the main doors (left) takes you right to the beating heart of Central Station: its massive new kitchen and coffee area (above).

partnership and to feel like we belong somewhere. We're hoping that we can have people from every background, every walk of life, every socioeconomic background that will come in and

benefit from supporting each other."

Central Station still needs to raise about \$600,000 for this project. Head to winklercentralstation.com or call 204-325-0257 to donate.

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PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Morden’s new Citizens on Patrol Program volunteers met with local police last week to prepare for their first shifts out in the community. Ten people have stepped up to launch the program.

Morden COPP volunteers ready to hit the road

By Lorne Stelmach

A group of Morden residents are set to get to work to give the police a helping hand.

The Citizens On Patrol Program (COPP) is ready to hit the streets of the community to be an extra set of eyes and ears in support of the Morden Police Service.

Ten volunteers have been recruited to date for the program, and they met last week with police representatives in anticipation of their first upcoming shifts.

“It will be an interesting experience for sure ... it’s hard to imagine right now how it will be,” said Zina Masyutenko.

“It’s going to be a new experience, and I’m pretty excited to be part of it,” said fellow volunteer Walter Dueck.

COPP is a well-established program that mobilizes citizens to work with law enforcement and partners to prevent crime and create a safer environment for all, and it has proven to be valuable in helping reduce crime in communities where its volunteers have been active

The goal is to just be on the lookout for any suspicious or criminal activity and, where appropriate, report it to police.

COPP volunteers get training through the provincial organization that covers the basic dos and donts. Safety is always top priority, with volunteers never putting themselves in any danger and never doing any patrols in less than groups of two.

The police always encourage people to be alert, but this is a more organized program that designates people to patrol their community on a scheduled basis, and Cst. Scott Edwards welcomed the initiative spearheaded by local resident Shane Houser.

“There had been several efforts in the past to try to make something like this happen, so I give them a lot of credit for committing to moving this forward,” Edwards said. “We’re excit-

Continued on page 5

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PLUM-MARAIS WATERSHED

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Municipalities shown: MUNICIPALITY OF PEMBINA, MUNICIPALITY OF RHINELAND, MUNICIPALITY OF FRANKLIN.

Legend: Plum-Maraais Watershed (green), Water Runs (blue).

Logos: PEMBINA VALLEY WATERSHED DISTRICT, Manitoba.

Brad Braun
Chair of the Plum-Maraais Project Management Team and Councillor of the Municipality of Rhineland

TAX SEASON done right!

Filing your income taxes can be complicated and time consuming. If you want to simplify the process this year, hiring an accountant or other tax professional is the way to go. Here are three tips to help you find the best candidate for the job.

1. VERIFY THEIR QUALIFICATIONS

Although several individuals and private companies offer tax preparation services, it can be hard to verify their credentials. Therefore, it's best to hire a tax lawyer or certified professional accountant (CPA) to ensure you get the best possible service. These professionals have formally studied income taxes and have taken the Canadian In-Depth Tax Course (CICA) to deepen their knowledge of taxation law.

2. INVESTIGATE THEIR HISTORY

If you hire a tax lawyer, you can contact the law society in your province to verify their history and ensure they're in good standing. If you hire a CPA, you can confirm their official membership status and history by getting in touch with the CPA branch in your province. This will ensure you hire someone who's trustworthy and reliable.

3. ASK ABOUT THEIR FEES

You should never work with a tax professional who bases their fee on getting a percentage of your refund or claims they can get you a better refund than the competition. This is a red flag that might indicate the individual intends to falsify information, which is illegal and could get you audited by the CRA.

Lastly, keep in mind that it's best to hire a tax preparer who's available year-round in case an issue arises once tax season is over.

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Regional Connections hosting online job fair

19 employers taking part in virtual meet and greet

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Are you looking to make a career change and are wondering what opportunities are out there? Or maybe you know an out-of-towner keen for a glimpse into the local job market. Either way, the upcoming Online Job Fair hosted by Regional Connections has got you covered.

The immigrant services agency is hosting another virtual employment fair on Thursday, March 3. Participants

have their pick of a morning event that begins at 9 a.m. or an afternoon session starting at 2 p.m.

Employment coordinator Adeleke Dada said they had 19 local employers signed up as of last week, and he suspects they might have a handful more to add to the list before the day.

"The beauty of the mix of employers is we have them from various sectors," he said. "We have from the health sector, we have accounting, the financial sector, we have manufacturing, agricultural businesses. It's a great mix and we're very much excited about it."

Participating employers will have the chance to speak about what it is they do and the job opportunities they have available. There will also be

an opportunity for job seekers to ask questions of employers and to pop into various breakout rooms with specific recruiters to speak further.

"There's going to be some back and forth," Dada said. "We want it to be interactive and engaging."

While in-person job fairs are most people's preference, this online event has worked pretty well over the past year amidst pandemic restrictions. It's also provided people intending to move to the Pembina Valley with the chance to test the waters in advance.

"The target audience for this job fair is really anybody that lives in Canada," Dada said, noting there's a real shortage of employees across the region and so lots of opportunities for

newcomers to settle here.

Past job fairs—both online and in person—have proven to be quite a success for employers and job hunters alike.

"We have lots of employers that have never missed it ... so that means they're seeing value in it," Dada said. "And also we hear things from clients who say, 'This job fair was how I got my job.'"

"So it's been a win-win from the employers' perspective and also from our clients, locals, and newcomers in the area."

To register, call 204-325-4059 or email rcemployment@regionalconnections.ca.

"I think it will be a good thing for the community"

From Pg. 4

ed to have the volunteers interested in taking part, and I think it will be a good thing for the community."

He sees having a group of 10 volunteers as being a really good starting point for the program, and that number is very much what is typical of many COPP programs.

"I think as it carries on, there will be other people become interested and want to be part of doing something that's for the betterment of the community," he said.

Masyutenko simply saw this as a good way for her to contribute toward making the community safe for everyone.

"I admire police work ... and I know their task is difficult and their job is dangerous," she said. "The reason we chose Morden before we came here is we were looking for a small community and a safe community ... I think it's a good contribution that I can make here."

"Our city is growing, so more people

means more stuff going on in the city ... the police are doing a really great job, but they can't be everywhere," Masyutenko said. "I personally want this community to be safe, for myself, for my children, for my grandchildren."

"It's interesting to know your community where you live, to know people, to know your surroundings, and if you can in addition help your community, why not?"

"I've always been fascinated by police work ... it's always been an interest of mine to see them at work, and they do very valuable work in the community, and they do need support," noted Dueck.

"It's a lot of people and a large community to cover, and there's just no possible way they can be everywhere," he said. "So I would really like to be part of making this a safer community so that it can continue to be just more open and just all-around safer for everyone."

everyone."

Edwards was encouraged by the level of enthusiasm they were seeing among the volunteers.

"They seem eager to get going, so that's good," he said. "I was really happy to see the genuine interest in these

volunteers wanting to do something good for their community."

"That was kind of the overwhelming theme of everyone's thoughts in taking part in this ... community safety and doing something to give back to the community."



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Manitoba forming new immigration advisory council

By Ashleigh Viveiros

News that Manitoba is creating a new advisory council on immigration got a thumbs up from those involved in the local settlement services community last week.

Premier Heather Stefanson and Advanced Education, Skills and Immigration Minister Jon Reyes announced Feb. 14 that the Immigration Advisory Council will bring together experts in the field to review the entire continuum of immigration, from promotion to retention of newcomers.

"This new advisory council will help us look at new and innovative ways to continue to be a welcoming new home for all newcomers, including refugees and international students, a dynamic destination for immigration and business investors, and an attractive place for people to come to build a life of opportunity and prosperity for themselves and their family," Stefanson said.

The council will be co-chaired by Reyes and Dr. Lloyd Axworthy, who will be joined by a team of individuals with expertise in immigration and related fields.

They'll be looking at attracting and retaining newcomers to Manitoba, streamlining the Manitoba Provincial Nominee Program, and fostering

settlement and integration programs and services and foreign credential recognition programs.

"Immigration is an issue of great importance to the province, and we all have a common interest in an effective and efficient system," said Axworthy. "I'm pleased to be a part of this advisory council, and eager to get to work on behalf of all Manitobans current and future."

A final report is expected to be released by the end of the year.

Regional Connections Immigrant Services executive director Steve Reynolds is eager to see what findings that report contains. He's pleased the province seems keen to dive into the immigration and settlement system in Manitoba to see what improvements might be made.

"It's really important to engage with people who are affected by policies and policy development in immigration," Reynolds noted, "so including people who have lived experience and are impacted by those policies is always really good to see."

Few details were made available to agencies like Regional Connections ahead of the announcement, but Reynolds is optimistic they'll have the opportunity to weigh-in on the matters in the council's scope of interest.

"One of the things we commonly

hear from our clients is the impact of delays and delayed processing times going through the Manitoba Provincial Nominee program," he said, noting many people come to the Pembina Valley on temporary worker visas that can expire before their applications are processed. "More efficient processing that doesn't take two or three years would be an improvement."

"There's a lot of uncertainty being here with a temporary visa, including some limitations and access to services," Reynolds continued, explaining, for example, immigrants with visas aren't currently eligible for funding for some of the English classes offered locally.

Another major issue for many people who come to call Manitoba home is how long it can take to be reunited with family members they left behind.

"Often a primary applicant can get through as an economic immigrant and fill a job, bring their immediate family, but then it's really meaningful for people to also be able to welcome extended family," Reynolds said. "It has a real impact on people feeling settled and at home here."

The process, however, can take years. Finding ways to streamline it would be a welcome step for many newcomer families, Reynolds said.

Police called to anti-mask protest at GVC

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler Police were called to Garden Valley Collegiate last week in response to an anti-mask protest.

Police Chief Ryan Hunt said officers were called to the high school by its administrators on Monday, Feb. 14 at about 1 p.m.

"Upon arrival, our officers located a group of approximately 20 students and four adults in the area of the main entrance," he said. "Police remained on scene to ensure the safety of everyone involved."

"School staff, protestors and police remained in constant communication and the event remained peaceful."

Posts on social media after the incident claimed some protesting students were forced outside the school into the cold without their jackets.

Hunt said the protest was contained to the inside front foyer of the school and that no one was forced to stand outside.

Protestors were made aware they would be required to leave the foyer when the school day ended or face charges of trespassing, Hunt said.

The chief noted the students were also made aware well in advance that they would not be able to board the school buses at day's end if they continued to refuse to wear a required mask.

Masks are also still mandatory for entry to all school buildings, which means protesting students who wished to leave the foyer to go grab their backpacks or jackets from their lockers would need to put a mask on first to do so.

Students were offered rides home

by police or school staff if they could not find a ride, Hunt said, but no one ended up needing one. Everyone left on their own peacefully by 4 p.m.

Garden Valley School Division interim superintendent Janice Krahn did not return repeated requests for comment.

In a letter sent out to GVC parents and caregivers, she noted police were called "to provide assistance and support to the school administration."

"We are thankful that most students of GVC were able to continue their learning uninterrupted," Krahn said. "We respect the right to protest but urge all protestors to be respectful, peaceful, and remain off school property during demonstrations."

The provincial mask mandate in public spaces is expected to end on March 15.

Winkler FD honours long-time firefighters

By Lorne Stelmach

So much has changed since Peter Neufeld and Marvin Plett first joined the Winkler Fire Department.

Both Neufeld, who now has 40 years of service to his credit, and Plett, who is at the 35 year mark, marvel at how far things have come in that time.

Back in the day, it seemed very much like if you showed any interest at all, it was "here's your coat, hat and pager, and you're good to go," both joked last week as the department honoured them and other members for service milestones.

Plett recalled sharing with firefighters his interest in getting involved with the department shortly after moving to town in 1986.

"An hour later, my doorbell rings and the chief is there, and he said, 'Oh, I forgot to give you a pager' ... that Sunday, we were in a church and my pager went off."

"I had first aid training and CPR, and I was put on the ambulance ... and then for firefighting, we got issued a pager and they said show up," said Neufeld.

"We were riding the tail boards at the time, and it was with almost virtually no training at first," he said. "Now, of course, things have really changed, and standards are really high ... our gear got better, and now we have very high quality gear that really protects us."

"It's something a chief would always dream of having, this situation where you have people staying a long time," Chief Richard Paetzold said last Wednesday as the loosening of restrictions allowed the entire fire crew to gather together as one group

for training night for the first time in a long time. The department took the opportunity to hand out a range of service medals at the gathering.

The spotlight fell particularly on Plett and Neufeld, who recalled first being attracted to join simply as a result of having an interest in community service.

"It was something that tweaked my interest when I was a young kid," said Neufeld. "From there, it just kept going, and as I rose up the ranks, I took on more responsibility and I just got more involved. So over the years it just got more interesting ... it's been an exciting ride."

He reflected on how much has changed over the past four decades, including members today having such a wide range of specialized training.

"The standards have increased and changed so much over time."

Neufeld shared what has kept him involved for all this time.

"It's just knowing that you're providing a good service to the community," he said. "As I rose through the ranks, I've been asked to hold different roles, and I basically kept saying yes. It's definitely rewarding to be able to give back to the community in such a fashion."

"You always have your career first ... but when the pager goes, you're professional, and you act professionally," he added, touching on the difficult situations that they can face and the challenges being firefighters in a smaller community presents. "Sometimes, with the situations you encounter, there's family involved or people that you know, so that can become quite difficult."

Neufeld has no plans to quit at this



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

From left: Winkler Mayor Martin Harder and fire Chief Richard Paetzold with firefighter Peter Neufeld. Neufeld and fellow firefighter Marvin Plett (below) were honoured last week for 40 and 35 years with the department, respectively.

point.

"As long as I'm healthy and can help out ... I also do fire inspections, so I still do some other work on the prevention side of things."

Plett was drawn to the fire department for similar reasons as Neufeld.

"I guess I've always had a mind to do service ... and I had always been interested in the medical field as well," he said.

Plett also remembered early on being involved with the ambulance service.

"We kept learning more and more ... at first, we had basic CPR and first aid ... in those early days, it was basically load and go to get them to the hospital as fast as you can," he said. "As time went on, a number of us were trained to EMT level, so we were able to do a lot more right at the scene and make sure the person had a better chance of surviving."

"We didn't really have any training initially," he reflected. "We have really, really grown and become so professional ... and the public expects the best of us."

"It's such a dedicated team ... all of us have jobs, but when the pager goes, we drop what we're doing and it's 100 per cent focused."

Like Neufeld, Plett sees no reason to step back anytime soon.

"It's good to be part of a group of people who are always here and that you know are dedicated,"

he said. "When we come here on Wednesday nights for training, it's not to sit around and talk and chat. We do really hard, active training, and it is really important."

Paetzold said it is such a benefit to the department and the community to have guys with so much experience.

"One of the challenges of a paid, on call volunteer service is retention. Recruitment and retention is talked about a lot in the fire service, and in Winkler, that is something we don't have to talk about much," he said. "It just goes to show the stability of the community and the dedication of the volunteers to serving the community."

"From a practical operational standpoint, it's awesome ... this is now my 11th year being here as chief, and we've only recruited once in 11 years. The benefit of that is we can concentrate on getting everybody trained to the same level before we have to bring a new set on."

"All of it combined means people stick around because they like being here," Paetzold said. "They enjoy the camaraderie that comes with an organization like this ... and it's that satisfaction of helping your neighbour."



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PHAC accepting applications for second round of Art on the Trail

By Lorne Stelmach

A unique initiative to create and place public art amidst the natural beauty of Lake Minnewasta is planning for its second installation.

Pembina Hills Arts Council's Art on the Trail project is inviting applications from artists interested in creating pieces to be installed on the main lake trail this summer.

The vision is to have artists create sustainable and land-conscious public art to not only encourage outdoor physical activity but also connect trail users and art.

The first two pieces installed last year were very well received, said PHAC programs and outreach co-ordinator Tye Dandridge-Evancio.

"Both of them were kind of activating the space they were set within," he observed. "We're looking for things that kind of engage with the environment and use the surrounding area. And we hope it can encourage passersby and hikers to maybe re-examine their relationship with the trail ... look twice and perhaps see the environ-

ment in a new and interesting way."

The first two artists chosen to take on the challenge of creating art while being mindful of the environment with their creations included two strikingly different pieces.

Technology Takeover by Jen Martens featured a figure of a woman made out of everything from sticks to wire. The piece offered the contrast of the figure made from natural materials being overtaken by technology, represented by wires and a phone in her hand.

David Peters came up with what he described as a rammed earth structure using natural materials that formed a benched area which he saw as gradually becoming overgrown and blending into the surrounding landscape.

So even though there were two quite different interpretations, they both were made to blend into the surroundings and will eventually be overtaken by the environment and become part of the trail.

Dandridge-Evancio said that very much fits in with what they are look-



VOICE FILE PHOTO

Jen Martens' piece *Technology Takeover* was one of two artworks placed on the Lake Minnewasta trail last summer. PHAC hopes to get the second round of pieces out there this summer.

ing for—land-conscious and sustainable artwork.

"Preferably we're looking for art works that are inspired by nature or kind of come from nature or engage with the surrounding environment.

"One of the biggest things will be to have works that are environmentally friendly," he said, noting that Peters' piece for example especially met that goal. "I think that's a really good ex-

ample moving forward with this project," he said.

There is a March 15 deadline for applications for the next round of art pieces, which PHAC hopes to have in place this summer.

Interested artists can head to pembinahillsarts.com, email info@pembinahillsarts.com, or call 204-822-6026 for more information.

"This is going to be a difficult transition phase"

Chief doc urges Manitobans to be respectful, kind as restrictions start to scale back

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The next few weeks will be a transitional period for Manitoba when it comes to moving from public health orders to public health recommendations, noted Dr. Brent Roussin last week.

Speaking to media at an online press conference the day after the province moved down to Level Yellow on the Pandemic Response System, Manitoba's chief public health officer acknowledged there are some mixed emotions out there as restrictions begin to ease.

"For some Manitobans ... the lifting of these restrictions can't come soon enough. But for others, they feel they're being lifted too quickly," he said.

"As we transition away from public health orders back into public health messaging, I'm asking all Manitobans to continue to respect each other and treat each other with kindness," Roussin urged. "This is going to be a difficult transition phase, and of course we're not done with COVID, so we're going to have to continue to work together to protect Manitoba."

Proof of vaccination requirements will be gone March 1, with mask mandates in public spaces to follow March 15.

"There's going to be people who continue to wear masks in public settings and some businesses may require masks going forward," Roussin noted. "Manitobans should expect that in some settings, especially in health care facilities, personal care homes,

some protective measures may stay in place to protect those people who are vulnerable to infection,"

While the numbers of COVID-19 hospitalizations and ICU admissions are on an encouraging downward trend, the relaxation of restrictions doesn't mean the pandemic is over and done with.

"It's very likely that we'll see more COVID-19 in Manitoba, more waves and more variants, but we have many tools in place to protect ourselves moving forward, vaccines being the most important one," Roussin said, urging people to get vaccinated if they haven't already.

Wearing a mask in situations where physical distancing isn't possible remains recommended, he noted. All the other fundamentals are also im-

portant: good hand hygiene, staying home when sick, and managing the number of people from outside your household that you come into close contact with.

All this is especially important for anyone at high risk of negative COVID-19 outcomes, Roussin stressed.

Heading into the long weekend, the province's online COVID-19 dashboard was reporting 583 total hospitalizations with the virus (302 of which were still actively contagious), including 33 ICU patients (13 considered contagious).

The test positivity rate was at 18.5 per cent. The death toll had hit 1,649.

Updated numbers from the weekend were not available at press time Monday.

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WSD working on designs for its new K-8 school

By Lorne Stelmach

Planning is going on behind the scenes on the new Kindergarten to Grade 8 school in Morden, while construction is also underway on two other capital projects.

The long-awaited new school is in the preliminary design stage, so construction remains some time off, but it is exciting nevertheless to know progress is being made, board chairperson Brian Fransen said last week.

"The architects have been hard at work with the feedback they have gotten from the board and the administration," said Fransen.

As part of the planning process, they toured other recent new school builds in several locations including Winkler, Niverville, Brandon, and Neepawa, and it gave them some insight in a number of areas.

"One of the things that we noticed on the tour was that in the last couple of years there has been an increase

in the need for flexible use of space," Fransen observed. "That probably comes as no surprise with the changes we have had to experience in the last two years.

"Even before that, there was some intentional designs that had an impact," he suggested, citing numerous examples of multipurpose space such as classrooms that have multiple uses or can be made larger or smaller.

Not much more detail is firm yet about the new school, although Fran-

PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Work has begun on two major projects in the Western School Division: a classroom addition at Morden Collegiate (left) and a new building for the pipefitters vocational program (above).

sen estimated that it may have space for about 600 students and the potential for an expansion later down the road.

"It will go a long way right now to meeting our needs," he said, noting that while they haven't yet worked out what the school's catchment area will be, it is clear it "will take off a lot of the pressure that our portable classrooms have been taking up to now."

Also unclear is the timeline for the school to be built, though it's possible the division could be looking at construction starting in 2023 for an opening in fall of 2024.

Meanwhile, construction has begun on both a new building for the pipefitters vocational program as well as a three classroom addition at Morden Collegiate that is planned to include a science lab.

"There's been a lot of effort gone into making sure we could get those projects going, and it is really gratifying to see they have started," said Fransen.

"We can see the future where we will be able to make use of that space," he added, noting it's uncertain when those builds will be ready for occupancy. "Optimistically, it would be really, really nice if they would be ready for fall, but I don't know that's going to be the case."

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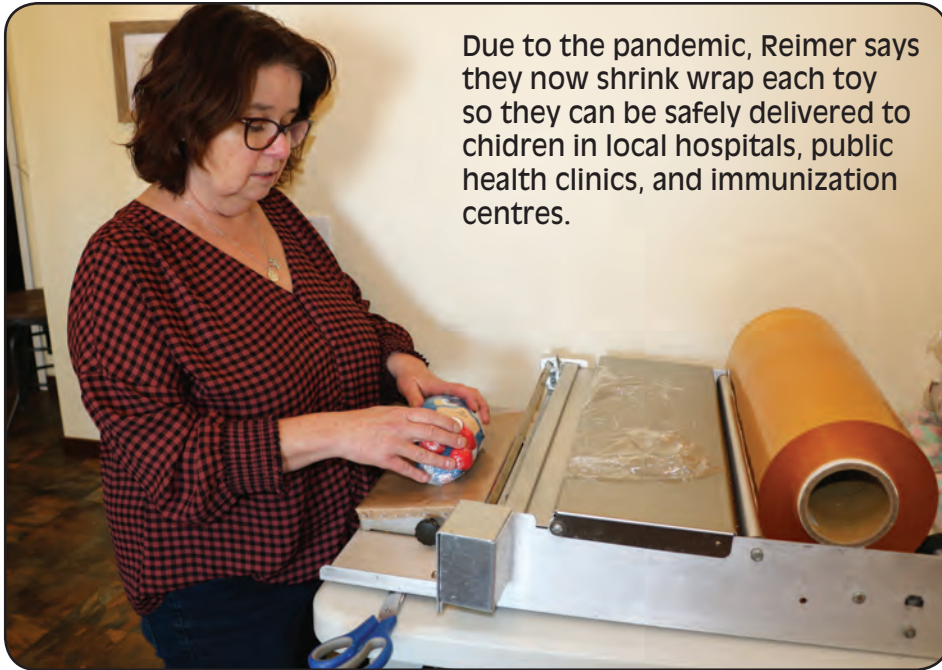
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Due to the pandemic, Reimer says they now shrink wrap each toy so they can be safely delivered to children in local hospitals, public health clinics, and immunization centres.



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Putting a smile on kids' faces

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Katie Cares received a welcome donation towards its Beanie Babies pro-

Rural drivers more likely to go seatbelt-free: MPI

By Voice staff

Rural Manitobans are more likely to drive seatbelt-free compared to their urban counterparts, a study by Manitoba Public Insurance has found.

A road safety observation study commissioned last fall by MPI found that 10 per cent of all rural drivers observed were not wearing their seatbelt, compared to three per cent in the Winnipeg capital region.

The worst regions for non-seatbelt use were Interlake and Parkland at 16 and 14 per cent respectively.

Meanwhile, Winnipeg drivers were found to be much more likely to be using their cellphones behind the wheel.

The use of an electronic communication device (ECD) was higher in Winnipeg (10 per cent) compared to rural areas (three per cent).

"The findings of this study will be used as a benchmark to monitor behaviour change over time, and shared with the Manitoba Association of Chiefs of Police for the purpose of planning future enforcement and awareness campaigns," noted Satvir Jatana, MPI's chief customer officer.

The study was conducted in September and observed nearly 29,000 vehicles in 46 towns and cities across Manitoba.

A few other interesting things the researchers found include:

gram last week.

Charlene Friesen from Morden's Pharmasave stopped by the Katie's Cottage respite home to present executive director Ruth Reimer with a cheque for \$2,500 to purchase stuffed animals for kids receiving medical care.

"Katie Cares is very near and dear to my heart," said Friesen, who is the front store manager at Pharmasave and also serves on the Katie Cares board. "It's just a very unique place and we, as a health care provider, we wanted these funds to go somewhere that reflects what we're all about."

Reimer explained donations like this are what make the Beanie Babies giveaway program possible.

"We couldn't do this otherwise," she said, thanking the local businesses and individuals who have stepped up

Morden Pharmasave's Charlene Friesen (left) stopped by Katie's Cottage last week to present Ruth Reimer with a donation of \$2,500 towards the Katie Cares Beanie Babies program, which hands out stuffed toys to children receiving medical care.

to support this initiative.

Over the past year, Katie Cares has distributed 2,100 stuffed animals to kids at health care facilities in Morden-Winkler, Carman, and Altona. They've also recently added Portage la Prairie to the distribution list.

Once children age five and up became eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine, Katie Cares began sending stuffies over to the immunization supersite in Morden. They had previously been distributing them to kids at the local testing site as well.

Phyllis Kroeker, one of the clinic leads at the supersite, said those little bundles of fur go a long way toward putting a smile on the face of a child who is apprehensive.

"It decreases their anxiety in amaz-

ing ways," she said, noting the distraction can really help take a child's mind off things. "So you're coming from a negative experience of having a needle or a procedure and maybe being scared and then you've got someone offering you a stuffie ... it just makes it a little better."

"The needle, or the procedure at the hospital, yes, it may not be pleasant, but the whole thing doesn't get wrapped up in negativity," she added. "And I think it shows kids that there's a human at the end of this interaction that might be painful. That there's kindness, someone who cares. It's a very tangible way for a kid to see that."

"What Katie Cares is doing is just so amazing. It adds a positive spin on the whole experience."



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A large pink and purple graphic for Pink Shirt Day. It features three photos of people wearing pink shirts: a young woman on the left, a young girl in the center, and a young man on the right making a peace sign. The text 'PINK SHIRT DAY' is written in large, white, distressed letters. Below it, a teal oval says 'February 23, 2022'. A large pink button with a blue outline of a heart and a hand is on the left. The text 'Standing together TO STOP BULLYING' is in the center.

PINK SHIRT DAY

February 23, 2022

Standing together
TO STOP
BULLYING

A look at the long-term effects of bullying



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Bullying continues to be a major problem in Canadian schools, workplaces, homes and digital spaces. That's why on Pink Shirt Day, which takes place on February 23, people across the country are encouraged to raise awareness about the issue and take a stand against bullying.

It's a common misconception that bullying is a normal part of growing up. However, nothing could be further from the truth. Childhood bullying isn't only traumatic in the short term, it can also have detrimental long-term effects.



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Continued next page

LIFELONG CONSEQUENCES

Research shows that the impact of childhood bullying can last well into adulthood. In fact, people who were bullied as children tend to have poorer physical health and are at an increased risk of developing mental health conditions such as depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Bullying can also lead to social withdrawal, poor employment outcomes and self-esteem issues.

If you were bullied as a child and are still impacted by the experience, it's important to acknowledge what happened to you and make healing a priority. Consider talking to a therapist or counsellor about your experience.

If you have children, remember that early intervention is the key to preventing long-lasting ill effects.

The legal consequences of cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is more than just hurtful. In fact, many types of online harassment are considered illegal and can lead to criminal prosecution. For starters, as of March 2015, the Criminal Code of Canada specifically states that anyone convicted of distributing intimate images without consent could face serious legal consequences, including:

- Going to prison for up to five years
- Having their computer, phone or other devices seized
- Paying the victim's costs to have the image removed from the internet

Furthermore, it's possible for bullying to cross the line into criminal conduct. Cyberbullying might lead

to breaking the law if it involves criminal harassment, making threats, extortion or defamatory libel, among other things.

How to report cyberbullying

If you or someone you know is the victim of cyberbullying, it's important to know that you can report:

- Criminal offences to the local police
- Cyberbullying to social media sites or apps
- Online offences to cybertip.ca
- Offensive text messages and phone calls to your telephone service provider

When it comes to your own online behaviour, remember to be kind on-

line. Only post comments you'd say to someone in person, and get permission

before publicly sharing content that features other people or their work.

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Your FARM



Canola cash advance....a Carman seed

By Dennis Young with notes by Charlie Froebe

Canola is a relatively recent crop in Canada. It was developed from rapeseed which was encouraged to be grown in Canada during the Second

World War because of its commercial oil properties.

Rapeseed had two disadvantages. Human consumption of its oil, erucic acid was considered unhealthy and glucosinolates in the meal held a bitter taste for some livestock.

The 1970's saw a concerted effort by plant breeders to remove erucic acid and glucosinolates from rapeseed. Universities of Manitoba and Saskatchewan led the race. In 1974 the first double low (low in erucic acid and glucosinolates) Argentine (longer seasoned) rapeseed was released. The first double low Polish (shorter seasoned) rapeseed came a little later.

The Rapeseed Association of Canada in 1978 decided on a name and copyrighted the name "Canola" which was derived from the words Canadian oil. Subsequently in 1980 they changed their name to the Canola Council of Canada and led the world in pioneering canola.

Charlie Froebe joined the Manitoba Rapeseed Growers Association in 1980. They promptly changed the name to the Manitoba Canola Growers Association (MCGA).

In 1982 MCGA Froebe spearheaded the application for a Canola Cash Advance program through the Advance Payments for Crops Act (APCA), a federal program allowing a canola producer to get a loan from MCGA against canola in storage. The government guaranteed the loan and would pay the interest on the loan for the producer. The idea was to take the pressure off the market at harvest time as payments came due for land taxes and supplies and allow a producer to market their canola at a later time, and hopefully at a higher price. The MCGA applied to run the program for canola with assistance from the Manitoba Corn Growers, who were already running a cash advance program for corn.

The federal government approached MCGA wanting to know if they would allow Manitoba Pool Elevators to run a canola cash advance as they had applied too. MCGA agreed. However, when MPE came out with their program they stipulated that if a producer got a canola cash advance



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Charlie Froebe, second from right, travelled Tokyo in 1991 to attend the Canadian-Japan Canola Consultations.

> CARMAN SEED, FROM PG. 10

from MPE, they would have to deliver the crop to MPE to pay off their advance. MCGA's position was that a producer should have the choice of delivering wherever that producer wished to do so. In 1983 MCGA was going to apply for a program in Manitoba and it was suggested at the Prairie Canola Growers Association annual meeting that if they were going to do it for Manitoba, they could do it for all of Western Canada. They did.

Charlie and Bonnie Froebe set up an office in a spare bedroom in Homewood and began the Canola Cash Advance Program. Subsequently it moved to an office in Carman with 13 employees and doing \$200 million in business by 2000.

That office was eventually moved to Winnipeg and now employs 72 people in the CCGA office and does over \$2 billion in cash advance business for many crops and other agricultural enterprises.

The MCGA was a member to the Prairie Canola Growers Council (PCGC), made up of the MCGA, Saskatchewan Canola Growers Association, and the Alberta Canola Producers Council. Charlie was chairperson of PCGC from 1989-1991 and soon found out during attendance in Tokyo at the Canada-Japan Canola Consultations that "Prairie" was first untranslatable to Japanese and secondly, on the world stage, PCGC did not identify where we were from.

Thirdly, in Japan, a "Chairman" was a honorary position, not a working position. So Froebe returned and suggested an association name change led by a president. PCGC brought the Ontario Canola Growers Association and the B.C. grain producers on board and thus became the Canadian Canola Growers Association.

Japan has always, and still is, an important steady market for Canadian canola. At that time Japan took 50 per cent of CCGA's crop, so although it was important to keep them happy, more markets were needed. For instance China now takes, on occasion, twice as much as the very stable Japanese market. CCGA now have markets around the world.

It has been a success story for Canadian agriculture. Dollar-wise canola has, on occasion, generated more money for our Canadian producers than wheat, which was king for decades.

Froebe served as the treasurer for the MCGA for the twenty years and one term as the President.

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Nominations needed for Canada's Volunteer Awards

By Jennifer McFee

Do you know someone who is making a difference in the community?

If so, you might want to consider nominating them for Canada's Volunteer Awards program, which aims to recognize volunteers and bring national prominence to the contributions they make.

The call for nominations is only open until March 4, so you'll have to act fast if you'd like to nominate a volunteer for recognition. Nominees can be individuals, groups, businesses or not-for-profit organizations.

Brenda Martinussen is one of three representatives for the prairies on the National Advisory Committee. She encourages community members to consider nominating a local volunteer who is making a difference.

"I think at the heart of most volunteers is selflessness. They basically do things because it's the right thing to do. They want to see their community improved or meet a need in the community in some way," she said.

"I don't know of any volunteer that does it to get an award, but I do think it's one of the few ways that we can

give back to volunteers and recognize how our society could not be what it is today if it weren't for the work that they do."

The nominations are reviewed regionally and then the top-ranked nominations move forward for assessment by the National Advisory Committee.

Regional awards will be offered in four categories: community leader, emerging leader, business leader and social innovator.

The community leader award recognizes individual volunteers or groups of volunteers who have worked towards developing solutions to social challenges in communities.

The emerging leader award recognizes volunteers aged 18 to 30 who show leadership and help build stronger communities.

The business leader award recognizes businesses that demonstrate social responsibility, including by promoting and facilitating volunteerism.

The social innovator award recognizes not-for-profit organizations, including not-for-profit social enterprises, that use innovative approaches to address social challenges in their



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communities.

On the national level, nominations can be submitted for the Thérèse Casgrain Lifelong Achievement Award, which honours individuals who have volunteered for at least 20 years to one or more organizations or causes.

Award recipients will be recognized at an award ceremony, where they will receive a pin and certificate signed by the prime minister.

Recipients will also have the chance to identify a not-for-profit to receive a \$5,000 grant at the regional level and a \$10,000 grant at the national award level.

Martinussen said she is available to

speak with or provide information to any individuals, clubs, organizations, boards and councils regarding the awards.

"These awards are recognizing both the volunteers as well as providing some much-needed funding for some not-for-profit organizations, especially in this day and age," she said.

To contact Martinussen, call 204-467-7450 or email brendamartinussen@yahoo.com.

For more information about Canada's Volunteer Awards, visit Canada.ca/volunteer-awards, call 1-877-825-0434 or email Info-cva-pbc@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca.

Stanley council passes \$8.1 million budget

By Lorne Stelmach

There will be a 3.7 per cent hike in municipal taxes for RM of Stanley residents this year.

The increase is part of an \$8.1 million operating budget that overall sees Stanley council increasing its spending by 5.7 per cent for 2022.

Reeve Morris Olafson suggested both increases are more than reasonable for the municipality in order to keep pace with the growth of the region overall.

"We knew we couldn't have a zero increase. That just doesn't work. We're still growing. In the whole scheme of things, it's not a lot ... I think we're keeping it in line," he said. "We've got some big tickets items coming up, so we know we've got to keep the pace up."

The total budget increases by \$441,000 to \$8.17 million.

It sees the mill rate increase by 0.316 from 8.584 to 8.904, and the growth in assessment—a 1.68 per cent increase to over \$657 million—helps allow the mill rate to have continued what has mostly been a downward trend since 2013 when it was at 13.086.

The financial plan means a residential property now assessed at \$419,800 will see its municipal taxes increase by \$53 to \$1,461, while a commercial property valued at \$746,900 will have its municipal taxes rise by \$155 to \$4,323.

On 40 acres of farmland assessed at \$377,300, the municipal taxes will increase by \$31 to \$873, while 160 acres of farmland valued at \$1,435,800 will have its municipal taxes rise by \$120 to \$3,324.

Olafson sees those increases as being more than reasonable.

"Normally, we do between one and three per cent as a rule ... so we're close in that regard," he said. "I wouldn't want to ever get to where we would be between seven and 10 per cent. You have to kind of keep it on an even keel, and that's been our approach through the whole time here."

He sees the budget as striking a good balance in addressing all of the various ongoing infrastructure needs in the municipality.

"I think 90 per cent of our budget is kind of preset. We know what we've got to spend to do all the roads and all that other nice stuff, and then we

play with about 10 per cent," Olafson suggested.

"We did put a little bit into reserves again, which we always want to do," he said. "Reserves can go away in a heartbeat, so we want to maintain a reasonable level there ... it's basically just knowing that you have money in the bank."

He also noted that they did work the budget down from what they first had on the table in their deliberations.

"We whittled it down. When we first started on this thing, it was maybe 10 per cent ... some of these wish list things can go away for now," he said. "So what don't we need ... it doesn't take long, you can get it down to five in a hurry."

Tax revenue accounts for 76 per cent of the \$8,179,218 budget, while the other 24 per cent comes from other sources such as federal and provincial funding.

The budget addresses a range of the usual projects and priorities for a rural municipality, including paving in Blumenfeld, dust proofing, rural road upgrades, crosswalks and pathways and street lighting as well as funds for the Reinfeld Park, water supply work,

economic development office and the shelterbelt and school tree program.

Here is a breakdown of some of the key areas of the financial plan:

- Transportation services: 39 per cent of spending with an increase of two per cent to \$3.1 million.

- General government services: 14 per cent of the budget with an increase of 10 per cent to \$1.16 million.

- Capital program: 14 per cent of the budget with a decrease of 8 per cent to \$1.13 million.

- Fiscal services: nine per cent of the budget with a decrease of 2.5 per cent to \$684,552.

- Protective services: eight per cent of the budget with an increase of two per cent to \$666,719.

- Planning and engineering: five per cent of the budget with an increase of nine per cent to \$425,788.

- Recreation and culture: five per cent of the budget with an increase of 21 per cent to \$411,354.

Coming in at about two per cent of the budget each are economic development at \$177,920, environmental services at \$172,743 and health and welfare services at \$164,262.

Celebrating Agriculture Day in MB

By Lorne Stelmach

Canola plays an important role in the economic sustainability of Prairie farms where it is primarily grown, so an event this week was both promoting and celebrating what is very much a Canadian-made crop.

It was Agriculture Day in Canada Feb. 22, and Manitobans were being encouraged to share their love of Canadian ingredients and canola in particular online with the hashtag #Cd-nAgDay and tagging @CanolaEatWell as well.

Every year, about 20 million acres of Canadian farmland turn brilliant yellow as canola comes into bloom, so the importance of the crop can not be underestimated, said representatives of the Manitoba Canola Growers Association, which represents 7,500 farmers in Manitoba who grow canola.

"We think it's important that we celebrate our local and Canadian ingredients every day and make sure that we're stocking our pantries and our fridges and our homes with ingredients that we grow right here in our own backyards," said Jennifer Dyck,

the association's market development director.

"Canola really is Canada's oil," she continued. "It's affordable and it's a healthy choice ... it performs under high heat, you can bake with it—it can be your go-to oil, and you can feel good knowing it's your local choice."

It also carries much importance economically, Dyck noted, as about 90 per cent of the canola grown in Canada is exported.

"Because of that, I think that's why, as Canadians and Manitobans, we need to be proud of that; we need to be proud that we grow a world class oil," she said.

It's a crop that Jack Froese has regularly used in their rotation for their Winkler area farming operation. They used to grow a lot of dry beans as their bread and butter crop, but canola has supplanted it.

"Canola came along ... and a lot of the new technologies with the seed came along, and it radically changed how we could grow the crop, so we started growing more canola," he said.

"Canola is the mainstay crop of our farm. It's profitable, provides a solid

rotation in our fields and is a made in Canada crop," Froese said. "For ourselves, we probably try to have a three year rotation, and we generally grow about 1,700 acres every year.

"The yields have come up ... several years ago, they introduced a seed pod shatter resistant canola variety, and that has kind of transformed how we can do things. We still swathe a fair bit of canola, but a lot of guys no longer swathe, they just straight combine. So you can let your crop mature, and you get a little better yield," explained Froese.

"We'd lose one or two bushels an acre just because of the shattering that happens ... so if you save one or two bushels and extrapolate that on a 1,700 acre farm ... at the prices where it's at now, it's huge dollars."

As a fourth-generation farmer, Froese considers himself blessed to grow sustainable, safe, affordable food for Canadians, and he sees canola as being very much a staple.

"It's a very good cooking oil because of many of its characteristics. There's never an after-taste, which a lot of cooking oils do have," he noted.



MANITOBA CANOLA GROWERS PHOTO

"My family and I are committed to producing sustainable food. It's like a three-legged stool. Our farming practices are socially responsible, environmentally sustainable and, to accomplish this, we have to be economically viable. We strive to grow the best crops while preserving the land for future generations

"I've been farming for 51 years and am a fourth generation farmer, and we consider ourselves blessed to grow sustainable, safe, affordable food for Canadians."

Flood outlook moderate to high for much of Manitoba

By Ashleigh Viveiros

From drought to massive snowfall to a risk of flooding in a space of just a few months—you gotta love Manitoba.

The province's Hydrologic Forecast Centre spring flood outlook released last Friday reports high risk of moderate spring flooding in most southern Manitoba basins, though just how bad it will be is very much dependant on the weather between now and spring melt.

"Due to above normal to well above normal winter precipitation to mid February, the Red River and tributaries, including the Roseau, Rat and Pembina Rivers, are at a high risk of moderate to major flooding," reads the report.

"Due to below normal soil moisture at freeze-up and normal to well above normal winter precipitation, there is high risk of moderate flooding in the Assiniboine River and Souris River basins and along the Whiteshell Lakes areas."

The risk of spring flooding in the Interlake and northern Manitoba regions, meanwhile, is low.

Low water levels in most major lakes

puts the risk of flooding in those areas as low as well.

A clearer picture of what Manitoba can expect will come in the weeks ahead.

"The runoff potential is significantly affected by the amount of additional snow and spring rains, frost depth at the time of runoff, and timing and rate of spring thaw; and the timing of peak flows in Manitoba, the United States, Saskatchewan and Ontario," the report notes. "A late thaw and spring rainstorms could result in a

rapid snow melt that increases overland flooding and flows on tributary streams and larger rivers."

The Hydrologic Forecast Centre notes that while there is a risk of major flooding along the Red River and its tributaries, water levels are expected to remain below community flood protection levels at all locations.

Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Doyle Piwniuk said the province is working to prepare for whatever spring melt might bring.

"Our government continuously

monitors all watershed conditions across the province to remain vigilant and ready to respond to ensure that all Manitobans are protected should there be a risk for flood conditions," he said. "The Hydrologic Forecast Centre monitors river flows and lake levels daily throughout the year, and we work in collaboration with municipalities and communities to best prepare for potential flood mitigation operations."

> MPI REPORT, FROM PG. 11

- Overall, seven per cent of all drivers observed were using an ECD in some capacity.
- ECD use appeared to be higher in areas with traffic lights.
- ECD use is highest among young drivers.
- Overall, seven per cent of all drivers observed were not wearing their seatbelt.
- Those driving trucks had slightly higher rates of not wearing a seatbelt compared to passenger cars or vans/SUVs.
- Drivers in rural areas wore their seatbelt less often across all age

groups.

- In cases where the driver was not wearing their seatbelt, 54 per cent of passengers were also not wearing their seatbelt.

"High-risk driving behaviours places all motorists at risk on our public roadways," said Jatana. "This study confirmed too many drivers continue to exhibit high-risk behaviours which can easily be changed."

Driver distraction is a leading contributor to fatal crashes in Manitoba, linked to nearly 50 per cent of all fatalities and 37 per cent of all serious injuries in 2020, according to MPI data.

Getting caught using a hand-held electronic device while driving comes with a \$672 fine, a three-day driving suspension for first-time offenders, and a drop of five levels on one's Driver Safety Rating scale. A subsequent conviction results in a seven-day driving suspension and moving down the DSR scale five more levels.

Not wearing a seatbelt could net you a \$200 fine and two levels lost on the DSR. A person is more than 50 times more likely to be killed and almost four times more likely to be seriously injured when not wearing a seatbelt, MPI says.

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Royals and Hawks going the distance

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Royals and the Notre Dame Hawks ran afoul of poor weather last week in their best-of-three playoff series.

The deciding match was scheduled for Saturday in Winkler but had to be pushed to Sunday due to poor road conditions and then postponed again as those conditions continued. A confirmed date was not available at press time Monday.

One might have thought three games wouldn't be necessary after Winkler (who finished the regular season in fifth place) trounced the bottom-ranked Hawks in game one 6-1 Tuesday, Feb. 15.

Brett Dudar scored twice while singles were fired home by Marlin Froese, Remi Laurencelle, Brett Suderman, and Andrew Froese.

Jayne Janzen denied 31 shots on net, letting just one slip past early in the second period. Winkler had 27 shots on goal.

Notre Dame pulled things together in game two Thursday night in front of a hometown crowd.

Dudar opened scoring with what proved to be Winkler's lone goal of the night five minutes in. The Hawks responded with two of their own at the end of the middle period. A scoreless third then gave the win to Notre Dame 2-1.

Winkler outshot the Hawks this time around, 30-28, with Janzen making 26 saves in net.

Whoever takes the series will move on to play the Portage Islanders, who finished the regular season in first place, in the next round.



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Winkler game star Brett Dudar steals the puck from a Hawks player. Dudar scored twice for the Royals and had one assist in game one of the playoff series, which Winkler won 6-1.

Meanwhile, the Morden Bombers and the Warren Mercs were slated to begin their best-of-seven semi-final series Tuesday night in Morden. The Bombers also host game three Saturday.

Flyers fall to Blues, get revenge on Steelers

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Flyers won one and lost one in Manitoba Junior Hockey League action this past week.

On Tuesday, Feb. 15, the team headed into Winnipeg to face the Blues.

The hard-fought match saw neither team stay in the lead for long.

Justin Svenson opened scoring 12 minutes in, only to have the Blues tie it up three minutes later.

The Blues then made it 2-1 in their favour with the only goal of the second period, just minutes away from

intermission, only to have Troy Hamilton score the tying goal for Winkler three minutes into the final period.

Dayton Kiesman got the Flyers back in the lead a minute later, but Winnipeg tied the game once again a few minutes after that.

The two teams headed into overtime tied at 3-3. At 4:54, Winnipeg got the winning point.

The Flyers outshot the Blues 39-27, with Dylan Meilun going the distance in net, making 23 saves.

Three nights later the Flyers got some revenge on the Selkirk Steelers,

who the week before had beaten them 4-1.

This time around the Flyers kept the Steelers to just two goals—one early in the second period and the other early in the third—while racking up the points themselves.

Brody Beauchemin got things started with the lone goal of the first period followed by three more for Winkler courtesy of Gavin Waltz, Svenson, and Kiesman in the second. Sully Ross and Trent Sambrook then made it an even six before the final frame's midway point.

Meilun made 31 saves in the 6-2 victory as Winkler outshot Selkirk 36-33.

The Flyers get another crack at the Steelers this Wednesday at the Centennial Arena in Winkler before moving on to face the Portage Terriers Friday and Sunday.

At press time, Winkler was in third place in the East Division standings with a record of 25-15-2-1 for 53 points. That put them three points behind the Winnipeg Blues in second and 14 behind the Steinbach Pistons in first.

News or sports tip? E-mail news@winklermordenvoice.ca or call 204-325-6888

End of the line for male Pembina Valley Hawks

By Lorne Stelmach

The post season hopes for the male U18 Pembina Valley Hawks were dashed in the final week of the regular season, and it was the team the Hawks needed to beat for the final playoff spot that sealed their fate.

A 3-0 loss last Wednesday to the Winnipeg Bruins followed a 5-2 loss to the same team three days earlier, and it eliminated the Hawks from the playoffs before going into their weekend doubleheader with Yellowhead.

After the team earned a split with the Chiefs in winning 5-4 Saturday and then losing 6-3 Sunday, Hawks coach Matt Victor acknowledged the disappointment of coming up just a little short.

"The boys did come ready to play," said Victor, who noted three losses to the Bruins in the stretch run were a tough pill to swallow. "We had chances in all three of those games, especially the last two. We just couldn't get that one goal that would have changed everything on the bench."

Bryson Yaschyshyn did his best to keep the Hawks in the game with the Bruins as he stopped 41 of 44 shots, but Pembina Valley couldn't get any of their 37 shots past Winnipeg netminder Tim Vigfusson.

The Bruins scored twice in the second period and sealed the deal with one more in the third.

In the first game with the Chiefs, Pembina Valley extended a 3-2 lead after 40 minutes to 5-2 early in the third and then held on through a late push by Yellowhead.

Scoring for the Hawks were Logan Fillion, Cohen Thomas, Griffin Ayotte, Keston Worley and Carter Campbell, while Raiden LeGall made 43 saves with the Chiefs holding a 47-29 edge in shots on goal.

The tide turned in the final frame of the second game after the Hawks led 3-2 after two periods before giving up four unanswered goals in the third.

Fillion, Campbell, and Tyler Moroz all scored for the Hawks. Yaschyshyn made 39 saves as Pembina Valley was

outshot 45-36.

With that, the Hawks finished in ninth place at 15-23-2-0 for 32 points.

Victor said the end result could have been different, as he felt the team was close in many of its games this season.

"We were definitely competitive this year," he suggested. "I think there was a lot of growth with everyone, and I think that you just build off that next year."

"I would say we definitely lacked consistency. We were just at times playing selfish," Victor said. "Those are things with this age group, it comes and goes ... but I do believe they learned the right way to play hockey, so there were positives."

"You really need to learn the game. It's obviously more than just shooting and skating and passing, it's the defensive side of the game, the responsibilities," he continued. "At this level, everybody's getting bigger, faster, stronger."

The team includes a lot of hard workers, Victor reflected.

"There's a lot of grit on this team, especially with the young guys," he said. "A lot of them have the potential to come back next year, so this was a stepping stone, and let's build on this next year. I hope next year they come back and lead this group."

"I have full confidence in this group for next year."

Twisters move into second place

By Lorne Stelmach

A five game winning streak had lifted the Pembina Valley Twisters into second place going into action this week in the MMJHL.

They were looking to keep that going Monday evening when they hosted the Raiders in Morris. It was mission accomplished, with the Twisters taking it 6-1. Further game details were not available at press time.

Monday's win followed a 6-3 victory against River East last week Tuesday

and a 5-0 blanking of Stonewall Sunday.

The Twisters broke open what was a close 3-2 game after one period with three straight third period goals against River East.

TJ Matuszewski scored twice with Nathan Ayotte, Caelan Russell, Riley Goertzen, and Nico Vigier also scoring for Pembina Valley.

The Twisters outshot the Royal Knights 48-30, and Martin Gagnon stopped eight of ten shots in the first period before being relieved by Logan Enns, who then stopped 19 of 20 the

rest of the way.

Enns then continued where he left off as he stopped all 27 Stonewall shots for the shutout over the Jets, who were outshot 41-27.

Matuszewski scored two more and assisted twice to boost his league leading totals to 33 goals and 78 points. Ayotte also collected a pair to put him at 27 with the other goal coming from Travis Penner.

This week, the Twisters were first paying a visit to Charleswood before a key home game Sunday with the third place Transcona Railer Express.

Hawks fall to Ice 6-1 in game one of series

By Lorne Stelmach

The female U18 Pembina Valley Hawks were looking to bounce back this week from a disappointing game one loss in their quarter-final playoff series.

The fifth place Hawks fell 6-1 last Thursday in Winnipeg to the Ice. The series continues this week after games two and three were postponed last weekend due to the weather.

Game one saw the Ice take control in the second period as their 1-0 lead after 20 minutes became 4-1 after two periods. Jessica Anderson scored the lone goal for the Hawks, while Kaylee Franz made 30 saves with Winnipeg holding a 36-28 edge in shots on goal. The Ice were led by Haley Braun with a pair of goals and an assist.

The best of five series was scheduled to resume Wednesday with game two in Morden followed by game three in Winnipeg Friday. If the series goes further, game four will be back in Morden Thursday.

The teams split their regular season series with two wins each, so the two teams are evenly matched. The Ice finished in fourth place at 15-10-3 for 33 points followed by Pembina Valley at 14-14-0 for 28 points.

The first place Winnipeg Avros meanwhile eliminated last place Interlake in three straight games. Going into this week, second place Yellowhead and third place Westman were both looking to sweep seventh place Eastman and sixth place Central Plains, respectively.

The Funnies

PLANET GARRY By: Harrison Doell Inspired By: Bill Watterson



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PUBLIC NOTICE



RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF STANLEY PUBLIC NOTICE REGARDING BY-LAW NO. 3-22 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A WATER RESERVOIR WITHIN STANLEY CORRIDOR

The Council of the Rural Municipality of Stanley has scheduled a public hearing in the Council Chambers on the **3rd day of March 2022 at 9:15 a.m.** to present the following by-law:

The RM of Stanley is proposing to construct a water reservoir located near the Boundary Trails Health Centre in the Stanley Corridor to help manage the growing water demands in the municipality.

The estimated cost of the project is \$8,000,000.00 less funding of \$3,500,000.00 from the Manitoba Water Services Board, the Rural Municipality of Stanley will provide \$4,500,000.00 as contribution towards the project.

The Rural Municipality of Stanley intends to receive borrowing approval in the amount of \$4,500,000.00 to be borrowed over a 25-year period at an estimated interest rate of 4.5% per year. The debt payment of \$303,475.63 will be recovered through a mill rate on all taxable and grant in lieu properties within the Rural Municipality of Stanley. Based on the latest assessment roll, an estimated mill rate of 0.462 mills will be required.

The annual payment may be reduced by use of reserves and/or application of revenue surpluses of the utility.

A written objection may be filed with the Chief Administrative Officer, at 1-23111 PTH 14 in the RM of Stanley prior to the commencement of the hearing. At the hearing, Council will hear any potential taxpayer who wishes to make a presentation, ask questions, or register an objection to the by-law.

All objections, written or verbal, must be filed prior to the adjournment of the hearing and must include the name, address and property description of the person filing the objection and the grounds of their objection. We ask that you consider submitting your comments in writing to our office by email or mail (drop off box located at the office). If you wish to be present at the hearing, we will require you to contact our office a minimum of 2 business days prior to the scheduled hearing so that we can ensure we can meet the physical distancing requirements. If you wish to participate in the hearing electronically, please contact mgroening@rmofstanley.ca or call 204-325-4101.

Copies of the proposed borrowing are available at the municipal office at 1-23111 PTH 14 and on the municipal website at www.rmofstanley.ca. Feel free to call the RM Office for additional information at 204-325-4101.

Dated at the RM of Stanley this 11th day of February 2022 and issued pursuant to Section 169(6) of The Municipal Act.

Dale Toews, Chief Administrative Officer
Rural Municipality of Stanley

HEALTH

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Completed Tenders and a \$10,000.00 deposit **per parcel** are invited to be received up to 12:00 pm (noon) on March 25, 2022, for the properties described below, at:

PKF Lawyers 71 Main St S, Carman, Box 1240, MB R0G 0J0
Attn: Mona Brown/Tammy Bisschop Ph: 204-745-2028
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|----------------------|--------------|-----------------|
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Conditions of Tender

1. Financing must be pre-approved.
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3. Each Tender must be accompanied by a certified cheque, payable to PKF Lawyers (in trust), in the amount of \$10,000.00 **per parcel**. Deposits of tenders not accepted will be returned to the tenderers.
4. Highest Tender or any Tender will not necessarily be accepted.
5. Vacant Possession date and the due date of the balance of Tender Price shall be April 15, 2022.
6. The maker of any Tender relies entirely upon his/her personal inspection and knowledge of the Land, independent of the representations made by the vendor or the solicitor and agent of the vendor. The Land will be sold "as is" and the bidder is solely responsible to determine the value and quality of the Land.

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Classifieds *The Winkler Morden Voice* Announcements

OBITUARY

David Friesen 1934 - 2022

David J. Friesen, age 88, beloved husband of Kathren Friesen (nee Fehr) of Winkler, MB peacefully slipped away to be with Jesus on Thursday, February 17, 2022 at the Boundary Trails Health Centre with his loving wife, Kathren and daughter, Betsy by his side.

David was born to Jacob and Maria Friesen on February 15, 1934 in their family home in Reinfeld. David was the fifth of nine children. He loved his siblings very much. He met his young wife, Helen while ice skating in the village of Reinfeld. In 1956 they married and would have five daughters. Dave and Helen moved several times while young, living in Winnipeg and Arden before settling Winkler.

Dave enjoyed jobs at Manco and Grandeur (selling Grandeur's very first mobile home in 1976) and started his own business selling mobile homes, used cars and camping trailers. He dabbled in sales and built many relationships along the way. After a 5 year battle with cancer, Dave's first wife, Helen went to be with Jesus in 1998. In 1999, Dave met Katherine and soon they were married. They enjoyed almost 23 years together fishing, camping, traveling, enjoying music together and making many memories with family and friends. David loved to have fun and tease those around him. He was mischievous and inventive. We remember his laughter and big smile. The Bible was his favourite book and he read it faithfully. He was a strong man of God and as he grew older, his faith grew stronger. Dave had struggled with health issues for the past few years. On Saturday, February 12, 2022 he was admitted to Boundary Trails Health Centre. He peacefully went to be with Jesus five days later.

David was predeceased by his first wife, Helen; son-in-law, Peter; and daughter, Delilah. He leaves to mourn his wife, Kathren; daughters, Liz (Betsy) and Mitcheal (Angie, David), Brenda (Ray and Wendy, Russ and Tammy, Valerie), Lana and Bill (Mandy and Andy, William and Lynn, Rick and Alana), Connie and Shelley (Kylee, Tysan, Aaron and Kennedy, Taylor), son-in-law, Craig (Jaclyn and Kurt, Curtis and Shanyce) and 17 great-grandchildren, as well as step children, Linda and Pete, James and Dianna, Ed and Pam, Art and Margaret, Andy and Pam, Mark and their families.

Private memorial service will be held with interment prior at the Reinfeld Cemetery.

We would like to thank Dr. Brett, Tara Bennett, and the many health care workers at BTHC, the wonderful staff at Wiebe Funeral Home, and a very special thanks to Pastor Harold Espinosa. And thank you to the many family and friends that have poured out their love and support during difficult times.

Donations may be made in David's memory to Union Gospel Mission.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE Regarding Auditor's Report

Pursuant to Section 194 of The Municipal Act, notice is given that the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report for the City of Winkler for the year 2020 are available for inspection by any person at the City of Winkler office during regular office hours.

David Martens
Director of Corporate Services



CITY OF WINKLER
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PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE CITY OF MORDEN 2022 FINANCIAL PLAN

Morden

Pursuant to Section 162(2) of The Municipal Act, Council of the City of Morden invites all ratepayers of the City of Morden to a Public Hearing in respect to the 2022 Financial Plan (Budget) for the City of Morden. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to allow any interested persons to make a representation, ask questions or register an objection to the Financial Plan.

A presentation of the Financial Plan will be made at in Council Chambers at the City of Morden Civic Centre, 100-195 Stephen Street, Morden, Manitoba on **Thursday, March 17, 2022 at 7:00 P.M.** Copies of the Financial Plan will be made available to the public on March 7, 2022.

If you wish to be present at the hearing, please contact Michelle Braun, Executive Assistant at 204-822-2561 or email mbraun@mymorden.ca a minimum of 2 business days prior to the scheduled hearing so that we can ensure we can meet the physical distancing requirement. Anyone attending the office will be required to wear a face mask.

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OBITUARY



Henry R Fehr 1940 - 2022

It is with much sadness that we announce the sudden passing of our husband, dad and grandpa, Henry Fehr, on Sunday, February 13, 2022 at the age of 81.

Dad was born on June 24, 1940 in Winkler, Manitoba. He grew up in the Mason School District and completed his high school years at both MCI in Gretna and in Winkler. His younger years saw him involved in the 4H Dairy Club, on various ball teams with one of the fondest memories being on the Haskett Fastball team. Being on the roster of the Canadian National Fastball team in the late 50's as shortstop and 2nd base were also huge notable moments in Dad's life. He loved watching and playing baseball and even on his 80th birthday, took to the field and kept up with all his grandchildren. It

was a sight to see his passion for the game but mostly for his family.

Dad was a man of God and although his faith was not loud or outspoken, he was very involved in the church. He was baptized in the Glencross Church on June 23, 1963 where he attended regularly. After marrying the love of his life, Anne (Penner) on July 2, 1966, they transferred their membership to the Morden Mennonite Church which is also where they were members and had been attending ever since. Dad performed various roles within the church and was involved on numerous committees. Dad loved singing in the Morden Men's Choir. He participated in numerous quartets and sang with the Faith and Life Choir. These brought him so much joy.

Mom and Dad farmed for 17 years before moving into town to their current residence in Morden. He was a hardworking man with a strong work ethic. Whatever his occupation, he did it wholeheartedly. He worked at the printing press until 1972 even while farming, which he started in 1969. Dad was a home care worker, a Loomis delivery driver, a dispatcher and even did some accounting for Pembina Air. His last job was with Wolfe Enterprises where he did long distance hauling.

Dad was always busy finding something to occupy his time in his retirement. Whether it was planting and watering the flowers that flooded their yard in summer, gardening, or finding as many apples as were available in the fall so that none would go to waste, he would invite any of us to join him to press the best juice that has filled our freezers for many winters. If he wasn't watching curling or other sports on tv, he'd be found ensuring he had the cleanest driveway in town while visiting his neighbours which he truly enjoyed.

Dad was a very proud grandpa. He would never have missed a moment that involved one of his kids and when he did, he always checked to see what the score was. Always needed the details. Where his grandkids were involved, you could always find grandpa and grandma together in the stands. He was definitely their biggest fan. Missing any of their events was one of the hardest things for him these past two years.

He will be lovingly remembered and missed by his wife of 55 years, Anne; children, Lyndon (Carol), Bevin (Anita), Patrick (Krystal), grandchildren, Bailey, Rylyn, Brett (Yolanda), Lucas (Carlee), Jorja, Acoyen, Ocean and Dublin, one brother, four sisters, many brothers and sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews and friends. Henry was predeceased by his parents, Henry E. and Helena and one brother, Peter in infancy.

A private service was held with interment at the Southside Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the charity of your choice. We want to thank all of those who have shown their love and concern to us as a family through this time. We do not grieve as those who have no hope because we know we will meet dad again in Heaven.

Wiebe Funeral Chapel, Morden
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OBITUARY



Kelly Patrick Leiding 1967 - 2022

Kelly Leiding, 54 of Winnipeg, MB passed away on Wednesday, February 2, 2022.

He was predeceased by his father, Pete Leiding and a great niece.

Kelly is survived by his mother, Janice Leiding, two brothers and one sister and their families.

Cremation has taken place and a private graveside service was held on Monday, February 21, 2022 with ash interment at Hillside Cemetery, Morden.

Donations may be made in Kelly's memory to the CNIB and the Bruce Oake Recovery Center.

Wiebe Funeral Chapel, Morden
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OBITUARY



John Fehr 1950 - 2022

On Friday, February 4, 2022, John Fehr, 71 of Morden, MB formerly of Winkler passed away from this life to his eternal rest.

John was the first born to Henry and Katharina (Tina) Fehr on March 3, 1950 in Winkler. He was baptized in the Winkler Bergthaler Mennonite Church on May 30, 1993 by Pastor John Wiebe at the age of 43 years. On November 18, 2012 he transferred his membership to the Winkler Mennonite Church.

John spent his childhood and early adult years in his family home in Osterwick. His school years, where he learned to do some basic reading and writing were accomplished at a special needs school in Winkler. From there, he moved on to a lengthy tenure of work at the Valley Rehab Center (now Gateway Resources) where he became very involved. From there, he had some short stints of work at Pizza Hut and Economy Foods before he found suitable and long-term employment at the Winkler Co-op Food store. Here, he found stability and took great pride in his work and position as "Cart Manager". He was also found to be helpful to the senior shoppers by helping them take their groceries to their vehicles and then returning their carts to the shelter. He took great pride in being included in some board meetings and having input when the cart shelters were set up in the Co-op parking lot. As well, John had a special place in his heart for babies and small children. They brought a genuine smile to his face. As life goes, John also had some "special friends" in his life which inspired much joy but also caused great heartbreak when these friendships were not able to continue. Aside from his work, John also liked to attend special events, one of which was weddings where he would arrive dressed to a "T" and do photography. Another highlight was when he took part in the Winkler parade. His sister, Helen needed to do her due diligence to decorate his bike with Canada flags and Coke emblems, to name a few. He had people in his life that gave him many hours of their time. John took residence in several different homes in Winkler and was pleased to say he was a "Winkler" man. Even though he lived in Morden for the last six months of his life, he was content with it but still requested a Winkler address. John was a patriotic person, and his mind was not easily changed. Even though John had positives in his life, he also had negatives. His life was not always easy as he had a difficult time understanding why things could not work out according to his plans. Understandably, this brought challenging phone calls and work for his parents, family and other helpers to address who tried to help him navigate life in a healthy way.

As a family we are grateful to the staff of the Valley Rehab Center, the Co-op staff, friends and his many behind the scenes faithful helpers. Thank you for acknowledging him which helped to make his day and give him purpose and joy and thus opened the door for him to be with people where he loved to be.

Thank you to all those who touched John's life in different ways. Thank you as well to Bishop Dave Penner and Wiebe Funeral Home.

John was predeceased by his parents, Henry and Tina Fehr and one niece, Ashley Bergen. He is survived by Tina and George Wiebe, Abe and Marge Fehr, Dave and Ann Fehr, Ike and Tena Fehr, Betty and Jake Bergen, Jake and Gerry Fehr, Annie Fehr, Mary and Abe Harder, Helen and Klaas Peter and their respective families.

Funeral service was held on Monday, February 21, 2022 at the Winkler Reinland Mennonite Church with interment at Westridge Memorial Gardens.

If friends so desire, donations may be made in John's memory to the Winkler Community Foundation designated to Gateway Resources Inc.

Till we meet again, John when we will understand each other perfectly.

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